

Project No. 39

REPRODUCTIVE AND CHILD HEALTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (RCHDP)

Principle:

A healthy and responsible community is a pre-requisite for a developed nation.

Main objective of the Project:

To improve reproductive health situation of the targeted communities.

Background of the Project:

Natural Family Planning Project (NFP), which was re-named as Community Health and Natural Family Planning (CH-NFP), started in 1976. Based on the evaluation in 2002, "Reproductive and Child Health Development Project (RCHDP)" was initiated under CH-NFP. This is the third year of the 2nd phase of RCHDP.

Staff Strength: Total-26 (Male-13 and Female-13)

Donor : Misereor, Germany.

Expenditure :

Foreign Partner's contribution	:Tk. 7,726,863
Local Partner's contribution	:Tk. 1,041,891
Total	:Tk. 8,768,754

a) **Beneficiaries (No) :** Direct: Male - 3,795 Female - 14,466 Total 18,261
Indirect: Male - 5,586 Female - 13,640 Total 19,226

b) **Beneficiaries Contribution (Tk.):** 933,050/-

Target and Achievement:

The table given below shows the information of target and achievements of the project activities during the reporting period.

Sl.	Items/Activities	Achievements as on June 2008	Performances in FY 2008-2009			Cumulative as on June 2009
			Target	Achievements	% of Achievement	
1.	Reproductive Health and Gender training service					
1.1	Reproductive Health and Gender group training for group and com. members	47,492	3,300	2,669	81	50,161
1.2	Follow up on RH and gender	2,351	8,640	8,350	97	10,701
1.3	Health Day observation	9,253	600	1,126	187	10,379
1.4	Marriage Preparation training	18,684	800	1214	152	19,898
1.5	FLE and NFP training for couples	27,034	440	551	125	27,585
1.6	NFP tra. for social and religious leaders	686	50	45	90	731
1.7	OM users follow-up for	78,679	120	139	116	78,818

Sl.	Items/Activities	Achievements as on June 2008	Performances in FY 2008-2009			Cumulative as on June 2009
			Target	Achievements	% of Achievement	
	couples					
1.8	Counseling on Family Planning and RH	37,862	1,000	920	92	38,782
1.9	PHC/RH/CH training for ICDP staff	373	35	49	140	422
1.10	AIDS Day observation	7,270	3,000	3,092	103	10,362
1.11	HIV/AIDS, Sexual Health and Gender seminar facilitated by Core Trainers	3,745	-	1,745	-	5,490
1.12	PHC/FP/Gender awareness training for Caritas Projects beneficiaries	18,991	-	4,525	-	23,516
1.13	Health care (PHC & RH) for dispenser's staff	500	-	72	-	572
2.	Adolescent's/Youths service					
2.1	ARH and FLE discussion meeting with community leaders and parents	336	160	170	106	506
2.2	ARH and FLE discussion meeting with school teachers and parents	419	540	414	77	833
2.3	ARH and FLE workshop with peer group at community level	3061	640	638	100	3,699
2.4	ARH and FLE training for school going adolescents	693	540	694	129	1,387
2.5	Human Sexuality and Family Life Education training for S.S.C. HSC and formation house students	18,160	1,240	2,227	180	20,387
3.	Health Voluntee's/Seboks Service					
3.1	Reproductive Health Basic and Follow up training for new Seboks	32	32	26	81	58
3.2	Follow up and supervision for Previous Seboks (2 times)	483	366	239	65	483
4.	Skill Development training of staff					
4.1	Follow up training on ARH and FLE	-	20	20	100	20
4.2	Executive understanding development	-	-	1	-	1
4.3	Reproductive health's right and gender	-	-	1	-	1

Sl.	Items/Activities	Achievements as on June 2008	Performances in FY 2008-2009			Cumulative as on June 2009
			Target	Achievements	% of Achievement	
4.4	English language course	-	-	5	-	5
5.	General Activities					
5.1	Half yearly staff co-ordination meeting	330	22	22	100	352
5.2	No of monthly planning and follow-up	269	108	108	100	377
5.3	No of meeting attended at <i>upazila</i> and Region	180	96	96	100	276
5.4	No of Managing Committee meeting	96	3	2	67	98
5.5	No of print Appointment Diary	15,000	6,000	8,000	133	23,000
5.6	No of print Year Planner	1,200	600	600	100	1800
5.7	No of days monitoring by CPO staff	135	120	106	88	241

The above Table shows that 2,669 group and community members received 20 lessons on reproductive health and gender training for the first time and 8,350 members received follow-up training. Ten core trainers disseminated HIV/AIDS, gender and sexual health related information and knowledge through seminar, training and AIDS day observation. A total of 584 parents and teachers participated in the discussion meeting and 1,332 adolescents received life skill training on 'Reproductive Health and Family Life Education'. Subsequently 2,227 students of post SSC and HSC received one day training on 'Human Sexuality and Family Life Education'. A follow up training was conducted for new *seboks* (health volunteers) at central level and follow up visits for 308 previous *seboks* were arranged.

Impacts:

- Treatment expenses for reproductive diseases have decreased as a mother and her baby have usually less complications.
- Ninety two percent children are immunized. Incidents of low weight of newborns and child's death have become low.
- The trained adolescents have stopped going to the quack for treatment of their diseases. They share their knowledge and skills with their friends. The trained parents also discuss the reproductive health issue with their adolescent girls.
- Sense of gender equity in the trained couples' life and families is increasing.
- Majority of the *seboks* skillfully disseminate reproductive health knowledge at individual and group level discussions and refer pregnant women with complicity to the doctor/clinics.

Conclusion:

Misereor approved the third phase of the project for a period of three years from July 2009 to June 2012 with 40% local contribution. With this challenge RCHDP is playing a vital role for capacity building on psychosocial aspects of adolescents, improving basic concept of reproductive health and gender awareness and strengthening the capacity of *seboks* and Union Health Committee members so that they can strengthen their practice at the grassroots level. It is expected that the aspired plan would be implemented in cooperation with all stakeholders with a view to saving numerous pregnant mothers and their babies.

Reja Has Got a New Life

Reja understood his mistake, gave up bad habits and regained courage for studies. He got admission into school again. Now he works in an electronic shop for five hours a day and earns Tk. 1000-/ per month. His parents and community people are really happy to observe the changes that have taken place in Reja's life.

Mohammad Masum Reja (15) son of Md. Yasin Ali lives in the village of Shahapur under Reshikul union of Godagari *upazila* (sub-district) in Rajshahi district. Reja is the only son of his parents. He has three sisters. Reja is a student of class nine. His parents want Reja to continue his studies regularly.

Unfortunately he was addicted to processed juice of Palmyra-fruit (locally made alcohol) when he was in class IX in 2007. He would steal different things of his house and sell them to arrange money for drugs. He did not listen to what his parents told him to do and became very disobedient. He started an indisciplined life and stopped going to school. Reja's health also broke down. He would come back home at dead of night. If his parents asked him to explain the causes of being late he got angry and misbehaved with them.

His father was a member of Caritas organized group of Integrated Human Development Project (IHDP). He was very active there. In one of group trainings he discussed his son's problem and requested the Field Officer of Reproductive and Child Health Development Project (RCHDP) to extend a helping hand to the family. Giving a positive response, the group organized a workshop for ten adolescents including Reja on "Reproductive Health and Family Life Skill Training" as per guidelines of the RCHD project. In the training session a topic on 'drug addiction' was included. All of them attended the course and their interest increased after joining the first session. In the workshop Caritas personnel took special care of Reja. Each of the participants committed themselves to follow the lessons learned about different issues such as puberty, friendship, sexual diseases and prevention, demerits of drugs, moral values, early marriage and how to say 'NO' to drug.

During the closing day of the workshop Reja explained his feeling that previously he was frustrated and considered his life meaningless. He further said, "Now I have a positive view about my life and my self-confidence is gradually increasing. I believe I can build up my career in future." After Reja had completed a six-month long training course organized by Mobile Trade School (MTS) of Caritas on electronics he got a part-time job. He has become attentive to studies and will appear in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination in 2011. At present Reja learns and earns simultaneously and utilizes his time intelligently. He said, "Reproductive Health and Family Life Skill Training and counseling helped me to step into a new life."