Grassroots People’s Development in Bangladesh

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Methodology of the Assignment:

Basically in development sector of Bangladesh, poor women, girls and children are most vulnerable. They have to work for earning money. They are the main workforce in development sector. Most of the time they have to engage with income generating activities without knowing the basic work. The enhancement of knowledge about the work, they have to develop it with the progress of time.

After completion of different project, the real scenario has been assessed through the survey and assessment result and gap was found out. The sectors for the development of personal working skills have to distinguish. The monitoring is very important to find out the result of the objectives and identify to grow their skills and income level.

Increasing the financial capability

In this stage the realistic method of increasing financial capability of women workers. As usually the root of the women worker lower class of society, coming from village or under develop area of Bangladesh. The main objective of these working women is earning money. After doing the labor intensive, they can’t manage the personal financial issue for lack of knowledge about personal finance. PDAP provided the basic objectives of the training which were– account opening in bank, access to formal credit and savings mechanism, etc.

Ensuring the safety of workplace and surrounding environment

In this part, PDAP prepared a design and delivery training support women workers to lead participatory assessments of how locations and circumstances in and around the workplace effect their sense of security, and to advocate for change based on their findings.
Introduction

Bangladesh is an underdeveloped and thickly populated country. Many NGOs are working in different corners of this country. Participatory Development Action Program (PDAP) is one of them, which is trying it’s best level to contribute whatever it can in the development of Bangladesh.

After working 21 years with women, girls and children PDAP has come to know that if the young people and women become aware about their rights, they can do many things for changing the social norms and attitude. All young girls and boys represent the hope for the future development of a nation. With proper support, guidance and nurturing their condition and participation can be greatly enhanced.

Our basic Education program, Primary Health care program, Leadership, Disaster Risk Reduction and Skill Development training program activities have kept our project staff busy in bringing new hope to our target communities. The following achievements through our different activities have been developed in our target communities.

Children project:

Education for all.

All of the students are fully involved in attaining quality education. The project staff is fully attached with the education centre where the children are getting education from. As PDAP’s funds for orphans school is very small, but poor children are very much interested to attend at the centre. There are many poor children are interested to join at PDAP’s school, but due to fund crisis, we are not able to take many children. The Board member of PDAP has special interest in these children’s education and arranges a regular follow up for each student; hence the children are exhibiting real change in their lives.
Outdoor visits:

This is one of regular activity of this project. Two exposure visit have been taken place in each year. The staff provided them with valuable information about the visited area and helped them increase their knowledge, another very healthy and practical approach towards learning.

Food and Nutrition:

All of the children are getting biscuits or snacks every day. As the school time is only for two hours, PDAP’s administration just to provide some foods for the poor children which is contributed by the members of Executive committee.

Drawing practice:

For children’s recreation PDAP’s staff take one class every week with some cultural activities. These activities will encourage their mental development and advancement. Hence, this aspect of learning is also taken care of opportunities are given to them to express their drawing approach.
Free Health check up : A free Health check up is arranged on monthly basis where Nurse from PDAP examine and thorough check up of Children as well as the general public for free and provide medicines with concessions rate.

Birth registration project :

Birth registration means the rights, gender, birth, date, place and address of all human beings which is registered by selected registration department, Government of Bangladesh and prove our right age. It is stated in the law of Birth registration, 2004 article no. 29.

Importance of Birth registration :

According to the law of Birth registration, 2004 and the policy of Birth registration, 2006 – (a) Passport issue (b) Marriage registration (c) School admission (d) Getting job in private and autonomous sector (e) Driving license issue (f) Voter listed (g) Land registration (h) National identity (i) Life insurance and getting other facilities, Birth registration is compulsory.

Where Birth registration will be registered?

If any persons not yet registered his/her birth registration, they can easily apply for it by providing all necessary information to their local Birth registration authority. Union Council, Municipality, City Corporation, Cantonment board and Bangladesh embassy in foreign country are recognized for birth registration. Registrar will provide Birth registration according to nationality, religion, cast, group as well as to all people’s information in the birth registration book. Besides, according to the Birth registration law, 2004, article 8.1 all new born child should get their birth registration within 45 days- is compulsory.

Ensure proper new born babies birth registration

Digital system :

To establish digital Bangladesh, In October 2010, Government has taken initiative to do online birth registration rather than hand writing. There is a powerful server in Computer Council of Bangladesh, where all information are stored.

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The following persons re responsible to send all information for birth registration.

a. Member of Union council and secretary
b. Village police
c. Counselor of Municipality of City corporation
d. Family planning or Health workers, who are living in the area of Union council, Municipality, City corporation or Cantonment board.
e. Field workers of NGOs, if they are involved Health and family planning sector.
f. Any medical officer or Doctor of government or non government hospital can send message, if any child get birth at their hospital or clinic.
g. If any officer selected by registrar can send message for birth registration.

Safeguarding your children’s future

Awareness raising:

At present government’s electronic media, i.e. Radio, T.V. and printing media are focusing the Birth registration issue. Side by side nongovernment organization and NGOs also focusing the issue.

Workers of Participatory Development Action Program (PDAP) are doing door to door motivation and arrange meeting with local teachers, elites and parents. As PDAP is providing vaccination for new born babies (after growing up 45 days), birth registration is also same because it is their rights.

All field workers of PDAP and grassroots leaders are also visiting area to area and helping the poor people to fill up the birth registration form and ask them to go local city corporation for birth registration as early as possible. Because there will be no fees upto 2 years old children.
2. Young girls project:

Skill training on different vocational trades

Project documents and field observations revealed that the selected target beneficiaries were provided with skill training in different vocational trades like Tailoring and Embroidery, Block printing, Shopping bag making, candle making etc. which was followed by financial support for continuation of the trades to supplement family incomes. Alongside financial support opportunities were provided to link with potential markets through which to sell products. It was learnt from the beneficiaries of the component that with the supplementary income earned through various income generation programmes the socio-economic status of the respective families were raised substantially, especially allowing nutritious food intake and the raising of standards of sanitary facilities especially for children, women and adolescents.

Case Study

Very struggleful life of Rosy is a story of today. Rosy have one brother and 5 sisters. Her father was a poor weaver maintained their family with very hard effort. Rosy was in sorrow with her little brother and sisters. Because suddenly one day father of Rosy died. All the family burden came on the shoulder on her because she is the eldest children. Her mother always in sick. They could not get meal day after day, after death of her father. There was no body to earn in her family. No money was there to purchase medicine of her mother. One day a surveyor of PDAP went to survey at F.G. Camp to open a school for adolescent girls whose age are in between 12 and 18. The surveyor heard about the condition of Rosy and arranged to admit her at the school of PDAP. There are some training facilities at the PDAP
organization on sewing, karcupi, embroidery, shopping bag making etc. Rosy started to go to school side by side she also got training at Karchupi course. After finishing 6 months course. She got a frame of Karchupi. She started her work with Karchupi. She also trained up her brother and sisters. Now she is earning TK. 200 to TK.500 in a week. Rosy has to take responsibilities of her family after death of her father. Her brother also work the weaving job. Younger sisters are going school. Happy sparkled in her family. But bad a wind blow her happiness. At present Rosy is Sweet sixteen years old. Her family member pressed her to get marry. But she is not agree to get marry now. Rosy discussed about her marriage with the PDAP staffs discussed with her family members. They tried to make understand the family members of Rosy that the demerits of early marriage, even mother and child may be died, and by laws, no body can marry before 18 years old. It was also tried to discuss with her mother and brother and made understand through the adolescent forum. At last they decided not to press Rosy to get marry, until she herself agree to get marry. Now, Rosy is very happy. Her mother and brother can understand that the decisions of girls should be valued in the family.

At the end it can be said that a lot of problems can be solved with united work. Each problem of Rosy solved unitedly. Rosy is now grateful to staffs of PDAP, teachers of the programs and also the forum of adolescent girls.

**Primary health care and personal hygiene management**

The primary beneficiaries and targeted families have regularly been provided with information, education, communication and motivational services on Expanded Programme for Immunization (EPI), Primary Health Care, Maternal Child Health & Family Planning, Personal Hygiene and Family Life Education by trained Paramedics having specialist support from an experienced medical doctor. Under this component, the health care unit of the project gives regular counseling, physical checks and information on the availability of various services provided by different public, private and voluntary service providing units. It has been observed by the Evaluator that excellent links have been established with various public and voluntary service providing agencies where the beneficiaries of the project are referred by the health care team of the project as and when required. The target
population are now familiar with all health care services irrespective of whether they are public, private or volunteer in nature. Beneficiaries and staff concerned with the project communicated that the beneficiaries of the project, while getting treatment from any of the service providing units are given special attention and importance when referred by the project. The regular services as has been observed provided by the project clinic include:

- General treatment
- Antenatal and postnatal counseling and treatment services
- Adolescent related counseling and treatment services
- Immunization in collaboration with GOB service providing unit
- Vitamin-A capsule distribution in collaboration with the GOB service providing unit
- Advice and counseling on family planning, HIV/AIDS and STDs and water borne diseases

Our health worker used to follow the below mentioned issues during health session with the children and girls.

**Outline of content of health & hygiene for children/young girls**

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<th>Sub-Topic</th>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Materials</th>
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<td>Course Introduction</td>
<td>Registration, Inauguration of course, Introducing, Expectation find out, Course objectives sharing and Training Norms setting</td>
<td>Lecture, Lecture discussion, Self introducing game, Question-Answer</td>
<td>Attendance sheet, Pen, Belune, Poster Paper, Art line Marker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Sanitation</td>
<td>Definition Total Sanitation</td>
<td>Discussion, Demonstration</td>
<td>Flash Card</td>
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<tr>
<td>Excreta &amp; Water Born Disease and it’s causes</td>
<td>Excreta &amp; Water borne diseases; Effect of Excreta &amp; Water borne diseases; Causes of Faces &amp; Water borne diseases, Curing ways from these diseases</td>
<td>Discussion, Demonstration, Brain storming, Demonstration</td>
<td>Flash Card of Excreta &amp; Water borne diseases</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance of Hygienic Latrine</td>
<td>Definition of Hygienic Latrine Use of Hygienic Maintenance of Hygienic Latrine</td>
<td>Discussion, Demonstration, Role Play</td>
<td>Flash Card of Hygienic &amp; Unhygienic Latrine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Safe Water</td>
<td>Definition of Safe Water Source of Safe Water Way of Water Collection &amp; storage</td>
<td>Discussion, Role Play, Exercise</td>
<td>Demonstration materials of Water collection &amp; storage</td>
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Basic Education for the young girls:

Basic education, including family life education is given to the selected adolescents, both male and female through the school managed by the project. The duration of education is eighteen months and among topics other than fixed syllabus include awareness raising on problems and its solutions generally encountered by the adolescents during puberty period, counseling on the issues and laws related to early marriage, dowry, divorce, women rights, child rights, child labour etc. The Evaluator, while testing the understanding of the targeted adolescents on the aforesaid issues was very much impressed to see the in-depth understanding on the issues being covered under this component. In particular, the level of awareness of the adolescent groups about family life issues was especially strong, and they will be able to apply this shortly in their family and personal lives.

Legal Aid:

There is a provision to provide legal services to any family members if there need be, either by a legal advisory committee through counseling and an alternative dispute resolution process and/or through legal procedures when cases where mitigation fails. A legal advisory committee exists,
comprising of a Ward Commissioner and/or a local elite as its Chair and local school teachers, Madrasha teachers, social or women activists and any other professionals as its members. It is impressive to observe and that straightforward personal and family related problems are successfully mitigated by the local Advisory Committee with support from more expert or resourced project staff.

**Recommendations by the Evaluation team of young girls project:**

- Long term strategic and sustainability plan
- Marketing outlet development
- Formal partnership with relevant service providers
- Comprehensive capacity development plan for both staff and beneficiary
- Seeking alternative funding sources
- It is always laborious job to work with urban poor people. Regular meeting is essential to keep the groups active and united. Because of this, more staff as required to work with the identified number of groups and beneficiaries.
- Sometimes it has been difficult to go to government offices for realizing their demand for women. It is recommended to take initiative for greater involvement of men folk with this movement, so that the movement will be stronger.
- Local pressure groups and touts are dominant over the extremely poor communities. On the other hand, government officials sometimes show reluctance to give access to poor people, which ultimately takes a long time. So, to build strong liaison with GoB officials is strongly recommended.
- There is a strong need for continuation of the project in accordance to the acceptability of the themes promoted hitherto promoted by PDAP having support from the donor
- The need for extending the project as demanded requires to be assessed and examined for wider coverage and to obtain also the voices of poor, marginalized and landless for stimulation and bring inertia in the themes already made
- Voluntarism to be reviewed scaling from less to more capable leaders and action plan accordingly may be designed for management
- Organizing Coordination Meeting is a felt need of time which must be planned and arranged at least on quarterly to foster the growth of PDAP’s program activities.
- By and large it has become an important project with peoples’ involvement which is of high concerns for policy planners and decision makers. Hence endorsing the recommendations of all relevant stakeholders it is suggested to adhere to those with a comprehensive extension.

1. **Strengthening Women Empowerment project**:

Bangladesh is commonly cited as among the most vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change. The country has made significant progress in poverty reduction and economic growth in recent years, but more than 50 million people still live in poverty with weak governance and limiting the capacity to cope with and adapt to climate related shocks and stresses. Current disaster events can be an example to illustrate the country’s vulnerability to climate change; more than 50 million people are affected by disaster events every five years.

Bangladesh experience demonstrates a number of learning for the political economy of climate change planning in both Bangladesh and other vulnerable countries. The first lesson relates to the risk of fostering planning exceptionalism for climate change. Donor concerns around aid effectiveness and consequent creation of parallel mechanisms of planning and implementation may run counter to both the mainstreaming process and the alignment of assistance with country priorities and systems. These may lead to inefficiency and a lack of transparency and inclusion in those processes. Donors must ensure that their funding does not support such duplication, and the government must integrate climate change into regular planning and approval processes, at the same time ensuring that these are made open and transparent.

Besides, year 2015 is very important and necessary for development target. We know that in September’ 2000 U.N. arranged a meeting called “Millennium Summit”. There they discussed on struggle against poor, hunger, disease, lack of education, damage of environment and inequality for the women and increased participation for the development
of world. The world leaders decided for the achievement of these target which can be measured. These targets are now known as “Millennium Development Goal”.

The selected 8 Millennium Development Goals of the year 2000 is interlinked and replaceable. We are working for the achievement of MDG-3, so we shall give emphasis on women rights, women empowerment and difference between male and female.

MDG-3 is providing gender equality and women’s empowerment. To achieve this target Huairou Commission assisted for the implementation of MDG-3. Leadership development of the grassroots women, empowerment in local level will work for the development of gender equality and empowerment of women. This is helping PDAP for achieving the above target.

The target of this assistance is –

- In local level the women leadership development in decision making and development of participation.
- To improve the quality of service and by that alleviation at poverty, development of asset (such as- land, profession and housing etc.) and
- Poverty alleviation is answerable to local level administration and development of initiative in technical partnership in achieving MDG.

**Area basis Conversation meeting**- Primarily in the conversation meeting the issues which were identified :-

- Necessity of women leadership development at grassroots level
- Conversation meeting area basis in which, Housing, Development of life pattern, Discrimination of male and female, Education and awareness issues got the priority.
- Recommendation about the formation of alliance/network to reduce the time length about land and residential problem.

A part from these the subjects which are marked are-

- Due to Residential problem, their livelihood is insecure
- About education, They have no primary education
• In the field of job, These is no scope of getting job
• Above all due to insecurity, adolescent girls and women are tortured in different ways.

**Housing and Rehabilitation project:**

From local to local session, housing issue came as a main issue, specially for the poor people. The poor people are living in 6’x7’ size house, environmental condition is very unhealthy, which is very inhumanic.

No sufficient toilet is there. Due to open drainage, sometimes children fall down into the drain. No proper education facility, no job opportunity and no safe shelter.

Regarding legal service, poor people are most vulnerable, do not get service. Women abuse, land reform, land ownership, social insecurity – in all sector, Law enforcement is very much needed.

We know, there are Ain Salish Board and Law department from Government side, but this in not enough. Our women used to suffer with this lengthy legal aid procedure. To make the legal system easier and speedy, women should get emphasis from Government side.

One such study noted that a 40°C increase in temperature would have a severe impact on food production in Bangladesh, resulting in a 28% reduction for rice and a 68% reduction for wheat. Temperature and rainfall changes have already affected crop production in many parts of Bangladesh, and the area of arable land has already decreased. We have to assess what technologies will be required to make the agriculture sector climate resilient, while not compromising the food productivity because food security (through attaining food self-sufficiency) is a critical concern for the country. TNA (Technological Need Assessment) also could be used to explore technologies those will help adaptation also will contribute to the mitigation.

We know that the country is already experiencing the adverse impacts- hotter summers, irregular monsoon, untimely rainfall, heavy rainfall over short period causing water logging etc. Aside with the changes in weather pattern, Bangladesh is facing increased frequency,
and intensity of natural disasters like cyclone and floods. Salinity intrusion along the coast leading to scarcity of potable water and redundancy of prevailing crop practices becoming a common phenomenon; TNA should address all the impacts and sufferings that people are facing in different regions.

PDAP prepared some houses for the flood affected people in Kolapara union under Munshigonj district supported by Coirn Energy Company.

At a glance the Disaster Risk Reduction report :

Bangladesh is a natural calamity affected country. Every year more or less flood occurs in this country. Especially Sylhet, Sathkhira, Gaibaandha, Mushigonj are the common flood affected area. Since 1998 PDAP has been working with the poor people in Shreenagar Upazila of Munshigonj district. But due to devastating flood in August 2007, our all activities been suspended. The beneficiaries lost their shelter, valuable items, food and clothes. To overcome this crisis situation, PDAP took some relief and rehabilitation programs for the flood affected people.

Description of activities:

In October 2007, Cairn Energy Company (CESFL) showed their interest to assist some rehabilitation program in our flood-affected area. PDAP prepared a short proposal with work plan and budget and was submitted to CESFL. The project activities has been finished by January 2008, as per the plan are listed below:

Housing:

10 vulnerable householders were selected for making new house for them. The size of each house is 16½ ft x 10½ ft. For purchasing materials and others cost (including labour charge), we have spent Tk. 390,100 for making 10 new houses. Community people also contributed some materials to make the houses more strong. The houses are made by corrugated tin, wood, pillar and rod. According to our plan ten houses have been completed. The name of the householders are:
As per our work plan, we have made 5 slab latrines in 5 places of two communities. Before 5-7 families were using one latrine, which was sometimes very embarrassing for the girls & women. Now only 2-3 family are using one latrine. For making the latrine, we purchased 25 pieces ring, 5 pieces slab, 30 pieces tin, 16 pieces pillar and 10 kb wood for 5 latrines. All latrines have been completed and now people are using it and maintaining regularly.

To set up a Arsenic free deep tube well, minimum Tk. 35,000 would be needed. So for the poor people, it was very difficult to get fresh drinking water in Kolapara union. Only few rich people managed 2/3 Arsenic free tube well by their own cost and they do not want to allow all community people to take water from their tube well. But it was not possible for the poor community to set up Arsenic free tube well by their own cost. So, they had to bring the drinking water from far away. In this situation, PDAP selected three community (such as
North Kolapara, South Kolapara and Naopara for setting three deep tube well, which will be Arsenic free. It was necessary to dig the earth 750 ft. deep for getting Arsenic free water. Now three deep tube well set up has been completed and community people are very happy to use it regularly.

4. Poultry farm:

For increasing the income generating activities, we have planned to make two small poultry farm as a model. 2 women were selected whose skills in this field was developed by PDAP previously and they also showed interest to make a poultry farm.

One Shilpi Akhter started the poultry farm with 20 chickens and 20 pigeons. She made one wire net, one small room for the chickens and two pigeon holes for the pigeons. She also purchased feed for them. She hopes, after one month the chicken will start to lay egg and pigeons will be grown up. Then she will be able to sell it in the local market.

Another, Mafuza Begum has made a poultry farm with 40 layers. She is taking care of the farm regularly and now some Poultry birds have started laying eggs, which she is selling within the community at a good price.

Monitoring:

Regularly monitoring visit had made by PDAP’s Executive Director and field staff and communicated with the beneficiaries. Follow up visit was also carried out for rectifying problems.

The activities of rehabilitation program, supported by the CSEFL, PDAP could raise awareness among the beneficiaries, make them interested in taking their own initiatives, when flood occurs and could prepare them in playing key role for their safety.

Last but not the least, people of Kolapara as well as Shreenagar Upazila of Munshigonj district are suffering every year from flood. It is very important to take some sustainable action, such as –

1) Training on different IGA and provide seed capital to poor people.
2) Advocacy and awareness on use of tube well maintenance for Arsenic free water and water sealed latrines.

3) Intermediate technology - i.e. Fishing, Agriculture etc. as per local status and demand to be encouraged.

4) Electronic communication set up (both for men and women) could be installed for quick emergency response.

It could be possible by cooperation of all local people as well as by the support of Cairn Energy Company and other donor organization, PDAP will enable to reduce the poverty level in Shreenagar Upazila of Munshigonj district.

**Climate change, displacement and migration in Bangladesh**

Bangladesh has an area of about 147,570 sq km and is home to 160.4 million people (World Population Review, 2015). The country is situated in the tropics in South Asia at the interface between two different environments: the Bay of Bengal to the south and the Himalayas to the north. The life-giving monsoons and the catastrophic ravages of natural disasters characterize the country (Department of Environment, 2007). About 10% of Bangladesh is barely one meter above the mean sea level, and one-third is affected by tides. At present, more than 50 million people are affected by disaster events every five years. People living in coastal areas are particularly vulnerable. The poor are the worst affected, especially women, children and disabled people. These impacts will likely intensify in the future and thus continue to disrupt Bangladesh’s efforts to achieve economic growth and eradicate poverty. Responding to disasters has already diverted significant parts of the development budget, with over US$10 billion invested by the Government of Bangladesh over the last three decades in making the country more climate resilient and less vulnerable to natural disasters (MoEF, 2008). It is now of huge concern that the effect of climate change on human rights, such as the right to life, food, adequate living standards and physical and mental health, is growing.

The slow onset disasters such as increasing soil and water salinity in coastal areas due to sea-level rise are affecting new areas. Sudden onset disasters such as cyclones, tidal water
incursion and river bank erosion in low-lying coastal districts are becoming more frequent and more intense (WaterAid in Bangladesh, 2012). People are experiencing changes in the duration of disaster events and also, new types of disasters. In most cases, during disaster men only leave enough money to sustain a family for a couple of weeks, so women must then generate income in addition to doing all the household work. This is not always culturally acceptable. In many cases, the children were taken out of the school and engaged in household and income generation work.

The short-term displacement following sudden onset events in Bangladesh is associated with significant environmental and public health concerns. Equally, the influx of poor migrants to urban areas is problematic, especially when the entire family migrates. Whether migrants end up in large slums or smaller ‘poverty pockets’, or even another char, their houses (and workplaces) are often in environmentally vulnerable locations and characterized by poor sanitation, safe water scarcity and insufficient food supplies and livelihood opportunities.

**Flood Action Plan in Bangladesh:**

The Bangladesh Flood Action Plan (FAP) was launched in December 1989 by an autocratic regime. It was essentially a donor-driven project aimed at the eventual construction of large scale flood control works across the entire country. In the first phase, there were 26 components in FAP including immediate construction project, pre-feasibility and feasibility studies, data collection exercises and institutional development programmes. These projects were funded primarily by donors with some local counterpart contributions by the Government of Bangladesh. They were implemented by a FAP project management consisting of the FPCO (Flood Plan Coordination Organization) and World Bank, respectively co-ordinating the plan on behalf of the Government of Bangladesh and the donor agencies involved. During the period 1089-95, the original projects underwent certain modifications, while a number of new of second generation FAP project were added. Consequently, the total number of separable FAP components increased progressively to 30 in December 1992 and 41 in March 1995.
In fact, the people of the Tangail Compartamentalization Pilot Project (CPP) FAP 20 area preferred the only option of having early drainage through the re-excavation of the existing drainage channels (FAP 20), interim report, September, 1992. But the Donors and their consultants have imposed a total flood control project on the people of the area. The construction of the 950 million Taka project is in progress. This project thrown down upon the unwilling people is destined to end a total failure. Under the co-ordination of the World Bank, the FAP reports publicizes about the peoples participation in the formulation as well as the implementation stages of the projects. But interestingly, the draft Guidelines For Peoples Participation was prepared in March, 1993 and which is still to be improved to be called a final one, thus even the Donor appointed mid-term evaluation team of the CPP or FAP-20 wrote in its report of May, 1995.

The women’s group first initiated a demonstration on 27 May, 1993, when about a thousand women demonstrated against the FAP-20 activities of WB. They went to the local administration and submitted a protest memorandum for onward transmission to the Government. Then the women’s group in collaboration with the Association of Landless People organized a bigger demonstration against the activities of FAP-20 (CPP). About 14 to 15 thousand people assembled in front of the office of the local administration on 18 September, 1993 (District administration of Tangail) inspite of the threats held out by the hired thus of FAP-20 project officials. From this demonstration a memorandum was handed over to the local administration (for onward transmission to the higher government level) and project officials in which people of the project area urged for the stoppage of the construction of the FAP-20.

**Mitigation and Adaption through community resilience :**

In Bangladesh estimation of the direct impacts usually gets done once any disaster takes place. Efforts are also evident in assessing the indirect and socio-psychological impacts of the disasters to formulate adaptation strategies. But unfortunately in most of the cases failure occur to estimate important induce effects of disasters and disaggregate the effects at spatial level.
Climate Change and climate Refugees
in the Bangladesh context • Shared losses (providing subsidies to people)
• Preventing the impact (building of protective infrastructure etc)
• Change us (livelihood change etc.)

Shared losses:
• 1.1) Insurance
• 1.2) Disaster Management
• 1.3) Food security and savings
• 1.4) Water resources Management

2. Preventing the impact:
• Preventive the effect is a type of disaster risk management which may help increase
  livability and as such reduce out migration. Such activities occur in the pre-disaster phase,
  which include among others preparedness and mitigation. It can be divided into two parts
  (structural i.e. building, infrastructure) and non-structural measures (raising awareness,
  education etc.)

Structural (Infrastructure):
The construction of roads, water retention ponds, culvert,
embankment increases peoples ease in communication and at the same time protect rural
area from natural disaster like flood, tidal surges, erosion that devastate houses and render
people homeless.

Housing, Road repairing, Toilet making etc.

Non structural: Reduction of Climate change hazard through coastal aforesetation with
community participation is a priority issue. Coastal mangrove afforestation, tall trees next to
tidal free zone, bamboo and cane cultivation as wind breaker and coast specific wood trees
are also required to combat climate events. Besides, material from trees such as thatch, leafs,
wood will help people to undertake alternate livelihood after disaster.
Community based adaptation:

**Motivation:** Community level motivation programme could be more effective in combating climate change impacts. It is required to develop and implement community level adaptation strategies and implementation management plan, such excavation to reduce water logging, raising of embankment to prevent intrusion of saline tidal water, pond sand-filter for safe drinking water, construction of new cyclone shelter etc. to reinforce livability in rural area.

**Public awareness:** Through public awareness and dissemination of ideas related to grim future of Dhaka bound migration, a major breakthrough can be achieved through use of mass media at local level. Improving public awareness and developing overall communications strategies at local level could make information related to climate change indeed migration accessible to the average citizen and can reduce out migration as such.

After completed the risk mapping of 100 families in Bhola bosti, it is found that the community have been suffering due to seasonal climate change, i.e. when it is heavy raining, drainage system does not work, houses become damaged, people are not able to walk because road are flooded, no cooking, no work, no legal drinking water and no electricity. To improve the community, they contacted with some local authority to make a hygienic toilet. And by providing their own labour they prepared a sanitary hygienic toilet for the community people. As there is a separate toilet for the women, so many women and girls are using this toilet.
Land use and Poor people

Land is the most valuable resource of mankind. It is fixed and not expandable, and not renewable. People need various kind of scope to meet their need. By assessing the global aspect, we know there are \( \frac{3}{4} \) th of water and \( \frac{1}{4} \) th of land. And so why land use for housing is taking a miserable condition. Now a days dependent women and children has create a worst condition because of the increasing number of people rushing toward cities housing problem, lack of basic service, unemployment, crime and breaking of society now had been in an extreme condition.

Apparently land use means in which purposes the land has been using. To scope with the increasing population we must have to increase the use of land for housing. The level of land and housing has to be increased with the replaced population increased. The time of globalization is the need of proper land use with modern technology. The number of multi storied building skyscraper comparatively have increased. So, we have to take in account in various matters, such as Government authority, transportation, road and highway, Government infrastructure. In those purposes only Government lands are been used. On the other need both Government and non-Government land are used for Industrialization, business, housing, education, agriculture, hospital and drama and other purposes.
In a non-government survey e.g big industrialized city shows that land used for businesses purpose in 1947, 1961, 1974, 1991 and 2005 are accordingly 20.50, 124.00, 130.30, 142.50, 160.25, acre. In industrialization the total land use in 1947, 1961, 1974, 1991 up to 2005 was 1.72, 2.00, 2.3, 2.8, 3.2, acre which mainly indicate non-expandable industrialization.

For housing purpose in 1947, 1961, 1974, 1991 and 2005 land use was as follows 204.15, 305, 514, 650, 660.25 acre. In education sector, accordingly 34.10, 75.52, 81.40, 90.58, and 95.00 acre. Use of land in health sector was 25.50, 30.21, 35.20, 37.95, 43.05 In 1947, 61, 74, 91 and 2005 in the city, the land use for transport and communication was 92.00, 120.50, 127.20, 130.16, 135.02 acre. For recreation amusement the land use was 2.30, 3.05, 4.00, 5.23 acre.

**Background of the poor population:**

In Bangladesh most probably 15 crore people live in 147570 sq kilometer. The poor distressed people should have to move toward cities for some pull factor as e.g flood, river, embankment increasing number of people having 1 no land, natural disaster, scope of work in villages and so many other. People have to move toward cities for their livelihood. Now a days 50% of the total of the people live in the city. Live in six cities and 55% of them live under extreme poverty. These families are living in the slums with a very unhygienic and unhealthy condition. In sufficient roads, drain, shortage of water, lack of balance diet, illiteracy disease are common to them. Union Parishad or city corporation cannot provide them the facilities as for insufficient amount of resources an manpower. With the cordial help of some NGOs their life skill promoted in a very limited context, but slum eviction,
fire, natural disaster are against thei improvement. On the other hand, we also want to say the number of slum dwellers in our country is not small. We can say in cities along with everywhere a big number of poor community are scattered. A survey of Center for Urban Studies shows that 65 percent of the slum to made in 1 bigha of land. 14 % of the slum made by 3 bigha i.e. 1 acre of land. On the contrary Korail slum consist 90 acre, Baoniabandh 45 acre. In six cities there are 9048 slums are 6545 acre 26.5 sq kilometer of land. This total land is about 4 % of the total area of the 6 cities each. If it is possible to make a list slum dwellers and find out all Khas land through a proper planning with the help of GO and NGO, then it may be possible to use the lay land properly. ⅓ and ⅙ of population of Asian cities live in the area of low income community and faces all the troubles of city life. These cities may collapsed, if enough initiative is not taken to improve them. On the other hand the people of Bangladesh still is not able to get away from hunger and poverty as for lack of proper guideline and proper distribution. There is no alternative way, except to work with the help of municipality and other concerned authority including the participation of grass root people for development plan. Because the policy from top level will never life oriented.

Increased population and land use:

Normally we see the slums are built in the government property are over populated. But in terms of population density in Dhaka and Chittagong are over crowded rather than the slums of Rajshahi. Population density of total Dhaka city is 121 per acre, whereas the population of slum area is 891. In the slum area of Chittagong 1032 people live in per acre, where in Khulna the number is 538, Rajshahi 272 in Sylhet 626 and in Barisal the
population is 541. Although those slums are one storied house headed where people live 831 per acre. Mainly this high density of population in the slum area is more times high than urban population density.

Mostly the mega cities are built in the non-government or private land owners. In terms of number most of the slums (aprox 89%) are built on the private land owner. Rest of 11% are government land, willingly donated or other owners. In the private land day by day the number of slums are being built for business purpose. People live in those slum area by giving rent. But the matter had to be in account that, the slum built in government land is 11% but 33% total slum people live in these slums. So, we often seen the big big slums are built in government property. On the contrary, we can say in mega cities most of the slum dwellers are renter, where 15 % have ownership, 12% without any rent and 73 percent live by giving rent.

The commercial activities of a city grows slowly with the time frame. There inter relation had been increased with the growth of various market, bank and many other things. In present the business centres and main main roads have been expended through linear pattern. Many skyscraper market, business, industries and rest house had been made. The (CBD) Central business district has expanded. Business has started to enter in residential areas. In these purpose the selected land in the year 1947, 1961, 1974, 1991 and 2005 is 20.50 acre, 124.00 acre, 130.30 acre, 142.50 acre and 160.25 acre.

Increasing residential area of the city Dhaka and other cities have expanded as a big city. The shape of residential area is mainly scattered. Some householders have a big unused land. Land use for residential purpose is in 1947, 1961, 1974, 1991 and 2005 was 204.15, 305, 514, 650, 660.25 acre. With the expand of residential land the type of residence had been changed. Land for rich people are very limited. Most of the area are of middle class but a mixed criteria shows all over the city. Before the independent the transport and communication system as not well enough. The roads was kacha and slowly pacca roads are made. 1947, 61, 74, 91, and 2005 the land use for the purpose of transport was according 92.00, 120.50, 127.20, 130.16, 135.02 acre. Increasing land use in transport and
communication has played a great role in the development of cities. Most of the urban poor live in the slum area of cities. A survey report shows over the population of six cities that 90% of the slum population live under extreme poverty.

It is announced from the urban planner that there should be a detailed area plan, where residence, commercial, industry, recreation, play ground, cultural ground, education, hospital, community centre and social gathering areas are clearly identified. Besides, it should be needed to prepare detailed area plan through people’s participation, if we want to keep individual characteristics. As per people’s comments, detailed area plan would be prepared and implemented step by step, but we do not see any initiative of this. Although according to Dhaka Metropolitan’s plan Rajuk has taken some initiatives for development activities. Under these activities road development, house building, residence, commercial and industrial area including lake, natural water pond etc are involved.

Now globally environment and climate changing movement is going on. To show solidarity with this movement, all architects (specially government architects) should take responsibility or social commitment for doing some planned housing and structure – which would be helpful for the global residence. Architects of housing department of Bangladesh Government also have taken to prepare some low cost housing for lower income group.

In 1996, during Habita-2 convention – it was decided to take some action which will be helpful for improving society as well as general people will get some urban facilities. For this reason, small squatters were identified globally for quick urbanization. Already it is seen in the urban area that poverty level is increasing day by day, specially for the women and children. Also extremely increasing housing facilities, job opportunity, violence, unsocial activities and social ego problems. Due to over population, land quality decreasing, traffic jam, water & air pollution are also increasing. Instead of above mentioned problems, we have to look after urban housing facilities towards better economy and future generation, so that they will get job opportunity. Urban squatters should be made such a way- like productive, safe, healthy and humanic.
Workshop on Community Practitioners Platform (CPP)

Purpose of the workshop:

- To demonstrate how the grassroots women have organized themselves in Bhola bosti, and to provide an opportunity for them to show their community and seasonal maps at a multi-stakeholder workshop. Local ward Counselors, Government officials, NGOs, CBOs, 20 grassroots women leaders and 4 men from Bhola bosti were present at the workshop.
- To develop disadvantaged women and the area.
- To solve the problem by cooperation with local public representatives, different NGOs and Govt. organizations.
- To strengthen grassroots women’s organization and leadership.
- Movement building through networks and partnership.

Which stakeholder groups were present at the workshop

Different professional stakeholders were present at the workshop, such as Teachers, Professors, Lawyers, Architects, Resource persons (DRR), NGO representatives, elected public representatives, High officials of Government representatives and the Minister of Women and Children Affairs. In addition, 30 grassroots women and 7 grassroots men were present at the workshop.

What are the main risks and vulnerabilities they face:

- Disaster Risks include; Flood, Cyclone, Heavy rain, Water logging, Fire, Earthquake, landslides and drought.
- Vulnerabilities include; broken road, low level housing, broken houses, lack of water and toilet facilities, lack of safety and security.
- The main disaster risks include; flood, drought, fire, cyclone, heavy rain, water logging etc.
The vulnerabilities include; infrastructure, road damage, inadequate shelter (not safe and secure), expose to risky situations for adolescent girls during and post disaster periods.

Main points highlighted in the workshop by the different stakeholder groups:

- The grassroots leader from Bhola Bosti Aysha explained about their previous situation. She said that they organized 100 women through 5 groups. Group members meet weekly and discuss their problems. As per the instruction of PDAP, they contacted with local influential people, GO, NGO, INGO representatives and tried to solve their problems.

- Leader Marium said that they have 75 members. They deposit money weekly Tk. 20/- and used to give loan according to the demand of the members. If the member deposits Tk. 1000, then she can get Tk. 3000-5000/. The members use this money for various income generating activities. The management committee take 5% interest of the disbursement amount. They retain this interest money for emergency purposes.

- Following this, leader Nargis presented the seasonal disaster maps and community maps to the workshop participants. Nargis outlined the main disaster affected situations the community has faced in the last 10 years. She also mentioned some demands, which they will give to the Prime Minister and Director General of Disaster Management Department.

- Leader Parvin from Begun Tila community said that in 1999 they came to stay in Begun Tila Bosti. 1800 women are living in their community. At present, many donor organizations are working directly in their community, such as World Vision.

- Leader Hasina from Duaripara said that they organized an action committee and through this action committee purchased 73 decimal land using their savings money. They also contacted World Vision to develop a broken road in their community.

- The women leaders of Bhola Bosti took the initiative to invite the local ward Counselor of ward no. 6, Ms. Rashida Akter jhorna to the workshop. The local counselor said that
there are many barriers for the urban poor people, especially those who live in the slum and camp areas. She is very happy to see the initiatives of PDAP in developing the slums. To organize groups, to create networks, to communicate with the stakeholders – theses issues have inspired her a lot. She is interested to work with the urban slum dwellers. As she is a new elected member, she expects everyone’s cooperation in developing these areas.

- There should be some arrangement to move to safe and secure shelter during the disaster period,
- Planning and preparedness is required to reduce damage after earthquake,
- A housing plan for the slum dwellers is urgently needed,
- Disaster related training programs should be implemented in all districts, so that the people will be aware about disaster management,
- River and canal drainage can reduce flood disaster risk,
- If village infrastructure is developed then disaster (risk) will be reduced,
- Women are still not regarded as decision making persons, especially during disaster periods. Elected or selected women members are called ‘lipstick’ members. The authorities do not listen to the women members. This is a major challenge.
Young and adolescent girls are abused during and after the disaster period (e.g. in and around shelters). There should be some safety system in place to stop this abuse,

There should be some rapid recovery planning to rebuild the local economy after disasters,

More action is required to arrange participation of grassroots women in national and international seminars,

The trained women can develop their area and prepare a plan to solve the problems,

A good leader is someone who can motivate, organize and unite the people, whether they have formal education or not,

UNDP and Government make different plans to reduce disaster and recover as much as possible in disaster damaged areas,

If the Government officials involve the grassroots women leaders in their activities during and after disaster, it will be easy to reduce damages,

Some influential people cut the hilly areas illegally and this affects the poor people. This issue should come under the law so that disaster risk is reduced,

Tree plantation systems should be followed properly, otherwise if disaster occurs trees will fall down or be destroyed.

It is very important to work with the adolescent girls, for their safety and security,

It would be good to create community based DRR teams, because when any strong disaster occurs, it is not possible to make any team for helping the community people.

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The points of the different stakeholders are as follows:
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- It would be good to create community based DRR teams, because when any strong disaster occurs, it is not possible to make any team for helping the community people.

The state minister, Ms. Meher Afroz Chumki, Ministry of Women Affairs spoke in the workshop. She appreciated the social mapping and seasonal mapping which was prepared by the grassroots women. If there is any DRR team already prepared in the community, then it would be easier to rescue the disaster affected people. She also mentioned that we should take care of the adolescent girls, because during and post disaster, they are abused.

Ms. Meher Afroz Chumki added that in our Women Development Policy (Article no. 37.10), it is written that during disaster and post disaster periods all community people should be involved with vulnerable women’s welfare related activities. Therefore, it is very important to develop a safety net in the community for the women. It is also important to make men and boys aware of DRR, and make them understand that women and girls have a very vital role in the family, so abuse of any kind (mental, physical) is absolutely unacceptable. Rather, they should honor and respect them. The Government has taken some action for girl’s safety and is trying to provide free legal support if there is any unsocial incident that happens against the girls. This is also covered in Article no 38.1 in the Women Development Policy, where it is written that community members are "To take special activities for the disadvantaged women".
The Chairperson for the workshop Md. Riaz Ahmed, Director General, Disaster Management Department (DDM) said that due to climate change, different types of disaster occur. That is why DDM has taken many plans and actions such as; Fire service training, Tree plantation training, Disaster management training and how to take care of livestock during disaster. Also, in the shelter home, DDM organized to keep law enforcement for safety and security, especially for women and girls. DDM also has improved the water and toilet facilities in the shelter home. Women are also involved in the government’s planning.

**Outcome of the workshop:**

1. Leadership has been developed
2. Grassroots leaders have learned to communicate with the government representatives, INGO, NGO and other influential persons.
3. Women are empowered
4. Leaders are able to make a local level network with other CBOs
5. The sense of shared community has increased
6. Group members have gained knowledge and experience
7. Women group members deposit money and provide loan to the members for income generating activates.

**Recommendations:**

1. The area leaders need to provide leadership and DRR training to other community members.
2. It is important to arrange local-local dialogues with the local government representative and other local stakeholders.

3. Trained leaders of Bhola Bosti can provide training to other communities or slums, if they get some honorarium.

4. Financial and technical support is required for expanding the training program.

5. An area based campaign for DRR is required.

**Follow up plan:**

1. Meeting with the group members to be continued

2. Monitoring their practices on DRR

3. Follow up their next action plan

4. Monitoring the improvement of other network members.

**CORE STRATEGIES FOR COMMUNITY RESILIENCE**

**Group Formation/Organization**

- Advocacy
- Savings / Training
- Network
Environmental development Project:

In 1998 PDAP started environmental development activities has been implemented. In the beginning PDAP thought to work in whole Mirpur area. But due to fund limitation, PDAP decided to work according to area basis.

First, our target area was “Ta Block jheel par bosti”. The physical environment of the slum was measurable. There is a big lake (Jheel) in that area. The people were using the water of that jheel for their daily purposes. They were using the hanging latrines situated over the lake. They were habituated to dump their garbage in front or side of their huts, which was ultimately drained to that lake by the rain water. They had no source of pure drinking water even. In this background PDAP took a project with the assistance of LIFE, UNDP to upgrade the environmental status of “Ta Block” for three years. And PDAP tried to overcome that situation by providing some inputs and local-local dialogue. In 2001 PDAP worked on environmental development issue at some camp area of Section-10 & 11 of Mirpur. As we received very few amount, we were not able to provide their required latrines, slab and legal water connection. But awareness raising, door to door motivation and local-local dialogue were continued.

As we gave commitment to the nearby community people to work with them on environmental issue, we have again started to work with three other camp (Millat camp, Muslim camp and Talap camp) area of Section 10 & 11 of Mirpur.

Project Goal:

To improve the urban slum life through the environmental development programme and achieve a good result by providing participation of the community people.

Strategy of the project:

Management committee has been established from the community to maintain the different committees and their work to manage and improve their own neighborhood.

Main components of the project:

☞ Clearing up the local environment.
☞ Installation and Repair of hygienic latrines.
☞ Road Repairing and Installation of slab.
☞ Using drum for garbage management.
☞ Installation and Repair of Water Point for water supply.
☞ Arrange for local-local dialogue.
☞ Arrange for tree plantation.
☞ Aware the slum people about fire drills.

**Community Management Committee :**

4 committee with 16 members have been formed. Each group with 4 persons dealing with different activities, which were - water management committee, sanitation management committee, garbage management committee and environmental management committee. They use to meet every week and discuss about the situation of water supply, sanitation, garbage and drainage system. Awareness raising activities has been initiated through our staff members on over all environmental hygiene and sanitation.

**Previous condition of water point :**

Drinking water :
The people of Millat Camp & Muslim Camp were indiscriminately and unhygienically used the water of the adjoining pond. There were not sufficient water point in that area. So that, PDAP has arranged to repair two legal water line from WASA for Millat Camp & Muslim Camp. Community people provided labour and water pump for proper water supply.
Arrange for repairing slab Latrines:

We repaired 10 existing latrines (5 for women and 5 for men) at Muslim Camp, which were using unhygienically and very much bad condition. The community people has contributed to repair the latrines by providing labour and keep the latrines clear by their volunteer service.

Fire prevention training:

All male, female and children of the community are aware of fire hazard and have been taught Fire management in congested areas through trained up persons.

Trained community people will be able to protect themselves if their slum gutted by fire.

Foot path and Drainage repairing:

Kancha footpath and lack of proper drainage system made the footpath of Camp area very
hazardous during rains. So, PDAP taken an initiative to repair some footpaths in the Camp area for their better movement. The drainage system also has been developed and we provided some slabs to cover the drains.

**Using assigned drums to keep clean the local area**

Community people are aware about the affect of tree plantation. Now they have their own initiative, learnt about tree plantation and planted about 2000 trees within the community. PDAP has been provided some incentives in the community for healthy environment.

**Local to local dialogue :**

During the whole period we carried out 70 small local-local dialogue and 4 large local-local dialogue were provided among 2000 community people. Representative of Social Service Department, City Corporation, INGO, NGO, CBO, local Doctor, teacher, group leaders, Ward commissioner and their representative were present at the occasion. They expressed their opinion regarding environment development and showed their interest for future assistance.

**Community people have been motivated to change their attitudes :**

1. Now they throw their garbage in the assigned drums, contribute to pay for a cleaner to take the garbage from the drums and to the city corporation dustbin. To manage all garbage of the area, the community has formed a Garbage management committee.

2. Two water point have been repaired and legalized with the cooperation of WASA. The community has participated by providing labour for setting up water point. The water management committee looks after the overall management of the water points.
3. Slab latrines are now servicing the slum people and have contributed greatly to reduce diseases. The community has contributed to making and repairing the latrines by providing labour and the latrines clear by employing a cleaner. A sanitation committee leads after the overall management of all the latrines and will eventually be able to manage the whole system on their own.

4. The drainage system has been developed and the community demonstrated their commitment through providing labour.

5. We provided some area bamboo net for tree plantation and planted few trees in the working areas.

6. By providing Fire training through Fire service and civil defense department (Govt. of Bangladesh), lot of local people are aware on how to protect themselves during fire hazard.

7. Local-local dialogue is widely used and found to be a very affective tool to actually interact closely with the community people as well as local Ward Commissioner, Government officials and other civil society.

Impact:
- The communities are now being able in using safe drinking water
- Sanitary latrines are now servicing the slum people and have contributed greatly to reducing diseases.
- By providing with environmental, hygienic, sanitation training the community people are much better than before, diseases reducing.
- 2 drums for garbage have been provided which is being maintained by the community
- Drainage system has been developed and local area now cleaned and free from bad smell.
- Local people are aware on how to protect themselves during fire hazard.

The role of the direct and indirect partners/stakeholders:
Our direct partners are Community people, especially community committee members. Besides, community lawyer, Doctor and local influential persons are also assisting for keeping the area clean and healthy through their field visit and awareness raising.
Opportunities from outside the project that helped boost the results of the projects:
Local Ward commissioner, Staff of city corporation and WASA official helped us a lot to implement the project activities successfully. Otherwise, it was not possible to complete it properly.

Barriers faced while implementing the project:

a) Mastan problems
b) Initially, community people did not want to contribute anything, but through dialogue and motivation, things were solved

Lessons learned for the future:

a) Involvement community people for their area development
b) Formation of management committee
c) Effect of local-local dialogue
d) Involvement local Ward Commissioner

Human Rights:
Bangladesh has ratified a number of International human rights conventions. These include the following:

- Convention for the suppression of Traffic in persons and for Exploitation of the Prostitution of other (1049).
- Anti Slavery Convention (1956).
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979)
- International Covenant on Economic social and Cultural rights (1966)
- Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuma or Degrading Treatment of Punishment (1984)
• Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948)
• International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families (1990)
• Convention on the Political Rights of Women (1953)
• Convention on consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration Marriages.
• The Convention on the Rights of the Child was ratified more rapidly than any previous international convention, followed closely by CEDAW. Despite the widespread ratification of CEDAW, however, it holds the record in terms of reservations by States Parties.
• The Condemnation of discrimination against women in all its forms and the pursuit by all appropriate means and without delay of a policy of eliminating such discrimination
• Ensuring equal rights between men and women to family benefits.
• Ensuring equal rights and responsibilities between men and women regarding guardianship, wardship, trusteeship and adoption of children or similar institutions where these concepts exist in national legislation, the interests of the children being paramount in all cases.

**Way forward**

As we move toward developing a New Urban Agenda, it must be aligned with and strengthen the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The New Urban Agenda must take an integrated approach and respect and strengthen the links between SDG11, SDG5 and alongside every single SDG. The SDG 5 on Gender Equality specifically seeks to “End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere,” and recognizes the social and economic role played by women and girls worldwide which specifically recognizes the social and economic role played by women and girls worldwide. The New Urban Agenda must do the same in formally engaging women of all levels of society in the context of urban development and partnership building. Women of all levels- even in slums- have distinct perspectives and innovative solutions to urban issues. To be truly effective, governments in metropolitan areas, especially those which are rapidly outgrowing their administrative
capacity, must integrate these perspectives and solutions in order to best serve their populations.

**Gender equality:**

Women rights is a highly talked about issue amongst the human civilization for years together. Women comprise about half of our total population and we cannot achieve the goals of our development by showing negligence to them. Hence, it is imperative to ensure their rights. Equal rights of all have also been enshrined in our constitution.

According to experts, it is vital to ensure equal participation of women in every sector in order to achieve gender equality. Males have to change their mindset towards women and stay beside women in establishing their rights. In order to ensure equal participation of women, a women friendly atmosphere has to be created at work place.

In Bangladesh, women constitute a great majority of the population. Therefore, their development is prerequisite to national development. Taking into consideration the relatively disadvantaged position of women, the government emphasizes on ensuring their socio-economic development.

Bangladesh is signatories to various charters on advancement of women and committed to implement these. Several existed laws have been amended and a few new ones enacted in Bangladesh for prevention of violence against women and girl child. Although considerable progress has been made, much more still needs to be done. The government hoped to achieve the goals in future with the united efforts of all.

**Urban Thinkers Campus:**

The Urban Thinkers Campus (UTC) is an initiative of the UN-Habitat World Urban Campaign. The UTC was conceived as an open space for critical exchange between urban researchers, professionals, stakeholders, actors and decision-makers who view urbanization as an opportunity for positive transformation overwhelming potential for innovation and a better life. The UTC is also intended as a platform to build consensus between partners engaged in addressing urbanization challenges and proposing solutions to urban futures. Hosted by the Coalition for the Urban Poor, with support from the Huairou Commission and
Participatory Development Action Program (PDAP), the Urban Thinkers Campus “The Participatory & People-Centered New Urban Agenda” will take place in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 20-21 May 2017. As Quazi Baby is a member of Huairou Commission, she has got this opportunity to organize the UTC 2017 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

**The Dhaka Urban Thinkers Campus**

Bangladesh is one of the fastest urbanizing countries in the world. Since independence, its urban population has grown at about 6% annually. The number of urban areas increased five-fold in less than twenty years and is concentrated in the four largest cities: Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi. Dhaka is the epicenter of Bangladesh’s urban expansion and is said to be the fastest growing city in the world – it is currently estimated that 400,000 migrants, mainly poor and from rural areas, continue to arrive each year. Of an urban population of 44 million people in 2010, an estimated 9.4 million people (21.3 per cent) are living in absolute poverty, and 3.4 million (7.7 per cent) are in extreme poverty with consumption levels of around 1,805 Kcal per day or less. Urban migration is largely a result of seeking better educational and employment opportunities, especially in the readymade garments sector. Push factors are also important: While most people migrate for economic reasons, more than 26% do so for environment and climate related reasons such as natural disasters, river erosion and recurrent flooding. These new arrivals are concentrated in urban slums; as squatters, they are living in poor environmental conditions, having little access to urban basic services.

PDAP and Coalition for Urban Poor have been engaged in improving the socio-economic conditions of the urban poor for many years in Bangladesh. Based on the experiences in working with the poor communities and their local representatives, it has been observed that the people on the ground who really contribute to urban development activities are not discussed in planning, nor included in the implementation of any development programme, instead being viewed as clients or recipients. Furthermore, elected representatives at local level remain in many cases unaware of the critical urban issues facing the urban poor.
For these reasons, the Coalition for the Urban Poor and PDAP have organized a participatory Urban Thinkers Campus led by and focused on women and others at the grassroots level, who contribute most toward urban development. Its objectives are:

(a) Sharing the New Urban Agenda for better understanding at the local level
(b) Strengthen the engagement of urban poor community, local representatives and private sector in implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
(c) Develop a declaration that lays out an agreed strategy for future courses of action

What is the New Urban Agenda?
The New Urban Agenda (NUA) was adopted by countries around the world at the U.N. Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in October 2016 in Quito, Ecuador. With over half of the world’s population now living in cities, and the projection that a substantial majority of the world’s population will live in urban centers this century, the New Urban Agenda is a action-oriented document intended to guide equitable and democratic urban growth. The document outlines transformative commitments for sustainable urban development, including to elevate social inclusion and end poverty, foster inclusive urban prosperity and opportunities for all, and build environmental sustainability and urban resiliency. As a practical document, it also demarcates measures for effective implementation, including establishing a supportive framework for building urban governance structures, planning and managing urban spatial development, and follow up and review. Taken all together, the New Urban agenda rethinks the way we build, manage, and live in cities, and brings together partners and urban actors from across the stakeholder spectrum to turn this vision into reality.

The Grassroots Response to the New Urban Agenda

In the days leading up to the Habitat III Conference, the Huairou Commission hosted an International Grassroots. Under the theme “Community Innovations for Resilient and Sustainable Urbanization,” 43 community practitioners from Africa, Asia, and Latin America
and the Caribbean met over three days with the goal of strengthening the position and leadership of grassroots women in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. After discussing grassroots leadership in urban development and exchanging successful practices for New Urban Agenda implementation, participants delivered a statement on their relationship to the Habitat III process.

**Programme of the campus:**

The campus will be organized through an inaugural session, roundtable dialogues and a plenary session. Three roundtable session will be held –

1) Roundtable with Private sector/civil society
2) Roundtable with local Counselors/elected representatives (especially women)
3) Roundtable with grassroots leaders in the community (especially women)

After finishing all roundtable programme, emerging recommendations will be brought to discussion in the plenary session.

The concluding session will produce a joint Declaration for future courses of action.

**Expected out come of the campus:**

The principal expected outcome is a declaration that outlines future action, by private sector, local authorities, and grassroots women and men. The goal of these actions is to engender inclusive urban planning and development that addresses the needs of the people on the ground.

**Media and outreach:**

Editor of “The Asian age” and other press and electronic media will provide appropriate coverage of the event for publicity. We can also pursue for organizing “talk show” through electronic media to disseminate the New Urban Agenda in their regular publication.
Result:

Since 1995 Quazi Baby has been working near about 50 projects. Most of the projects are women right, girls rights, child rights, disaster risk Reduction, environmental development, gender equality, land/ housing rights and issue based advocacy on different policy implementation. As Ms. Quazi Baby is a member of many national and international organizations (i.e. Coalition for the Urban Poor, Breaking the Silence, Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB), Huairou Commission etc.) from which she has acquired experience in the area of human rights and other related fields.

Quazi Baby has received some international awards/scholarships- i.e. Honorary Doctorate award from Sapporo University, Japan (the issue was “Forced slum eviction in Dhaka city : a Human rights issue for the Women”), attended as a Speaker in 2nd international Housing Forum (held in Philippine) and attended at CSW56 session which was Yvonne Hebert scholarship from UN Women, New York and UNISDR for attending at Sendai framework for action, Japan. Besides, she has been selected as an Expert by UN Habitat for policy unit 4. Quazi Baby is so proud for receiving the above mentioned reward from different international organization. Quazi Baby also invited to attend at GNDR summit, supported by GNDR secretariat and invited by UN Habitat, Open ended consultation meeting, supported by UN Habitat

Conclusion:

After working on environmental education and slum improvement project with different slum areas in Dhaka city, awareness is increasing among the local people about the use of pure drinking water, use of sanitary latrines, to dispose the garbage properly. Despite some local problems, we have seen enough enthusiasm among the local people about this project. They are now motivated that they will try to keep their area clean.