

# SDS ANNUAL REPORT



# 2006



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# SDS Annual Report 2006



Sustainable development through gender equality and poverty alleviation for the disadvantage peoples in Bangladesh.



- Reduce loss of peoples caused by the disaster Management.
- Promote and support PHC service for ensuring health and hygienist of women's in Bangladesh.
- Increase awareness for disadvantage people on the importance of Basic education, democracy and human rights.
- Promote and support education programs focusing on non-formal primary education, adolescent education, adult literacy and continuing
- Provide life skill training to the vulnerable groups specially for women.
- Endeavor changes in respect of gender relation in family and society to improve situation of Water, Sanitation and Environment.
- Raising awareness and provide support and training for increase family income of the poor community by Income Generating Activities (IGA)

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## ***Note of Executive Director***

SDS started its work during the devastating flood in 1987 and 1988 initiated by Mozibur Rahman, the founder of the organization through small-scale relief and rehabilitation programme at Shariatpur district. After flood, in 1989 a group of Journalist, Lawyers and social workers both male and female thinks to improve the quality of life for the disadvantage people in the country, specially the people of Shariatpur, Madaripur and Faridpur districts.

Disaster management and emergency response is one of the main programme of SDS since its inception. SDS has allocated 5 lack taka of its own income as risk reduction fund. The over all objectives of the project is too aware the affected people in reducing losses of disaster and to safeguard the people from the threat of losing life and asset.

We are providing education and livelihood support programme for the children of rural disadvantaged people. We also given essential health and nutrition services to the children. SDS also operated 15 NFPE schools at different Char areas. SDS has already proven its Excellency in providing education to the drop out children.

River Basin programme is another major programme of SDS, which initiated in 1997 and funded by Oxfam-GB. Main objective of the project is to reduce the vulnerability to disaster by strengthening copying mechanism and improving livelihood options for poor women and men living in the Char areas in Shariatpur.

Women's Empowerment through Micro Finance support is another major programme of the SDS. People who are living under poverty line, improvement of their socio-economic status are the objective of this program. These people have no capital for income generating activities. SDS is giving them loan in exchange of low interest. By getting this loan, these poor peoples are made themselves solvent. 34771 peoples are member under this program and 26331 members were received loan. Total disburse amount is 59, 24, 29500/= and current credit amount is 17, 71 ,65, 137/= Taka.

Lobbying and advocacy also is one of the important sectors of SDS. SDS always advocating pro-poor issues like PRSP, MDG etc. at local, national and international perspectives. Besides these SDS working for strengthening the local government on governance issues.

We are putting our sincere efforts to create gender awareness and establish women's rights through social mobilization, legal aid services and functional assistants to victim of violence.

This report sincerely documented under the SDS and highlighted the achievements during the year 2006.

We express our sincere thanks and gratitude to all the stakeholders, development partners, well-wishers for being with us. We are looking forward to receive their cooperation, encouragement and guidance in the coming days.

Mozibur Rahman  
Executive Director

## Overview

SDS - Shariatpur Development Society, a non-government organization based at Shariatpur district. Shariatpur is one of the most disaster-prone areas in Bangladesh, which is separated from the main land due to communication hazard and surrounded by the rivers of Padma, Meghna, Kirtinasaha and Arialkha. The district is only 70 km. away from the capital city, but remains underdeveloped because of communication disruption. River Erosion and flood is an annual phenomenon that displaced a bulk of population and makes them homeless. As the district is surrounded by rivers and low-lying every year flood and other natural calamities hit the area.

SDS started its work during the devastating flood in 1987 and 1988 initiated by Mozibur Rahman, the founder of the organization through small-scale relief and rehabilitation programme at shariatpur district. After flood, in 1989 a group of Journalist, Lawyers and social workers both male and female thinks to improve the quality of life for the disadvantage people in the country, specially the people of Shariatpur, Madaripur and Faridpur districts.

The Shariatpur Development Society –SDS got the registration from Director General Office of Social Welfare in 1991 and NGO Affairs Bureau in 1993. After registration SDS has formally began its activities in the village areas of Shariatpur district on Family Planning and Child Health for extremely poor women. In 1992 a survey was carried out on Family Planning and Child Health for extremely poor women and it was found that family planning acceptor women became malnourished and were deprived by their husband and neglected in their families. Above all, women also torture by their husbands due to acceptance of family planning method. Based on the survey report, it was unanimously agreed by general committee, executive committee, advisory committee and workers of the organization. Without women's development, overall socio-economic development cannot be achieved. The organization had been taken the steps to implement the family law and women rights in the society.

Due to minimize the violence against those deprived women, SDS started its activities to rising awareness about their rights through group formation and weekly meeting. A group of women started to know their rights from weekly meetings and discussion it among their families and communities. OXFAM, UK (now Oxfam, GB) come forward to provide financial support through a program named *Women Empowerment through Legal Help*. Today SDS provides and protects livelihoods of about half million people of Bangladesh through Education, Water and Sanitation, Health & Nutrition, Advocacy, Legal Assistance & Arbitration, Disaster management and Micro finance support to the eligible people.

## Goal of SDS

Sustainable development through gender equality and poverty alleviation for the disadvantage peoples in Bangladesh.

## Objectives of SDS

The Major objectives of SDS are:

1. Reduce loss of peoples caused by the disaster Management.
2. Promote and support PHC service for ensuring health and hygienist of women's in Bangladesh.
3. Increase awareness for disadvantage people on the importance of Governance, democracy and human rights.
4. Promote and support education programs focusing on Basic education, non-formal primary education, adolescent education, adult literacy and continuing education.
5. Provide life skill training to the vulnerable groups specially for women.
6. Endeavor changes in respect of gender relation in family and society to improve situation of Water, Sanitation and Environment.
7. Raising awareness and provide support and training for increase family income of the poor community by Income Generating Activities (IGA).

## Programme implemented by SDS in 2006

SDS implemented its all programmes by two major sectors; these are 1. Programme sectors and 2. Micro finance sectors. Rather than that Administration & finance, Audit and HR sectors always provide necessary support to these two sectors for smooth functioning of activities.

During the period 2006 SDS implemented 7 (seven) major Programmes.

1. Disaster management and emergency response
2. Education
3. CDMP
4. Livelihood support programme (River Basin Programme)
5. Rural Development Project -24 (GFRIDP)
6. Women Empowerment through Micro-credit and
7. Civic Awareness and good governance

## Achievement of Programmes in 2006

### 1. Disaster Management and emergency response

Disaster management and emergency response is one of the main programme of SDS since its inception. SDS has allocated 5 lack Taka of its own income as risk reduction fund. The over all objectives of the project is too aware the affected people in reducing

losses of disaster and to safeguard the people from the threat of losing life and asset. The specific objectives are:

- To activate the District and Upazilla Disaster Management Committee
- To strengthen the local govt. in Disaster Management
- To involve/integrate the local govt. structure in Planning for national Disaster Management.
- To activate the local govt. in playing effective role before, during and after the disaster.
- To prepare union based resource mapping and vulnerability analysis and organize disaster management related rehearsal as part of disaster preparedness.
- To form/organize union-based volunteers in facing disaster.



Geography Shariatpur district is a disaster-prone areas. To face disaster situation, a disaster management program has lunched in 2005. For this reason a fund of taka 27, 00,000/= has been created from credit scheme of Women Empowerment Project. PKSF is donating this fund without interest-free loan for disaster affected people.

In 2006 SDS rehabilitated 167 houses at Charatra ,Nawapara and Tarabunia union under shariatpur

district. :

## **2. Education and livelihood support programme:**

The over all objective of SDS education programme is to improve accessibility of disadvantage people in formal or informal primary education. SDS believes that sustainable and continuation of education is important for life and livelihood. Realizing the practical needs SDS started 15 Non Formal Primary Education centre at different char areas in shariatpur district supported by Oxfam GB, where total 450 students were enrolled and successfully completed the fixed courses. After end of the course about 95% students were enrolled in mainstreamed education system. SDS formulates new strategy to explore education all over shariatpur district. Due to new strategy SDS work with formal Primary school. SDS also strengthen the capacity of School Managing committee in 30 government primary schools, funded by Concern Worldwide.

## **3. Establishing Community base disaster preparedness system to reduce vulnerability**

### **Broad Objectives:**

The community of Bhanga Upzilla under Faridpur district will has been more effective to cope with the disaster vulnerability in terms of combat natural hazards.



**Specific Objectives:**

- To change practices ideas & beliefs to reduce vulnerabilities of the poorest communities.
- To reduce the vulnerability of livelihood of the poorest communities to flood and river erosion.
- To facilitate local government, communities preparedness to respond the emergencies.
- To identify the possible risk as well as ensure community participation in CARA process.

**Project Activities / Interventions:**

- Inception workshop for upazila disaster management committee.
- Orientation on project activities / CDMP for union disaster management committee.
- TOT on CRA for 2 Persons at Dhaka
- UDMC members and staff training on CRA for 5 days.
- CRA Conduct with community at unit level.
- Demonstration for 2/3 options for promoting livelihood security in each union & pourasava.
- Awareness building on disaster preparedness through wall writing.
- Observe day to raise awareness.

**Achievement for the year:**

SI	Activities	Achievements
1	Inception workshop for upazila disaster management committee	One Upazila Disaster management committee has been formed for this project through inception workshop in Bhangh Upazilla under Faridpur district..This committee cooperated to implement the project. The members of the committee are now aware about disaster preparedness.
2	Orientation on project activities/ CDMP for union disaster management committee.	7 orientations were organized for union Disaster management committee. These committees act as stakeholder for us at the grass roots level. By this orientation reactivate them to reduce the vulnerable of disaster affected population. This Committee also helps for Community Risk Analysis (CRA).
3	TOT on CRA for 2 Persons at Dhaka	2 staffs from SDS attended the ToT at Sirajgonj in November 2006. Through this ToT staffs are now more aware ob disaster preparedness.
4	Staff training on CRA for 8 days.	7 staffs were received training at SDS training centre in December 2006. Now the staffs are skill and trained to manage CRA workshop.
5	CRA Conduct with community at unit level.	7 workshops was held at different union at Bhangha Upazilla under Faridpur district in 2006.

## 4. River Basin Programme (RBP)

This is a new phenomenon with SDS programme that initiated since 1998 and funded by Oxfam-GB.

Main objective of the project of the project is - Sustainable development through creating coping capacity with disaster, of poor men and women living in river basin areas. When the specific objectives are:

- To reduce the vulnerability of the flood affected community.
- To increase the disaster preparedness capacity of SDS and Community in facing flood in Char areas.
- To change the techniques and practices of poor community to mitigate disaster vulnerability and to improve the management of Relief and Rehabilitation measures.

During the reporting period RBP activities were implemented at different Char areas (Sand Island) in 3 Upazillas, & unions and 52 villages. About 5000 beneficiaries were directly benefited by the project. The activities completed to follow RBP,s objectives which integrated mitigation on farness of flood, livelihood changes, and improvement of socio economic conditions adjusted Monga situation. Total 167 raised homestead 9 raised cluster village were regular supervised by RBP staff. Different disaster preparedness training and awareness building training ware organized and conducted in this period. IGA training also conducted for the beneficiaries. Due to this training now the beneficiaries are now capable to face critical situation of disaster.

During this reporting period different National and International days were observed.

For increasing agricultural activities distributed different agricultural inputes, equipment and provide agricultural training. Initiative has been taken for introducing new crops and vegetables for the char farmers. Four Shallow Machine and 100 treadle pump has been distributed among the farmers for regular irrigation. Under this project 20 Tube-well and 100 latrine were installed in the catchments areas for ensuring safe drinking water.

IGA is one of the most important part of this project. About 5750000.00 taka was distributed among 935 RBP beneficiaries. The beneficiaries has been taken different income generating activities like cow rearing, small cottage industries, fish culture, pottery etc. Now they are aware about their rights and social important.



List of major works that was performed under this project during the reporting period:

### { Training

Name	Participants	Number
Gender Development	Staff	50
Disaster Preparedness & Management	UP member	25
Disaster Preparedness & Management	Beneficiaries	25

Leadership Development	Beneficiaries	25
Calf Fattening	Beneficiaries	25
Goat Rearing	Beneficiaries	25
Cattle and poultry rearing	Beneficiaries	50
Vegetable Cultivation	Beneficiaries	60
Vegetables Cultivation	Beneficiaries	100
Livestock vaccination	Beneficiaries	10
Pigeon Rearing	Beneficiaries	25

#### { Meeting/Seminar & Day Observation

Subjects	Participants	Number
Village Disaster Preparedness Management	Member of Village Disaster Preparedness Management Committee	120
Group Management	Group Leaders	25
Shelter Centre Management	Member of Shelter Centre Management Committee	12
Disaster Preparedness Day Observation	Staff, Beneficiaries & Local influential People	1
Workshop on Extension of Agricultural Technology	Farmers	25
Workshop on Disaster Management	Member of Upazila Disaster Management Committee	1
Market Management	Member Market Management	25
Workshop on Health Awareness	Beneficiaries	6

#### { Group Information

<b>Total Member</b>	<b>2847</b>
Total Group	130
Total Disbursement	33961500
Credit Disbursement	3411387
Deposit Balance	3417356
Total Credit receiving member	1009

#### { Others

Program	Number
Homesteaded Rising	167
Shelter Centre Construction	1
Latrine Construction	250
Tube well Construction	40
Goat Rearing	12
Calf Distribution	12
Shallow Tube well (for irrigation)	04

## 5. Rural Development Project -24 (GFRIDP)

The Goal of this Project is to develop the skill of UP Chairmen/members, UP Women members, LCS (ERM, TPC), GC Stakeholder and GC Women shopkeepers through training and the specific objects are:

- To strengthen the local government mechanism through training of UP Chairmen and members.
- To activate the local govt. structure through training to UP Women members.
- To activate the LCS in sustainable development through training
- To activate the GC Stakeholders in sustainable development through training
- To activate the Women Shopkeepers in sustainable development through training

During the reporting period 34 batches training was conducted. In each batch there were only 25 participants are attended. - All these participants are female. The major activities under framework mentioned below:

### Training

Name of Training	Participants	Number
Strengthening local govt. mechanism	UP Chairman/Member	1680
Reactivate the Role of local govt. structure	UP Women Member	162
Reactivate the LCS for sustainable development	GC Stakeholders	1734
Reactivate the LCS for sustainable development	Women Shopkeeper	90

### Other Activities

Group Formation:	
1. Group Formation	38
2. Group Member	827
3. Savings	268290
4. Khash Land recover & Distribution Management	30
5. Spot Training	90
6. Khash Resource Identification:	663.12 acre
7. Khash Jalashoy Identification	125.99
8. Char Land Identification	170

## 6. Women Empowerment through Micro-credit Program

Under this program SDS is implementing five sub programs. These are:

1. Rural Micro Credit Program (RMC)
2. Micro Finance and Technical Support (MFTS)
3. Micro Entrepreneur Credit (MEC)
4. Hard Core Poverty Credit (HCPC)
5. Disaster Management (DM)
6. Livelihood Restoration project.

### 6.1 Rural Micro Credit Program (RMC)

People who are leaving under poverty line, improvement of their socio-economic status is the objective of this program. These people have no capital for income generating activities. SDS is giving them loan in exchange of low interest. By getting this loan, these poor peoples are make themselves solvent. 34771 peoples are member under this program and 26331 members were received loan. Total disburse amount is 59, 24, 29500/= and current credit amount is 17, 71 ,65, 137/= Taka.

A bulk of target Population lives below poverty level. Micro-credit supports inspire them to elevate their status of life and getting self-reliance. This support saves them from the influential local Mahajans, who were doing credit business on high interest. SDS Micro-credit Program aims to assist the disadvantaged people in income generation activities. 12.5% are received as service charge on the disbursed credit amount.

## **6.2 Micro Finance and Technical Support (MFTS)**

MFTS is another project of Palli Karmo Sohyahok Foundation (PKSF). Credit also disburse under this program before disburse credit among beneficiaries they get training about proposed projects for its smooth operation. Live stock and poultry get emphasize than other projects. Beside live stock and poultry, 20% member gets credit on others projects. According PKSF rule 25% Hard Core Poverty member will be included in this program so that they able to remove their poverty with successful implementation of projects.

### **6.2.1 Training**

Training was provided to 3100 beneficiaries in 08 subjects : Rearing of calf, livestock, goat, broiler & lair, Mini hatchary, Cultivation of vegetables, and also special focus on Poultry workers and Dairy Production.

## **6.3 Micro Entrepreneur Credit (MEC)**

From 1993 SDS is operating this program, now its members are 200. Among 96 Out of 200 member, 44,00,000 tk. has been disbursed. Their micro projects covered whole seller grocery, jewelry, workshop, wood furniture, Hardware business, Pharmacy, Beckery, silver/kasha, sands, rods, cement, tin, candle light, chanachur, ice-cream, raw materials, paner borj, and cottage industry etc.

## **6.4 Hard Core Poverty Credit (HCPC)**

This program covered the poorest member of SDS who is living in Shariatpur. They get credit only 10% rate interest. The main objectives of this program are:

1. Mainstreaming the poorest member in development
2. Ensuring food safety
3. Ensuring minimum level sanitation, pure water and safety of life
4. Ensuring their social acceptability

## **7. Civic Awareness and good governance**

The overall political situation in Bangladesh is very volatile. While this is the countrywide scenario a certain group of people still belong to non-partisan, neutral, progressive in mind and educated. They feel tempted to do something constructive for the society but failed due to the absence of the proper platform to work with. This project was designed to promote this social asset group as a catalyst for ensuring political rights of all Bangladeshi citizens with particular attention to the socially excluded group (i.e. women, char people, religious minorities and disabled persons). The primary target group of this project focused on this excluded people with some promotional intervention. However, focus was also put for bringing other stakeholders i.e. local government representatives, leaders of major political parties, media people, election authority and general people as a whole. This project addressed more than one sector or themes as outlined in the call for proposals. It targeted geographically three districts of Dhaka division namely Faridpur, Madaripur and Shariatpur.

### **Activities and result in 2006:**

- **Formation of Civic Rights Forum (CRF):**

In the point of view of sustainable of the project CRF will facilitate the meetings, workshops with different stakeholders. These forums are able to facilitate the sustainable activities after phasing out of the project. Under this project activities SDS formed 207 CRF committees in 186 Unions at 18 Upazillas of 3 districts. In each committee there are 11 members who are from different professionals and spheres of society. They are progressive and non-partisan in politics and believe in democratic culture. Total member of these committees are 2277 where 180 are female members.

- **Training of Trainers (ToT) for the CRF members:**

After formation of Civic Rights Forum SDS provided ToT for all CRF members with a view to orient about project activities, objectives of the project and expected outcome. Formally Trainers Training (ToT) for CRF members was launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2006 at SDS training centre. In the first batch total participants were 34 including media people and 7 coordinators.



Under this activity total 25 ToT were conducted by external resource person or/and senior staffs of the project where 25% CRF members were participated from three districts. Rest of members participated in another 389 Trainings that were conducted by those CRF members who received training from senior project's staffs.

Through these training CRF members are now more aware about the importance of Civilized and Democratic Society and fair election. They are now conceptually clear about thematic relationship of democratic society and fair election. They also now aware on the issues of Election Frame work of the government

of Bangladesh including Civic Rights issues. They are now conducting meetings with different stakeholders to inform them about Civic Rights issues including Voter Rights.

- **Preparation of training and development of training module:**

A training module was developed with support of external resources. Due to delay approval from Election Commission it was not printed in time but Photo copy of important and essential parts and chapters was distributed among the CRF members. This module has been properly used during ToT of CRF members. CRF members are getting help by this module for conducting further training and meetings with communities. This module is now under printing.

- **Organize training for the Local government representatives:**

Under this frame work 8 batches training were organized for member of Union Parishad. It is the primary tier of Local Government in Bangladesh which is elected by direct vote.



The trainings were conducted by senior staffs of the project. It was very nice experience of us that before this session the representatives from Union Parishad were not aware about detailing of Civic Rights issues. The members asked many questions including political leaders' attitude in our country, they also asked about law and order situation of the country. Each training held for 2 days and number of participants was 20-25 in each training. After two days training programme the members committed that they will try to promote Civic Rights for Socially excluded people. They also promised that they will include those people who are still out of voter list.

- **Organize training for women representative of the Local government:**

SDS provided training on Civic Rights issues for women representatives of Local Government. SDS always emphasizes on gender sensitivity and gender equity. Under this frame work total 10 trainings were organized during the reporting period. In this training constitutional Civic Rights, Women Rights, Universal Declaration Human Rights was discussed. It is seems that the percentage of attended of women is not still satisfactory.



- **Organize meeting with socially excluded general Mass:**

In 2006 total 505 meeting was held among 950 meetings. These meetings were conducted by Civic Rights Forum members. Through these meetings around 15,000 target people was aware about their Rights

as well as Voter Rights. Each meeting is continuing 1-2 hours and generally it was organized at 11:00 am-12:00noon and 3:30- 5:30 even in evening time. The time and place is flexible and depend on community interest.



- **Organize meeting with socially excluded male groups:**

In 2006 total 13,247 meetings were conducted by Civic Rights Forum members. Around 3,97,410 people attended and are aware about their rights.

- **Organize meeting with socially excluded female groups:**

In 2006 total 12,624 meetings were conducted by Civic Rights Forum members. Around 3,78,720 people attended and are aware about their rights.



## 8. Other Activities

### 8.1 Legal Aid

Legal Aid Program aimed to resolve the disputes either through mediation or through cases in the court. First of all, the disputes were tried to solve through mediation, but when the attempt was failed, cases were filed and resolved. Of the two, people are motivated to attempt for mediation, because the technique is less expensive and needs less time. Presently, the field organizers and the group leaders resolve the disputes through mediations has got no fund for this program, so the programs run on its own fund. 04 mediations were organized this year.

### 8.2 Water & Sanitation

There is no alternative but Sanitation activities to keep the environment healthy. SDS has been implementing different activities to strengthen the sanitation activities from the beginning. Especially in weekly meetings of the group members, the staff members discussed and encouraged the group members to use water sealed latrine, safe drinking water and to maintain personal hygiene. Besides, the members are provided loan on easy condition for installation of latrine and Tube well from the Credit Program. Moreover the staffs are also encouraging the beneficiaries on Primary Health Care. This year 1150 sets (05 rings and 01 slab) of latrines were distributed among the beneficiaries.



### 8.3 Observance of national and international day

Different national and international days have been observed to empower the women and to ensure the equity of male and female. Observed day were International women's day, protect women violence day, National Disaster Preparedness day, Literacy day, International Human Rights day, National disability day etc.



### 8.5 GO-NGO Coordination

GO-NGO Coordination is very important and essential in project implementation, particularly to avoid the duplication of activities and optimum utilization of local resource. The Department of Agricultural Extension is providing guidance and advices in different stages of the implementation. Staffs of SDS always communicate with government office and officials. SDS has good relation with all stakeholders. As result SDS is member of 39 sub committees in shariatpur district. SDS represents the following Committees at District and Thana level (Sub district level):

*SDS represents as member of the District Development Committee and also members in Agriculture, Fisheries, Health, Disaster Preparedness and Education Committees at Thana level. The Chief Executive of SDS Majibur Rahman is the member of District women and Child violence Protection Committee and the Project Director Rabeya Begum is the member of Shishu Academy. Rabeya Begum is also Joint-Convenor of NariPakha(a national women network) and the chairperson of the greater Faridpur region.*

### 9. Affiliation and membership of SDS

SDS Memberships in different networks:

- Association of Land Reform Development (ALRD)
- Credit Development Forum (CDF)
- NGO Forum for Drink Water and Supply
- Nari-Pakha
- Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh (FNB)
- River Basin Forum
- Disaster Forum
- Camping for Good Governance(SUPRO)
- Coalition of Community based Organization on Arsenic
- NIRAPAD

## **10. Lesson learnt**

This is true that the community is living at a sub-human level where the status of women is precarious due to illiteracy, lack of awareness in legal rights and different socio-economic factors. But, it can be agreed that they are going to be aware and participating in different development interventions initiated by SDS. They showed their performance in implementing IGA Project after having skill development training. They are in the process of becoming conscious of their legal rights through their continued participation in different training; workshop and gatherings. They are now much more active than before in taking preparation for facing disaster.