

Research Report On School Infrastructure Development Programme

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Sharifpara Non-government Primary School and committed teacher Abul Quasem

Abul Quasem had his graduation in social science from Chittagong College. He came to his village home at Char Fashion to manage Taka four lac and fifty thousand to bribe for a job of police sub-inspector. But as advised by his relatives he stayed back to look after his pieces of cultivable land at his village Charpatila under Char Kukri Mukri union of Char Fashion upazilla of Bhola district. This a remote island separated from the mainland. The only means of communication is availing trawler from Char Fashion. Most of the island's people live on fishing. In 2003, a non-governmental organization started Sharifpara primary school with four teachers including Abul Quasem and his wife. After withdrawal by the organization at the end of their project, two teachers left the school and Abul Quasem took the challenge of running the school with lone efforts. He also got approval of the divisional education office in 2007. Community people try to provide financial assistance to the teachers, but they have very limited ability to do so. Treasurer of the school management committee Noor e Alam says they are trying to enlist it in the MPO. Local people believe, a day will come when the unprecedented efforts of Abul Quasem and his wife to provide education to more than 200 students will be a success. Some people also said, early marriage of girls could be prevented if the school could be upgraded to secondary level. Most of the girls of the village have to get married after the fifth grade of their education. Local inhabitant Badsha Mia says, few thousand fishermen, most of whom are landless live in this village. Creating minimum facilities for education of their children by developing infrastructure of the only school is now urgently required.

Objective of investigation and area selection

This investigation is a part of Mainstreaming CSR to Address Poverty project. It aimed to identify the needs of school infrastructure development in remote areas of Barisal division and find the feasibility of using CSR funds for this task. That is why the remote village of Charpatila has been selected as the investigation area.

Union Parisad Chairman Alal Patwari informed, 16000 people live in Char Kukri Mukri union. Rate of literacy is below 10%. Population of Charpatila is 8000 with only one primary school in a miserable condition. Only two teachers are there for more than 200 students. To observe the overall scenario of the district, one school of Sadar upazilla and two schools of Daulatkhan upazilla were also covered under this project.

Population and condition of people of the selected area

There are only 3 schools for 16000 people of Char Kukri Mukri union. Sharifpara Primary School is the only education institute for 8000 people of Charpatila. With lots of problems this school has not been brought under government's assistance. 60% of the people are fishermen who go fishing in the deep sea with hired trawlers. 30% are cultivators most of whom have no land of their own. Remaining people are either unemployed or small traders.

A comparative picture of the educational institutes of seven upazillas of the district

There are 1314 primary schools in seven upazillas of Bhola district. Out of them 424 are government primary schools and 498 registered primary schools. There are about 2300 positions of teacher against 300000 students - one teacher for 72 students. District Education Office informed that more than 500 schools require reconstruction and reforms.

More than 50 schools of Sadar upazilla need repair and they have severe shortage of classrooms. In Moulvibazar Haat Government Primary School, there are 75 pairs of benches for 600 students. First and second grade students take their lessons sitting on the floor. All the three classrooms of Boro Char Samaiya Registered Primary School are in deplorable condition. Three hundred students of the school are facing shortage of benches.

There are 63 government primary schools and 35 registered primary schools in Daulatkhan upazilla. 31121 students are taught by 380 teachers. Teachers informed, most of the registered primary school buildings need immediate repair. Problems of toilet and benches are also there. All the three classrooms of Charshuvi Registered Primary School are in a risky condition. Only 10 pairs of benches are there for more than 200 students. According to upazilla education office report, 63 schools need repair works. Four of them are in high risk condition.

More than a hundred schools of Borhanuddin need to be repaired. Some of them including Dewlaboard Govrenment Primary School, North Dalalpur Registered Primary School and Bathanbari Registered Primary School are in vulnerable condition. Students of many of these schools are unable to take lessons due to accommodation problem.

Teachers and guardians claim that most of the schools of Borhanuddin upazilla need repair works. Out of them the registered primary schools of North Dholigouranagar, South Balurchar, Char Sakina, Charvuta Mijipara, South East Char Umed Char Titia are in miserable condition. These schools have neither physical accommodation nor benches to sit.

Tozumuddin upazilla has 104 government and registered primary schools. Most of the school buildings are vulnerable and have shortage of benches. There are only 14 pairs of bench for 140 students of Shashiganj registered primary school of the upazilla. Four tables and three chairs are also there. Condition of the classrooms is critically bad. In many other such schools with broken house and shortage of benches, it becomes impossible for the students to take lessons particularly in the rainy season.

Char Fashion upazilla is situated in the extreme south of Bhola. It is comprised of a number of small islands with poor physical communications. There are 175 government and registered primary schools in the upazilla. More than fifty out of

them need immediate repair works. Many of them are also in need of teachers. There are no infrastructural facilities, toilet or playground.

Monpura is an island in the deep sea. Primary education office informed, at least 5 government and 12 registered schools are in vulnerable condition.

Shortage of schools and teachers in 34 off shore islands

34 islands of Bhola are inhabited by remarkable number of people. Ramdaspur, Ganeshpur, Char Sitaram, Char Pangashia, Char Chatkimar, Char Shyampur, Chra Hossai and Gazirchar of Sadar upazilla; Madanpur, Char Tabgi, Medua, Char Neamatpur, Bhabanipur and Hajipur of Daulatkhan upazilla; Char Rezvi and Char Shamsuddin of Borhanuddin upazilla; Sidarchar, Char Nasrin, Char Mozammel, Char Tazammul and Char Laxmi of Tazumuddin upazilla; Char Kachua of Lalmohan upazilla; Char Hasina, Char Alam, Char Ashraf, Char Sikder and Charpatila (Kukri Mukri union) of Char Fashion upazilla and Kalatolirchar and Dhalchar of Monpura upazilla face severe crisis of schools. Government education officials informed, at least 80 schools are required for the education of the children of these remote islands.

No playground for about 200 schools

There is no playground in the Algi Registered Primary School of Bhola Sadar upazilla. In front of the school there is a huge pond. Roads and surrounding areas of the school are submerged during the rainy season. Incidents of drowning of the school children occur almost every year. Bhelu Mia South Chargazi Registered Primary School has 50 decimals of land, but no playground. Teachers of the school think the problem can be addressed by any non-government initiative. Similar situation prevails in South Madhyasadur Char Registered Primary School. The front portion of East Barochar Samaiya Community School has been occupied for paddy cultivation. Officer Para government Primary School of Bhola town has no playground. The field in front of South West Medua Government Primary School of Daulatkhan upazilla has been occupied to construct Union Parisad office and Union Health and Family Welfare Centre. The open space of North east Mulai Pattan Registered Primary School was being used for cultivation until last March. Field of Kuralia Registered Primary School is used for drying up of grains. North Tobgi Government Primary School has no playground. Same problem is there in Sharifpara Primary School of Charpatila of Char Fashion upazilla. District education office informed, about 200 schools do not have any playground.

Deplorable condition of toilet and sewerage system

The students of Charpatila Sharifpara Primary School have one damaged sanitary toilet. Children of the other school for kids have to use the toilet of the market. Shashiganj Registered Primary School of Tajumuddin upazilla has no toilet. The tube well was stolen and it has not been replaced. Students have to go to neighbouring houses for drinking water.

Shortage of educational and sports materials

Severe crisis of educational and sports materials prevails in the schools of the remote areas of the district. Lack of government assistance and non-government initiatives to address the issue discourage the children to come to school. Headmaster of Charpatila Sharifpara Primamay School Abul Quasem said, people here are very poor. It is impossible for them to provide educational materials to their children. This discourages them to send their children to school. According to Hashem Mahajan, a social worker, many children would not drop out if educational and sports materials could be supplied to them. Government schools are getting a bit of these facilities. But non-government schools are always deprived.

Case study: South Dania Registered Primary School

South Dania Registered Primary School adjacent to Bhola Sadar symbolizes darkness under the lamp. The school was situated eight kilometers away from its present location. Established in 1984, the school building was eroded into the river Megna in 2003 and then shifted to the present location. Assistant teacher Bashiruddin says, three teachers are working here against the position of four. There are only three classrooms though the school has 33 decimals of land. Only 30/35 pairs of benches are there for more than 100 students. One toilet was built with local initiative, but crisis of drinking water prevails as there is no tube well. Construction of school building is the top priority, be it under government or non-government initiative. Availability of educational materials and playground would create a congenial academic environment.

Case study: remote Chartabgi

Only communication of Chartabgi of Madanpur union of Daulatkhan upazilla with the mainland is by trawler from Bhola Sadar. Inhabited by 5000 people, the island has two primary schools with more than 300 students. But students can hardly attend school during the rainy season, because the roads around and even the school premises are submerged with flood waters. There is no school in the Jafar Colony which is inhabited by 2000 people. According to local inhabitant Abul Quasem, teachers could come to the school regularly from Bhola if a trawler could be arranged for the school. A school should be established in Jafar Colony. Condition of Mokbul Ahmed Primary School is pretty good, but the Chairman School of village Char Padma is really in a bad shape.

How to address the situation

Local people emphasized upon solving the problem of teacher shortage and constructing school house and sanitary toilet. They recommended the following specific measures:

1. Sufficient number of teachers and infrastructure of the school
2. Improvement of road communication to facilitate students to come to school
3. Educational material and furniture like bench, table, chair and books
4. Development of playground

5. Accommodation for teachers
6. Prayer room and toilet facilities
7. Ensure stipend for students

Effectiveness of non-government initiative

Local people think that non-government initiative would be more effective in solving the education problems in this area. Such initiatives are particularly required for infrastructural development, procurement of furniture and books and provision of teachers' salary. People have however, emphasized more upon repair and construction of school building. Investigation findings also suggest for building construction and provision of teachers. They also recommended stipend for meritorious students and financial assistance to schools. Cash donations should be properly utilized jointly by the local administration and local people. Engine boats for remote island areas were recommended whereas provisions of country boat for the students during rainy season were also suggested.

Probable benefits

Local people of Charpatila were asked what benefit they expect if assistance is provided to schools. They responded in a voice that their children would receive education and that would ensure development of their locality. Literacy rate will increase. Side by side with education, children will engage in sports. Teachers will attend classes regularly and students will feel encouraged to take lessons. A better environment will facilitate higher standard of education. Provision of stipends will encourage poor parents to send their children to school. Increased number of school will bring more children under education facilities. Distance of school from home discourages many to continue education.

The immediate need

Primary schools of Char Fashion upazilla are in a deplorable condition in terms of infrastructural and teaching facilities. Local people recommended a good number of measures to resolve the problems. Out of them, following issues need to be addressed with priority.

1. Physical infrastructure of school
2. Educational material and furniture
3. Sufficient number of teachers

This study proposes to take up first two issues. The third issue, provision of teachers needs different kind of intervention which cannot be covered by a pilot scheme of one time investment. Moreover, a school with a good infrastructure and classroom facilities is expected to get priority in consideration for Monthly Payment Order (MPO) enlistment by the government.

Estimated cost

Upazilla Education Officer informed, blackboards are in-built during construction of building by LGED. Primary education office supplies chalk, duster and other materials. LGED supplies chair, table and bench through open tender. These can

be managed by individuals or non-government initiative at a lower cost. Normally one unit of table or a pair of bench costs Taka 2500 to 3000. Constructing a three storied building would cost Taka 60 to 65 lacs, two storied Taka 40 to 42 lacs and a one storied building of three classrooms would cost Taka 35 lacs. A tin-shed house would cost less.

Char Fashion education office informed, 20 schools of the upazilla are in deplorable condition. These can be repaired with reasonable cost and used for running education programmes for children. Investment of Taka 1 to 2 lac will meet the purpose. This amount of money can be used for building repair and furniture purchase. For each classroom 20 to 25 sets of bench are required, cost of each set being Taka 2500 to 3000. Minimum three classrooms are essential for a school.

Education Officer says

When asked about Charpatila Sharifpara Non-government Primary School, Upazilla Education Officer of Char Fashion Jahangir Alam said, there are some formalities to be observed by schools for receiving government's grant and aid. Specific principles are followed for this. A list of the villages of Char Fashion without any school has been prepared. Government will take necessary steps gradually. However, local administration will welcome any non-government or private initiative of establishing new school or repairing the old ones and provide all possible support.

Budget estimation

Activity	Unit cost	Total cost
Construction and furniture for 4 schools	Taka 1,500,000	Taka 6,000,000
Repair and furniture for 10 schools	Taka 120,000	Taka 1,200,000

Information sources

1. Daily Prothom Alo
2. Upazilla primary education office, Char Fashion
3. Kukri Mukri Union Parisad
4. District education office, Bhola
5. LGED, Barisal
6. Survey conducted by the investigation team

Annexure-1

Question-1: Education qualification

Education level	Respondent
Primary	12
Lower Secondary	6
Secondary	4
Higher Secondary	2
Others (Illiterate)	17
Total	41

Question- 2: Occupation

Types of Occupation	Respondent
Agriculture	12
Business	7
Day labour	3
Teacher	3
Student	6
Other	12
Total	43

Question- 3: Number of Family member

Response	Respondent
2	0
3	1
4	9
More than 5	31
Total	41

Question- 4: Monthly family income

Range of income	Respondent
Less than 2000 taka	15
2000-3000 taka	15
3000-5000 taka	7
More than 5000 taka	4
Total	41

Question- 5: Members of school going age (5-15 years)

Response	Respondent
1	9
2	14
3	10
4	7
More than 5	1
Total	41

Question- 6: School going members

Response	Respondent
Same as previous answer	30
less than 1	8
less than 2	1
more less than 2	1
Total	40

Question- 7: Household types

Types	Respondent
Land owner	21
Rent	4
Landless	11
Others	2
Total	38

Question- 8: Name of school near the house

School name	Respondent
Sharif Para Private Primary School	30
Aazpur 2 no School	1
1 no Karani Ganj School	2
Char Patila Purbo Bazar Karaniganj School	1
Makbul Ahmed Private Primary School	5
Chairman School	1
Ganga Kirti Primary School	1
Total	41

Question- 8.1: Structural pattern of the School

Types of structure	Respondent
Pucca Bhaban	1
Semi-pucca Bhaban	9
Tin/Wood made house	31
Hut	0
Total	41

Question- 9: Infrastructural problem of the school

Problem types	Respondent
Damaged building	27
Shortage of furniture	26
Shortage of educational equipment	12
Others	13
Total	78*

* Multiple response

Question- 10: Educational problem of the school

Types of problem	Respondent
Teacher problem	30
Student problem	0
Financial problem	36
Management problem	5
Total	71*

* Multiple response

Question- 11: Are government /private initiatives sufficient for minimizing the problem?

Response	Respondent
Yes	1
No	40
Total	41

Question- 12: Are there other initiatives besides government facilities?

Response	Respondent
Yes	12
No	29
Total	41

Question- 13: What sort of things are needed for upgrading education quality?

Needed things	Prioritized				
	1	2	3	4	5
Developing school building	31	1	1	2	0
Providing Furniture	7	18	5	4	3
Providing Tubewell	0	6	5	9	7
Arranging playground	3	3	7	9	11
Developing toilet	0	4	12	6	5

* Multiple response

Question- 15: Have students & their families shifted to other places for non-availability of educational opportunities?

Response	Respondent
Yes	31
No	10
Total	41

Question- 16: What are the reasons for drop up of students before completing their academic course?

Reason	Respondent
Poverty	34
Absence of facilities in School	18
Engaged in income generating source	15
Others	6
Total	73*

* Multiple response

Annexure-2



Social Investigation on Development Intervention

Conducted by: Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI)

Supported by: Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF)

সাক্ষাৎকারদাতার নাম: -----

গ্রামের নাম: -----

ইউনিয়ন: -----

উপজেলা: -----

জেলা: -----

তারিখ: -----

বয়স: -----

১. শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা?

ক. প্রাথমিক

গ. মাধ্যমিক

ঙ. অন্যান্য হলে কি?

খ. নিম্ন মাধ্যমিক

ঘ. উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক

২. পেশা?

ক. কৃষি

গ. দিনমজুরী

ঙ. ছাত্র

এং. অন্যান্য হলে কি?

খ. ব্যবসা

ঘ. শিক্ষকতা

৩. পরিবারের সদস্য সংখ্যা:

ক. ২ খ. ৩ গ. ৪ ঘ. ৫+

৪. মাসিক পারিবারিক আয়?

ক. ২০০০ টাকার কম খ. ২০০০ থেকে ৩০০০
গ. ৩০০০ থেকে ৫,০০০ ঘ. ৫,০০০ এর উপরে

৫. স্কুল গমনোপযোগী সদস্য সংখ্যা (৫ থেকে ১৫ বছর)?

ক. ১ খ. ২ গ. ৩ ঘ. ৪ ঙ. ৫+

৬. স্কুলগামী সদস্য সংখ্যা :

ক. একই খ. ১ জন কম
গ. ২ জন কম ঘ. ২ জনের অধিক কম

৭. গৃহস্থালির ধরণ?

ক. জমির মালিক খ. ভাড়াটিয়া
গ. ভূমিহীন
ঘ. অন্যান্য -----

৮. বাড়ির কাছাকাছি শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম: -----

৮.১ বাড়ির কাছাকাছি শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানের ধরণ?

ক. পাকা ভবন খ. আধাপাকা ভবন
গ. টিন/কাঠের ঘর ঘ. কুড়েঘর

৯. প্রতিষ্ঠানটির অবকাঠামোগত অন্যান্য সমস্যা (যদি থাকে)?

ক. ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত ভবন খ. আসবাবপত্রের অভাব
গ. শিক্ষা উপকরণ সংকট
ঘ. অন্যান্য -----

১০. প্রতিষ্ঠানটির শিক্ষাগত সমস্যা?

ক. শিক্ষক সংকট

খ. শিক্ষার্থী সংকট

গ. আর্থিক সংকট

ঘ. ব্যবস্থাপনা সংকট

১১. স্কুলের সমস্যা সমাধানে সরকারি উদ্যোগ/আর্থিক বরাদ্দ কি যথেষ্ট?

ক. হ্যাঁ

খ. না

১২. সরকারি সহায়তার বাইরে সহযোগিতার অন্য কোন উদ্যোগ আছে কিনা?

ক. হ্যাঁ

খ. না

১২.১ উত্তর হ্যাঁ হলে কী ধরনের?

১৩. শিক্ষার মানোন্নয়নে কি ধরনের সহযোগিতা দরকার (ক্রমানুসারে):

স্কুলঘর নির্মাণ

আসবাবপত্র সরবরাহ

টিউবওয়েল সরবরাহ

খেলার মাঠের ব্যবস্থা

টয়লেট নির্মাণ

অন্যান্য (উল্লেখ করুন)

১৪. এমন সহযোগিতা পেলে কী উপকার হবে?

১৫. শিক্ষার ভালো সুযোগ না থাকায় কোন ছাত্রছাত্রী বা তাদের পরিবার অন্য জায়গায় চলে গেছে কিনা?

ক. হ্যাঁ খ. না

১৬. স্কুলে সব ছাত্রছাত্রীর শিক্ষাজীবন শেষ করতে না পারার কারণ কি?

ক. দারিদ্র

খ. স্কুলে পর্যাপ্ত সুযোগ সুবিধার অভাব

গ. অন্য কোন আয়মূলক কাজে যুক্ত হওয়া

ঘ. অন্যান্য

সাক্ষাৎকার গ্রহনকারীর নাম:

স্বাক্ষর:

তারিখ:

আপনাকে ধন্যবাদ

জ্ঞাতব্য: এই জরিপে প্রদত্ত সকল তথ্য এবং আপনার নাম ও পরিচয়ের পূর্ণ গোপনীয়তা বজায় রাখতে এমআরডিআই
অঙ্গীকারাবদ্ধ।