

## Project No. 43

### DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES FOR THE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (DIPD)

#### Principle:

Integration of 14 million people with disabilities (PWDs) in all development initiatives is a prerequisite for the authentic development of our nation.

#### Objectives:

The main objectives of the project are mentioned below:

- To sensitize the teachers and authorities to integrate the PWDs in the mainstream education and vocational training institutes;
- To create a positive attitude towards the PWDs through raising awareness in the community;
- To empower the PWDs through providing direct supports and strengthening disability movements; and
- To ensure human resource development and mainstreaming disability as a crosscutting development issue in all Caritas programs/projects.

#### Background:

Caritas Bangladesh in collaboration with Catholic Dioceses of Bangladesh initiated the pilot project titled Work with the Disabled (WWD), which ended in December 2006. The second three-year phase started in January 2007 and will be ended in December 2009.

**Staff strength:** Total-8 (Male-7, Female-1) and 6 Volunteers (all Male)

#### Donors:

Diozese of Rottenburg Stuttgart, Germany and Caritas Korea

**Expenditure:** Foreign Partners' Contribution : Tk. 6,074,875  
Local Partners' Contribution : Tk. 39,865  
Total : Tk. 6,114,740

**Beneficiaries:** Direct : Male 1,906, Female 2,729, Total = 4,635  
Indirect : Male 8,839, Female 12,498, Total = 21,337

#### Target and Achievements:

During the reporting period the main achievements are:

Sl. No.	Activities	Achievement up to June '08	Performance in FY-'08-'09			Cumulative as on June '09
			Target	Achievement	% of Achievement	
<b>1.</b>	<b>Area selection and survey</b>					
1.1	Select new working area (union)	12	2	2	100	14
1.2	Survey on the PWDs	991	-	227	-	1218
1.3	Survey on local resource & services	26	-	15	-	41
<b>2.</b>	<b>Day observance</b>					
2.1	a) International Day	7	7	7	100	14
	b) Participants	832	700	1,313	188	2,145

Sl. No.	Activities	Achievement up to June '08	Performance in FY-'08-'09			Cumulative as on June '09
			Target	Achievement	% of Achievement	
2.2	a) National Day	7	7	7	100	14
	b) Participants	1,875	700	1,006	144	2,881
2.3	a) World White Cane Safety Day	4	7	6	86	10
	b) Participants	389	350	556	159	945
2.4	a) Int. Human Rights Day	3	7	5	71	8
	b) Participants	415	350	365	104	780
<b>3</b>	<b>Seminars</b>					
3.1	a) Seminars of teachers	35	14	10	71	45
	b) Participants	1,582	700	417	60	1,999
3.2	a) Seminars of students	28	14	13	93	41
	b) Participants	1,822	700	941	134	2,763
3.3	a) Seminars of the PWDs & others	16	26	21	81	37
	b) Participants	1,921	1300	1270	98	3,191
3.4	a) Seminars of youths	23	14	13	93	36
	b) Participants	1,790	700	756	108	2,546
3.5	a) Diocesan seminars	29	7	10	143	39
	b) Participants	10,808	0	2,412	-	13,220
3.6	a) Meeting with Principals	10	14	12	86	22
	b) Participants	135	280	210	75	345
3.7	a) Provide CWDs with ADL	5	14	13	93	18
	b) Participants	144	140	297	212	441
3.8	a) Form Self-Help Groups	4	7	11	157	15
	b) Participants	78	0	113	0	191
3.9	a) Meeting with SHGs	9	210	70	33	79
	b) Participants	175	0	1105	0	1,280
3.10	Training on Disability and Dev. for SHGs	0	14	13	93	13
	b) Participants	0		436		436
3.11	Training on Human Rights-SHG	0	14	13	93	13
	b) Participants	0		474		474
<b>4.</b>	<b>Direct support to the PWDs</b>					
4.1	Assistive devices	200	63	39	62	239
4.2	Educational support	70	56	126	225	195
4.3	Eye treatment (BNSB) & surgery	80	63	89	141	169
4.4	Income generating activities	33	14	61	436	94
<b>5.</b>	<b>Meetings</b>					
5.1	PIC Meetings	15	3	3	100	18
5.2	Staff Coordination Meetings	21	6	6	100	27
<b>6.</b>	<b>Staff trainings</b>					

Sl. No.	Activities	Achievement up to June '08	Performance in FY-'08-'09			Cumulative as on June '09
			Target	Achievement	% of Achievement	
6.1	Exposure on CBR-India (Participants)		12	12	100	12
6.2	Training of Trainers (Participants)	5	1	1	100	6
6.3	Training on SHGs and exposure (Participants)	0	7	7	100	7

### Impacts:

- The people with disabilities have received assistive devices, treatment, technical trainings, IGA support, counseling, Activities of Daily Living (ADL), physiotherapy, etc. from the DIPD project and they are capable of earning their livelihoods. Many adults have gone back to their previous professions. This support has minimized further effects of the impairment. So the probable expenses of treatment have also decreased.
- Their caregivers are released as the device receivers can move by themselves and are able to do their daily activities on their own. The cleft palate and lip operated marriageable girls' parents are now free from the tension of paying dowry as the surgical operations have fully removed their deformities.
- The community people show positive attitude towards the people with disabilities by keeping them at home, calling them by their names instead of deafness, blindness, lameness, etc. People from fellow feeling also invite them to various social programs i.e. wedding, birthday, Christmas, Eid, village fairs, cultural functions etc.
- A total of 126 students with disabilities has got admission into mainstream schools and vocational institutes. They receive general education in disabled-friendly environment by obtaining cooperation of friends, teachers, guardians and others. Teachers with positive attitude pay attention to them. In technical schools people with disabilities are getting training on the trades of sewing, electrical, mechanicals, etc.
- Community people along with the social leaders, religious leaders, well wishers have been socially and spiritually inspired to integrate the people with disabilities into social, religious and cultural activities.

### Conclusion:

The DIPD staff members are working in cooperation with religious representatives, community people and people with disabilities. Now the community people believe that the people with disabilities have abilities to earn their livelihoods. The guardians, teachers and other students help the pupils with disabilities in all respects. The project staff members are working hand in hand with like-minded people and organizations to inspire them to uphold positive attitudes towards the PWDs. Efforts are also being made to integrate the people with disability into cultural, religious, social and spiritual aspects.

## Khajamuddin Can Operate His Handloom Again

Md. Khajamuddin (55) is no more a physically disabled person. He is able to walk and move anywhere he likes and the artificial limb he uses looks like as an original leg.

Md. Khajamuddin lives at Monikura village in Haluaghat *upazila* (sub-district) under Mymensingh district. There are six members in his family. They have a small tin-shed house to live in. Since Khajamuddin does not have any agricultural land, he operates a handloom factory and makes bed sheet, shawl, scarf, doc sharee (women dress) and gamcha (towel). It is the only source of income for his family.

Md. Khajamuddin had suffered from skin disease for long 15 years. His condition became so bad that his left leg was amputated from the knee joint in 2004. At that difficult time, he tried to move with stick. While walking it was hard for Khajamuddin to keep balance. He faced difficulties in performing day-to-day activities without additional support. As Khajamuddin was unable to move to nearby market he could not sell his products in the market and elsewhere. He was about to stop operating his handloom.

In May 2005, his family members shared their suffering and frustration with the Development Initiative for People with Disability (DIPD) project staff members of Caritas Mymensingh Region. Following an assessment conducted by Caritas personnel, Khajamuddin was provided with an artificial limb and given Tk. 5,000 to buy cotton so that he could restart his handloom.



By means of hard work Khajamuddin along with his family members resumed producing quality cloths and could sell the same in different places. Since then he has been carrying on his trade. People buy those quality cloths. The family now earns Tk. 4,000 a month. The DIPD support solved their economic crisis and removed communication barriers. Now he is also able to attend social activities and DIPD awareness seminars. He enjoys social dignity and the neighboring people behave with him well.

*Khajamuddin's family members are happy to get the assistance and expressed deep gratitude to Caritas Bangladesh for such generous support.*