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Khasdobir Education, Welfare and Development Project (KEWDP)



Pre-Primary Schools

As we visited all 11 pre-primary schools. Each of the schools are now undercover with six of them in purpose built shelters which means that bad weather does not prevent the schools from operating. It also means that teachers can use resources such as posters, storybooks, workbooks, whiteboards, crayons and educational toys which were difficult to keep secure previously. The standard of teaching was good and classes were interactive, with play, movement and exercise included in the sessions.



Sewing and Embroidery Training :

The sewing classes have been going from strength to strength and an embroidery class has been added. Some participants are still at school and the youngest was 14 years old. Completed articles included embroidered cushion covers, block printed shawls and bedspreads, and tie-dyed material. The standard of work is definitely of saleable quality and we have brought back several items to see what interest they generate. We met several previous sewing students who are helping to support their families by sewing. One young woman had been given a grant by the Muslim Charity (administered by Sylhet Jubo Academy) to set up a tiny workshop next to her house. The room had been equipped with everything she needed to get started, including a sewing machine and fabric.



Computer Training :

The computer classes are also going very well. Approximately 50 students are undertaking the course in five groups. The computer classes are now in a dedicated computer room with a large screen for teaching and each student now has an individual desktop work station with QWERTY and Bangla keyboards. There is a syllabus which covers all of Microsoft Office, email and graphic design. The students were all very engaged, keen to learn and had a good relationship with the tutor. We met a former computer student who has opened a small shop in Badambagicha, which he set up with funding from Muslim Charity. Since completing the course a year ago, he now provides online booking, printing, scanning and also sells several stationery items. He supports five family members.

Widow Allowance :

In Bangladesh there is no social security system. Widows face extreme hardship to get enough money to support themselves and their dependents. The Khasdobir Project provides a monthly allowance of £7 to 700 widows -helping with the costs of food, accommodation and medicine.



Outreach Team :

The outreach team was established in 2019. There are now three team members, one of whom is the team leader. Their work is predominantly in the tea estates and slum areas of the city, making contact with families who are often dealing with poverty, unemployment, lack of access to education for their children, and poor housing conditions. We accompanied the Outreach Team to the two different parts of the Malnichara Tea Garden, Badam-bagicha slum area and the Khasdobir and Goipara colonies. They had been able to get birth certificates for several children on the tea estates. During the visits the teams were frequently surrounded by neighbors and children. They were proactive in checking for other children who didn't have a birth certificate, going through the documents families had and advising parents and guardians of the next steps. In addition to their role, they also talked to people about other concerns.



Livelihood Support Project

SJA has more than 25 years of experience of implementing food security and livelihood programs through its different programs. The livelihood program was part of the crosscutting issue to address the unmet needs and create the opportunity for alternative livelihood. SJA worked to increase knowledge and skills training, including networking and soft-skills support; relate to existing or complementary market analysis with a focus on potential opportunities as well as existing opportunities; train female beneficiaries on homestead gardening and support with seeds in collaboration with the Department of Agricultural Extension in growing nutritious crops, as well as train using local techniques of safe food storage; linking job market and local production expanding food and handicraft markets aiming to sustainably improve food security and nutrition. No specialized human resource SJA was used for this project. The project staff was trained on how to develop and implement cost-effective food security and livelihood programs in collaboration with others. The most innovations of the SJA team were adding resources through collaboration with GO/NGO service providers for skill-building training, material and business startup support, etc.



Pre – Primary Education for Slum Children in Sylhet



Sylhet city slum's living condition is very much worse and overcrowded; from different domestic locations poor people came here with vast dream but reality is very hard and undesirable for living in slum with minimum basic needs. Hundreds of malnourished children of slum families are passing their childhood without education, nutritious food, health, hygiene and proper sanitation facilities. Here, slum areas in particular experience poor sanitation and insufficient water supply which generally makes slum populations susceptible to communicable diseases as well lack of hygiene education morbidity rate is very high. These children have no option to go for education due to poverty and lack of institutional services. Research is increasingly demonstrating that investments in early childhood education programs can have 'spillover' effects that benefit children, families and society as a whole. Early investments can strengthen parents' job stability and wages, and increase children's later adult earnings. Early childhood programs are necessary for communities to become globally.



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