

STOP CHILD LABOR PROGRAM FINAL Report

Hard work has reward. The achievement of reaching the annual target of Stop Child Labor program is the example. At one point we thought this would be difficult to move the targeted 100 children towards the Primary School direction from what they were doing. SOHAY used several strategies convincing the children and community for children education. Finally, we reached the target due to consistent engagement and communication with the children, with their parents, community engagement and peer discussion, and also with the help of other SOHAY staff who provided support to this area.



The Stop Child Labour Project is funded by Wei Li from Singapore. Due to her funding support SOHAY worked with the impoverished communities in Gazmahal area in Rayer Bazar, Dhaka, 100 (one hundred) children have just started new life beginning of January 2019 (Please see the other attachment for children and their parents name, location and schools they had admitted). Different than what they are used to do. These children are going to Gajmahal Government Primary and Moneswar Government Primary School.



The life of these hundred children will be different as they stepped in the school premises, soon will get the taste of education, and we are confident these children will complete their primary level education. This is very important to work with these children intensely for sometime so that the children, their parents and community see the value of children education and can imagine the different life in future. Unless the idea is embedded inside the individual and the families, the other force will pull them to different direction. Hence, the consistent engagement has no alternative. The hard stuff is to motivate the elderly illiterate family members who come

with ignorant view which carried good weight in the family, example, one elderly gentleman said I had no education, do you think my life did not go. This is very forced stuff and requires careful handling otherwise it would be very difficult running this type of programme in impoverished communities.

The children now wake up early in the morning get ready for school, complete different routine than what they were used to do. They attend their schools in the morning, one way back home they come to SOHAY centre to complete their home work, and other educational stuff. The centre plays very important and vital role in their different life style. These children find this an interesting education friendly place, all children are engaged in education, talk about school



classes, what had happened in the classes, what they had done in the classes as well. What the teacher taught them, what they learned there. This is the place where the children teach others, see the value of peer learning, and its importance. One of the important SOHAY's programme delivery strategies is the peer learning. This helps the children to learn from fellow friends living in the same areas when they face difficulties completing the work. The peer learning builds strong bondages between them, it changes their habit, and they started to learn that peer learning is one of the key for their better future. Helping each other is the way forward. In addition, their leadership skills also develop, the shyness of talking in front of mass reduces. These children living in slums in a small room max 10 by 10 feet size. They stay with all other family members; the environment of their home is completely different from what these children find in SOHAY run centers. SOHAY ensures these children get a space where they can complete their education in education friendly environment, and see what should be the education environment.



SOHAY does this with a long-term view in mind; these children will be parents as well one day, so that they can create such an environment for their children in future when they will have their own family. The other important role the centre plays is, many parents unfortunately are illiterate, cannot help their children completing home work. Hence the children complete the task in SOHAY centre.

There are families with different understanding living together in slums. The engagement of the parents and community plays very important and critical role in education. A well planned community meeting influences

the community, helped them thinking differently. This helps generating discussion in the community, vital to change attitude and practice. The different sort of discussion and ideas about the future of children generally do not come in community discussion. They talk other stuff, such as what they had seen in the television serials, what had happened in the community, etc. etc. Hence, engaging and motivating the community for children education plays vital role. At the same time this eases the job of SOHAY field staff when the community plays a good role. The push from all corners, such as, SOHAY, parents, communities when in line, other forces is non-influential and inactive. In the community meeting the most strategic move is having communities' commitment of sending their children to school, and to speak to school teachers. Many parents this is the first time they stepped inside any school premises. It took sometime motivating and encouraging them, because they are the first in their generation entering inside any schools.

This has been observed that in addition to the community meeting SOHAY has used the highly motivated parents to move from house to house to motivate those households parents are still undecided. SOHAY has observed that the move of the motivated parents to those household plays critical role, in addition to SOHAY staff regular discussion with these parents. It looks after all SOHAY programme activities still these families looks for something which outsiders cannot fulfill. This has also been observed that when the same communities' women moves to those houses it appears the parents are yet to fully convinced, after their discussion their attitude and understanding change. These families understand the language of these fellow members more than what we had communicated to



them. This is another important programme delivery strategy SOHAY use. The other benefit is SOHAY selects some key informants in the community who tell to the SOHAY what is the discussion going on in the community about children education and what kind of support these families expects from SOHAY for their children education. The most common is the attention and interest of children in education.

This is true, the motivation of the women is important and play vital role, but the engagement of the community men are also very important. They spend money for the family; hence, their decisions are



very important, hence they also have to be convinced. SOHAY field facilitator visit these people in those places where they spend their leisure time. One important place is the local tea stall. SOHAY staff regularly go to the local tea stall as part of their routine task, spend more than half an hour to forty five minutes there to talk to the local people. SOHAY identify some tea stalls in the community, and talk to the owners who show interest of playing the catalytic roles. The tea stall owners will pass the important but critical messages about the importance of the children education to the people come there spending leisure time

and drinking tea. The new idea came because SOHAY has observed that there are some interested community members also realized the message he heard from the community meeting spreading those during his discussion with the other community members. We have also seen this has helped more in convincing parents sending their children to schools. The tea stalls meeting with the communities are part of the social transformation agenda of SOHAY to bring change in the locality. SOHAY's main goal is to send the impoverished slum children to education as much as possible. SOHAY is very clear if the society change and the urge of sending children to education embedded in the locality, the future of the community will be different. They will find way so tearing the vicious poverty trap they are in now.

The proamm review with senior in the office.

SOHAY is fully aware that unless there is good and through discussion between the senior management and field staff on programme delivery, the programme will not be in the field as it is planned. Hence, SOHAY senior management routinely meets with the staff along with reports to review and understand what actually happening there. The intense discussion helped review and revise the programme delivery. This is very vital for SOHAY senior management and field staff. As a result of such a discussion SOHAY engaged addition resources in the programme areas to reach the 100 children targets. Please note, this is in addition to the regular field visit by the senior officials.



The programme achievements:

A total of 100 children life is going to change due to this kind support from Wei Lee from Singapore.

Information of such support on SOHAY website:

SOHAY is in the process of revising its website; this kind of information along with report will be available on the website for others to see what SOHAY is doing and who are the kind hearted people are helping such programme.