“It’s all to do with the training: you can do a lot if you’re properly trained.” - Queen Elizabeth (present)

‘Alternative Livelihood Improvement of dalit & marginalized teen aged in Bangladesh’ project
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Chuknagar, Dumuria, Khulna

Duration: November 01, 2015 to October 31, 2016

Implemented by: Dalit, Bangladesh

Supported by: Fondazione San Zeno Onlus
Alternative Livelihood Improvement of dalit & Marginalized Teen Aged Girls in Bangladesh is aimed to upgrade the technical qualification of girl’s students according to the reality. Dalit is providing technical training which will support them to be a skilled person to prepare themselves for an appropriate job. On the other side, they will be more alert about their rights and dignity by the scheduled awareness raising programs of the project.

Main Objective of the Project

- Creating employment opportunity for the adolescents by providing them computer (hardware & software) training;
- Encourage the girls receiving higher education to reduce early marriage;
- To enhance working skill and make the adolescent girls self-reliant;
- To amplify awareness on women rights;
Training session for adolescent girls

Expected Results

- a. 80 teenagers are able to use the computer and to fit for occupation; they are sensitized on human rights and aware of social problems;
- b. 100 'local members of civil society' are more aware of the condition of Dalits, particularly the problems of adolescents;
- c. 75 girls and their parents are aware of the importance of higher education, on social obstacles including early marriage, decreasing 5% of the organization.

Training session for boys

Synopsis of Activities

- Computer training
- Encouraging use of IT
- Awareness meeting
- Promoting modernism

Local Govt. official visiting training session

Guests are visiting training session
They learned how to operate Office management programs, Desktop Publishing and Internet, how to write CVs and apply for online jobs. Our course components were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating software</th>
<th>Windows7</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application software</td>
<td>Office 2007 (Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Adobe Photoshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utility session</td>
<td>Internet/email access</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hardware-software maintenance</td>
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Usually there was no opportunity for the students of dalit & marginalized communities to appear as a skilled person, because they have no financial ability to receive proper technical training. On the other side, service providers asked for skilled applicant on computer operation as a mandatory qualification. So Dalit was needed providing training on computer operation to the dalit students, free of cost. Through the training centre, Dalit covered 2 sessions in a year lasting 6 months each, with 4 batches/groups per duration for 80 students.
Dalit has been managed relationship locally with registered institution under Bangladesh Technical Education Board providing support to its trained students to attain Govt. certificate. Students of every session took part in board exam and succeed students received certificates.
Dalit has been conducted awareness raising seminars with the girls of computer classes to encourage them to think and raise-up their voice against social barriers, violence against women, child/ forced marriage and about their obtainable rights & dignity. During the project period we completed 6 awareness raising meetings with them, where 20 participants were attended at each seminar.

As an attempt to expand awareness on human rights and reducing gender discrimination from root level, Dalit engaged all participants of computer training course in a seminar. During the project period, we completed 06 awareness raising seminars on human rights and gender discrimination where 20 participants (both girls & boys) were attended at each program.
There were 75 vulnerable girl students from nearby villages receiving support from this project. They had no ability to receive the higher secondary education. They also were living under the risk of early marriage by their parents. So Dalit provided them financial support through monthly guidance seminar for 12 times. The aim arranging this type of seminar was to make them aware against all types of social obstacles and to guide them about their future education life. They discussed the following issues:

- Importance of receiving higher education (especially for the girls);
- How to avoid early marriage, superstitions and raising awareness on social obstacles;
- How to motivate their parents on importance of receiving higher education;
- How to include themselves in social development;
- Suggestions to earn some money through providing tuition support to the others.

“It was a frustrating period for me, when my father declared that, he is incapable to bear my educational expenses for higher secondary level. So I was needed financial support to continue my higher education to fulfill my dream to be self-reliant. Nobody helped me that time and my study was stopped for 1 year. At the end of 2015; I was able to made contact with this project personnel and luckily I got the opportunity to receive monthly stipend as a computer trainee and my study is now ongoing. If Dalit did not come to help me, I would have been dropped out way before.”

-Momotaz Begum, beneficiary of computer training and monthly stipend
Dalit has been organized awareness building meeting with the parents of adolescent girls to encourage them on importance of receiving higher education and technical training for their daughter. During the year 2016, we completed 06 awareness raising meetings with them, where more or less 90 parents were attended at these meetings.

Dalit has been organized awareness raising meeting with the local authorities to discuss the problems existing in the villages and the rights of the community of Dalit and overcome caste discrimination. Also we encouraged them on importance of receiving technical training for their offspring and to mitigate social obstacles. We have completed 02 awareness raising meeting with them; where local high officials, village leaders and religious persons were attended at the meeting.
Through this project Dalit was able to create skilled workforce to serve other organizations. Our trained students are now working as a skilled staff in local institutions/organizations.
Dalit is an organization promoting basic human rights, socio-economic development and empowerment among dalit and marginalized groups towards equity and justice.

**Mission**
Achieving sustainable and lasting improvements in Dalit’s and other marginalized and socially excluded groups’ quality of life, facilitating the access to education, promoting and advocating for their basic human rights, boosting community health, increasing the access to livelihood opportunities and WASH facilities.

**Vision**
A world in which Dalit and other marginalized communities realize their full potential in caste-based free societies that respect people’s rights and dignity.

**Dalit**
37/1 Kedarnath Road, Moheswarpasha, KUET, Daulatpur, Khulna-9203, Bangladesh
Phone: +880 41 775 018, Cell: +880 17 1112 9986
Email: dalitkhulna@gmail.com
Website: www.dalitbd.org
Dalit’s accomplishment

Dalit has been awarded the **Energy Globe Award** by the Embassy of Austria in New Delhi, India on 18th June 2015, for its intervention in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene.

Dalit has been honored with **Nelson Mandela Award** for the year 2016. The appreciation has been specially recognized on the field of social activism. The award ceremony was organized by 71 media vision in Dhaka on 8th August.