

Project No. 34

REHABILITATION AND EMPOWERMENT OF THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED PERSONS (REVIP)

Principle:

Rehabilitation and empowerment of the visually impaired persons is a moral responsibility of the community.

Objectives of the Project:

The main objectives of this project are as under:

- To make the mass people aware in order to ensure preventive measures related to blindness issues;
- To make the mass people aware of the curable eye diseases, means and sources of necessary treatment;
- To initiate steps in order to ensure access of the blind children to education with necessary education materials; and
- To rehabilitate the visually impaired persons in their own community with due dignity and respect.

Background:

After the completion of the one-year pilot project of the REVIP in June 2007, the three-year second phase of this project started in July 2007. The present phase will end in June 2010. The reporting year is the second year of the current phase of the project.

Staff Strength:

Total-10 (Male-6, Female-4)

Donor:

Andheri Hilfe Bonn, Germany.

Expenditure:

Foreign Partner's Contribution Tk. 4,248,060

Beneficiaries:

Direct : Male: 2,801 Female 3,424 :Total: 6,225

Indirect : Male: 7,750 Female: 8,749 Total: 16,508

Target and Achievement:

Sl	Activities June-2008	Achievement as on June-2008	Performances in FY 2007-2008			Cumulative as on June-2008
			Target	Achievement	% of Achievement	
01.	Seminar on "Blindness and Our Role"	11	12	12	100	23
a)	Participants	495	480	647	135	1142
02.	Seminar on "Prevention Early Childhood Blindness & Our Role"	16	8	8	100	24
a)	Participants	980	400	440	110	1420

Sl	Activities June-2008	Achievement as on June-2008	Performances in FY 2007-2008			Cumulative as on June-2008
			Target	Achievement	% of Achievement	
3.	Orientation Meeting / Training	1	1	1	100	2
4.	Follow-up Training On CBR for the RIVIP project Staff	1	1	1	100	2
(a)	No. Of Participant	6	10	11	110	17
5.	Rural Mid-wife Training	1	2	1	50	2
(a)	No. Of Participant	24 all are women	24	18	75	24 all are women
6.	National / In. National disable day observance	4	6	6	100	10
a)	No. Of Participant	290	600	718	120	1008
7.	Bi-Monthly Meeting	8	6	6	100	14
8.	Housing & Latrine Support for the poor VIPs	88	20	21	100	109
9.	White Cane distribution	596	25	25	100	621
10.	Credit Support to VIPs for IGA	30	80	103	129	133
11.	Linkage for Free Eye Treatment	96	-	26	-	122
12.	Low Vision Aid Support	13	40	35	88	48
13.	Education Support for VI Students	17	20	20	100	37
14.	Develop IEC Materials (Poster, Sticker etc.):	0	5000	5000	100	5000
	Poster	0	500	500	100	500
	Sticker					
15.	Arrange Screening Eye Camp	-	4	4	100	4
16.	Provide necessary supports for DLS	-	120 VIPs	61 VIPs	51	61 VIPs
17.	Medicines and spectacles supports for the persons with RE	-	200	203	102	203
18.	Need Based Skill Development Training for Identified VIPs.	0	1	0	0	0

The above table shows that most of the activities were completed except the need based skill development training. It could not be conducted because there was no such training center (skill training center for the visually impaired persons) in nearby places of the working areas. Therefore, the visually impaired persons, especially the young people and their guardians are reluctant to go to the skill training centers, which are far away from the working areas.

Results:

- In the working area the community people are now sensitized to the visually impaired persons. They are taken care of by their kith and kin.
- Common people are aware of the fact that there are some curable eye diseases and they now know available sources of necessary treatment.
- Awareness has developed among the masses about prevention of early childhood blindness.
- After receiving the daily living skills training visually impaired persons' dependence on others has reduced and their mobility is on the increase.
- The REVIP project has ensured the linkage support with BNSB eye hospitals for better eye treatment (both in hospitals and eye camps).
- Through utilizing the interest free loan support the visually impaired persons are gradually involving themselves in income generating activities. Though this process the visually impaired persons are generating their own capital, which in turn develops their self-confidence.
- After receiving housing facility from this project a number of poor visually impaired persons have got secure shelter with social dignity.

Conclusion:

At the beginning of the second year of the current phase the project, Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Approach was introduced for the rehabilitation and empowerment of the visually impaired persons. Caritas through this project is trying its best to cure the visually impaired persons as well as to rehabilitate them in society with full dignity and respect.

Visually Impaired Goni Again Has Become a Trader

Goni Mondol (60), is an inhabitant of village Sonarpara in Ghoraghat *upazila* under Dinajpur district. He has two sons, one daughter. He lost his eyesight due to sickness when he was five years old.

He runs an oil seed-grinding machine. His elder son got married, left his parents and formed a nuclear family with his wife only. Therefore, it was very difficult for him to maintain his family. Then he passed his days with hardship. Three years ago his oil seed-grinding machine became out of order but he could not repair it for want of money. As a result he became unemployed. Then he started begging, as he had no other means to support the family. In the mean time Rehabilitation and Empowerment of the Visually Impaired person (REVIP) project assisted him, as he was a blind person. Through REVIP he received Tk. 8, 000/- as interest free loan on 11/02/2008. Goni Mondol had grinding machine repaired. Again his trade began in full swing. He repaid the money in some installments within one year. Goni Mondol now sells pure mustard oil in the neighboring villages and *bazaars* (local market) and he earns Tk. 2,550/- per month. He further took another loan of Tk.15, 000/- and invested the money for cow fattening. Under this project he received a white cane for safe movement and also he got one low cost shelter (house) for Tk. 50,000/- for peaceful dwelling. His children now have enough food and good clothing and they go to school regularly. The family has regained its social dignity. Now Goni Mondol is very happy. He said, "REVIP has freed me from the curse of begging. I am ever grateful to Caritas."