

SULLA PROJECTI. Introduction

Since 1972, Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), a non-profit private agency has been involved in initiating and implementing multi-sectoral rural development programmes in different parts of Bangladesh. Started initially in response to the humanitarian needs of Bangladesh after liberation, BRAC has gradually but purposefully developed into a highly flexible organisation capable of undertaking innovative approaches to rural development. The main thrust of BRAC is to develop the leadership and organisational skills of the disadvantaged powerless people aiming at improving their socio-economic conditions.

Towards this end, BRAC ^{has} undertaken a variety of activities such as integrated rural development projects (Sulla, Manikganj, Jamalpur Women's Programme) in different parts of the country. *Income generating activities for the landless, Rural Credit and Training Project (RCTP), anthropological and participatory research projects, Health, Family Planning & Nutrition, Urban Resettlement Project at Dacca, a nationwide Oral Therapy Extension Programme (OTEP) to combat diarrhoea, a marketing project for the landless artisans (AARONG), an innovative functional education programme as a forum for consciousness raising and literacy, publication of a monthly development journal (GONOKENDRO) with a circulation of 55,000 copies, Training And Resource Centre (TARC) to develop the awareness and skills of development workers and landless and many other activities oriented to its main task of organising the landless and disadvantaged people.

*Income Generation activities include agriculture, fisheries, poultry and livestock, sericulture, spinning & weaving, duck-raising, handicrafts, paddy husking, food processing etc, etc.

II. RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND OF SULLA PROJECT

Sulla, where BRAC first started in February 1972 to rehabilitate the liberation war affected families returning from India, has now completed 9 years of its project activities operating in an area of 125 sq. miles in Sulla, Derai and Baniyachong thanas under Sylhet district.

During the 1st phase of its rehabilitation work, from February to October, 1972, 10,200 houses were constructed and 3,900 houses were repaired. Fishermen Cooperatives were supplied 4,500 lbs. of nylon twines and 169 fishing boats. Seeds, fertilizers and power tiller services were provided to the farmers. Emergency medical services were ensured to the people by establishing four rural clinics and ~~and~~ a child feeding programme was carried out to improve the nutritional condition of the children.

During the 2nd phase from November 1972 to December 1975, integrated rural development activities consisting of a number of sectoral programmes such as agriculture, fisheries, adult functional education, cooperatives, Community Centre development, health care and family planning, vocational and human development training activities were initiated and implemented.

Lessons from the second phase had prompted BRAC to be more realistic and responsive to the actual development needs and problems of the people and is reflected in its change of approach from service oriented integrated community development to a more comprehensive people oriented approach in its third phase operation. Identification, mobilisation and organisation of the disadvantaged people is the basic element of this people centred approach. 140 village organisation have been formed and the processes of forming central organisation have already been started. For Sulla, 1981 and 1982 is very crucial time as institutional development and capacity building will be the major thrust of the project.

BRAC will be required to provide a variety of services to strengthen the organisational functions of the landless facilitating the withdrawal of BRAC at the end of 1982. This proposal briefly sketches the Sulla project needs and plan of work to meet these needs in the next one year from January to December, 1981.

III. PRESENT NEEDS AND PLAN OF WORK

The emergence of village level organisations in 1980 and the processes for central organisation of the landless has placed enormous demand on BRAC to provide specific services to landless organisations to build their solidarity, integrity, leadership and organisational competencies. Programme planning and management responsibilities have already been shifted to the landless organisations with training, follow-up guidance and partial/financial support from BRAC. However, in order to make the process self-sustaining and self supporting vigorous training efforts need to be directed to develop their managerial and other functional skills. For self supporting peoples' health care programme Shaysta Sebok/sebikas (Health Workers) from among the landless need to be trained in diagnosing and treating the most common ailments. The skills of the old Shaysta Sebok/Sebikas and "Dais" (traditional birth attendants) need to be upgraded through continuous follow-up and refresher courses. In order to improve the productive efficiencies of the landless, specific skill training relating to mobilisation of local resources will be required. Moreover, management skills also need to be strengthened through training and guidance. The present monthly Camp Workshops (area-wise) and Central Workshop of landless has facilitated the proposition of an innovative central organisation - the organisation of conference to be participated by members from village organisation on rotation.

Breaking the traditional top-down organisational frame will require massive efforts to build organisational skills and leadership potential of the landless members in a different context.

1. Institutional Development & Capacity Building

During the next one year BRAC plans to bring at least 80% landless families under village organisations in 100 villages. In order to facilitate this, individual contact, cadres meeting etc. will be continued. Programme organisers will work in close contact with the cadres (landless members) to achieve the target. Consciousness raising activities with the landless like social analysis, functional education, workshops etc. will continue to be the main thrust of BRAC efforts.

By the end of '81 the proposed central organisation of conference will be given a definite shape by framing a constitution which will guarantee individual village organisations to be the most powerful body in the whole organisational process.

Collective actions to solve socio-economic problems at different levels will be the vehicle for developing integrity, solidarity and the process for organisational growth of the landless. Village level, camp level and central level workshops will continue with emphasis on participation, democratic control and management.

1. Functional Education:

During the next one year forty functional education classes will be organised with enrolment of 800 illiterate members (Male + Female) of village organisations. 80 Sebok/Sebikas (teachers) from among the members will be trained to run the functional education classes.

Inter group advanced functional education courses will be conducted with the selected neo-literates. 14 such courses will be run in the project area during the planned period.

ii. Training:

In order to equip the group members with needed skills a variety of special training courses will be organised for group members such as consciousness raising, leadership, Accounting, Project Planning and Management etc. Occupational skills training relating to agricultural and non-agricultural economic activities will be provided to group members. Most of these courses will be conducted at BRAC's Training And Resource Centre, Savar, Dacca.

2. Health Care

The main strategy of BRAC health programme is to develop people's ability and skills to deal with their health needs through preventive and curative measures that they themselves can operate and manage. In tune with the strategy BRAC will provide training to a new group of 50 Shastya Sebok/Sebikas (Health workers) from among the landless. Moreover, skills of already trained Shastya Sebok/Sebikas will be upgraded through continuous follow-up and refresher courses. By the end of 1981, health committees within the village organisations will be able to raise health fund to procure a stock of medicines to be dispensed to group members at cost price. These health committees will be responsible for supervising the Shastya Sebok/Sebikas and Dais (birth attendants). The skills of Dais will be upgraded through follow-up and refresher courses. Management skills of members of health committees will be improved. BRAC will provide Dai kits to Dais and First Aid Boxes to Shastya Sebok/Sebikas.

Mothers' Club meeting will be conducted regularly covering health and nutrition education.

Under immunization programme, DPT courses will be given to under 1 children of at least 80% landless families and TT will be given to all pregnant mothers from target group. Vitamin "A" capsules will be distributed to children by S.Ss. Under the supervision of paramedics (Programme Organisers) BRAC will continue to provide curative & preventive services to combat T.B.

3. Family Planning

In view of the drop out due to side effects of different methods (pills, injections etc.). BRAC emphasizes on permanent sterilisation of couples who have 3 or more children, efforts will be made to increase the number of acceptors through motivational work and by providing follow-up services to the F.P. Clients.

4. Animal Husbandry

In collaboration with the livestock department, veterinary trained paramedics will carry on providing preventive and curative services to livestocks as this remain a very grave problem in the area. Cattle rearing and veterinary training will be imparted to thirty selected group members in the project area. If the veterinary skills are given to landless members, this will in addition to combating the crisis of cattle mortality, strengthen their socio-economic position in the society.

5. Organisation and Personnel

Project activities will be carried on from seven field camps. Each field camp is staffed by a team of 2 programme organisers with a Senior Programme Organiser as the leader of the team who reports to Project Administrator for camp activities. The project Administrator provides necessary support to field camps

from the field controlling camp. He is responsible for overall coordination, supervision and management of the project activities and reports to the Chief Trainer. Chief Trainer reports to the Executive Director who attends monthly staff meeting in the field for reviewing project activities and initiating new ideas and strategies. Project activities are reviewed and corrective actions are taken at weekly and monthly meetings at camp level and project level respectively.

Staff position in 1981 is almost half comparing to 1980's. By the end of 1982 BRAC plans to transfer major responsibilities to the landless organisations with a central secretariat to provide necessary coordination and services to member organisations of the organisation of conference. At the end of 1982 BRAC plans to withdraw from Sullia leaving a small team if required to service the landless organisations. However, this is a big challenge. And as in the past BRAC will go ahead with its sincere and hard efforts to translate this into reality.

B U D G E T
Sulla Project
From January to December 1981

I. Capacity Building and Institutional Development:			
a. Functional Education	Tk.		Tk.
Materials : 40 sets x 450/-	18,000/-		
b. <u>Training:</u>			
1) Training at TARC, Savar : 200 trainees x 350/-	70,000/-		
ii) Field Training & Workshops : Tk.3000/- x 12 months	<u>36,000/-</u>		124,000/-
II. Health Programme equipment and supplies (Dai kits & First Aid Boxes): Tk.200/- x 150			
			30,000/-
III. Staff Salaries (including benefits)			
a. Project Administrator: 1 x 2500 x 12 mths.	30,000/-		
b. Programme Organisers :16 x 1500 x 12 mths.	288,000/-		
c. Service staff(Cooks) : 7 x 600 x 12 mths.	<u>50,400/-</u>		368,400/-
IV. Travelling and Transportation (20% of salary)			
	...		73,680/-
V. Camp Maintenance: 7 camps x 2000 per annum			
	...		14,000/-
VI. General Expenses: 7 camps x 200 x 12 months			
	...		16,800/-
VII. Stationery : 3000 x 12 months			
	...		<u>36,000/-</u>
VIII. Head Office Support			
(10% of the total)	...	Total:-	662,880/-
	...		<u>66,288/-</u>
		Grand Total:	<u>729,168/-</u>
1. BRAC's Internal Resources = Tk.373,168/-			
2. Item Ib from BRAC's Training Budget. = <u>Tk.106,000/-</u>			
			<u>479,168/-</u>
		Net Fund Requirement :-	<u>250,000/-</u>
