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A REHABILITATION CENTER FOR SEX WORKERS

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ABSTRACT

Around 200,000 women operate as sex workers in Bangladesh. There are 20 brothel villages in the country where prostitution is legal and the number of illegal settlements is undetermined. Many NGOs estimate that most of the women that are brought to the brothels are minors. Obviously most of them do not come into this business out of self will. Many are forced to enter this trade at a very young age. These women spend the most important time of their lives in this trade and do not get enough education, sometimes none at all. Therefore, none of them develop any skills in their lives. So even if they want to leave this profession and adapt to more socially acceptable lifestyles, they can't. Because they lack the skill sets. These women are constantly abused, medically experimented on and devoid of all kinds of basic human rights. Not only are they viewed as members of the untouchable Bangladeshi society but also they have no support from their family or the government. The real issue with these sex workers is that they cannot get out of this trade because they have no other skills to utilize. These women mother a large number of children who also do not get the proper education to enter the skilled work force. These women and their children do not have access to proper health care and many of their medical problems are overlooked, resulting into a higher mortality rate among these sex workers and their offspring. "শর্ভ" aims to provide a safe haven for these sex workers currently working in Daulatdia - biggest brothel in the country, housing over 1500 women. The project will be funded by Sex Workers Network which is one of the only NGOs who are working in Bangladesh within this sector. The project will provide housing facilities, vocational training center, primary education, and medical services. Initially the project will be designed to house 500 women - temporarily and some permanently. The project will also provide primary education for the children. The aim is to design a sanctuary for the women where they can rehabilitate physically and psychologically, resulting into a healthier normal lifestyle. The whole idea is to provide skills that they can use to enter other work force in the society.

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Chapter 1: Background of the project

1.1 PROJECT BRIEF

It is a rehab/training center for sex workers of Bangladesh. It will also serve as a primary and continuing educational center.

Project Name: Rehabilitation center for sex workers of Bangladesh

Client: Sex Workers Network

Site: Taek, Mymensingh

Project area: 13.2 acres

1.2 PROJECT INTRODUCTION

As a woman myself, I understand that there is nothing more degrading than being held against your will and forced to sell your dignity. But this is what the women are going through in many brothels in Bangladesh. The worst part is they have no way out to get out of this vicious life cycle. Through my work with various non-government organizations I have come in touch with some of these women, and it inspired me to do something for them. The sex workers in Bangladesh they don't have any skills beyond the kind of work that they do. And the government doesn't provide any kind of support for them. I am proposing a rehab where they can develop their skills and go on to living a normal and socially acceptable life. My objective is to design and create a place where these women can escape to a place where they will be provided education, training, medical care, and a safe place to stay. A place where their children will be safe and provided with education. A place that will work as an intermediary between their horrific past life and their bright future life. My ultimate goal is to provide these women with a place where they can safely come to, leave their past life behind and get prepared for a different more dignified future.



BROTHELS OF BANGLADESH

No. of sex workers	No. of children born in brothels	No. of women in Daulatdia	No. of children in Daulatdia
100,000	20,000	2,000	500-600

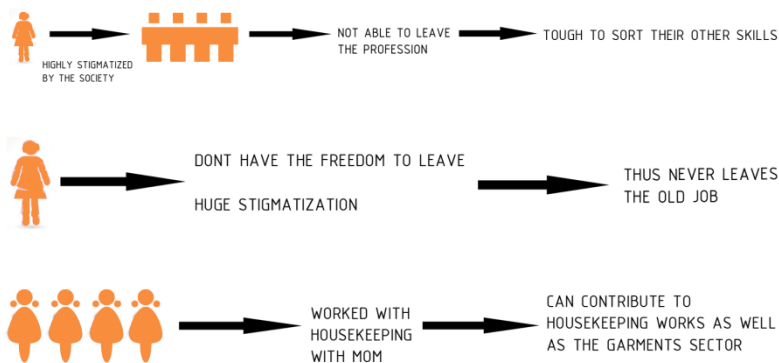
1.3 PROBLEM STATEMENTS

1) Economic problem- the women that choose this employment have no option to leave this life. In this job they are ill paid and they do not have the option of changing the profession due to lack of skills.

2) Social problem -their employment is not accepted and recognized by the society

3) Child welfare - the children born by these women are frowned upon by the society and got get education

4) Psychological & health issues - these women do not get the health facilities that they should be entitled to. The kind of job that they do, put a lot of psychological stress on these women



SEX WORKERS HAVE NO ACCESS TO



HEALTHCARE



EDUCATION

1.4 PROJECT RATIONALE

There are 20 officially sanctioned brothels in Bangladesh. Daulatdia alone is home to more than 1300 sex workers, who are used by 3000 men daily. The worst part is, the average age of the newly arrived sex workers is 14 years old. This project intends to rehabilitate these women into a more normal and respectable lifestyle. Thus validating its purpose.

Prostitution is a global issue that objectifies women. My focus would only be in Bangladesh because there is no government support and they are treated as the bottom feeders of our society. The girls, who arrive at these brothels at such an early age, have very little education and the only training they ever get is solicitation. The rehabilitation center that I am intending to design will train these women in various sectors and create new work force. Not only this will help them financially, as they were living for less than 150 Taka a day, it will also gain these women a more respectable position in the society. The living condition of these women currently is appalling and this project intends to improve their living conditions, thus contributing to the environment. This project will heavily focus on the offspring of these women and they will be provided with education and shelter too.

1.5 AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

- 1) Trying to eradicate prostitution by providing them job opportunities
- 2) Providing them education and training to develop their skills beyond their job sector
- 3) Providing education for the children who were born into the brothels

1.6 SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

- 1) Create a healthier environment
- 2) Increase work force
- 3) Intermediary to a better and respectable life
- 4) Employment
- 5) Psychological benefits
- 6) Women empowerment and rights

1.7 FUNCTIONS TO BE PROPOSED

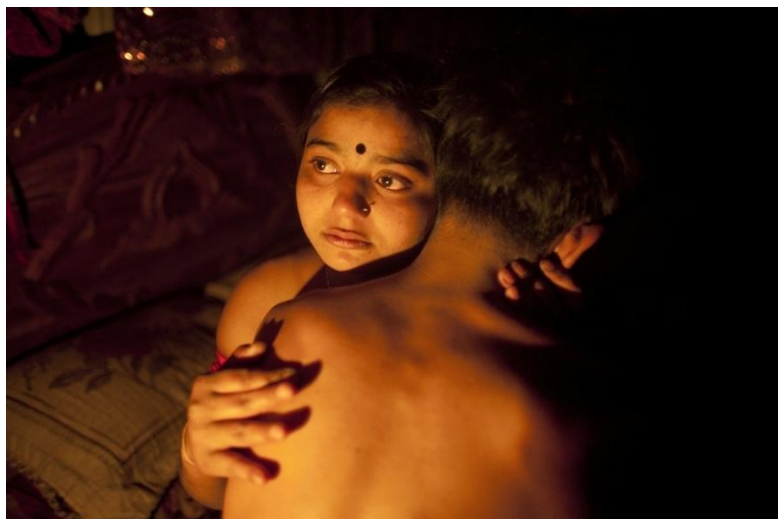
- Training center for the women
- Academic building for continuing education
- Medical center
- Primary school
- Dormitory for women and their children
- Day care center
- Counseling center
- Admin Building
- Admin housing
- Guest house
- Recreational spaces
- Help and job placement center
- Commercial zone

Chapter 2: Literature Review

In 25th April 2017, Urban Tales, in one of their perceptive articles, has revealed about a former sex worker Hazera Begum runs her own child care centre in downtown Dhaka, Bangladesh. She runs a household of 40, helped by some of the older kids, a cook and two teachers. Hazera struggled through life. Her mission now is to allow these children to study, pray, play, go to school and come home to a homely setting where they can all call her 'mom'. She wants them to have what she didn't get." She is doing a great job.

People like her are much needed in this society. It's amazing that how a single person is being the mother for 40 children, loving them as mother & giving them shelter. But do these children have safe future? As she was a victim how she will protect these innocent children. Administrative machineries should take responsibility. "Shishuder Jonno Aamra" means –"We are for the Children" began in July 2010 with 15 children and within one year period 30 street children have been taken over by SJA. The founder of the organization Hazera Bagum, a brave woman, who had the experience of staying on the street, has struggled through the life, made her own identity, won national and international awards for her strong support to win over HIV epidemic in Bangladesh, and has committed herself to save the children of the street. Hazera collected funds through personal efforts. Funds includes individual donation, jokat, rice from the neighbors, collection of meat on the occasion of Eid-Ul Azha, clothes from some garment factory owners , old clothes from anyone, as a result some children are staying in a home , not on the street.

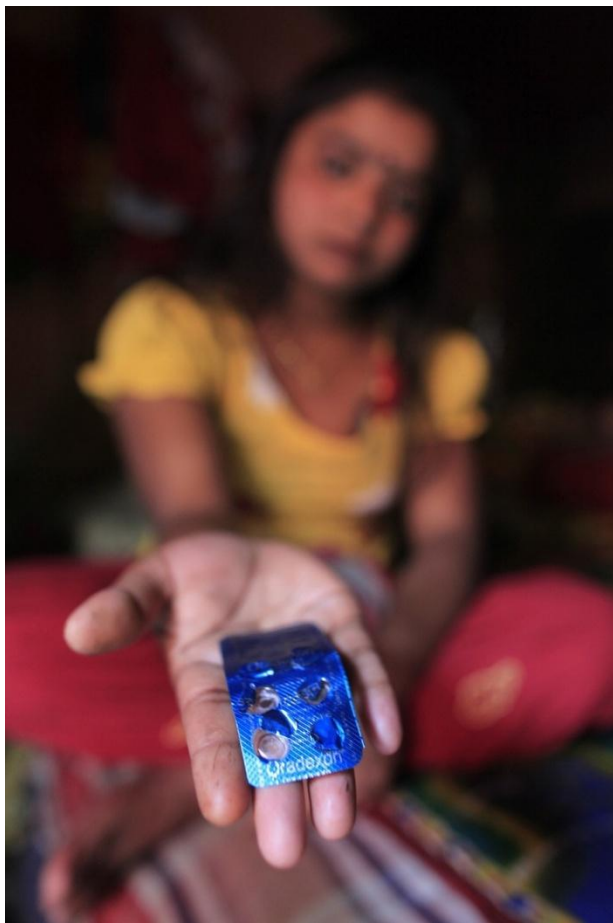
Buzz Feed, online news website, published an article on the Teenage



Prostitutes in Bangladesh through 30 Tragic, yet beautiful women. It was a brilliantly photographed series on the dangerous and grueling lives of teenage sex workers in Bangladeshi brothels.

Seventeen-year-old prostitute Hashi embraces a Babu, her “husband”, inside her small room at Kandapara brothel in Tangail, a northeastern city of Bangladesh. Many young and inexperienced prostitutes have “lovers” or “husbands” who normally live outside the brothel, occasionally taking money and sex from them in exchange for security in this male dominated society. She earns about 800-1000 taka daily (\$9.75 - \$12.19) servicing around 15-20 customers every day. Hashi is one of hundreds of mostly teenage sex workers living a painful life of exploitation in the brothel.

Hashi shows Oradexon at Kandapara brothel in Tangail. Oradexon, a steroid used by farmers to fatten their cattle, is taken by prostitutes in order to gain weight and appear “healthier” and more attractive to clients.



Nineteen-year-old Lucky embraces her three-month-old son Riyad at Kandapara brothel in Tangail.



Hashi smokes a cigarette before she serves a customer.



Maya drinks from a pot after lunch.

Behind all those make-up and plastic smile there are several untold, tear-filled stories. How much pain they have suffered in their small life and how much is yet to suffer before death.

Many underage girls like Anupa are forced by their pimps to take steroids to look plumper and more developed. Khushi, one of the prominent madams in Daulatdia complained that her girls hardly get any customers, and so she feeds them steroids to make them look "healthier." She complains that one of her girls, Rosina, who she says is about 14 years old, has not gained enough weight.

Local doctors say the steroids are highly addictive and have been used by over 90 per cent of the young girls in the brothel. The drug can cause damage to kidneys and bones, and in extreme cases can lead to death. But that doesn't stop the supply and demand for steroids in Daulatdia. Pharmacies surrounding the brothel sell packs of the medication for less than a dollar each on a daily basis. "It sells. Girls get it, box after box. There's a lot more in other shops," says a clerk at a pharmacist inside the brothel.

Anupa says she doesn't know how old she is. A young bonded sex worker in Bangladesh's largest and oldest brothel, she was kidnapped by a broker and sold for \$400. Now she is forced to have sex with multiple clients per day to

pay off her "debt." To plump her up and make her look older she has been given steroids used for fattening cows. "After taking the pill, whatever beauty I had is gone now. My skin is ruined and my figure is not like before. I am suffering a lot for this. I am not like before," she tells VICE News.

[ref - 'I Am Not Like Before': Sex Workers in Bangladesh's Mega-Brothel Are Stuck in a Life of Drugs and SlaveryBy Tania Rashid and Soraya Auer February 5, 2015 | 6:50 am]

Externalities of Conflicting Laws:

- Abuse of Legal Authority by the Police:

Section 54 of the Bangladesh Code of Criminal Procedure allows for arrest and detention without a warrant or an order from a magistrate. Such an arrest is permissible in the case of “any person who has been concerned in any cognizable offence or against whom a reasonable complaint has been made or credible information has been received, or a reasonable suspicion exists of his having been so concerned.” The vague language of section 54 within the Bangladesh Code of Criminal Procedure, however, is not only interpreted broadly but also allows the police to abuse legal authority for illegitimate reasons such as extracting bribes, fulfill an informal arrest quota and so on. According to a 2003 Human Rights Watch report, police abuse section 54 to detain and arrest sex workers for the purpose of abuse such as rape, extortion and beatings rather than law enforcement. Khalifa L.—a CSW—recounts:

I was taken to the Thana [police station] and kept there for twelve hours. A policeman took me from the Thana to his house. Another officer and two civilians came to the house and the four men raped me and beat me. They kicked me and slapped me all over my body. The policeman threatened to send me to a vagrancy home; when I protested, I was beaten more.

Khalifa’s story is just one of the many examples of sexual and physical abuse that CSWs face at the hands of the police. Furthermore, police threaten CSWs with arrest for extortion purposes. Jahan, a hotel based sex worker, recounts an incident in November 2001 when the police arrested her and two other sex workers at Hotel Sonar Bangla in the capital city, Dhaka; the police used the

threat of detention at a vagrancy home to extort BDT 10,000/- (US\$172.41) per woman. Jahan's story is not an isolated incident. Though sections 321-326, 362, 375 and 383 of the Bangladesh Penal Code prohibit rape, physical assault, voluntary causing of 'grievous hurt' and extortion, neither Jahan nor other sex workers have any means of redress. Filing a complaint with the police in response to rape, beating or extortion by a police officer often backfires as the sex workers who file such complaints are ignored, ridiculed or abused. The reason why the police is indifferent to and perpetrators of the ill treatment faced by the CSWs is revealed through the women's accounts documented by the Human Rights Watch report. The police regard sex workers as desecrated women who are always sexually available and thus, feel that their own actions of physically assaulting and sexually abusing commercial sex workers are justified.

- Detention in State Run Vagrant Homes:

The 1943 Vagrancy Act is a carryover law from British colonial rule in the Indian sub-continent. The act is a process by which a "vagrant"—defined as those non-European persons who beg for alms in public spaces—is placed in a "vagrant home" for the purpose of "rehabilitation". Although a Bangladesh High Court ruling in the year 2000 and a report published by the Bangladesh Ministry of Law conclude that sex workers cannot be categorized as 'vagrants', the police nevertheless detain CSWs in such vagrancy homes.

The consequences of being wrongly detained in such homes, according to a report by Terres des homes Italia, an Italian NGO funded by the European Union, is that male officials in state run vagrant homes pressurize CSWs into having sex; furthermore, older inmates also force CSWs either into having lesbian relationships or risk getting beaten up by their gangs. The NGO's evidence is further backed by a 2003 Human Rights Watch report that provides detailed accounts of CSWs who had been detained in these vagrant homes. Durga R. A CSW who had been detained in two vagrant homes over a period of three weeks in early November 2002—narrates:

I became mentally weak during my time at [the second of the two homes] because of the behavior of the vagrancy home staff. The staff made the inhabitants clean bathrooms. If we protested, they beat us. Another problem was with other female inhabitants . . . one woman approached me and tried to force me to have sex with her. I refused and was able to reject her because the leader of the sex workers in the vagrancy home protected me. The staff of the vagrancy home also sexually abuse the inhabitants . . . it happened to me. During my stay in the vagrancy home, two staff members tried to force me to have sex with them. I protested and said that I would complain to a higher official and they let me go. The staff usually approaches new inhabitants for sex.

These are just one of the many accounts of sexual abuse and physical assault faced by CSWs in state run vagrant homes.

“Tan Bazaar Brothel Eviction” –An Example of Rehabilitation Process Undertaken by the GoB:

The 200 year old Tan Bazaar brothel—located south of the capital, Dhaka, in the river port town of Narayanganj—was reputed to be the oldest and largest brothel in Bangladesh. Home to over 3000 commercial sex workers (CSWs), the brothel was controlled by supporters of the main opposition political party— Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). In an effort to curtail BNP influence in the area, a fifty one member Citizen’s Action Committee led by local ruling party MP, Shamim Osman, decried the presence of the brothel. The MP’s actions, in turn, were supported by the then Government of Bangladesh (GoB).

On July 24, 1999 the sex workers were forcibly evicted from the brothel in a pre-dawn attack led by the police and Department of Social Services. Hundreds of women were brutally beaten up by the police, separated from their children and were either forcibly bused away to state-run vagrant homes or detained in jails. The violent mass eviction was, ironically, termed as an effort to “rehabilitate” the sex workers of the Tan bazaar brothel.

Following mass confusion and violence over the next few days, a writ petition was filed on August 6, 1999 by five NGOs and voluntary organizations in the High Court. The writ asked the Court to require the Government to show cause as to:

- Why its actions should not be considered a violation of fundamental human rights and
- Why the detainment in vagrant homes should not be considered illegal, in which case the Government should compensate the sex workers for their loss and injury.

In mid-March 2000, the High Court division bench of the Supreme Court declared the forcible.

Rehabilitation Initiatives Undertaken by the Private Sector:

In this section, the paper focuses on and examines the services provided by two private sector NGOs—RDRS Bangladesh and Society for Social Service (SSS)—that aims to rehabilitate CSWs in Bangladesh.

- Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS) Bangladesh:

Established by the Lutheran World Foundation in 1971 after the Liberation War of Bangladesh, RDRS is the oldest and largest NGO in the northwest region of the country. Its original goal was rehabilitate refugees who had crossed into India from the northwest region of Bangladesh, back to their roots and homes. With time, however, RDRS expanded its goals to achieve a sustainable increase in the living standards of the people by giving them opportunity to gain understanding, knowledge, skills and confidence to act for their own rights and lives; thus, it operated rural programmes in the areas of developing the community, agriculture , health and women’s issues. Currently, the NGO functions in 10 districts and covers the lives of 1.5 million people.

- RDRS Saidpur Drop-in Center for Floating Sex Workers:

In 2002, RDRS initiated a project on HIV/AIDS prevention among floating sex workers and later incorporated the project into the RDRS Health Program at the end of 2005. Due to its significance as a major gateway town into northern Bangladesh, commercial sex work has a strong foothold in Saidpur. So, the NGO opened the Saidpur drop in center for floating workers with an aim to put the HIV/AIDS prevention scheme into practice. The drop-in center is unique in the district because it is particularly geared towards sex workers and the establishment consists of a project manager, two nurses, non-formal adult education teacher, a non-formal child education teacher, tailoring training teacher, caretaker and a night guard. Currently, about 500 sex workers are registered with the drop in center to benefit from its services.

Through discussions between the CSWs and RDRS workers at weekly meetings, the drop-in center works to prevent sexually transmitted diseases, share out information regarding HIV/AIDS and enhance condom usage among commercial sex workers. The NGO further selects three trustworthy sex workers to spread information about drop-in center, sexually transmitted diseases and how to prevent them for sex workers in Saidpur area. The three workers are known as 'outreach workers' and receive training and salary from the RDRS for their jobs. Additionally, RDRS cooperates with the neighborhood, local healthcare authorities and potential customers of sex workers to deliver information about sexually transmitted diseases and the work of drop-in center in general.

The Saidpur drop-in center also provides a safe haven for the sex workers and their children to take rest, sleep, wash clothes, bathe or make food. Moreover, RDRS provides free activities to sex workers and their children such as developing skills in reading, writing, sewing, tailoring and attaining a non formal education. A female doctor comes in twice a week to provide free healthcare treatment to sex workers and their children. Additionally, RDRS has started a microfinance group to encourage CSWs to save for future purposes.

- Limitations:

Despite the positive influences the Saidpur drop in center exerts on the lives of the sex workers, the center also proves to be inadequate in the following manner:

- There are no provisions for the doctor at the drop in center to conduct clinical exams or run laboratory tests on sex workers and their children for effective healthcare treatment.
- Despite developing skills in tailoring or sewing, the sex workers do not have the opportunity to move away from the sex trade and start a new business because of lack of start-up capital. Although RDRS runs a microfinance group to encourage savings among these women, the amount of savings is inadequate to financially support the CSWs let alone provide capital for a new business.
- Most sex workers are homeless. As the drop-in center runs from 8 am to 4 pm(excepting Fridays), sex workers lack a permanent shelter and need to return to the streets where they are vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse.
- Although the sex workers' children get an opportunity to pursue a non-formal education, the center's limited resources allow for only ten children to attend the teaching per semester.

- Society for Social Service (SSS):

The Society for Social Service (SSS), Bangladesh is an NGO that started its operations within the country in 1986. The NGO aims to achieve socio-

economic emancipation and empowerment of the rural and urban poor, marginalized and disadvantaged people in Bangladesh; thus, it provides relevant qualitative and need based to programs in order to stimulate human resource. Examples of ongoing projects/programs include microcredit, health, education, training, fisheries, disaster management relief programs and so forth. With staff strength of 2512 workers, SSS currently operates in 27 districts across the country to serve 331,615 beneficiaries. It is funded by the UNDP, ILO, Child Labor Elimination Action Network (CLEAN), PKSF, TdH-Netherlands, DANIDA, Bangladesh Bank, Save the Children Australia and WINROCK International.

- SSS operations in Tangail, Bangladesh:

In 1998, the International Labor Organization (ILO) adopted the “Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work,” under which member states have an obligation to eliminate all forms of forced labor. Furthermore, the ILO established technical cooperation projects to help governments abide by the Declaration. In 2000, one such initiative by the ILO, the Dutch-funded “Preventing and Eliminating Bonded Labor in South Asia (PEBLISA),” began piloting integrated microfinance-led schemes with Society for Social Service (SSS) in Bangladesh; it specifically targeted brothel sex workers of the Tangail district.

The SSS recognized that the brothel sex workers, in addition to needing assistance with alternative livelihoods, needed financial services such as savings and emergency loans to smooth income and expenses, manage risks, and possibly pay for social obligations as a substitute to employer credit. Therefore, for the sex workers, SSS set up a daily savings collection point just outside the brothel to allow the women to safeguard their cash (and jewelry) that, in turn, provided protection against extortion. Furthermore, the sex workers enjoyed the privilege to withdraw for urgent needs any time during the SSS’ office hours. Even if the amounts remain limited, the act of saving enabled these women to create a safety net for themselves. Additionally, the prospect of quitting prostitution seemed more attainable, if not for the sex workers, then for their daughters.

SSS also switched from group to individual savings to provide confidentiality to each woman's finances. Although the practice was more flexible, sex workers were required to deposit a minimum of BDT 10 per week during the SSS' office with the guaranteed option to withdraw cash at any time. The SSS also offered income generating loans of amounts between \$87-350/- for one year; the loans were to be repaid in 12 monthly installments at an interest rate of 15% per annum. The NGO, however, recognized that as sex workers were high risk clients with unsteady income flows, SSS had to balance repayment discipline with a concern for the sex workers' vulnerability. So, SSS and sex workers jointly established customized repayment schedules that mirrored the women's expected cash flow. Furthermore, the SSS also allowed the sex workers to skip a certain number of repayments during the loan term so that the women could make adjustments when they had unexpected cash flow problems. These loans were, in theory, to be used for trade, livestock, housing and debt consolidation purposes; in reality, it was used for social purposes.

As the majority of women had been deceived many times, initiating the savings scheme was not an easy task. To overcome their reluctance, however, the SSS staff invested heavily in forging personal relationships with the women as individuals. The SSS also provided ancillary services such as boarding and training centers for the women's children. This, in turn, fostered greater trust in the SSS as the centers were sometimes the only place the sex workers could send their children away to from the brothels.

- Limitations to the study:
 - Due to lack of available data, it was not possible to follow up on impact of SSS initiative on the brothel based sex workers in Tangail.
 - While SSS emphasized on providing financial services to the sex workers, it seems that the NGO assumed that these women had some form of resource which they knew how to exploit in order to generate an alternative livelihood. While the provision of ancillary services for the sex workers' children was a step in

the right direction, having such ancillary services for the sex workers themselves would have enabled these women to develop new skills as well as have access to start up capital for a new business.

Recommendations:

Having looked into examples of rehabilitation initiatives undertaken both by the GoB and by the private sector, it can be inferred that:

- Government strategy to implement rehabilitation is highly ineffective and damaging both to the lives and livelihood of commercial sex workers in Bangladesh and
- Although noteworthy, initiatives undertaken by the private sector are still very limited

Keeping these facts in mind, I recommend that:

1. Laws must be readdressed in order to mitigate abuse of legal authority
2. Police and concerned officials should not only be held accountable but also trained to show greater sensitivity towards commercial sex workers
3. Greater attention must be paid towards vocational training for CSWs and marketing of their work. Furthermore, more tailored financial services should be made available to CSWs so that they can create a security net for themselves and
4. As inferred from both examples of private initiatives, provision for the sex workers' children must also be made so that they can distance themselves from the sex trade.

Finally, in conclusion

I urge that the Government of Bangladesh show greater sensitivity towards the plight of commercial sex workers in Bangladesh. The government's actions in terms of how it chooses to implement rehabilitation process may have a ripple effect on societal attitude towards these women. Whereas forceful eviction of the CSWs by the government of Bangladesh paves the way for greater social discrimination against the women, having a well defined strategy for the rehabilitation process may bring about a slow, reluctant but much needed change in societal attitude towards commercial sex workers. Finally, while the private sector schemes may help CSWs, the initiatives can prove to be limited in scope. The Government of Bangladesh is arguably better equipped to reach out to CSWs and support well defined strategies that would help CSWs move away from the sex trade. Thus, it is the Government of Bangladesh that must lead the way to break the cycle of destitution, social discrimination and abuse for these marginalized women.

Methodology:

Many in Dautladia are second or third generation sex workers, in some cases descended from women who worked in the brothel under British rule. But despite their futures seeming bleak, there are some trying to ensure their children at least do not follow in their footsteps. Young children are not allowed in the brothel, so for decades, mothers in Daulatdia have sent their children, once they reach a couple of years old, to live outside with local families. But being able to break out of the circle and to pursue independence and freedom is a farfetched picture. Even though Bangladesh is the only Muslim country where prostitution is legal (check fact) – the stigma and taboo that surrounds it is as heavy as ever, which makes it difficult for open discussions, approaches and support for these women looking to break out of these chains and get the help that they need.

Chapter 3: site and context analysis



Location:, Taek, Mymensingh, Bangladesh

Site Area: 13.5 acres

Client: Sex Workers Network, Save the Children, Bangladesh

The chosen site will be a sanctuary where nobody can hurt these women anymore. The views will give them a scope to meditate and revive. The river itself will have a spiritual connection with the dwellers.



View towards North



Site topography and overview:

The site, locally known as Taek is part of a 1500 acre government khas land, located on the banks of the Brahmaputra River. It is primarily a char-land with the characteristics common of shoal areas. The char gradually rises from the midst of the Brahmaputra River, and as it flows inwards towards the mainland, it raises in height. During monsoon the existing site is approximately 5 feet above the water level. Consequently in the winter, this height is around 30 ft from the water level. The site contains a large chunk of trees that covers around 1/6th of its area. There are also a few isolated trees scattered within the site and around it. The trees which cover the north-west and the eastern side of the site are mainly sal, akashi, boroi, and kapila, with a few fruit tree variations that include mango and jackfruit. Please note also that there are a few varieties of creeper and shrubbery present in the site, all of which coincide the typologies generally found close by water. At present the site contains no built structure. In fact it is primarily used as a ghat for boat and fishermen who live in the nearby areas, and as grazing pasture for the domestic animals of surrounding villages. Also, during the Eid-ul Azha festival, the area is used as

a haat for the cows at sale. An interesting feature to the site is the issue of its accessibility. Please note also that the site can be reached by foot in the winter-spring seasons when the western stream of the Brahmaputra passing along the site dries. Conversely, boat is the only mode of travel to the area during the rains, when it becomes completely isolated. The unique feature of river-views around and within site, and the presence of lush greeneries together create a beautiful scenic landscape soothing to the eye and the mind.

SWOT analysis:

Strengths:

*The site is situated in a district which is a very suitable strategic location to address the issue of

*The site is a very short distance from the main town, while simultaneously not so close that it is a part of the crowded town life.

*It is situated close to the highway and can avail transportation facilities from different parts of the country.

*There is a bazaar facility located nearby so that amenities for the programs in this site can be availed quite easily.

*The site has the presence of multiple natural elements such the river, trees and a lot of untouched open spaces as is necessary for psychological healing.

*The site is situated within 10 km of the Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital which is a crucial factor, since the centre to be designed here will have a large dependency on medical facilities.

*The site is right at the outskirts of the Bangladesh Agricultural University, and hence can avail many of the university's facilities if the needs coincide.

*The views facing the river and the surrounding are commendable.

Weaknesses:

- *Becomes isolated in the rainy season.
- *Transportation can become an issue.
- *Negative spaces due to the surrounding unused area.

Opportunities:

- *Due to the presence of serene natural elements, can contribute to the healing process of victims.
- *The presence of the greenery and water can also contribute to creating beautiful landscapes.
- *Since it is placed so close to the Bangladesh Agricultural University, the occupational provisional program part of the centre can work in collaboration with university to design agriculture or farming opportunities that would aid these women in developing new livelihood techniques.
- *As a place to host a mother centre for an issue which is such a huge hidden issue for the entire country, it can help Mymensingh develop as a location that would cater to the needs of serving the most threatened people in the country.
- *A centre as vast as the one proposed in this area can generate a lot of job opportunities for the existing population in Mymensingh.
- *Placing a head-centre for any institution away from Dhaka indicates the decentralization process of activities from the country capital. This site allows that opportunity.
- *Because of its proximal distance from the country capital, can create a wonderful opportunity for people to spend some leisurely time at the awareness facilities provided by the centre.

Threats:

*As a result of environmental pollution the width and the volume of water in the Brahmaputra River is reducing at a painstaking rate. Further increment as such can cause the river to dry out, or encroached on by people.

*As a lot of the spaces around the site and near the Mymensingh town as well as the sadar are still unoccupied, there is a chance of future unplanned development, which may lead to the overall site scenic and peaceful qualities to be affected.

Chapter 4: Program and program analysis

Given Program and Functions:

Admin block

Primary School

Psychological rehabilitation:

Emergency trauma counseling cells

Long term therapeutic cells

Meditative spaces/cells

Physical rehabilitation:

Preliminary medical facilities

Temporary shelters: dormitory/family home style

Shelter oriented social spaces

Day care facilities

Indoor/outdoor recreational facilities

Occupational rehabilitation:

Vocational training cells

Educational training cells

Alternate livelihood generating spaces

Legal aid:

Legal counseling cells

Legal mediation chambers

Awareness:

Auditorium/multipurpose hall

Exhibition spaces/galleries

Workshops/seminar rooms

Information centre

Others:

Restaurant

Community spaces

Administration offices

Service spaces

Chapter 5: Case studies

Case 1 :

PARC REHABILITATION CENTER FOR PROSTITUTES AND ROOTLESS CHILDREN

PARC is a Bangladeshi non-profit non-government development organization to fight against the causes of human's sufferings in various forms towards distressed women and children specially the sex workers. It was established in 1994 and its mission is to improve the socio economic potential of the urban sex workers and street children and other vulnerable sections of local society through training, rehabilitation and their participation. They contribute for sex workers and rootless children in Bangladesh through volunteering in their offices and events, sponsoring the children as well as programs and making donations.

They have different ongoing programs such as Centered Health and Nutrition Program, Advocacy, Child Rights or Skill Development.

The fact that organizations like PARC develop successfully these kinds of programs in Bangladesh is a proof of the good reception that the idea of the construction of a Rehabilitation Center for Sex Workers may have.

CASE 2

SNEHALAYA – Ahmednagar (INDIA)

This rehabilitation center for sex workers and their children is currently running on Ahmednagar (India).

It has received a very good response and the number of beneficiaries increases every year for all the services that they provide, which include education, healthcare, rehabilitation, awareness and special projects, and the expectations are to continue to increase the amount of people to whom they can provide their services.

HEALTHCARE


Snehjyot - Sex Worker & MSM Outreach
Unlimited places
Community based sexual health clinic. Rescue, medical & rehabilitative care for trafficked and forced sex workers and MSM through peer mentoring & vocational training


Caring Friends Hospital & Research Centre
30 beds
In-patient and out-patient care for patients with HIV, AIDS & other infectious diseases such as Tuberculosis.


Snehbandhan
Unlimited places
Free counselling, sexual health screening & training for Tamasha traditional dancer artists


Bedside Assistance Training
240 places / year
Residential course training the next generation of health-support staff

REHABILITATION



Rehab Centre (Children's Shelter Home)

250 places

The heart of our 'Home of Love'. Respite for rescued children for now or as long as necessary



Snehankur (Adoption)

20 places

Emergency care for abandoned infants, medical & psychological support for expectant mothers



Snehadhar (Women's Shelter)

100 places

Emergency safe house for women experiencing domestic violence and their children



Himmatgram (Biofarm)

100 places

25 acre farm & home, for HIV families, providing sustainable produce for our projects



Childline Ahmednagar

300 Calls/Day

Free helpline for children and the public to help at-risk children. Voted #1 of 499 in India

EDUCATION



Balbhavan (Slum School)

250 children / centre
Community lead drop-in centres in
7 Ahmednagar slums, offering
education for youth of all ages



English Medium School

300+ pupils per year
An inclusive primary school for
children who have been pushed
out of the education system



Computer Training (Centre for Hope)

25 computer stations
Free IT, spoken English, career
guidance & encouragement for all



Agricultural Training Centre

45-day residential
course
Training the next generation of
agricultural entrepreneurs

AWARENESS



Radio Nagar 90.4 FM

450,000 listeners
Local community forum in Hindi
and Marathi. Broadcasting to a
25km radius offering a public
voice for our listeners



Yuva Nirman (Youth Volunteering)

unlimited places
Workshops & conferences for
local/national students & youth to
raise awareness & encourage
careers in social work



Snehalaya UK

Our London office provides
support to Snehalaya in the
form of campaigning,
fundraising and volunteers.



International Partnerships

We have a number of
International partners who work
with us on projects and help
support our work.

Chapter 6: Conceptual stage and design development

Concept

AN ABSTRACTION OF A WOMB

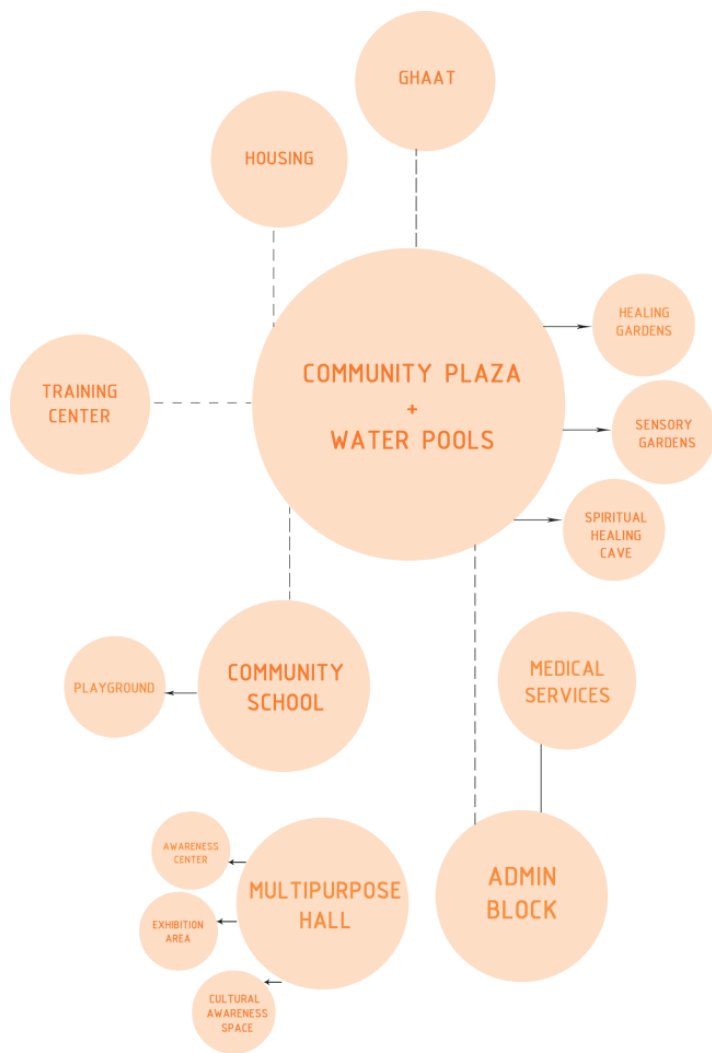
What is safer for a child than a mother's womb? These women have suffered through a lot of mental and physical trauma. The idea is to create a sanctuary, where they can feel safe and unharmed.



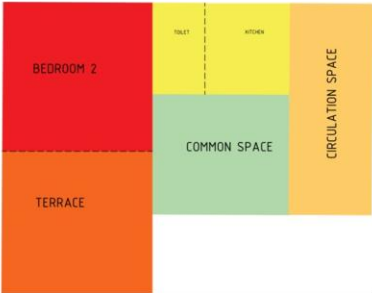
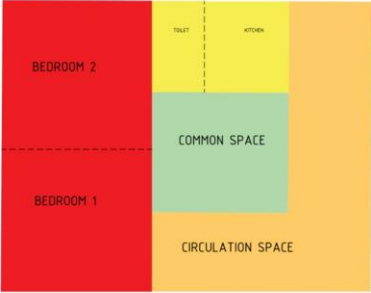
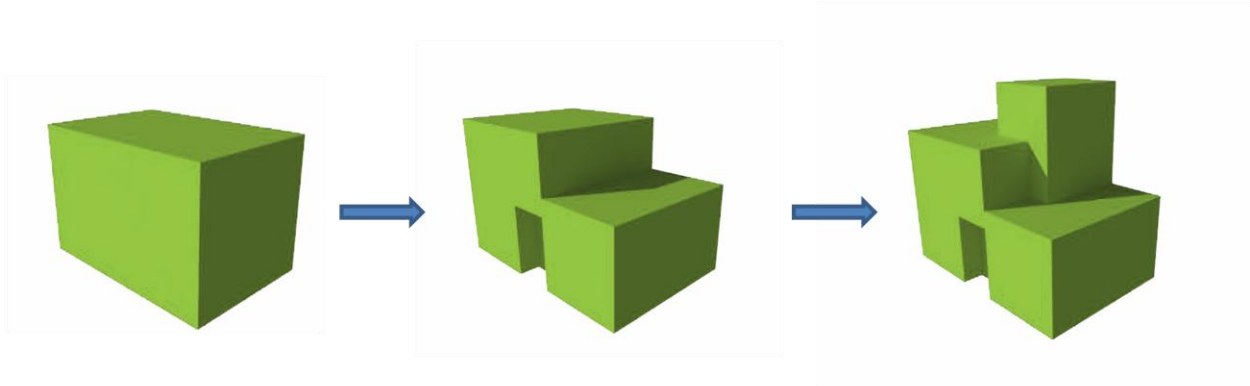
DESIGN & FORM DEVELOPMENT

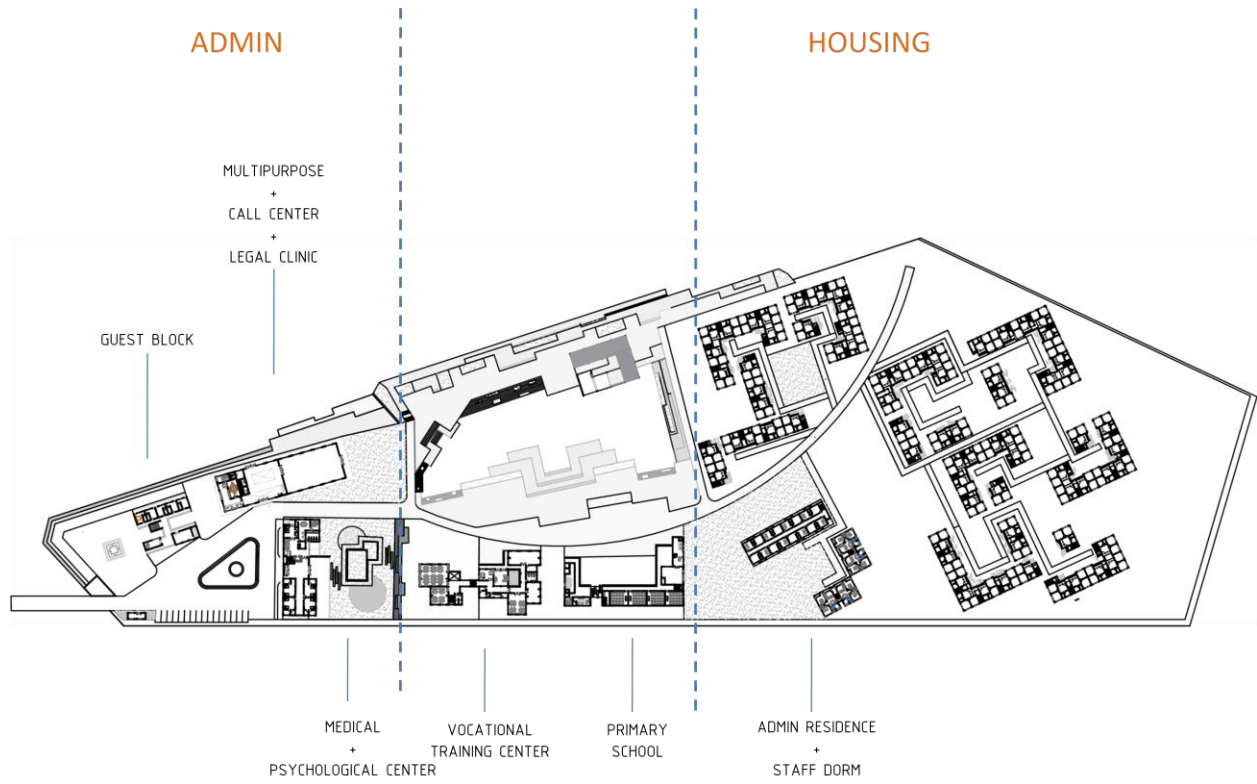
INITIAL APPROACH

To create a shell so as to keep the idea of a womb intact but as I kept proceeding it seemed like it was foreign to these women. After speaking to these women, it seemed that I should create something that does not impose on them, so as to make them feel welcomed and at home. Rather than taking my concept too literally, I should rather provide a sanctuary that will feel like TO CREATE A SHELL SO AS TO KEEP THE IDEA OF A WOMB INTACT BUT AS I KEPT PROCEEDING IT SEEMED LIKE IT WAS FOREIGN TO THESE WOMEN. AFTER SPEAKING TO THESE WOMEN, IT SEEMED THAT I SHOULD CREATE SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T IMPOSE ON THEM. SO AS TO MAKE THEM FEEL WELCOMED AND AS HOME. RATHER THAN TAKING MY CONCEPT TOO LITERALLY, I SHOULD RATHER PROVIDE A SANCTUARY WILL FEEL LIKE A SANCTUARY AND NOT JUST LOOK LIKE ONE.



HOUSING MODULE DEVELOPMENT





FINAL GROUND FLOOR PLAN



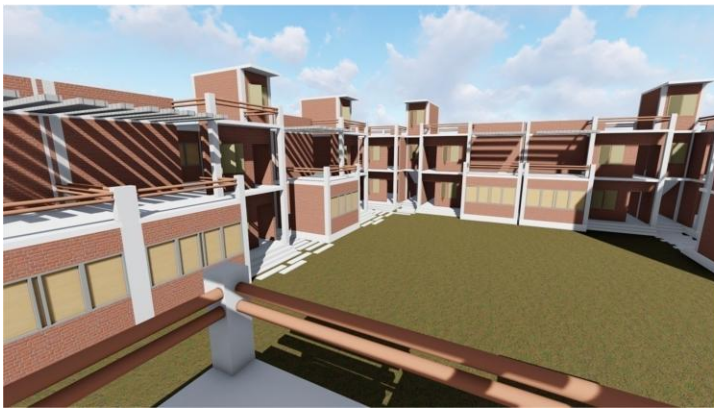
BIRDS EYE VIEW



Tertiary Space- for the whole community, where everyone can gather



Primary Space – within the modules/houses, through sharing terraces and landing space



Secondary Space – creating courtyard within few clusters and other blocks, where some people will come together

Conclusion

The treatment of woman as the lower of the beings between a man and a woman is a centuries old trait. With the advancement in global culture, lifestyle, social traits that hare in play today, one would imagine that the ill-favored condition mentioned above would have changed. Sadly, that is not the case. Worldwide women are subjected to violence at home and outside because of gender in equality issues, their subordinate roles, historical and social beliefs, or simply because they are _weaker'. So the question arises as to whether the world has advanced in the first place. Yet the systems for making the situation better are not adequate—there is either not enough help services, or not enough awareness services, both of which are equally important in curbing the situation. That is why the idea of holistic intervention is so necessary.

Centers such as "গর্ভ" are only minor steps to handling the violence situation—baby steps that would eventually culminate into bigger ones when more people are ready to stand up and fight unjust against these women. The aim of this centre has been to pick up a problem-oriented female group in the society—one that constitutes a minor yet intolerable portion of the mal-treated Bangladeshi female population, giving them a direction to reintegrate back into society through the process of empowerment, and simultaneously giving the society something to chew on by warning them of the consequences of such maltreatment and teaching them to stand up against it; so that as a whole the society itself can be elevated. Simply put, a centre such as this one introduces a system of solving a problem that has socio-cultural roots spread all over the world, so that world can find courage in solving bigger problems. Such a centre, if successful will lead to ten other similar centers to be developed first across the country, then across the sub-continent, and then the across the globe, so that the problem can be cured from the very roots. If one problem is solved, then attempt maybe taken to take on another problem and developing another system to solve it at its origin; then another and so on, until each and every crime against women—domestic violence, rape, acid violence, harassment, arson, genital mutilation, work place violence, female infanticide, trafficking, murder—name anything is stopped at the very start. Only then can there be a chance of claiming the world to be a better place. The passage to a Utopia can only be made when its scales are balanced. And the scales can only be balanced if the position of a woman equals to that of a man; at least for starters. So, "গর্ভ" is only one drop of change to the ocean that yet needs to be filled to tip the scale of utopia towards balance, built with the hope that it carves the way for more drops to be added in the ocean of change.

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