

Project No. 29

REGIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOLS (RTS) FOR UNDER PRIVILEGED YOUTH AND WOMEN

Principle:

Skilled workforce for nation building, prosperity and peace.

Objective:

The main objectives of the project are mentioned below:

- To make the learners skilled in different marketable trades;
- To link up/introduce the graduates with available sources of loan/capital;
- To enhance small business management capacity of the trainees; and
- To introduce/link up the graduates with sources and areas of employment opportunities.

Background:

The Regional Technical Schools (RTS) project started in July 1994. The current phase-V of the project started in January 2009 and will end in December 2011. Earlier, the project had a bridging period for six months from July to December 2008. This report combines the information of both bridging period and six months of current phase-V of the project.

Staff Strength: Total-84 (Male-76, Female-8).

Donor: Misereor, Germany.

Expenditure:

The following information represents the total expenses made during the reporting period.

Foreign Partner's Contribution	: Tk. 13,922,007
Local Partner's Contribution	: <u>Tk. 6,283,689</u>
Total	: Tk. 20,205,696

Beneficiaries:

The following information represents the information on the total beneficiaries covered under the project service and benefits.

Particulars	Male	Female	Total
Direct:	247	74	321
Indirect:	1482	444	1,926
Total	1729	518	2,247

The Table above shows that the project offered technical training in different trades and other services to a total of 2,247 (321 direct and 1,926 indirect) beneficiaries during the reporting period. Out of total beneficiaries 518 were female.

Target and Achievements:

Sl. No.	Items/Activities	Achievement as on June 2008	Performance in FY 2008 – 2009			Cumulative as on June 2009
			Target	Achievement	% of Achievement	
01	Number of Units	07	07	07	100	07
02	Number of admitted trainees	4,834	336	346	103	5,180
03	Number of graduates	3,795	346	321	93	4,116
04	Number of employed/self-employed graduates	2,822	324	278	86	3,100
05	Number of staff trained	301	30	29	97	330

The Table above shows that total 346 (75 female) trainees were admitted during the reporting year, out of whom 321 trainees (74 female) passed out. On the other hand, total 278 (66 female) graduate trainees have got employment/involved in self-employment in local, urban and city areas. Apart from this, the project provided professional skills training to 29 instructors during the reporting period.

Impact:

After the completion of training course, the graduated trainees have become skilled and they are earning money through employment and self-employment. They contribute to their families by bearing expenses of food, medical treatment and education of their brothers and sisters. Thus their standard of living is improving. Indigenous youth and women (*Adivasi*) graduates are getting an opportunity to work in different companies, industries and garments factories in urban and city areas.

Conclusion:

Vocational education is one of the most important tools for poverty reduction. The Government of Bangladesh gives due attention to this issue. However, through the Government established vocational training centres all rural drop out youths are not covered yet. The Regional Technical Schools project is also trying to contribute towards nation building by means of making youth and women technically skilled and resourceful through different technical trades. Meanwhile, the project is trying to become self-reliant through income of the production unit. In the reporting year (2008-09) the project contributed 50% of the running cost from production income.

Shaymoli Owns a Tailoring Shop!

Shaymoli Parvin (22), daughter of Md. Shakha Uddin comes of a landless and poor family. She is an inhabitant of Sonamasna village in Nachole *upazila* (sub-district) under Chapai Nowabganj district. Her father divorced her mother and married another women. Now Shaymoli lives in Govt. land with her mother and other family members. There was no source of income for them. Therefore, they could not meet their basic needs at all. She was compelled to discontinue her studies from secondary level. In the circumstances, she was married to a truck driver. Six months later her husband left her. So she became a neglected person in the family and society. She kept on trying to get a job but she failed. She was always anxious about her family and looked for an opportunity to acquire professional skills to become self-reliant. In January 2008 she underwent a training course on tailoring offered by Padma Mobile Technical Training Center at Sonaichondi Bazar. She attended the course regularly and successfully completed it in June 2008.

The course increased Shaymoli's confidence and helped her to be self-employed. She started to save some money that she got as stipend from the Technical Training Center. After completion of the course she bought a sewing machine with Tk. 4500/- and started a tailoring shop at Sonaichondi bazar. She purchased cloths for her business. Now on an average her monthly income is Tk. 4000/=(Four thousand) which is spent to buy daily necessities. Her dignity in society has increased. She takes part in social work and her decision-making ability is increasing day by day.

She saves some money for future. Shaymoli says, "I was very happy to receive the training from Caritas Technical Schools Project to change my life as a regular earner for our family. Now I am able to earn money for my family. Financially I am almost self-dependent. People respect me. I am ever grateful to Caritas."

Harinando is a Model for Other Disabled Youth

Harinando Tirky (18) is a tribal disabled young man. He is from a poor and landless family consisting of five members. His father Bishownath Tirky is a day laborer and his mother Sreemoti Budhuni Rani is a housewife. Harinando lives with his parents in a small village under Gomostapur *upazila* (sub-district) in Chapai Nowabganj district. He studied up to class eight. He could not be continue his studies on account of financial hardship. At that moment he came to know that Caritas provides technical training for school dropout students. He duly sat for the admission test arranged by Bonpara Brittimulok Karigori Biddyaloy which is situated in Natore district. He was selected and in January 2008 he started to receive training on electronic trade. He completed a one-year course successfully and graduated in December 2008.

Then he joined a workshop as a machine at Bonpara bazar, Boraigram, Natore. In the workshop he repairs radio, television, D.V.D player. By virtue of his dedication, commitment and hard work within a short time he has become a reputed technician in the locality. Now he earns Tk. 2200/=(Two thousand two hundred taka) per month.

Harinando is now on the path to be self-reliant. He is responsible and gladly bears a portion of his family expenditure. His social dignity has increased. The villagers respect and honor him. He takes part in social activities and in the mediation of conflict resolution. He is very grateful to Caritas for the opportunity that has formed him into a skilled person. Harinando is happy to become self-employed in the true sense.