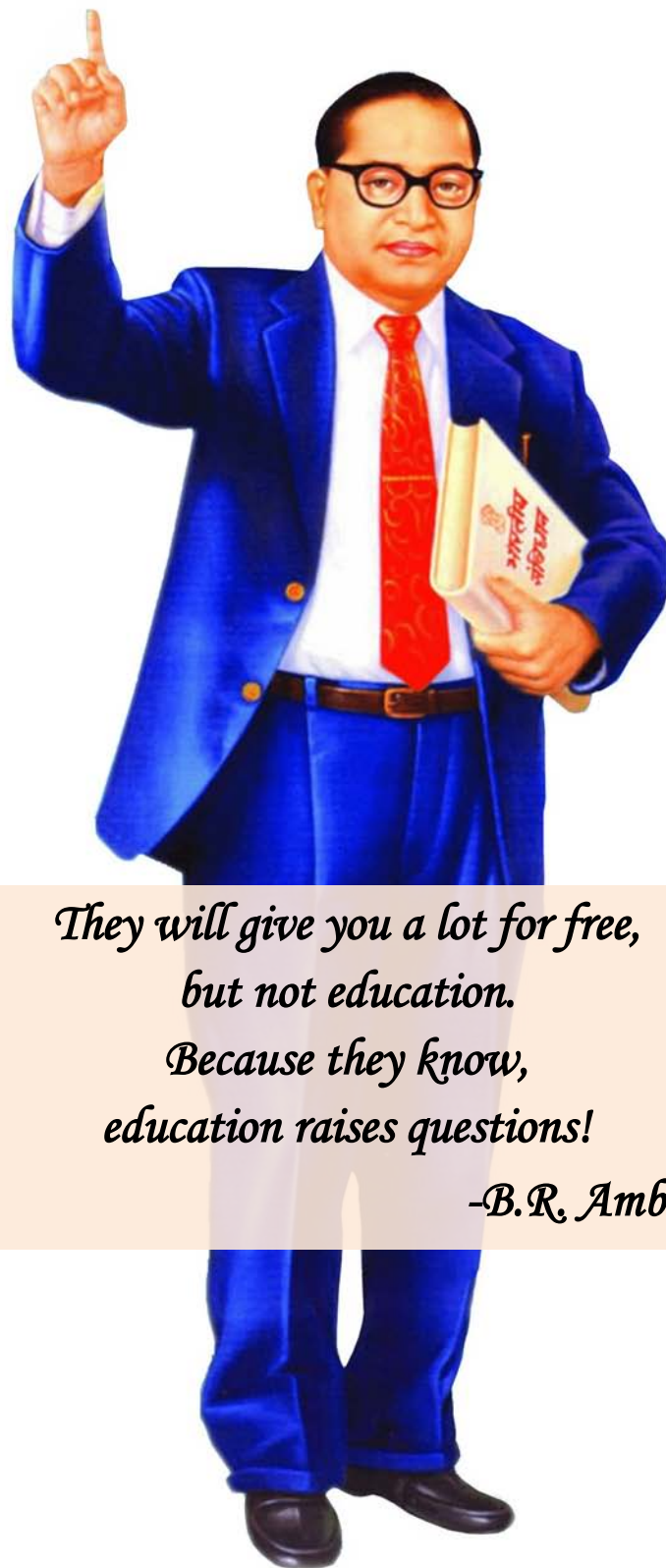




Hope for the oppressed



Annual Report 2021



*They will give you a lot for free,
but not education.
Because they know,
education raises questions!*

-B.R. Ambedkar



Dalit Annual Report 2021

Photo Credit
Dalit Staff

Concept, Design & Editing
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ACRONYMS & GLOSSARY

ANC	Antenatal Care
Ayurvedic	Herbal/ traditional treatment method
Harijan	Sewerage Cleaner
IGA	Income Generating Activities
Kaviraj	Village Healer/ Doctor
MHM	Menstrual Hygiene Management
Miking	Transmitting information through loudspeakers
Mujib Shotoborsho Smriti Sommanona	Mujib Shotoborsho has been declared by the government of Bangladesh marking the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Father of the nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. An award ceremony was organized to honor his memory and the title of the event was “Mujib Shotoborsho Smriti Sommanona”.
PNC	Postnatal Care
Polytechnic	Courses at degree level or below, especially in vocational subjects
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights
SSC	Secondary School Certificate
Union Parishad	Lowest local administration
Upazila	Sub-district
WASH	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene

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.

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.

TARGET BENEFICIARIES

The target beneficiaries are mostly children, women and men (including disable person) belonging to dalit/ marginalized communities known as Rishi (skinner), Kawra (pig rearer), Dom (post mortem of dead bodies), Methor (toilet/sewerage cleaner), Teli (oil producer), Behara (palanquin bearers for carrying the bride), Nikari (fish sellers), Jula (cloth weavers), Bazadar (drum beater), Jele (fishermen) etc.

WORKING AREA

Dalit is working in the south-west region of Bangladesh. It covers 384 villages of 73 unions under 17 sub-districts of Khulna, Jashore, Satkhira and Bagerhat districts, serving 35,325 families (direct).

Message from EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings to all, Dalit has passed another year in the effort of development and change, and the coming year is very important for Dalit. Because Dalit is going to touch a milestone in 2022. On the eve of this special year, it is a great opportunity for me to present the Annual Report of Dalit that reflects its annual progresses and accomplishments throughout the Year of 2021. Through this report, we present the outcome of our efforts to our program participants, gracious partner organizations, well-wishers, representatives from the government, development practitioners, the General Body and the Executive Board including my colleagues in Dalit whose dedication and hard work has contributed immensely in fulfilling the mission and providing support to the disadvantaged and poor for whom we are mandated to carry out all our programs.



The year in review has been steadfast in making the path to a future more inclusive of innovation, technology, and change in how Dalit committed to their promise of providing education, health, financial well-being, and dignity for all. Steps towards efficiency and integration of information over several platforms have given way to higher productivity and better communication amongst all. Moreover, we have also ushered in a shift in the overall spectrum of the workforce with the influx of young talent through our newly launched *Youth Platform*. Due to the prevalence of Covid-19 in 2021, it was quite challenging for us to keep the field activities going, but Dalit was still trying to meet the target as per its plan. This year, as always, our main focus has been on education development, providing health care, improving people's livelihood through income-oriented support, protecting the rights of women and children, and developing leadership. In addition to the regular activities, Dalit also conducted programs to provide health protection materials and food aid to combat Covid-19. However, the new sector added to Dalit activities in 2021 is the legal aid program. The main goal of this program is to resolve disputes at the local level so that people do not have to go to court to get justice. This will reduce the hassle and cost of the public as well as reduce the complexity of the case pending in the court.

This year also saw the introduction of Child Day Care services that has relentlessly worked over the years to provide integrated, life-changing services to the marginalized and vulnerable dwellers. The year has undoubtedly been one of many changes as well as challenges, all leading to a future filled with new opportunities for growth. I look forward to another rewarding year together with Dalit family; achieving the impossible with determination, hard work, and unity.

Best regards,

Swapon Kumar Das
Executive Director

Introduction

The organization has been named “Dalit” to represent the dalit and marginalized community people. Dalit is a Bengali word which means oppressed, exploited, neglected and deprived. Some dalit people were the visionary-dreamers that created Dalit organization and the autobiography of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar was their immense inspiration. Dalit is working since 1998 for empowering and mainstreaming dalit & other marginalized communities in the south-western part of Bangladesh. It is bringing hope to thousand of hopeless families through several programs: Pre-primary, Primary, and Secondary education for children; support to Higher Studies and Vocational trainings for adolescents; Human Rights awareness meetings to eliminate violence against women and child marriages; Health care including SRHR, Access to safe water, sanitation & hygiene; Livelihood activities for vulnerable women (as handicraft and homestead agriculture/farming), and Ayurvedic medicines production. Dalit got registration from NGO Affairs Bureau (N.1374) in 1999 and Ministry of Social Welfare (Khulna/1389/10) in 2010.

Projects of 2021

- ◆ **Community Initiatives to Establish Dalit and Excluded Peoples Rights**
- ◆ **Education Support Project in aid of Dalit Community**
- ◆ **Education Support for Dalit and Marginalized Students**
- ◆ **Empowering Dalit & Marginalized Communities through Integrated Program**
- ◆ **Enhancing Institutional Capacity to Explore Dalit and Excluded Rights**
- ◆ **Her Choice**
- ◆ **Integrated Health Awareness and Support Program**
- ◆ **Justice and Prison Reform for Promoting Human Rights and Preventing Corruption in Bangladesh**
- ◆ **Literacy Program for Marginalized Community**
- ◆ **Promoting Awareness and Actions for Covid-19 Responses in the Marginalized Dalit Community**
- ◆ **Promoting Rights and Human Dignity of the Socially Excluded Communities**
- ◆ **Strength Health and Education of Children and their Families of Sundarban in Bangladesh**
- ◆ **Technical and Practical Skills for Youth Empowerment**
- ◆ **Underprivileged Community Development Program**
- ◆ **WASH- SDG Program in Satkhira**

Sister Concern

- ◆ **Dalit Hospital**
- ◆ **Dalit Laboratories**
- ◆ **Bijoya (Handicraft)**

Activities of 2021

EDUCATION

HEALTH SERVICES

LIVELIHOOD

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

TRADITIONAL MEDICINE PRODUCTION

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

RIGHTS & SOCIAL AWARENESS

LEGAL AID

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE

Education



Due to the low risk of Covid-19 in early 2021, the field activities of Dalit started well. Although everything was fine till March, but the Government of Bangladesh has again issued a lockdown as the outbreak of the dangerous variant of coronavirus 'Delta' has been increasing since April 2021. In this way, sometimes severe lockdown and sometimes relaxation, the country was following this rule. Therefore, organization Dalit was also adapted to this situation and implemented the activities of its projects.

Although teaching at learning centres has been suspended for 4 months (April- July 2021) due to various government restrictions, but teachers of Dalit learning centres have alternatively visited students' houses, provided teaching materials and paid stipends. In addition, house-to-house awareness techniques and proper hand washing with soap have been taught to keep villagers safe from the risk of Covid-19 outbreak. Later, when the restrictions were lifted, the education program was conducted in a normal manner.

Key Figures

No. of learning centre*	71
No. of teachers	M= 19 F= 55
	74
Primary level students	B= 1,986 G= 1,953
	3,939
Secondary level students	B= 1,146 G= 1,103
	2,249
Higher Secondary level students	B= 48 G= 345
	393
Students under special support	B= 25 G= 15
	40

* including 1 aged learning centre

Implemented Activities

- All types of teaching materials (exercise book, nursery book, slate, pencil, pen, chalk, assignment sheet, sharpener, eraser, colour pencil) have been distributed to 6,588 students throughout the year. During the lockdown period, Dalit's teachers went to the houses of the students and distributed teaching materials and health care materials;
- Monthly stipend (class IV to X) and medical support has been provided to 1,893 vulnerable students;
- Financial support (Board fees) has been provided to 103 SSC examinee;
- An aged learning centre operated for 20 sex workers of Banishanta Brothel (Location: Dacope, Khulna) and special support provided to 40 children of sex workers;
- National and International days have been observed.



Distribution of monthly stipend



Special support to Brothel children



Aged learning centre



Distribution of teaching materials

Support to Adolescents Higher Education

In continuation to provide assistance in higher education, *Dalit* has been arranged motivational seminars with college and university going students to raise-up their voice against early marriage, social discrimination, superstition and establish women rights in the society. But due to the increase in Covid-19 outbreak, the gathering was stopped from March to July 2021 as per the government instructions. In total, 345 vulnerable adolescent girls and 48 boys received a monthly stipend (through app based mobile banking) to continue their studies at the college/university/polytechnic and nursing institute.

Education level of supported students'

Sl.	Class/ Level	No. of students	
		Girls	Boys
1	Higher Secondary	200	33
2	Graduation	88	13
3	Post Graduation	43	0
4	Nursing	10	0
5	Polytechnic	3	2
6	Bachelor of Laws	1	0
Total		345	48



Child Care Centre

Outbreaks of Covid-19 have increased the level of poverty in rural households, forcing all men and women in a family to work. As a result, their young children (kids) at home spend their days unprotected and helpless and have no opportunity for entertainment and education. To help parents overcome this problem, 3 child care centre have been set up at the village level since January 2021. The parents take their children to the child care centre at 8 am and go to work and at 1 pm they take their children home. During this time the child care centre assistant teaches children through entertainment and conducts activities that help them develop their talents. In addition to recreational lessons, children are also provided with light snacks.



Child care centre in Manirampur, Jashore



Child care centre in Moheshwarpasha, Khulna

Health Services



Dalit Hospital, established in 2004 with the financial support from COE (Associazione Centro Orientamento Educativo), is now a source of trust for the people of the southwestern part of the country in the healthcare sector. The specialty of this hospital is that it provides treatment in both Ayurvedic and Allopathic methods. The 10-bed hospital, registered by the Department of Health, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, is equipped with modern medical equipments.

In addition to providing medical services, Dalit Hospital also has pharmacy facilities for purchasing medicines at low cost, all kinds of pathological examination facilities. There are also facilities for curing diseases through the Department of Maternity, Department of Ophthalmology, Department of Dentistry and Yoga unit. In addition to providing medical services through medical camps or health camps at the village and school level, Dalit Hospital also provide medical services and medicines to people in remote areas during natural disasters.

Major Services

- | |
|--|
| ◆ Hospital based treatment & counseling |
| ◆ Diagnosis & Check-up |
| ◆ Medical camp/ health camp/ satellite clinic at the village level |
| ◆ ANC/ PNC |
| ◆ Sexual & Reproductive health care |
| ◆ Awareness on Covid-19 |
| ◆ Distribution of health care materials |
| ◆ Training to the Traditional Birth Attendants |
| ◆ Establish hygiene corner |
| ◆ Coordination meeting with community clinic staff |
| ◆ Ambulance service with life saving equipments |

Implemented Activities

- 3,521 patients received Allopathic treatment and 4,039 patients received Ayurvedic treatment;
- 707 patients received ophthalmic (eye disease) treatment and 114 patients received dental treatment;
- 140 patients received traditional/ yoga-based healing service;
- 11,741 patients received 27 types of diagnosis services;
- 4,545 patients received free treatment and medicines through Ayurvedic health camps at community level;
- 344 packets of sanitary napkin has been distributed to 149 adolescent girls;
- 30 midwives has been trained up on safe childbirth assistance;
- 21 meetings have been arranged with the staff of community clinics, where 376 community clinic workers were attended at these meetings;
- Financial assistance of BDT 18,000 has been provided to 12 distressed patients;



Hospital based treatment



Diagnosis service



Distribution of sanitary napkin



Implemented Activities related to Covid-19

- 19,162 pieces of mask and 6,406 pieces of soap has been distributed to 3,049 students & villagers;
- 36 disinfectant corners have been set up at community level;
- Registration facility has been provided to 6,854 people through the service support campaign for receiving the Covid-19 vaccine;
- 50 young boys and girls have been trained on basic preventive measures on Covid-19;
- 112 street shoe makers have been provided with large umbrellas with messages raising awareness about Covid-19;
- 14,861 families have been made aware on preventing Covid-19 through 815 meetings;
- Mobile campaigns (miking and distribution of posters and leaflets) have been conducted to protect the people from Covid-19;



Mask distribution to the villagers



Soap & mask distribution to the students



Disinfectant corner at the community level



Umbrella distribution to the street shoe makers

Livelihood



Since March 2020, Bangladesh has been experiencing multiple stages of Covid-19 pandemic that have not only impacting the health sector with the infections & fatalities. The Covid-19 induced containment measures, especially lockdowns, have intensified the needs of vulnerable groups, especially in informal sectors in terms of their livelihood. Many people have lost their jobs and income sources, resulting in an increase in unemployment and poverty in both urban and rural areas throughout the country. In this case, the living conditions of the people of dalit and disadvantaged communities are more deplorable. That is why Dalit organization has carried out multi-faceted activities to improve the livelihood of the people in the working area in most of the projects conducted in 2021. Through this program, steps were taken to empower women at the household level as well as to improve the livelihood of the youth by enhancing their skills. The program was able to generate a wide response among the beneficiaries due to the large amount of material assistance provided.

Key Programs

- ♦ Computer training (hardware & software)
- ♦ Training on goat rearing, chicken/ duck farming and materials support
- ♦ Materials support for vegetable cultivation
- ♦ Resource support to start a small business
- ♦ Training on tailoring and machine/ equipments support
- ♦ Training on paper bag/ packet making
- ♦ Formation and managing self-help groups
- ♦ Income-oriented follow-up meeting
- ♦ Training on online marketing

Implemented Activities

- 160 young girls and boys (98 girls & 62 boys) received training on computer operation during 6 months through Dalit's 2 technical training centres;
- 70 women have been trained in goat rearing. At the end of the training, they were provided with 70 goats, goat feed and medicines;
- 90 women have been trained in duck farming, they also received 270 ducks;
- 60 women received 360 sachets of vegetable seeds;
- 2 poor young man received materials and utensils to setup a tea stall, another 2 man received furniture and tools/ kits to start a barber shop and tailoring shop;
- 30 women have been trained in advanced tailoring for 15 days;
- 30 women have been trained in making paper bags and packets for 4 days. At the end of the training, they were provided with paper bag and packet making materials;



Training on computer programs



Distribution of duck



Distribution of goat



Implemented Activities

- 30 women have been trained in sanitary napkin making for 30 days. They also were provided with 30 sewing machines, tools and napkin making materials;
- 12 women received training on hen farming. They received 60 chickens, as their primary capital of income generating effort;
- 118 meetings have been organized with the participation of Self-Help Groups to encourage the women to be income-oriented;
- 68 follow-up meetings have been organized with the participation of 440 women to encourage them to be income-oriented on homestead farming, hen/ duck farming and vermin-compost making;
- Bijoya (a sister concern of Dalit) has been trained up 36 young women on cake bag (European variety) making and trained up 5 young women on online marketing;



Distribution of vegetable seeds



Meeting of Self-help group



Stall of Bijoya in a fair



Humanitarian Response



Since the outbreak of Covid-19 in Bangladesh in 2020, Dalit organization has been providing massive food aid as humanitarian support to the people in its working area. In 2021, the impact of Covid-19 was relatively low, yet Dalit food support program continued, considering the financial plight of the extremely poor elderly people.

- Dalit distributed 3,780 kg of rice, 6,300 kg of potato among **1260** dalit and extremely poor families in Dumuria Upazila. Each person was also given a bar of soap with this food package;
- Dalit also distributed 210 kg of rice, 21 kg of lentils and 42 kg of potatoes among **42** dalit families in Khulna City Corporation area in collaboration with Sampriti Forum;



Distribution in Dumuria Upazila



Distribution in Khulna city

Traditional Medicine Production



Considering the financial condition of the people belonging to the dalit and backward communities and their confidence in the traditional medicines in curing diseases, Dalit organization adopted a plan to introduce and produce Ayurvedic medicines. Later, however, Dalit started producing 24 types of medicines by establishing Dalit Laboratories (Ayurvedic) to ensure the availability of side-effect-free medicines to the general public. Located at Chuknagar in the western part of Khulna district, the production unit has been conducting innovative activities in the field of medicine production and expansion of this medical system since 2018.

The specialty of this Ayurvedic Laboratory is that no chemical is used in the medicine produced here, which is done by many companies secretly. That is why the medicine produced here is completely herbal and has no side effects. The institute also provides treatment through yoga and ancient home-remedies to promote alternative medicine. Dalit Laboratories is planning to make its activities more public welfare by establishing an Ayurvedic Medical College in the near future.

Key Activities

- | |
|--|
| ◆ Ayurvedic medicine production & promotion |
| ◆ Nursing of medicinal plants garden |
| ◆ Organizing training/ follow-up to the village Kavirajs |
| ◆ Arranging motivational meetings on to use of Ayurvedic medicines |
| ◆ Arranging meeting with the women on medicinal plants gardening |
| ◆ Distribution of medicinal plants among village women |
| ◆ Market analysis & market expansion |
| ◆ Making of IEC materials |

Implemented Activities

- 24 types of Ayurvedic syrups, semi-solids and tablets has been produced and marketed in different districts of Khulna division and Dhaka city;
- Recipes for making 20 more types of medicines have been approved this year by the drug administration;
- 32 Kaviraj trained-up as an Ayurvedic practitioners;
- 60 meetings arranged with 200 women on uses of medicinal plants and nursing of medicinal plants garden;
- 200 women received several types of medicinal saplings to promote Ayurvedic treatment method among the people and for the purpose of increasing women's earnings by increasing the production of herbal medicine ingredients;
- Dalit Laboratory has developed their herbal plants garden in 2021, with 105 varieties of medicinal plants. In addition, village level women have been provided assistance for setting up herbal plants gardens;



Training for traditional healers



Meeting on nursing of medicinal plants garden



Distribution of medicinal plants



Leadership Development



Leadership is the key to stimulating innovation, driving change and to deliver results in increasingly competitive and complex circumstances. Leadership development will provide new capacities, skills and behaviours to the youth to lead in a dynamic, complex and ambiguous global environment. Relying on this thought, Dalit have been implementing innovative programs for the development of women/ youth leadership from the very beginning. The villagers have already begun to reap the benefits of the leadership opportunities created by Dalit organization for women and youth through the formation and operation of youth clubs, youth groups, youth platforms, etc. These benefits include reducing social inequality, raising public awareness against child marriage, violence against women and dowry, competing for the position of public representative at the local level, giving priority to access to government-provided facilities, and access to government safety-net programs. In order to accelerate the development activities of youth leadership, in 2021, priority was given to online-based social media along with field level programs. Through which the thinking of the youth has been modernized as well as they have been organized rapidly.

Key Programs

- ♦ Formation and managing of youth clubs
- ♦ Organizing awareness sessions
- ♦ Organizing skills development training
- ♦ Motivational seminars and workshops
- ♦ Arranging debate and quiz competitions
- ♦ Arranging courtyard meeting with adolescent girls
- ♦ Arranging meeting with child forum
- ♦ Advocacy with the stakeholders

Implemented Activities

- 55 youth groups have been formed by conducting general meetings in 36 dalit communities of 21 unions. The total number of members of the groups was 1,000;
- 5 capacity development trainings organized in order to building leadership and advocacy ability among dalit youth. Total 133 youth participated in the training.
- 28 motivational seminars arranged for college/ university level students to raise-up their voice against early marriage and establish women rights in the society;
- In order to develop child leadership, 10 meetings of the Child Forum were organized, in which 108 children participated;
- 44 courtyard meetings were organized on demerits of early marriage, SRHR, including women leadership with 427 young girls (secondary level);



Training to the youth on advocacy



Meeting of Child Forum



Courtyard meeting on leadership



Implemented Activities

- 12 young men and 13 young women were given training in grassroots journalism;
- 19 women and 6 men were given training on conflict management;
- In order to make dalit women's voice against social negligence, 11 meetings were organized with 21-member of Dalit Women's Federation;
- A workshop was organized on the development of local leadership, where 43 men and 5 women participated;
- 99 awareness sessions were organized at 15 youth clubs with the participation of 437 young girls and 600 boys;
- A 31-member Dalit Youth Unity Council was formed through Khulna Divisional Workshop to develop leadership, promote social entrepreneurship and accelerate the movement for the rights of the dalit community.



Training on conflict management



Training on leadership



Meeting with Dalit Women Federation



Rights & Social Awareness



Dalit's activities to increase the rights, dignity and social awareness of the people of disadvantaged and backward communities have been able to get a wide response since 2016. However, the detrimental effects of Covid-19 over the last two years have largely diminished this success. As a large number of people become unemployed, their sense of responsibility, morality, patience and endurance have diminished due to the pressure of economic problems. As a result, violence against women, child marriage, child labor, domestic violence, drug addiction and mischief have increased again in the society. In order to control this situation, it is necessary to motivate the people to come back from this harmful habit and to do advocacy with the administration as much as it is necessary to restore the economic well-being of the people. Dalit organization was quite active in this regard in 2021, due to which despite the restrictions on Covid-19, it has conducted activities like raising awareness through various alternatives such as courtyard meetings, seminars, workshops, human chains, processions and memorandum submission.

Key Activities

◆ Implementation of local rights program
◆ Arranging courtyard meetings
◆ Organizing awareness raising workshops
◆ Advocacy with the stakeholders
◆ Memorandum submission
◆ Training on gender issue and SRHR
◆ Drawing, cultural and debate competitions
◆ Meeting with VDC and SMC
◆ Bicycle riding contest for adolescent girls
◆ Celebration of 16 days

Implemented Activities

- 521 courtyard meetings arranged where 8438 female & 1544 male were participated. Topics of the discussions were human rights, how to protect human rights and how to claim rights, reducing child marriage, dowry etc;
- 10 Orientations were organized for the members of the circle with the aim of eradicating child marriage, violence against women and dowry;
- To prevent violence against women, area based 10 committees were formed, each with 7 members;
- 3 campaign organized on reducing violence against women & children at the community level;
- Annual meeting with the guardians organized for 22 times to encourage the students and guardians through conversation & cultural events. A total of 560 parents and students participated in these events;
- Annual meeting organized with the members of SMC with 236 participants of 50 committees;



Courtyard meeting



Meeting on child marriage prevention



Annual parents meeting



Implemented Activities

- 3 discussions were held to include dalits in the social safety-net program. The meetings were attended by 240 people including local administration, local govt. representatives and villagers;
- 23 advocacy meetings were organized with Ward Councillors to be sensitive and proactive in protecting the rights of dalits and harijans;
- 2 discussion meetings were organized with the grass root level journalists;
- 2 advocacy meetings were held with the service providers (National women's organization, Department of women affairs, Department of social services) to play a role in women's rights and access to services;
- 18 meetings of Village Development Committee were organized with 96 participants;
- 3 coordination meetings have been held for the socio-economic emancipation and implementation of human rights of the dalit community;



Meeting on inclusion of dalit in develop. program



Advocacy meeting with Ward Councillor



Coordination meeting of CfDR



Implemented Activities

- A memorandum was submitted to the Minister of State for Labor and Employment demanding establishment of rights including employment for dalits and harijans;
- 80 college level students have been trained on gender issue and SRHR;
- 2 Drawing & cultural competitions arranged with 155 students;
- 12 meetings on linkage building were organized on road construction, supply of drinking water, installation of sanitary latrine, income-oriented support, receiving public and private services. Another 5 meetings were organized to increase the access of Dalit community to government services related to youth development;
- International Mother Language Day, National Children's day, National girl child day, Women's day, Human rights day, Elimination of racial discrimination day, International Anti-corruption day has been observed;



Memorandum submission



Training on SRHR



Linkage building meeting



Celebration of 16 days

- On the occasion of the 16-days celebration, 21 discussion sessions were organized with 246 women and 109 men;
- 2 drawing and cultural competitions were organized in which 140 contestants participated;
- A procession and quiz competition was organized to mark the day, Where 56 women and 45 men participated;
- A debate competition was organized in which 140 people participated;
- 2 cycling competitions were organized for adolescent girls at 2 upazila levels, a total of 40 girls participated in the competitions;



Debate competition



Cycling competition



Lima Das as Upazila Vice Chairman (Women)



Shimla Das on the chair as Panel Mayor-2

On 5th December 2021 Dalit adolescent girl Lima Das has been given the responsibility of being the one-day Upazila Vice Chairman (women) for the purpose of increasing the dignity of dalit women. On that day she performed her duties from the office at Digholia Upazila, Khulna and attended a meeting organized by Upazila administration.

On 6th December 2021 another Dalit teenager Shimla Das has been given the responsibility of being the one-day panel mayor for the purpose of developing the backward sections of the society as worthy citizens of the future. On this day she performed her duties from the office of the 25th Ward Councilor and also visited different areas of the city.

Legal Aid



By 2021 nearly 3.7 million cases were waiting to be disposed of at the courts, including the Supreme Court (*source: unb.com.bd*). To bring this situation under control, the Honourable Law Minister of Bangladesh and the Honourable Chief Justice of the Bangladesh Supreme Court are calling for cases to be filtered before they escalate into trial-worthy conflicts. In response to this call, Dalit has been conducting activities related to raising awareness about law, legal aid and resolution of disputes since 2021. Notable among which were: Coordination, communication and establishment of relationship with and among community level actors for legal assistance; Establish dispute resolution/Restorative Justice Mechanisms at the community level; Awareness raising on legal and social issues; Referral to legal assistance, social safety-net programs and other services as required.



Meeting with Restorative Justice



Meeting with local Police

Implemented Activities

- 180 community volunteers were oriented through 10 sessions;
- 42 courtyard meetings conducted on legal aid service;
- A meeting was organized with District Legal Aid Office;
- 3 meetings were organized with different stakeholders;



Courtyard meeting



Coordination meeting of Restorative Justice Facilitator and Community Paralegal



Meeting with the stakeholder

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene



The following activities carried out by Dalit in 2021 to raise awareness about WASH:

- 52 meetings were organized with village WASH committee members, where 362 female and 25 male participated;
- 110 WASH campaign arranged at community level, 1,500 female and 150 male participated;
- A follow-up meeting was organized with 120 participants to increase the accessibility of the dalit community to the WASH service;
- 2 WASH campaign organized for 609 school students on personal hygiene;
- 4 meetings were organized on menstrual hygiene with the teachers and school managing committee members;
- Menstrual hygiene day and Hand washing day has been observed.



WASH campaign at community level



Meeting on the accessibility of WASH service

Stories of Change

Priyanka Das: An Example of Success

Priyanka Das is a girl from Putimari village of Atlia union, belonging to Dumuria upazila of Khulna District. She is from a destitute family. Due to the economic hardship of her family, Dalit had been providing her financial assistance (stipend) every month for her higher secondary education.

She used her stipend money for paying tuition fees, buying books and other personal important purpose. She was also provided with six month long Computer office Application Course. During her training period a Govt. circular for the admission of Diploma in nursing course was published in the newspaper in 2017. She applied for the course. After successfully passing the written and practical test she has been admitted in Khulna Medical College. She is now (In 2021) a final year student in nursing.



Sandhya Rani: An Inspiration to Others

Sandhya Rani Halder lives in Sagardari village of Keshabpur upazila of Jashore district. She is 43 years old. She has 5 family members. She had to live with financial difficulties like her other family members. In 2012, a Dalit started a child development center in her village. She was a member of the 7-member child protection committee. She was later elected chairperson of the committee for her leadership skill. In collaboration with Dalit, she and her members carried out various developmental works for children, women and the area.



In the last 10 years, she has received various income-generating trainings, such as fish farming, vegetable farming, poultry rearing, cattle rearing, etc. She took a loan of BDT 15,000 from Grameen Bank 3 years ago to improve her fortune using the knowledge gained from the training. She bought a goat with the loan money and started her farm by making a small house for the goat. At present she has 3 cows and 6 goats in her farm. Now she is happy because she can meet the needs of the family independently and make important decisions in the family. On behalf of the dalit community she also participated in the Union Council's Budget Discussion for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022, in response to her demand; BDT 70,000 has been allocated for the development of dalit community. Sandhya Rani is a source of inspiration to other women in the village, because everyone in the village respects her and seeks her cooperation.

Mehedi: A Soldier for Bangladesh Now

Nornia is a village of Dumuria upazila in Khulna district. Mehedi Hassan (22) belongs to extremely impoverished households of this village. Their family members are 4 in number. They have no other land except their house. Due to the poverty trap his education has always been hindered so far. Presently he is a graduate level student (BBA) of Chuknagar College. Alongside of his study he was searching for a job, so that he could bear his educational expenses.

At this circumstance, he got to know that, Dalit started serving students who are economically challenged. He then went to the project office and expressed interest in receiving computer training.



Mehedi was selected on the basis of his potential and socio-economic status. He was given an effective training on Computer office Application Course for around six month of duration (in 2017). As a result of that service by Dalit he was capacitated to skillfully operate and spontaneously work on computer based tasks. In the meantime, he got a job circular of Bangladesh Army for the post of a Soldier. As he knew the online job searching and application process, it was possible to download job application form from website and was easy to submit that. Shortly thereafter, the letter of interview came to him. After successfully passing the written, viva and medical test on the job interview, he joined as an army soldier without spending extra money. His posting is now at Ramu of Chattogram (Chittagong) district.

Kakon Das fulfilled her mother's dream

Kakon Das belongs to a poor family of Khanpur village under Satkhira district. Kakon has three sisters and a brother, among them she is the elder one. In spite of many shortages and hardships, Kakon was able to pass the H.S.C exam. Her mother Anita Das's had a dream that she (Anita Das) could study but that did not come true. Kakon Das was interested in fulfilling her mother's dream. She continued her study with the help of Dalit. In 2017, a circular for the admission of Diploma in nursing course was published in the newspaper. She applied for the training course. After successfully passing the admission test she was admitted in a local (Gazi Medical College Hospital) Nursing Institute. She completed her nursing in 2020 and after completing 1 year internship, she got the opportunity to work in the same institute from September 2021. As a beginner her salary is BDT 15,000 (Fifteen thousand taka). Kakon thinks that she has been able to fulfill her mother's dream.



Swapna Das brought happiness in her family

When the Covid-19 pandemic suddenly intensified around the world, the normal life of the people of Bangladesh became stagnated due to the lockdown announced by the government. Millions of families lost their jobs and became extremely poor. Swapna Das, the housewife of such an affected family lives in Ghona village under Islamkati Union of Tala upazila in Satkhira district. Having lost his job, her husband was spending his days unemployed, on the other hand, due to spinal pain; it was not possible for Swapna to work anywhere.



There are 5 members of their family including a son, daughter and Swapna's mother-in-law. Even when Swapna's husband was earning, they had to struggle to meet the expenses of the family. And since the lockdown began in 2021, they have been starving. Upon learning of their misery, Dalit extended a helping hand to them. In order to keep the family alive, the necessary equipments (gas cylinder and stove, kettle, glass utensils, etc.) have been handed over to Swapna on November 7 for handling a tea stall. With the help of Dalit, Swapna and her husband set up a tea stall in their village. In this stall they also sell biscuits and snacks along with tea. Now they earn 300 to 400 BDT in a day from the stall and their family is going well. Since Dalit is standing by their side, today they got the address of light in the dark path.

Lakshmi's journey of prosperity began

Lakshmi Das is a struggling woman from Banargati Rishipara under Khulna City Corporation. She is the mother of 2 daughters and 1 son. There is a sick mother-in-law in the house who cannot get out of bed. Her husband repairs and sells old shoes. The cost of education for the three children, including the daily purchase of medicine for the sick mother-in-law, made it impossible for her husband to run a family of six members. As a Dalit beneficiary, he often attended awareness-raising yard meetings.



At one such meeting, she expressed interest in learning dress making to alleviate her family's economic woes. Seeing her interest in learning the work, Dalit organization arranged for her to be included in the tailor training program conducted by the Khulna District Social Service Office. The district social services office provided her with 15 days of training and at the end of the training they also provided a sewing machine and some clothes for free. Lakshmi started her career with this meager capital. At present, Lakshmi is earning BDT. 2,000 to 2,500 per month and is now working hard to restore her family's well-being.

Financial Report

This section reports on funds received (from foreign and local), expenses incurred (for projects and administration) and comparison of expenses under various programs/priorities and against project, capital and administration expenses for the Year 2021.

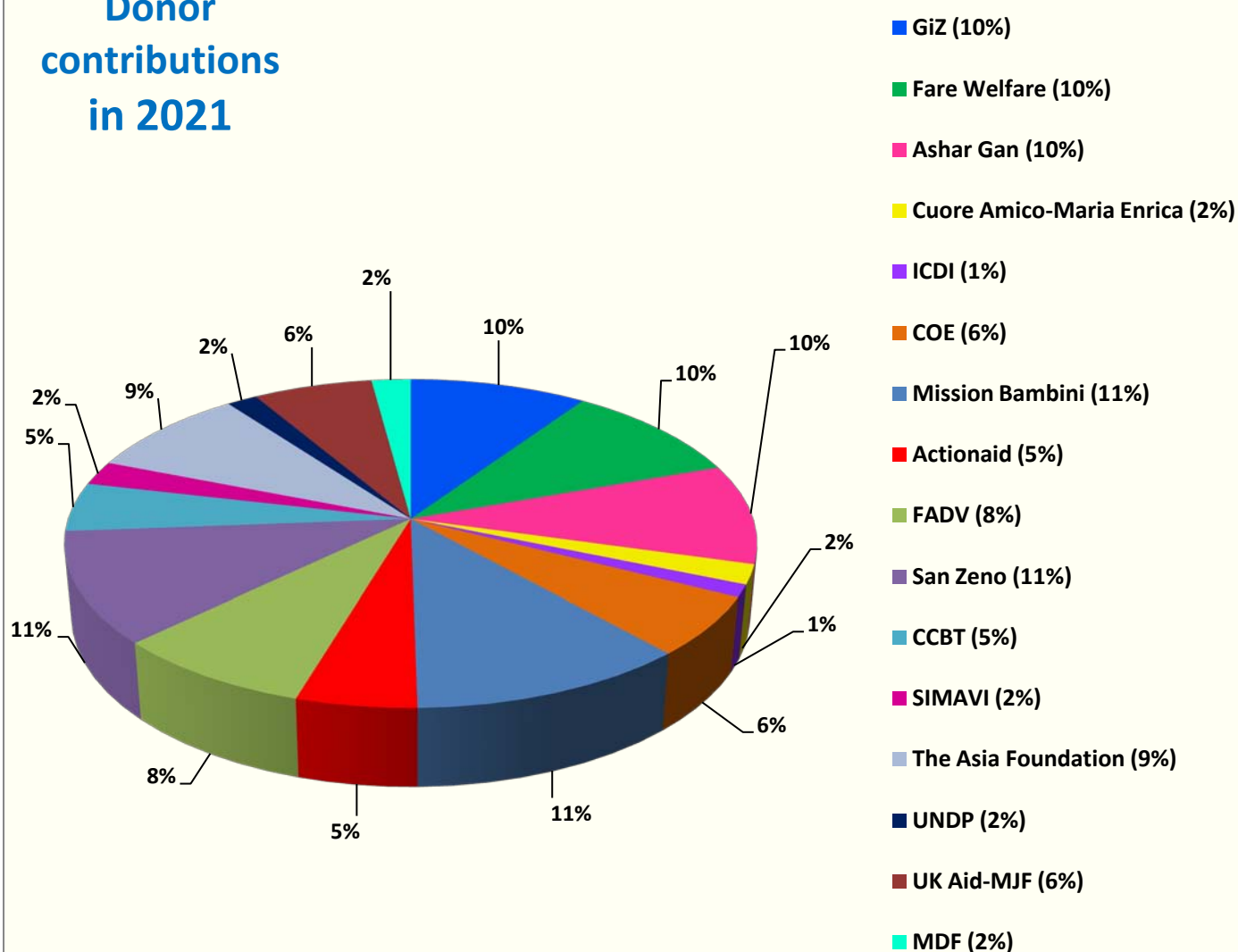
1. Financing:

During the reporting year, a total amount of Tk. 54,511,865 was received as donation, of which Tk. 51,941,355 (€536872.20) represents foreign donation and the remaining amount of Tk. 2,570,510 as local donation.

2. Expenses:

During the Year 2021, total expenditure was Tk. 45,726,883.41 while project expenditure was Tk. 42,540,266 (93.03%) and administration Tk. 3,186,617.41 (6.97%).

Donor contributions in 2021





SINCE-1994

RAHMAN ANIS & CO.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

AUDITORS' REPORT

We have audited the accompanying Consolidated Statement of Financial Position of Dalit of 37/1 Kedernath Road, Moheswarpasha, KUET, Daulatpur, Khulna, Bangladesh. Which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at June 30, 2021 and the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the statement of Receipts and Payments for the period from July 01, 2020 to June 30, 2021 and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management of Project is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Bangladesh Financial Reporting Standards (BFRS) as well as Foreign Donation (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Act, 2016, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an independent opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Bangladesh Standards on Auditing (BSA) and Terms of the appointment. Those standards require that we comply with the ethical requirement and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Financial Statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the Financial Statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of Financial Statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the Consolidated Financial Statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of "**Consolidated Account**" of Dalit of 37/1 Kedernath Road, Moheswarpasha, KUET, Daulatpur, Khulna, Bangladesh. As at June 30, 2021 and its financial performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with Bangladesh Financial Reporting Standards (BFRS) and other applicable laws and regulations.

We also report that:

- i) We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit and made due verification thereof;
- ii) The annexed Financial Statements have been drawn up in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and in adherence to the provision contained in Foreign Donation (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Act, 2016;
- iii) In our opinion, the organization as required by usual accounting practices and applicable standards has kept proper books of account, so far as it appeared from our examination of those books;
- iv) The financial statements dealt with by the report are in agreement with the books of account; and
- v) The Project Funds have been used exclusively for the purposes of the project in accordance with the Agreement of Cooperation, the Letter of Approval and the Budget.

Dated: September 22, 2021
Dhaka, Bangladesh




Md. Anisur Rahman, FCA
Managing Partner
Rahman Anis & Co.
Chartered Accountants

Our Donors

Achievement



Dalit has been honored with '**Mujib Shotoborsho Smriti Sommanona**' for the year 2021. The appreciation has been specially recognized on the field of human development. The award ceremony was organized by Bangabondhu Academy in Dhaka on June 04, 2021. Executive Director of Dalit Mr. Swapon Kumar Das received the award.



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