

SAFEGUARDING AND EMPOWERING THE SWEEPER COMMUNITY IN NORTHERN BANGLADESH PROJECT (SESC)

END PHASE REPORT JULY'2009-DECEMBER'2012

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"Safeguarding & Empowering the sweeper community in Northern Bangladesh" Project End Phase Report

Project overview:

Name of the project	Safeguarding & Empowering the sweeper community in Northern Bangladesh
Location of project	Naogaon Sadar in Naogaon district and Adomdighi Upazila under Bogra district
Implementing organization	Association for Rural Cooperation (ARCO)
Duration of project	July' 2009 to December' 2012
Total project budget	1, 23, 29, 000 BDT
Period of reporting	July' 2009 to December' 2012

1. CONTEXT: OBSERVATION ON THE PROJECT ENVIRONMENT

1.1 POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT:

The project area lies between two districts i.e. Bogra (Santahar) and Naogaon. Working area Santahar is situated in Adomdighi upazila of Bogra district and Naogaon Sadar upazila of Naogaon district. Naogaon Sadar and Santahar are very close. There are two major political parties in Bangladesh, one is Bangladesh Awami League and another one is Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). There is another Islamic religious party named Jammāt-e-Islami Bangladesh. During the liberation war 1971 this Jammāt-e-Islami Bangladesh was in favor of Pakistan and anti independence of Bangladesh. Bangladesh Awami League comes out in power in the last parliament election held in December 2008. During this reporting period the country political situation as well as our project area situation was very quite and normal. There is no political involvement of our Poocs. They cast their vote to the mainstream political leaders. Pooc members are not politically empowered. Nationally and locally the Awami League government always favorable for the dalit community compare to the other parties. Though it is true that till they are used by the political parties and leaders. Some times there create conflicts between ruling party and opposition parties and it transformed as violence in the country especially in the city towns. The impact of this political conflicts in the small town area and in the village area is very few than the city area. During the reporting period there was no big political crisis in our working area. It occurs in our country during the national election or before election. In this period Pooc's access to government services and safety-net programs has increased due minority friendly government and ARCO's support. The Mayor of Santahar municipality is BNP and Upazila chairman is Awami league backed leader and both the leaders have some political and personal conflict. So when we arrange any program, they were not available together. Then we tried to arrange those kinds of activities in two tiers such as municipality level and Upazila level.

1.2 ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT:

There are 5.5 million dalit lives in Bangladesh among this 1.5 millions are harijon (Sweeper, cobbler, burying death bodies etc.). The harijons are called dalit of dalits. ARCO works with 'dalit of dalits' that is with harijon. The total economic condition of Naogaon and Bogra district is good. These two districts grow lot of rice and also it is a good business area. But the economic condition of dalits and adibashies is very worse and vulnerable. Most of the harijan (dalit) people work in the Naogaon and Santahar municipality and their monthly salary is only tk.800.00 (10 dollars). In the off day and in the leisure period they go to villages for additional income. According to the last baseline survey the average per household income per month is only tk. 4000.00 (50 US dollars). But the national average per capita income is more than tk.24,000.00 (300 US dollars). Dalits exist far below the poverty line with extremely limited access to health services, education and employment in the working area. They have no land and shed of their own. They are mainly illiterate and their livelihood mainly depends on their lowest profession as jharudar (cleaners). Now a day the recruitment of dalits in government services has been decreased. Due to unfavorable policies of the government, bureaucratic hassles and non-cooperation among concerned authorities, Dalits have started losing jobs, which is aggravating the sufferings of this vulnerable groups. Beside this it is almost impossible for dalits to get other jobs with their present education. The only way out may be to engage and shift them in non-farm employment and increase their education rate.

1.3 SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT:

Bangladesh is a country where lives different religious people (Muslim, Hindu, Buddhists, Christians and ethnic minorities including dalits) all together. Among others Dalits community is one of the most economically marginalized and socially excluded groups of this region and in Bangladesh as well. Dalits are mainly discriminated socially and religiously and treated as 'untouchable'. The mainstream people neither allow them to enter into their community nor allow touching anything. Dalits cannot attend or participate in any social, religious or cultural events of non-dalits community. They are regularly denied entry to the temples and religious activities of non-dalits, to tea shop, restaurants, to house of non-dalits, play ground, saloons, social gatherings, cultural events etc. Dalits sometimes also face severe forms of human rights violations, including abduction, rape, torture, destruction of houses, land grabbing, eviction from land, threats and intimidation. The dalits have no social dignity and respect of their work. As a result mentality has grown up as untouchable. Dalit people are also discriminated by government officials corruption, bribing practice in recruitment process. The mainstream people don't like to drinking their alcohol and pig rearing. These cultures sometimes create some social problems.

To overcome the above situation awareness raising both dalits and mainstream community is very important. It is necessary to organize and unite dalits locally and nationally. Issue based advocacy activities in the local level and in the national level may overcome the situation.

1.4 SECURITY ENVIRONMENT:

Dalits are the most vulnerable, marginalized and extremely poverty stricken community in our project area. Most of them have no permanent job and regular basis income. They are irregularly employed as daily sewerage cleaners with poorest wages. They have no land and houses. At present they are living in the municipality land and railway land. But the concern authority doesn't provide the land to the dalits as lease. Political influential and musclemen are grabbing the land where they are living. Sometimes the authority shifted them from one place to another places. So the dalits are facing crucial shade security problem in our working area. They work with dirty things, everyday they clean the roads, railway stations, drain, and latrine manually with unhygienic way. The authority doesn't provide any protection materials. They work 365 days in a year and the working time is the late night to morning. Sometimes the female workers are raped or teased by mainstream people. In this regard they don't get any justice from any one due their social and economic status. They don't observe their social, religious and cultural occasions freely. They face lot of problems and feel insecure to observe the occasions. Sometimes the neighbors protest against events. Pig rearing and alcoholism of our PooCs creates some conflicts with the neighbors. The neighbors sometimes kill their animals and physically torture them. The mainstream people are continuing drug business in the dalit colony using dalit people. If they don't want to do such type of business then the muscleman (mainstream) creates huge pressure and bound them to do the illegal business. As an example in Santahar colony one of our PooC who was not interested to do drug business then the police arrested him by the influence of the main businessman (mainstream people who invested money for drug business using dalit people hiding him). The community based organization (CBO) of that colony brought out that PooC from the police custody with help of our project staff. ARCO distributed 85 sets shit cleaning materials to the PooCs of Santahar and Naogaon as they done their job with the hygienic way.

1.5 HUMANITARIAN ENVIRONMENT:

Bangladesh is historically a disaster prone country. Cyclone, storm, flood, soil erosion, drought, arsenic contamination etc are the major disaster in Bangladesh. In this project area the major hazards are flood, drought and cold. Fortunately, during the reporting period no flood has been occurred. But cold and drought occurred every year in this region. In the winter session cold wave blows through out the project area. Our PooCs are the hardcore poor. They don't have warm clothes. The dalit community people specially dalit children faces lot of problems in the winter session. Due to cold wave children are caught by many diseases like cold, cough, dysentery, pneumonia etc. During the reporting period more than 22 children were caught by pneumonia. Drought is also a common phenomenon in our working area. In the dry season the ground water level goes down. Rivers and ponds of this area became dry. In this period pure drinking water crisis closely observed. For this reason poor people an especially dalit person suffers a lot that others. Due to draught and scarcity of pure drinking water dalit children are caught by diarrhea, cholera, dysentery and other diseases.

ARCO distributed 50 blankets and 35p warm cloths to our PooCs. Both Naogaon and Santahar municipality, UNO Naogaon and the department of Social Services provided 88 blankets to our PooCs through the inspirations of our advocacy and linkage building dialogue and meetings.

1.6 DEVELOPMENT POLICIES:

In Bangladesh the government has some state police for well fair as well as development for citizen of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh constitution clause No 11, the state will be democracy where will be ensure the basic/fundamental Human Rights and liberty, the state will ensure the human dignity and values

Bangladesh constitution clause No,27(1),The state will not be discriminated irrespective religion ,raise cultures place of born etc. But the dalit people could not enjoy the above Rights as practice in the country.

Bangladesh constitution clause No 11, All citizen are equal in the respect of law and have equal Rights for shelter.

Accordingly dalit, Adibashie have the Right, access to human Rights services as other people of the country. It also stressed of the general human Rights policies of the country Govt. formed in depended human Rights commission through due to lack of resources, its activities one limited in some specific fields. In the last project period HEKS partners attendant workshop in which human Rights commission chairman attended one dalit and Adibashi seminar changes to express their issues. But unfortunately Rights issues were discussed generally.

Bangladesh government issued order to allocate 80% quota for dalit for government and municipality office jobs and admission in education institution. Order also issued to include dalit people in safety net program, beside also comments that could issue fair prize card and housing facilities for dalit people from municipality because they are living in very inhuman situation. During the project period HEKX partners enhance the process of inclusion dalit and Adibashies in those governments polices.

Recently Bangladesh government has taken pilot scheme in 07 district (Dhaka,Chittagong,Dinajpur, patuakhali, Naogaon ,Jessore and Habigong) for the development of livelihoods of dalit, Harijon and Beady. The pilot project will provide stipend to 875 Dalit students under 04 levels (up to class (v))monthly @ TK.300/-high school students @400/- intermediate students @ 600/- and up to masters @1000/-) of students ,old allowance (above 50 aged invalid, straitened landless)will be provided to 2100 people @ monthly BDT. 300/-. Besides skill development training will be provided to the dalit people for IGA, socio - economic development /social inclusion etc. The scheme will be expanded in coming year in 21 districts.

a) Education Policy: Government have massive program, "Education for all by 2014", local government bodies also active with this program but unfortunately Dalit children remain out of this program as avoid by the authority. Though the enrolling intervention of the project imparted children of dalit in school (PPS to class – iii)and after that enrolling in Government primary school that are possible for rapport building and exposure visit to school.

b) Health Policy: Health services have prevalence for all citizen of Bangladesh but dalit people usually can't take advantage of these opportunities as because they (dalit) did not entertain like others. Family planning workers rare visit dalit colony for counseling provides service.

c) Human Rights Policy: All citizen of Bangladesh will enjoy equal rights in the society; there will be no barrier or discrimination irrespective of their race or cast. But dalit people often deprived of human rights from different aspect. They dwelling in government kash land (public property), they have no legal documents or deed where they could build house, they usually live in a density cluster, maximum of them live in colony house or abundant government house; though the rights of shelter is a fundamental rights of a human being. GO/NGO agencies that are working to ensure the human rights issues that are often care less for dalit peoples.

d) Railway Land Rights Policy: Bangladesh Railway has probation to provide land lease to the consider the outside for the following only-a)Commercial purpose, b)Agricultural cultivation purpose, c) Aquaculture/fish , d) Nursery establishment purpose, e) Others (Diary farm, Rice drying Chattal, poultry farm), f) Export/import oriented industry and g) CNG/petrol/diesel station or such assembling industries. But there is no any system for leasing land for housing purpose, but the present land management policy of Bangladesh Railway development not support as well. Here needed for policy formation through advocacy in ministry level.

2. RESULTS: PROGRESS OF ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

2.1. ACTIVITY ANALYSIS

Output: 1

The targeted household as well as communities empowered through development of sustainable community based institutions and their network form the community to Upazila level.

1.1 Form Self- Help groups (SHGs) at two sweeper colonies with the participation of adult people

During the reporting period a total number of 18 SHGs have been formed out of 12 with the participation of adult male & female of dalit community to conduct community need assessment and resource mapping along with other stakeholders and encourage the disadvantaged sweeper community people to be organized under SHG to place the needs. Considering our poocs opinion, total number of adult members and SHG operational manual, we organized 6 more SHG .We conducted different awareness and development session by fortnightly.

1.2 Form sweeper colony based adolescent forums

During the reporting period a total of 4 adolescent groups have been formed out of 2 with the participation of adolescent boys and girls to effectively manage the adolescent and youth development related activities of the project as well as the change maker of their own community. The adolescents boys and girls sit twice in month .A total of 165 adolescents forum meetings have been organized and conducted out of 160, where spontaneous participation of 73% members was ensured. In the meeting they have been aware about water and sanitation, health and hygiene; social issues i.e. drug abuse, early marriage, dowry etc.

1.3 Form community based organization (CBO) at sweeper colony level.

During the reporting period a total of 02 Community Based Organizations out of 2 with the participation of the representatives of the SHGs to raise voice for the sweeper community and advocate to protect and promote their rights, entitlements, ensure their dignity and recognition in the mainstream society and equity. Both the CBO opened bank account to operate their income generating grant money and also maintained savings. All of their community problems or conflict solved by the CBO.

1.4 Establish network between two sweeper colonies.

During the reporting period a total of 1 network committee have been formed out of 1 with the participation of the executive body of two CBOs to protect and promote their rights, entitlements, ensure their dignity and recognition in the mainstream society and equity. They met once in a quarter and share their views, ideas, action taken, present problems and prepare action plan for next quarter.

1.5 Organize Human Rights Watch Group.

During the reporting period A total of 2nos Human Rights Watch Group committee has been formed out of 2 with the participation of Government, non govt. officials, journalist, civil society, teachers, SHG & CBO leaders in order to focus for sensitizing the different professional groups in terms of advocacy in favor of People of Our Concern (POC). A total of 10nos dialogue has been organized during the reporting period with the active participation of HRWG committee members. They provided advice to ARCO for the betterment of the project and as well as Poocs.They also advocated in favor of dalit community to establish their rights entitlements in different govt. and non govt. sectors.

1.6 CBO formation, operation, management and account keeping training.

During the reporting period a total of 26nos CBO leader has been trained out of 26 about CBO formation, operation, management and account keeping training to strengthen their organizational capacity. Before conducting training session training module, schedules, Curriculum develop by our trained project staff. A participatory training approach was followed to make the training effective and interesting.

1.7 Organize social cultural and sports events

Dalit people are not allowed in any socio cultural and sports events organized by mainstream community and institution. So ARCO organized social, cultural and sports events to minimize the gap between mainstream and dalit. During the reporting period the project has been organized 7 times annual sports & cultural events out of 7 for the respective dalit people where all age groups of dalit both male & female were participated in different types of events and enjoyed that day. In that ceremony respective Mayor, journalist, TSI (Thana Sub Inspector) , civil society, teachers & CBO were present.

1.8 Establish Resource and Information Centre

A total of 2nos community based Resource and Information Centre has been set up in two colonies out of 2 within the project period. It has created an opportunity for the people of the sweeper community to get knowledge, information and available resources. It has become a centre of advocacy, lobbying, experience sharing, community development planning, designing and implementation of community initiatives. All the community forums conducted their regular activities in this center. It is also used for pre -school and school going children activities.

1.9 Capacity building training for adolescents

During the reporting period the project has been organized 4nos different training courses out of 4nos such as leadership development training of 40nos youth, facilitation on family life education of 20nos adolescent boys & girls , six step development training of 20nos adolescent boys & girls, skill development training on cultural activities of 20nos adolescent boys & girls each in one batch.

1.10 Organize cultural show demonstration

There are 2 adolescents cultural team in our project area from adolescent boys and girls. Before demonstrating cultural show six steps development training and cultural skill development training were organized. Then both the team identified their problems. As part of their action regarding their problems, they performed/ demonstrated 6nos of drama shows in their community and out side community to motivate and sensitized the mainstream people about dalit people through cultural program by developing adolescent's cultural team.

Output: 2

A comprehensive advocacy approach followed to change sweeper communities' situation and address their demand.

2.1 Impart Human Rights and Leadership training for enhancing their competence

A total of 55nos CBO and SHG leaders has been developed by training on human rights and leadership development out of 50nos during the project period to protect and promote their rights, entitlements, ensure their dignity and recognition in the mainstream society and equity. Before conducting training session training module, schedules, Curriculum develop by our trained project staff. A participatory training approach was followed to make the training effective and interesting.

2.2 Organize advocacy workshop at the Upazila level with the participation of different stakeholders of the project.

During the reporting period a total of 1no Upazila level advocacy workshop has been organized out of 1with the participation of govt. and non govt. officials, local elites, journalist, civil society and CBO to establish dalit rights where discussed on different types of issues i.e. access in job, education facilities for children and access to different types of Govt. safety net program and health service

2.3 Observance of different days to promote the rights.

A total of 11nos. special days and events were observed out of 11 such as women day, human rights day, world dignity day, eradication of racial discrimination with the participation of dalit people along with the Deputy commissioner, other officers of women affairs office and other Govt. & NGO officials through which the mainstream people become aware about issues and events of dalit and their developments. At the end memorandum was submitted to the Deputy Commissioner of Naogaon & Bogra. More or less 200 participants were participated in all day observations and events.

2.4 Provide anti-social activities prevention session.

A total of 48nos anti-social prevention sessions were conducted where discussed drug abuse, gambling and conflict to aware about the impact of anti social activities and protect them from this illegal activity of their community within the project period.

A total of 6nos movement have been organized through rally, discussion, human chain and memorandum submission on international drug prevention day during the reporting period with the active participation of Deputy Commissioner, Police Supper, Mayor, TSI (Thana Sub Inspector), counselor, local elites, civil society, journalist and PooCs to prevent anti social activities from the dalit community.

2.5 Advocacy on right based issues (meeting with Pouroshava)

During the reporting period a total of 5nos. advocacy workshop were held in municipality level with the participation of local govt. civil society, journalist including CBO to establish dalit rights where discussed on different types of issues i.e. access in job, water & sanitation support, creation of additional income sources, education facilities for children and access to public health service etc.

2.6 Organize Final workshop (District level workshop)

During the reporting period a total of 1nos. advocacy workshop in district level out of 1 with the participation of MP (Member of Parliament), local elites, govt. and non govt. departments including CBO to establish dalit fundamental rights. A total of 132nos participants were present including parliament member and ex- commerce minister Mr Abdul jalil and Deputy Commissioner (DC) Naogaon.

Output: 3

The access of the children of the sweeper colonies to the quality of primary and secondary education enhanced through developing a sound education friendly circumstance in the sweeper colonies and primary and secondary schools.

3.1 Organize dialogue on the enhancement of quality of the primary and secondary education.

During the reporting period a total of 7nos education dialogues has been organized out of 7 with the participation of primary and secondary school teachers-46nos, SMC(School Management Committee)-5nos, Upazila level education officials-7nos, parents of mainstream-15nos, dalit students-45nos. On an average 35nos participants were present in each session to improve education friendly environment. In this dialogues session participants have been shared about internal discrimination between mainstream and dalit students for creating education friendly environment.

3.2 Organized school based simulation by ensuring action of mainstreaming student to reduce gap between mainstream and dalit children.

During the reporting period a total of 4nos School based simulation (Drama)has been organized out of 4 to reduce gap between mainstream and dalit children with the participation of primary and secondary school teachers-46nos, SMC(School Management Committee)-4nos, Upazila level education officials-8nos, parents of mainstream-25nos & dalit students-65nos and mainstream students-175nos.

3.3 Provide pre-primary education to 3-5 years old children

The economic condition of dalits is very worse and vulnerable. They are mainly illiterate and their livelihood mainly depends on their lowest profession. Dalits exist far below the poverty line. So ARCO Provide pre-primary education to 3-5 years old children of dalit community. A total number of 180 students have been completed 1 year pre-primary course. All the 180 number children admitted in primary school. Unfortunately 15 children have been dropped out from the primary school. The children learn good manner, behavior, language, rhyme, song etc in pre-school activities. They overcome the preliminary fear in their mind about mainstream school environment. .

3.4 Provide RIC based supplementary education to the selected children after the school hour.

The dalit are economically marginalized and they live below poverty line. They have no ability to provide extra tuition for their children. As a result the school going children dropped out at primary stage. So ARCO provide supplementary education to the school children of the dalit community. A total number of 428nos. students whom age between 6 to 15 years are attending supplementary education regularly after completion of classes out of 428. They complete their homework in this supplementary education sessions. So that the drop out rate is reducing and education quality is increasing day by day. Consequently Annual Examination result of dalit Student in the Govt. primary school is improving day by day.

3.5 Distribute text books and education materials among the selected children.

During the reporting period a total of 609nos school dress, bags, shoes, socks and other education materials have been provided among the 609nos School going children (112nos in 2009, 157nos in 2010, 166nos in 2011. & 176nos in the bridging period) where the respective Upazila executive officer, Mayor and CBO members were present in the distribution ceremony to ensure the quality of education as well as to increase the spontaneous participation of dalit children.

Output:

The access of the vulnerable and marginalized sweeper to the community based quality public health services, safe water, sanitation hygiene and nutrition by strengthening community capacity changing their health and hygiene behavioral pattern and improving housing and household ascertained.

4.1 Organize dialogue between representatives of SHG and CBO local public health service providers

The dalit people are unconscious about health and hygiene. The access of dalit people is limited in different kinds of health services. Also they do not know where they get proper medical facilities. During the reporting period the project has been organized 7 dialogue sessions out of 7 among the members of SHG, CBO, local public health service provider, health and family planning officer, Upazila women affairs officer were present in all session where discussed primary health, hygiene and sanitation & the way of getting medical facilities.

4.2 Provide nutrition supplementation to the malnourished children and pregnant and lactating mothers

A total of 166nos. students have got the nutritious food everyday out of 180nos during the reporting period. The egg, banana, seasonal fruits, bread, biscuits, sweets, hotchpotch with vegetables etc. were the selected food for the children to prevent malnourish of the dalit children.

A total of 32nos. monthly nutrition awareness session and demonstration out of 36 with the participation of pregnant and lactating mother and the house hold female head of the dalit family where discussed anti natal care, post natal care, balanced diet, infant and child care and techniques of getting nutritious food at a cheaper rate.

4.3 Install tube-wells and sanitary latrine at the sweeper colonies

During the reporting period 6nos tube wells out of 6 installed, 10nos latrines out of 3 and 8nos bathroom have been constructed by the help of community based organization to ensure the quality of health, hygiene and sanitation. As a result diarrhoeal and water diseases reduce day by day in dalit community. They can save some money each year. So their livelihood status increase gradually.

4.4 Materials support to shit cleaners.

A total of 85 sets shit cleaning materials have been distributed among the selected dalit people of Naogaon & Shantahar to protect them from various types of germs and try to practice to lead healthy life.

Output: 5

The alternative but sustainable income/employment generating activities and managed by the targeted beneficiaries.

5.1 Impart skill and employment generating to the adult male and female sweepers, youth and adolescent boys and girls of sweeper colonies on IGAs and enterprises and develop entrepreneurial skills.

During the reporting period the project has been organized different types of skill & employment generating training for 200nos dalit people out of 275nos in different trade i.e. pig rearing (13), bamboo product making (7), small trade (33), tailoring (5), driving (1), homeopathic bottle making (12), rope making (18), poultry rearing (75), goat rearing (35), wood carpeting (1) for adolescents, youth, adult male and female of dalit community. In that training the representative of Upazila livestock officer, NGO officer and experienced person of relevant IGA were present as resource person.

2.2 LOG FRAME FOLLOW UP MATRIX

Description	Achievement for the reporting period (mentions baseline status and planned target using indicators from the log frame).	Progress analysis(Explain deviation of achievement from the plan)	Use of funds (give% of used vs. planned, funds for reporting period and explain deviation with budget)
<p>Outcomes:</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2. 3. To improve the overall health, hygiene, water and sanitation situation of the sweeper communities.</p> <p>4. To increase income though employment creation by diversifying livelihood options.</p>			

Output:1 The targeted household as well as communities empowered through development of sustainable community based institutions and their network form the community to upazila level.			
Activities 1.1 1.1 Form Self- Help groups (SHGs) at two sweeper colonies with the participation of adult people	The target was 12 but considering the field situation we organized 18 SHGs during the reporting period. Participation of adult male & female of dalit community to conduct community need assessment and resource mapping along with other stakeholders and encourage the disadvantaged sweeper community people to be organized under SHG to place the needs.	Considering the Poocs opinion, total number of adult members and SHG operational manual we increased the total number of SHG.	Used 100% planned tk.6000
Activities 1.2 Form sweeper colony based adolescent forums	During the reporting period a total of 4 adolescent forums have been formed out of 2 with the participation of adolescent boys and girls to effectively manage the adolescent and youth development related activities of the project as well as the change maker of their own community.	Our plan was to organize 1 forum in each colony and it will be boys & girls mixed. Considering the views of their parents & social environment of dalit community, we organized 2 forums (1 for boys and 1 for girls) in each colony	Used 102.92% Planned tk.6,000
Activities 1.3 Form community based organization (CBO) at sweeper colony level	During the reporting period a total of 02 Community Based Organizations out of 2 with the participation of the representatives of the SHGs to raise voice for the sweeper community and advocate to protect and promote their rights, entitlements.	Target has been achieved within the budget and time.	Used 88% Planned tk.7,045 Due to CBO formation process. One CBO formed by election and another by selection.

Activities 1.4 Establish network between two sweeper colonies	During the reporting period a total of 1 network committee has been formed out of 1 with the participation of the executive body of two CBOs to protect and promote their rights, entitlements.	Target has been achieved within the budget and time.	Used 99.92% Planned tk.5,000
Activities 1.5 Organize Human Rights Watch Group	During the reporting period A total of 2nos Human Rights Watch Group committee has been formed out of 2 to focus for sensitizing the different professional groups in terms of advocacy in favor of People of Our Concern (POC).	Target has been achieved within the budget and time.	Used 108% Planned tk.10,000
Activities 1.6 CBO formation, operation, management and account keeping training	During the reporting period a 3 days long CBO formation, operation, management and account keeping training for the 50 CBO leaders was organized in two batches to strengthen their organizational capacity. And it was same to the actual plan..	Target has been achieved within the budget and time.	Used 92.64% Planned tk.39,000
Activities 1.7 Organize social cultural and sports events	During the reporting period the project has been organized 7 times annual sports & cultural events out of 7 for the respective dalit people where all age groups of dalit both male & female have been participated in different types of events and enjoyed that day. The government officials and mainstream people including leaders, elites, and social workers were present in every event.	Target has been achieved within the budget and time.	Used 104.26% Planned tk.1,75,000
Activities 1.8 Establish Resource and Information Centre	A total of 2nos community based Resource and Information Centre has been set up in two colonies out of 2 within the project period to create an opportunity for the people of the sweeper community to get knowledge, information and available resources.	Target has been achieved within the budget and time.	Used 104.36% Planned tk. 3,70,240

Activities 1.9 Capacity building training for adolescents	<p>There were 4 different capacity building training courses in the actual plan to build capacity of adolescents in our working area. 1. A 3 days long Leadership development for 40 youths 2. A 3 days long Facilitation on family life education for 20 adolescents 3. A 3 days long six step development training for 20 adolescents and 4. A 5 days long cultural skill development training for 20 adolescents.</p> <p>According to the plan ARCO organized and conducted all the training courses in time. We followed the participatory approach.</p>	Achieved as per plan in time.	<p>Used 135.09% Planned tk. 1,15,850</p> <p>Due to inflation of money and increase commodity price.</p>
Activities 1.10 Organize cultural show demonstration	The project has organized 6nos cultural shows demonstrations out of 6 in the horizon colony and outside colony to motivate and sensitized the mainstream people about dalits problems. The trained adolescent cultural team demonstrated all the shows.	Target has been achieved within the budget and time.	<p>Used 108.68% Planned tk. 36,000</p>
Output-2 A comprehensive advocacy approach followed to change sweeper communities' situation and address their demand.			
Activities 2.1 Impart Human Rights and Leadership training for enhancing their competence.	A 3 days long training on human rights and leadership development for 50 persons of CBO and SHG was the target. But we provided the training to 55 persons for 3 days.	Due to community need.	<p>Used 101% Planned tk.39000</p>
Activities 2.2 Organize advocacy workshop at the Upazila level with the participation of different stakeholders of the project.	During the reporting period a total of 1no Upazila level advocacy workshop has been organized out of 1 to establish dalit rights.	Target has been achieved within the budget and time.	<p>Used 107.23% Planned tk.15,000</p>

Activities 2.3 Observance of different days to promote the rights.	A total of 11nos. national and international special days and events have been observed out of 11 to establish dalit rights, increase awareness and motivate mainstream society.	Target has been achieved within the budget.	Used 102.33% Planned tk.1,04,000
Activities 2.4 Provide anti-social activities prevention session and movement.	A total of 48nos anti-social activities prevention sessions were conducted. Each forum received 2 sessions (18 SHG, 2 CBO, 4 adolescent forum) during project period to aware about bad impact of anti social activities. A total of 6nos movements like rally, human chain and big group discussion has been organized to prevent anti social activities from the dalit community within the project period.	Target has been achieved within the budget.	Used 99.56% Planned tk.36,000
Activities 2.5 Advocacy on right based issues (meeting with Pouroshava)	During the reporting period a total of 5nos. advocacy workshop were held in municipality level to establish dalit rights. Municipality mayor, councilors, municipality chief engineer, other municipality officials, media person, social activists were present. Salary in municipality, housing problem, electricity problem, water supply etc. was major issue.	Target has been achieved within the budget and time.	Used 100.33% Planned tk.60,000
Activities 2.6 Organize Final workshop (District level workshop)	During the reporting period a total of 1nos. advocacy workshop in district level out of 1 to establish dalit rights. A total of 132 participants were present including parliament member and ex-commerce minister Abdul Jalil and Deputy Commissioner (DC) Naogaon.	Target has been achieved within the budget and time.	Used 100% Planned tk.60,000

Output-3 The access of the vulnerable and marginalized sweeper to the community based quality public health services, safe water, sanitation hygiene and nutrition by strengthening community capacity changing their health and hygiene behavioral pattern and improving housing and household ascertained.			
Activities 3.1 Organize dialogue on the enhancement of quality of the primary and secondary education.	During the reporting period a total of 7nos education dialogues have been organized out of 7 to improve education friendly environment.	Target has been achieved within the budget and time.	Used100.64% planned tk.29,000
Activities 3.2 Organized school based simulation by ensuring action of mainstreaming student to reduce gap between mainstream and dalit children.	During the reporting period a total of 4nos School based simulation has been organized out of 4 to reduce gap between mainstream and dalit children.	Target has been achieved within the budget and time.	Used100% planned tk.9000
Activities 3.3 Provide pre-primary education to 3-5 years old children.	A total number of 180 students were attended in pre-school activities to prepare themselves for formal school.	Target has been achieved within the budget and time.	Non-budgetary
Activities 3.4 Provide RIC based supplementary education to the selected children after the school hour.	A total number of 428nos. students whom age between 6 to 15 years are attending supplementary education regularly after completion of classes out of 428 to complete their homework.	Target has been achieved within the budget and time.	Non-budgetary
Activities 3.5 Distribute text books and education materials among the selected children.	During the reporting period a total of 609 schooling students have been provided school dress, bags, shoes, socks and other education materials to ensure the quality of education as well as to increase the spontaneous participation of dalit children.	Target has been achieved within the budget and time.	Used107.75% Planned tk.5,23,000

Output-4 The access of the vulnerable and marginalized sweeper to the community based quality public health services, safe water, sanitation hygiene and nutrition by strengthening community capacity changing their health and hygiene behavioral pattern and improving housing and household ascertained.			
Activities 4.1 Organize dialogue between representatives of SHG and CBO and local public health service providers.	During the reporting period the project has been organized 7 dialogue session out of 7 among the members of SHG, CBO, local public health service providers to discuss primary health, hygiene, sanitation & the way of getting medical facilities.	Target has been achieved within the budget and time.	Used 100.5% Planned tk.55,000
Activities 4.2 Provide nutrition supplementation to the malnourished children and pregnant and lactating mothers.	<p>A total of 166nos. students have got the nutritious food everyday out of 180nos during the reporting period to prevent malnourish of the dalit children.</p> <p>A total of 32nos. monthly nutrition awareness session and demonstration out of 36 to ensure nutritious food for pregnant and lactating mother at a cheaper rate.</p>	<p>Due to dropping out</p> <p>Due to fund crisis</p>	<p>Used 92.56% Planned tk.12,18,756</p> <p>Used 96.12% Planned tk.28,800</p>
Activities 4.3 Install tube-wells and sanitary latrine at the sweeper colonies.	During the reporting period 6nos tube wells out of 6 installed, 10nos latrines out of 3 and 8nos bathroom have been constructed to ensure the quality of health, hygiene and sanitation.	Need based	Used 100.75% Planned tk.7,28,000

Activities 4.4 Materials support to shit cleaners.	A total of 85sets shit cleaning materials have been distributed among the selected dalit people of Naogaon & Shantahar to protect them from various types of germs and try to practice to lead healthy life	Target has been achieved within the budget and time.	Used 100% Planned tk.1,24,500
Output-5 The alternative but sustainable income/employment generating activities and managed by the targeted beneficiaries.			
Activities 5.1 Impart skill and employment generating to the adult male and female sweepers, youth and adolescent boys and girls of sweeper colonies on IGAs and enterprises and develop entrepreneurial skills.	During the reporting period the project has been organized different types of skill & employment generating training for 200nos dalit people out of 275nos to diversify their livelihood options.	To overcome some important issues we reduced no. of participants.	Used 83.62% Planned tk.2,95,050 Due to revised plan.

3. PROCESS / LEARNING:

3.1 CHALLENGES AND PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

- ✚ There are two lower Hinduism caste (Harijan/Dalits) in our project locations. One caste is called Dom another is called Hari. Both the lives in same location. There are huge social and cultural gaps between the groups. Internal conflict between these two groups is very high. Bring them in a single platform as Dalits platform was a big challenge.
- ✚ Earlier many organizations came to their community for their socio-economic development. But no organization continued their activities for a long time and most of the organizations cheat with the community people. They had a big doubt whether ARCO will continue the development work or not. This organization will again cheat us or not. In the first six month to regain their trust level and rapport building was a major challenge.
- ✚ Most of the dalits work under municipality as cleaners. But cleaning workers had no access to the mayor to raise their voice about their rights. The project had series of activities like dialogue, meeting, and workshop with the municipality mayor and councilors for rights and entitlements. The then mayor denied participating any meeting with sweepers. But the councilors were very much positive about their rights.
- ✚ Some government officials and public representatives are not so much cooperative in the context of the development of dalits.

- ✚ Anti social activities like gambling and drug addiction was a common phenomena in the dalit community. Local mainstream people and government administration preserves negative attitude for their anti social activities. These were also a barrier of their development. Reduce anti social activities from the community was a big challenge.

3.2 MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO ADAPT TO THESES CHALLENGES / TAKLE PROBLEMS.

- Door to door motivation visits, personal contact, small and big group discussion with dalits and mainstream people and rapport building.
- Project launching workshop including local dalits leaders, government high officials, parliament member, local elites, media personnel etc.
- Personal contact and meeting with municipality officials and government officials.
- Anti social prevention session conduction with Self Help Groups, Adolescent Forums and Community Based Organization (CBOs).

3.3 LEASON LEARNT

- ◆ Dalits are called untouchable. They are denied by the mainstream community in everywhere. They lived in an unhygienic condition. Many anti social activities is now part of their life. Considering these issues, working with dalits is a learning.
- ◆ Their low literacy rate has been a major hindrance for the dalits to develop their communities and has also inhibited them is looking for alternatives or changes to their traditional occupations.
- ◆ They have gained courage to access different govt. and non govt. officials and have stated to go there for their tights and services.
- ◆ Appropriate dalits friendly environment and support from government and non-government organization can be important for social inclusion.

3.4 PERSPECTIVES AND PLAN FOR THE COMING PROJECT PERIOD

ARCO has been implemented the project from its inception period with an enthusiastic, highly patience , motivated and committed team for development of dalits of Naogaon and Bogra district , here it is noted that we might not be served them as per desire to make them up to the mark. ARCO recommends that if we work long time for the development of dalits, it will possible to establish their equal rights and sustainable development. Besides Naogaon and Bogra district ARCO thinks to include Joypurhat district. There are about 8000 Adibashi families in Naogaon district. They are also vulnerable community as well as dalit community. ARCO would like to include Adibasis in its future plan. Policy influences is one of the major concern of dalit and adibashi rights. We are doing advocacy for their rights a lot in the local level, but it is not enough to establish their rights. Regional and national level advocacy is very important to establish their rights. If possible we will organize a national level platform in the coming project period.

ARCO feel happy to get opportunities to work to enhance life style by developing socio-economic status of dalits, so thanks and grateful to all of them, who actually extended their whole hearted cooperation and to the management of HEKS Bangladesh and HEKS Switzerland for their kind technical support, cooperation, time to time feedback to make us tracking as required.

Queries and suggestions if any on the report will be highly appreciated.

Thanks with regards

Prepare and submitted by:

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Enclosure A: Financial Report
Enclosure B: Photographs