

SOHAY

Goal:

To create disciplined self confident, educated and skilled human resources to eradicate poverty.

Purpose:

People understand and demand human and social rights, avail public services for self development, social justice and sustainable livelihood.

Working areas:

Dhaka District

Background of the Organization:

SOHAY is a not for profit non-government organization. It has been working untiringly with Dhaka urban slums since 2002 for their education, empowerment, skills development and protecting human rights and on policy and advocacy. It is registered under NGO AB and other departments.

SOHAY Programs:

SOHAY's programmes are focused on seven major developing areas. Such as:

1. Children and adult education
2. Human rights, focusing on women and children rights and empowerment
3. Gender equality and equity, - women empowerment/development
4. Economic empowerment and income
5. Health, water and sanitation
6. Policy and advocacy
7. Distribution of obsolete items

Children and adult education

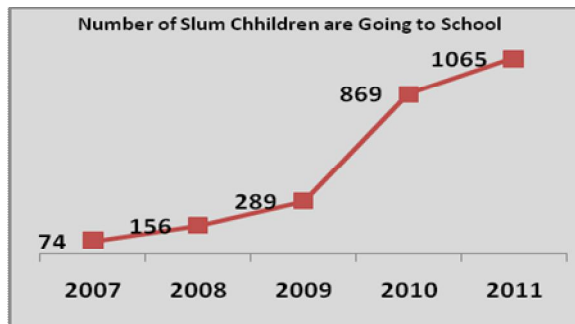
Education is backbone for an individual, family and country. SOHAY gives emphasis in this area. Through SOHAY's effort **1,065 slum children** are studying in Government Primary Schools otherwise they would have been on street as street children. SOHAY carries the following activities:

- Motivate parents benefit on children education
- Build confidence facing teachers and school authorities
- Create education friendly environment in slums

- Dialogue with the school authorities on children progress– make them accountable and responsible
- Motivate children to attend school and complete homework regularly
- Adult literacy
- Divert hazardous working children to mainstream education



Preprimary age children introduced to literacy & numeracy at SOHAY centre most important to kick off education



The outcome of SOHAY's effort, annual progress of slum children joining mainstream education

Human rights focusing on women and children rights and empowerment

SOHAY gives equal importance of women and child rights, all its programme give special focus in these areas:

- Education Rights – Children enrollment in schools
- Nationality rights - birth registration
- Individual rights –participation in the decision making process at home and outside

Gender and Women Empowerment

Empowering women and girls are central in SOHAY programme. Supporting each other is the basic principle

of combating violence against women and girls. SOHAY takes different programme:

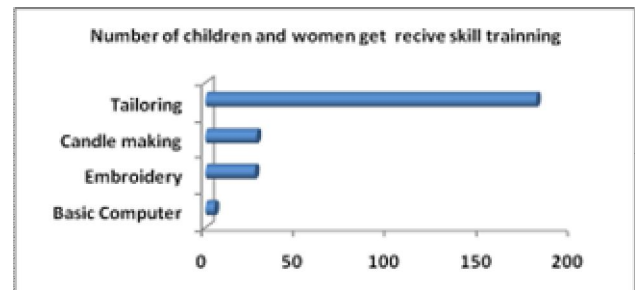
- Enhance women capacity to participate in the family and community decision making process
- Form committees in slums protecting women from household and community violence and participate in the national violence against women activities

Economic empowerment and income

SOHAY believes money is the source of power without it sustaining the development is complicated. SOHAY trained 242 slum women and children in different marketable skills. Good news is 45 women bought personal sewing machines joined the economy contributing to the family. The rest are saving money under huge hardship for accessing a sewing machine joining the economy. The programme is runs by individuals' contributions. SOHAY and the slum communities are grateful for their generous support.



Slum women and children are skilling and preparing them for joining the mainstream economy



The above graph represents number of skilled human resources are available in slums in different category

Health, Water and Sanitation

Health is hard to maintain for poor income group. Health shock eats their savings. SOHAY runs water and sanitation sessions in slums saving community from water born diseases. Negotiate with local health service providers for discounted health support. 800 slum families have access to SOHAY's health cards are enjoying health facilities in reduced price. The following are programme focus

- Run water and sanitation session at slums and importance of hygienic practice.
- Meeting with local health service providers and distribute health cards to slum families.
- Link community with Government, NGOs and private health facilities for low cost services.
- Motivate community immunizing family members
- Run session on care of pregnant and lactating mothers



A woman is displaying SOHAY health card

Distribution of obsolete items



SOHAY staff distributing obsolete good conditioned toys to slum children other stuff are old dress, shoes, educational materials collected from different sources.

Policy and Advocacy

SOHAY joins policy and advocacy discussion and forums influencing policy makers and demands full implementation of policies uphold human rights. Organize human chain, day observation, rally, meeting and seminar at local and national level. SOHAY is member of Jatio Nari Nirjatan Protirodh Forum, Child Rights Forum and several others development forums.



L-R, Zamila Sultana, Executive Director, SOHAY, Dr. A. A. M. S Arefin Siddiqui, VC, Dhaka University and Ms. Farzana Nayeem, Director, Manusher Jonno Foundation highlighted the importance of 'World Child Labour Elimination Day' at National Museum in Dhaka.



SOHAY demanded full implementation of National Women Policy at Central Shahid Minar in Dhaka.

SOHAY

(A Catalyst to Change Human Life)



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