

Annual report
on
“Promote Gender Equality through
Local Knowledge & People's
Initiative” Project.

(January 2013 to December 2013)



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Supported by: Diakonia, Bangladesh

January 2013 to December 2013

1. **Name of Organization:** Udayankur seba sangstha (USS)
2. **Project Title: Promote Gender Equality Through Local Knowledge and People's Initiative (PGELKPI)**
3. **Project Country:** Bangladesh
4. **Period Covered by the report:** January 2013 to December '2013
5. **Target area and target group/rights holders of area of operation:**

District	01
Upazilla	01
Union	02
Village	10
House hold	1402
Beneficiaries	1522
Female Group	45
Male Group	17
Adolescent boys Group	08
Adolescent girls Group	10
Ganogabeshona Forum	01
Adolescent Forum	01
Total Present Member	Female 822+ Male-340 + Adolescent boys -160 + Adolescent girls - 200 =1522
Total Pre- School	5
Total Student	Girls 73+ Boys 52=125
Institution	20 (08 Union)

06. Summary of background:

Community capacity building is one of the main objectives of USS Participatory Action Research (PAR) method. USS gives priority woman and children in the selection of beneficiary. To build up quality social worker who will learn from community learning process and help to build USS as knowledge based organization.

The main activity of this project is to take all initiatives by capacity building of targeting people. In spite of preliminary right holder of this project is women and man, the role of women is more important. The main aspect of this project is to build up gender equal society by enhancing empowerment of communities. To achieve **Promote Gender Equality through Local Knowledge and People's Initiative Project (PGELKPI)**, USS organized and conducted some activities like Base line survey, group meeting, training, workshop, Union parishad meeting and Gender related theater presentation through local knowledge on community basis.

Activities are: (Project inauguration, Staff recruitment, Base line survey, Exposure visit, Group formation & selected group leadership, Meeting , Training, Workshop, Orientation, Theater group formation & presentation, Gathering of Gonogabashona group, Adolescent forum formation, 05 pre-school formed, Essay, art & Debate competition, Karate training.)

- ✚ We have completed project staff recruitment successfully.
- ✚ We have completed base line survey of working area.
- ✚ We have identified right holders.
- ✚ Group members decided that they will arrange workshop/meeting once a week for 2 hours.
- ✚ We have formed 02 groups of drama & 02 folk song groups.
- ✚ We have completed monthly staff meeting for twelve times.
- ✚ We have completed selection 20 Institution (High School and College) of working area.

07. INTERVENTION/IMPLEMENTATION

1. Overall Goals/Objectives Operative project goal (project purpose) :

Goal : Ensure Empowerment of deprived people through gender equality.

- Objective:**
1. Taken initiative to reduce Gender discrimination in the project area.
 2. Financial capability increased for deprive people after end of the project.
 3. Accessibility increased of deprived people at local resource & services after end of the project.

8. Activities & achievement:

A. Meeting :

In the reporting year we have conducted different categories of total 1584 meetings including Staffs monthly meeting, Group meeting, Adolescent forum committee meeting, Ganogabeshona forum committee meeting, Joining meeting for two Ganogabeshona group, Community Dhan Bank executive committee meeting, USS executive committee meeting, USS general committee meeting and monthly refreshers pre



Community Dhan bank EC meeting

In the continuation process we have find few obstacles like lack of meeting place in certain areas and lack of time schedule of male

members due to their income generating schedules. We have discussed with them on this issue. So hopefully we will be able to mitigate these problems from the next phase.

Yearly program wise statistical data:

Name of meeting	Yearly Target (January to December 2013)	Yearly Achievement (January to December 2013)			
	No of meeting	No. of meeting	Female	Male	Total person
Group meeting	1440	1340	1022	500	1522
Monthly sharing meeting	12	12	06	09	15
Meeting of Executive committee	04	04	01	08	09
Quarterly Ganogabeshona forum committee meeting	04	04	10	4	14
Quarterly Adolescent forum committee meeting	06	06	14	13	27
Community Dhan bank EC meeting	36	36	36	10	46
Joining meeting for two Ganogabeshona group	05	05	132	95	227
Parents meeting	60	60	100	25	125
Pre-school monthly refreshers	12	12	07	01	08
Meeting of USS general committee meeting	01	01	07	15	22

B. Trainings:

In the reporting year we have conducted different expected training of total 11 trainings on different important issues like Gender, Leadership, Domestic law, Karate etc. Where almost 258 Right holders had participated.

When we have implemented these programs we have seen that the right holders are more likely to be interested on skill development training.



Gender training for Adolescent forum

Yearly program wise statistical data:

Name of Training	Yearly Target (January to December 2013)		Yearly Achievement (January to December 2013)			
	No of training	Total Person	No. of training	Female	Male	Total person
Gender training for adolescent forum	01	25	01	13	12	25
Leadership training for Right holder	01	20	01	13	07	20
Gender training for Right holder	04	80	04	56	24	80
Domestic law for Right holder	02	50	02	31	19	50
Karate training for girls (Students)	01	31	01	31	00	31
Gender training for student (Gender session)	02	50	02	30	22	52
Staff development training	01	20	00	00	00	00

C. Workshop:

In the reporting year we have conducted 15 workshops with union standing committee, PAR workshop (staffs), Gender workshop. Where almost 60 Participants attended. The participants were able to provide proper outputs to make the workshop



successful. Among the participants 413 were female 196 and were male 217 members.

Workshop with Up Standing Committee meeting

Yearly program wise statistical data:

Name of Workshop	Yearly Target (January to December 2013)		Yearly Achievement (January to December 2013)			
	No of workshop	Total Person	No.of workshop	Female	Male	Total person
Union Standing committee	02	40	02	10	35	45
PAR workshop (Staffs)	01	20	01	9	11	20
Workshop on CRM	04		04	90	66	156
Gender session (Gender workshop for student)	04	100	04	45	55	100
Gender session (Gender workshop for teacher, SMC)	04	100	04	42	50	92

D. Day observation :

In the reporting year we have successfully observed the International Women day, International Environmental day, Begum Rokeya day with the leadership right holders. Total participated stakeholders was 924 persons. They were participated rally and discussion meeting.

We had made an assumption that these kinds of national and international days should be observed in broader perspective with participation of more community people to increase their knowledge on different issue.



Begum Rokeya day Observation

Yearly program wise statistical data:

Name of event	Yearly Target (January to December 2013)	Yearly Achievement (January to December 2013)			
		No. of event	Female	Male	Total person

International women day, International Environmental day	03	03	694	230	924
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E. Essay & Art competition :

In the reporting year we have able to successfully conduct 13 individual essay & art competitions in different primary, High schools and college around our working area. The participation of the students was very good. We think these competitions are making them more knowledgeable on Gender issues and they also practice it in their respective family and society.



Essay & Art Competition

Yearly program wise statistical data:

Name of event	Yearly Target (January to December 2013)	Yearly Achievement (January to December 2013)			
		No. of event	Female	Male	Total person
Essay & Art competition Primary and Hi- school	06	06	304	109	413
(Gender session) Essay Competition for institution	07	07	140	210	350

F. Drama Presentation:

In the reporting year we have successfully conducted 08 individual Gono- natok in our working area. Gono-natok has presented by drama group for increasing women participation in the family, women and men combined decision making, raising gender awareness, the participation of men in the household activities, aware the social issue (early marriage, marriage registration,



Gano natok Presentation

dowry, child education, climate change and right to information).

Yearly program wise statistical data:

Name of event	Yearly Target (January to December 2013)	Yearly Achievement (January to December 2013)			
		No. of event	Female	Male	Total person
Drama Presentation	08	08	4570	2737	7307

G. Debate Competition :

In the reporting year we have successfully conducted 03 individual debate competitions in different school, Madrasha in selected working area. The participation of the students was very good and their presentation was also extraordinary to be described. We think these competitions are making them more knowledgeable on Gender issues and they also practice it in their respective family and society.



Yearly program wise statistical data:

Name of event	Yearly Target (January to December 2013)	Yearly Achievement (January to December 2013)			
		No. of event	Female	Male	Total person
Debate Competition for Hi - school on Gender	02	02	400	250	650
(Gender session) Debate Competition for Institution	01	01	145	155	300

F. Gathering:

In the reporting year we have able to successfully conduct 01 individual Gathering with Ganogabeshona our working area. 320 members has shared their experience with each other and openly discussed about their problem, problem analyses (Dowry, child marriage, lesser wage than men) and taken initiative to reduce problems. They also has taken initiative to communication about their rights with GO, NGO.



Gathering with Ganogabeshona

Yearly program wise statistical data:

Name of event	Yearly Target (January to December 2013)	Yearly Achievement (January to December 2013)			
		No. of event	Female	Male	Total person
Gathering with Gonogabashona group at union level	01	01	230	90	320

G. Sports:

In the reporting year we have able to successfully conduct 01 annual sports in 5 Pre-school. They participated in a competition on rhyme, storytelling, dance, short drama, group song. The participation of the Pre- school students was very good and their presentation was also extraordinary.



Yearly program wise statistical data:

Name of event	Yearly Target (January to December 2013)	Yearly Achievement (January to December 2013)			
		No. of event	Female	Male	Total person

Annual sports for pre -school student	01	01	73	52	125
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H. Midterm review:

In the reporting year we have completed Project Midterm review. Midterm review was implemented by a selected team. Team collected various information through focus group discussion and view exchange with Ganogobeshona group, Adolescent and young group, community leaders and school



teachers. This event facilitated by monitoring officer, Gano Unnayon Kendaro (GUK), Nilphamari. and core facilitator was attend this event Ganogabeshona & Training coordinator, Gender development officer, Group leader. Also they collected various document on the basis

of project design for analysis making and making direction.

Yearly program wise statistical data:

Name of event	Yearly Target (January to December 2013)	Yearly Achievement (January to December 2013)			
		No. of event	Female	Male	Total person
Midterm Review	01	01	12	8	20

Country : Bangladesh

Thematic area : Gender discrimination decreased.

Name of the individual: Aloka Rani
Village: Dubachuri, Post: Laxmichap
Thana: Laxmichap, District : Nilphamari

Name of Partner : USS
Financial Source : Diakonia

Name of author : Ranjita Rani Roy, Field Animator

Name of Photographer : Monazzini Khanam, PC

Main Story:

Aloka Rani's family lives at Mondir para, village- Dubachuri, union- Lachichap, upazila sadar in Nilphamari district. Her husbands' name is Milon Roy. He is a village doctor. They have one daughter and one son. She married in 15 years old. Her father think that all problems will be solved if Aloka got married. When she came to her father in lows house in 15 years old. She had no experience about house hold. As a result not only her father in low and mother in low but also her husband tortured her physically and mentally. Without protest Aloka Rani endures all kinds of torture. This is because Aloka Rani always got pain. Because her husband did not evaluate her. Even she was not permitted to come out from the home and also not permitted to talk to her neighbor.



Milon Roy thought there is no need women to come out from house even talk to others. Milon Roy also think women are only saris which are kept in show case. At that time a Ganogabeshona group is arranged at Mondir para of Dubachari in the name of village "Promote Gender Equality through Local Knowledge & People's Initiative Project" implemented by the Udayankur Seba Sanghta (USS) with the help of Diakonia Bangladesh. Aloka Rani became a member of the group. Though she is member of the Gabeshona group but could not participate in Gabeshona because she was not permitted to come out her husband. Aloka Rani got opportunity to join to the Gabeshona group when her husband did not stay at home. At one stage of the Gabeshona Aloka Rani exposed her all kinds of family problems to the members of the Gabeshona Group. Hearing Aloka Ranis family problems all the members of the Gabeshona group decided that they would Gabeshona all the members and their husbands of the group, because they also

should know what kinds of discussion are done by us. Accordingly one day the Gabeshona on male & female are done. That day the subject of the gabeshona was male and female both are human beings and the work of the woman is work of the man. After Gabeshona on this subjects Milon Roy understood that women have own opinions. He also think a family cannot developed if we do not show respect to their opinion and not allow them to came out from house. Now Aloka Rani Share to her husband about all subject, even some times Milon Roy also come to the Gabeshona group with his wife. Now Milon has no waong idea about women. He is changed by the Gabeshona group of the “Promote Gender Equality through Local Knowledge & People’s Initiative” project. Now Aloka Rani can come out from home without permission of her husband. Even her husband himself does all kinds of home works if Aloka Rani came out from home for work. Aloka Rani says “Promote Gender Equality through Local Knowledge & People’s Initiative” Project implemented by the Udayankur Seba Sanghta (USS) has removed all superstitions of my life and increases my impotency in my family. So that I thanks to the Udayankur Seba Sanghta.

The major outcome, impact, highlights for this year

Results 1: Gender discrimination decreased.

USS Believe & incorporate Gender concept in all of its activities. All of its major activity to bring gender equality among the community, USS involves the total community people with this program. The community people are local government representatives, NGOs and employees, school teachers and student. USS working to build 10 gender model villages to achieve the gender indicators, so that the result is replicated in other adjacent villages in time. To achieve gender equality USS organize and conduct some activity like group Gabeshona, drama presentation, Gender training, workshop, day observation, Ganogabeshona forum meeting , adolescent forum committee meeting, discussion meeting on community basis, dhan bank executive committee meeting, and also family based discussion meeting to establish. For this the flowing impact has occurred in the project area:

- Improvement of women’s participation in family and social decision making process.
- Improvement of women’s ownership in assets.
- Improvement of men’s participation in household works and women’s participation in income generating activities.
- Improvement of men’s participation in family planning process.
- Improvement of women’s participation in cultural activities.

As a result of the saying activity:

- ✚ Women ownership over family properties (Land, Furniture and Ornament) has increased up to 33.55 % which was 32.50% in June 2013.
- ✚ Women's Participation in the family decision making process has increased up to 35% which was 32.50% in June 2013.
- ✚ Women participants are taking decision buying and selling of necessary commodities has increased up to 50.87% which was 45.62% in June 2013.
- ✚ Men's participation in household activities has increased up to 43.97% which was 35.57% in June 2013.
- ✚ Women's participation in cultural activities has increased up to 56.33% which was 46.87% in June 2013.
- ✚ Incident of women torture has decreased up to 44.17% which was 49.37% in June 2013.
- ✚ Women's participation in organizational and committee decision making process 21.89% which was 19.37% in June 2013.
- ✚ Women's and men's participants jointly doing cultural program in the project area has increased up to 52.12% which was 46.87% in June 2013.

- ✚ The participation in family planning process of men's 17.23% which was 15.62% in June 2013.

- ✚ The participation in family planning process husband and wife jointly 8.30%.

- ✚ Women's participation in social activities has increased 1.61%.

- ✚ When 14.71% women will be sick then get health to treatment from her husband.

Country : Bangladesh

Thematic area : **Leadership capability increased.**

Name of the individual : Anwara Begum
Village: Dubachuri , Post: Laxmichap
Thana: Laxmichap, District : Nilphamari

Name of Partner : USS
Financial Source : Diakonia

Name of author : Biplob kumer, Field Animator

Name of Photographer : Biplob Kumer Roy, Field Animator

Main Story:

Anwara Begum (37) And her family live in Nilpamari district under sadar upazila Laxmipur Union at Dubachuri village at Bogra Para. She has two daughters and two sons. There are six members in their family. Her husband Hashem Ali (40) is a day laborer. Her husband manage the entire family with his little income. It is quite impossible for him to arrange two meals in a day. They often starve. Anwara Begum has no land without six decimals for the settlement. She belonged to that land by deed two years ago. Anwara Begum does not find any way to run her family well. So, she wants to go another people house with her husband for searching work. But women are prohibited to join outside workforce in male dominated society and not allowed to meet with other men. For this her husband does not permit her to go outside. Her husband says that the society will confine them in the house, if she goes out. Anwara Begum cannot say any more to her husband. When her children feel strong hungry, she collects arum leaves and other vegetables. Firstly boiled them vegetables and fed the children and ate herself. Thus, they pass over their days.



In above circumstances, Anowar Begum became a member of community Dhan Bank with the help of Udayankar Seba Sangstha (USS). She became an executive member of this Dhan bank. At times, she goes to meeting. But her husband and other peoples in the society hinder her way of life. Yet, nobody stops her. She takes Dhan from Dhan Bank at time of Monga and after Monga she returns Dhan. As results, her wants solved something. She does not pay much profit in Dhan Bank. Besides different IGA training held in Dhan Bank. She took part in all training like vegetable cultivation tamed of

duck, hen etc. After receiving training, she took loan from Dhan Bank and bought some hens and started tame. She also cultivated vegetables in her yard. She paid bank loan by selling hens and bought a goat. Now her family is well-off. At that time, Promote Gender Equality through Local Knowledge & People's Initiative project started under Udayankar Seba Sangstha (USS). Men and women Ganogabeshona group consist of under this project in Bogura Para. Anowara Begum is a chairperson of that group. Dhan Bank as well as Promote Gender Equality through Local Knowledge & People's Initiative project helped her to materialize dream. Anowara Begum said that I would spend whole life through sufferings, if I did not go out. She organizes men and women both together in her area through Ganogabeshona group and Promote Gender Equality through Local Knowledge & People's Initiative project. She completed eight marriage functions without dowry with the help of this project and took advance Den Mohar at this time of marriage. She completed pace about fifteen tube-wells among fifteen families, setup two tube-wells and setup seventeen sanitary latrine in her area communicating with RDRS Bangladesh. Everybody in the society does not think a day without Anowara Begum. Now, they face any problem, they try to solve their own effort. If they unable to solve the problem, then they call Anowara Begum for dissolve the problem. Anowara Begum has already stopped quarrelling among the twenty three families. The Ward Member Mr. Bodiuzzaman called Anowara before solving any problem. Anowara Begum took some govt. facilities in her area by communicating with Union Parishad . Now, the villagers respect Anowara very hardly. Anowara says that now their family is running perfectly and they took three meals in a day. My daughter is studying. My personal efficiency has been increase through these activities. Anowara Begum said that proud of it was quite impossible to earn this honor without the assistance of Udayankur Seba Sangstha. I hope that if each woman come forward in this regard, it will be possible to remove discrimination between men and women. And will be developed in a family, in a society and in a country.

Results 2 : Leadership capability increased.

USS has organized new female & male groups with nursing all targeted groups and arranged social leadership development program such as Leadership training, Day observation, Group Gabeshona, Gathering with ganogabeshon group, Gender training, Training on domestic law, drama presentation, workshop with union standing committee, democratic rights , necessity of local election, necessity of participation etc. For this the flowing impact has occurred in the project area:

- Increased the condition of human rights in family level (Early marriage, dowry, multiple marriages).
- Increased the women's leadership.
- Increased the women's participation decision making process.
- Increased the women's movement of freedom.

As a result of the saying activity:

- + Women's leader are playing role in local level salish has increased up to 23.77% which was 21.25% in June 2013.
- + Women's participants raised their torture and opposing objection openly has increased up to 35.87% which was 34.37% in June 2013.
- + Women's participation in cultural activities has increased up 47.15% to which was 46.87% in June 2013.
- + Early marriage has decreased up to 11.45% which was 11.87% in June 2013.
- + Marriages has completed without any dowry has increased up to 15 which was 12 in June 2013.
- + Women's participation in various local level decision making committee (SMC, Tree plantation committee, Nari O Shishu Narjaton Potiroth committee, Word committee, PRDP-2) has increased up to 18.87% which was 15.62% in June 2013.
- + Movement of Women freedom has increased up to 32.59% which was 21.87% in June 2013
- + Communication between women and Govt./ private NGO has increased up to 25.98% which was 21.25% in June 2013.
- + Women's participation in social activities has increased 1.61%.

- + Women's participation in the seminar, meeting has increased 35.47%.
- + Women can speak in the meeting at 16.81%.

Country : Bangladesh

Thematic area : **Income increased**

Name of the individual : Ranjita
Village: Dubashuri, Post: Laxmichap
Thana: Laxmichap, District : Nilphamari

Name of Partner : USS
Financial Source : Diakonia

Name of author : Ranjita Rani Roy, Field Animator

Name of Photographer : Monazzini Khanam, PC

Main Story :

Kawshola Rani and her family live in Nilphamari district at dubachuri village Luxmichap union under sadar Upazila. Kawshola Rani is 35 years old and her husband is Madhushadan Roy is 40 years old. They have four sons. Her family was depended on her husband income. It is quite impossible to maintain such this big family with her husbands low income. At that moment USS made a Ganogabeshona group under 'Promote Gender Equality through Local Knowledge & People's



Initiative' project at Dubachuri Sharkar para village. Kawshola became a member of this group and the Gabeshona regularly on both men and women activities.. Kawshola realized her own condition through Gabeshona. She discussed with her husband about this family affair and found reason for poverty.

Now , Kawshola does not want to stay at home anymore. She also wants to earn some money. For this reason she counsels with her husband how to raise income. As a result Madhushadan Roy became very pleased with her wife's attitudes. He said that we would have found out a planned certainly. After some days, Kawshola Rani and her husband brought one ram calves on condition from a rich man for tame. Later they sold rams and bought a cow calf by 8000/- (Eight thousand) taka. After 10 months they sold the cow by 16000/- (Sixteen thousand) taka in December. In the mean time, they bought two cow by 14000/- and they took a plan for cultivating by the rest of money. Kawshola Rani has commented that her husbands no pay heed her opinion in the past. Now he evaluates me for incoming power and shares me about family affairs. At present, we do all tasks by careful plan. I assist my husbands in income to lead the family. Thus our family has become fulfilled in peace.

Results 3: Income increased.

USS targets population will achieve economic development. All the members of the family will join in planning in the family affairs and consequence in the annual income increasing. To increasing income by gender equity, USS organized group meeting and motivation IGA issue. For this the flowing impact has occurred in the project area:

- Increased female income.
- Increased various occupations.
- Improvement of right holder's social status.

As a result of the saying activity:

- ✚ Female member's income has increased up to 22.81% which was 11.25% in June 2013.
- ✚ Right holders involved in various occupations (Agriculture, handy craft, carchupi has increased up to 28.06% which was 22.99% in June 2013.
- ✚ Right holder's social status change has increased up to 16.20% which was 14.37% in June 2013.

Country : Bangladesh

Thematic area : **Safe from early marriage & Quality education promotes.**

Name of the individual : Rupali Rani Roy
Village: Khalishapacha, Union: Polashbari
Thana: Nilphamari Sador, District : Nilphamari

Name of Partner : USS
Financial Source : Diakonia

Name of author : Kanika Roy, Animator
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Name of Photographer : Showpan Kumer Roy, FF(Drama & Song)

Main Story:

It happened on 11th August 2013 at Khalisha Phacha village, Polashbari union, in the Nilphamari sadar upazila in Nilphamari district.

Rupali's father is Subash Roy and mother is Krisna Rani Roy . Rupali has two sisters and one brother. Rupali read in class ten in faruk school, chocua. All of a sudden some people, along with Rupali's would be bridegroom went to Rupali's house and discussed dowry for Rupali's marriage. Rupali's education was brought to a sudden halt.

Rupali was heartbroken at this sudden turn of events. She had dreamt of completing her study and be self employed and would enjoy women's empowerment. She started to think about ways to stop her early marriage.

She remembered the Khalisha Pacha Kishori Gono Gobeshana group. She went to see Joyanti Rani, president of the Gono Gobeshana group. She shared her plight with the president. The president Joyanti Rani discussed with her group members as to how to help Rupali. After discussion they went to Rupali's Father and raised the point that she was under 18 and was still a child. Rupali's marriage at this early age would affect her physically and mentally and her family would face lot of problems.

Through group discussion the members decided to take recourse to any method that would stop Rupali's early marriage. They again went to Rupali's father. Her father said that Rupali will not have any more education, particularly when the social condition is so bad. He has found a good bride groom for Rupali and a good family. So he could not miss the opportunity for Rupali's marriage. The group tried to tell him from Rupali's perspective. She was still a little child and is now crying at the prospect of her separation from her parents. They also told him about the plight of those who were given to early marriage. Every child has right to education. Why would he deprive her of her right? Early marriage would not free the parents from their duties to their child. Parents should educate their children and bring them up so that they are independent and be healthy. Otherwise the parents would suffer their whole life. The group members suggested that the father should use the money for money for some better purposes, and should give Rupali to marriage when she completes her education and when she is adult. Finally the team requested her father to send Rupali to school and let her continue her education. Rupali's father did not reply and kept silent.

After a few days Rupali started to go to the School regularly, but the whole matter did not rest there. Rupali one day informed the team that her father was going to give the dowry after all. The members of the Khalisha Pacha Kishori Gono Gobeshana group again went to see her father, this time with all the respectable persons of the village to persuade her father to stop this child marriage. They had to put pressure on her father by telling him that he might have to face punishment for child marriage if he agreed to child marriage.

At the end Rupali's father agreed to give up child marriage on condition that Rupali must do well in her studies. Otherwise he will give her to marriage. The group members were very happy at this outcome. They



told the father not only to look after her studies but also to take good care of the family and to consult the family members before taking any decision.

At last the father decided to refuse the offer of Rupali's marriage after consulting with his wife. Consequently Rupali can now go to school. She is very happy now. She thanked all the members of the Khalisha Pacha Kisohri Gono Gobesona group for saving her from certain death.

The whole team of the Khalisha Pacha Kisohri Gono Gobesona group was very happy and they thanked the USS. They could not do it if the USS did not sponsor for Gabeshona that had helped them stop this early marriage. Now all the members have taken oath and speak loudly: "Let's not allow any child marriage to happen in this village".

Results 4: Quality education promotes.

Promoting Quality education for gender equality, USS executes 05 preschool and conduct meeting with pre-school parents, Child Gathering, and preschool teacher's refreshers. For this the following impact has occurred in the project area:

- Decreased of drop out students.
- Improvement of pre education with quality.

As a result of the saying activity:

- ✚ Drooped out students are going school has increased up to 26.02% which was 25.60% in June 2013.
- ✚ Promoted about quality of pre education has increased up to 400 students which were 275 students in June 2013.
- ✚ Promoted cultural program (Rhyme, Song & Dance) has increased up to 84.25% student which was 67.20% students in June 2013.

Country : Bangladesh

Thematic area : **Accessibility increased of deprived people at local resource**

Name of the individual : Maya Rani Roy
Village: Vabankuri, Post: Polashbari
Thana: Polashbari, District : Nilphamari

Name of Partner : USS
Financial Source : Diakonia

Name of author : Kanika Roy, Field Animator

Name of Photographer : Monazzini Khanam, PC

Main Story:

Maya Rani Roy lives at Vabankuri village of Polashbari Union with her husband Shanimol Roy and two sons. She got married when she was only nine years old. Maya Rani had lived six years in a joint family where her father-mother in laws, sister in laws and brother in laws lived together. After five years Maya Rani is separated from the family. After separation she had no crops land except the land of house. Her husband though man would earn money and woman would do only house hold works. At this time 20 groups are formed in the name of "Promote

Gender Equality through Local Knowledge & Peoples Initiative” project sponsor by the Udayankur Seba Sangstha(USS) under the Co-operation at diakonia of them Female groups-10, Male groups-04, Kishari groups- 04 and Kishor groups-02. Ganogabeshona forum committee are formed consists of 14 members who comes from the above mentioned group. The meeting of the Ganogabeshona forum held after every three months. Many kinds of problems are detected in the forum meeting. When the member of the forum starts Gabeshona on various problems they realized that it is very essential to build up good relations with Union Parishad. Then members of the forum communicated with the union Parishad and wanted to know how many kinds of services are available and who are deserve to get this service. Maya Rani Member of the forum came to know that requisition of VGD card has come to Union Parishad. The members of the forum called a meeting on basis of this news. According to the resolution of the Union Parishad and knew details about the VGD card due to short time the members of the forum asked Maya Rani to submit her photograph and identity card. According to this advice Maya Rani submitted her photograph and identity card on 2th December in 2012 to the concerned authority. Thus Ganogabeshona forum helps Maya Rani to get the Govt. service VGD card. For this card Maya Rani received 60 kgs.Rice for two months on 28.02.2013. Maya Rani told that Gabeshona helped her to make self sufficient. Her husband Shonimal Roy also told the house hold becomes happy if man and woman work together and it are possible to get more benefit if there is unity between husband and wife.

Results 5: Duty bearer more responsible.

For increasing duty bearer more responsible USS organized group meeting, gathering, training, community dhan bank executive committee meeting, workshop with up level, up standing committee level. For this the flowing impact has occurred in the project area:

As a result of the saying activity:

- ✚ Right holder have gotten health facilities form near community clinic like as medicine and treatment has increased up to 55.84% which was 43.12% in June 2013.
- ✚ Wages of women and men workers increased up to 13.65% which was 11.87% in June 2013.
- ✚ Right holder have taken family planning facilities has increased 16.81%.
- ✚ Union Parishad help service increased 6.88% in almost Right Holder.
- ✚ 21.02% Right Holder gotten forestry department help service.

Results 6: Staff and management capacity building

USS has implement particular programs in its working area like monthly staff meeting, planning meeting among executive members and staffs ,meeting of USS executive committee , meeting of USS General committee ,exposure visit and staff development training to established following activities:

As a result of the saying activity:

- ✚ All staffs can identified own and project activity, organizational strong and weak side and also take necessary steps as needed.
- ✚ Staffs can formulate future working plan and can execute working methodology as per planning.

9. Problem:

1. It has taken some time to release fund from NGO affairs bureau.
2. Most of men go to out of our project area at various seasons for earning. So group members look after family work (cultivation, plantation, domestic animal rearing). As a result some time group member presence in presence decrease in the meeting.
3. Sometimes group meeting has been hampered rainfall, cold wave.
4. Our some activities hampered for National political crises.

10. Challenges:

- Our main challenge was staffs qualities build up in this year.

11. Lesson learned:

- ✚ Social acceptance of project activity has been increased through various participation of teachers, land owners, Union Parishad and other local elite people along with deprived people.
- ✚ Through Drama and Song, message of program gets rapid publicity and people awareness is increased.
- ✚ The more the aim and objective of project, implementation process, expecting result are clear to the workers of all level of project, the more the result will be better. It is essential for growing skilled worker.
- ✚ Giving necessary cooperation at field level from USS management committee is very essential for good project performance.
- ✚ If women take part in buying and selling commodities in market they will be skilled in taking decisions.
- ✚ If we start discussion by saying 'male female equality' then losses its acceptance to male. The fact of male female equality becomes acceptable to all when the discussion continues on the basis of analyzing the practical problems.
- ✚ Works don't belong to gender but when men take part in house hold works most of men think that they are doing female's work.
- ✚ Right holders don't have sufficient information about govt & non-govt service.
- ✚ Work is needed to active standing committees of union parishod.
- ✚ UP help's occurring early marriage by increasing age couple.
- ✚ The knowledge, experience of aged people is being neglected in the society. Activities should be done to utilize this knowledge and experience

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