

PRIMARY EDUCATION FOR OLDER CHILDREN (PEOC)
Opening of Four Hundred Centres under a Pilot Project

PROJECT PROPOSAL



Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)
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Dhaka-1212

1. Introduction:

Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) is a non-governmental, multifaceted development organisation working for the uplift of the rural disadvantaged in Bangladesh since 1972. Over the years it has grown into one of the largest development organisation of the country, employing over 2500 men and women workers with various socio-economic and health programmes. Currently, BRAC's activities cover two thirds of Bangladesh.

2. BRAC's Education Programme:

Adult education Programme: BRAC has been involved in non-formal education programme since 1973. In the beginning the focus was on functional education of adults belonging to BRAC-organised groups, comprising of literacy, numeracy and social awareness. Based on the thoughts of renowned Brazilian educationist Paulo Freire, innovative materials and methodology was developed for the Functional Education (FE) programme. The FE materials have been used by nearly 50 non-government and government organisations to run adult education programmes. Recently the FE materials have been revised to fit the needs of changing time.

Non-formal Primary Education Programme:

The existing primary education system in Bangladesh fails to provide adequate schooling to 54% of primary school age children, and is mainly concerned with preparing children for secondary education. Of those that do enrol, 42% drop out within a year or two before attaining numeracy and literacy through lack of motivation, lack of encouragement from (mostly illiterate) parents, irrelevance of the curriculum to their lives, the need for child labour, high cost of books and supplies etc. The average literacy rate in Bangladesh is 26% but only 15% for women.

Taking this situation into account, BRAC developed a Non-formal Primary Education (NFPE) project of 3 years course for the disadvantaged children of 8-10 years age group who have never been enrolled in formal primary schools or who have dropped out. After completing necessary preparation 22 centres were opened in 1985. Encouraging result prompted BRAC to expand the programme.

The special features of NFPE are given below:-

- The comprehensive three years' curriculum is community oriented.
- The course comprises basic literacy, numeracy, health, hygiene and social studies. The syllabus is carefully designed and graded.
- To keep the teaching - learning situation within the teachers control, not more than 30 children are enrolled in each class.

- A teacher-student relationship is fostered, which is friendly and relaxed. Discipline is emphasized but not punishment.
- The 2.50 hours school day suits the life situation of the pupils who have little free time because of the work they do to help their parents at home or in the fields.
- NFPE has developed an on-going evaluation system to assess children's performance through weekly tests; there are no formal examinations.
- Active community support is essential to run the schools successfully and the children's guardians regularly attend parents' monthly meeting.

A quick glance at the NFPE data shows:

- Number of centre opened	-	600
- Number of students enrolled	-	18,000
- Boy-girl ratio	-	30:70
- Number of teachers recruited	-	585
- Men-women teacher ratio	-	35:65
- Average attendance rate till 1986	-	96%
- Average dropout rate till 1986	-	1.6%

3. PROPOSED PRIMARY EDUCATION FOR OLDER CHILDREN (PEOC) PROGRAMME: Rationale

Innovation of suitable material and methodology for adult and children education by BRAC has ushered a new era in education sector in Bangladesh. BRAC now strongly feels it cannot ignore the education of children of 11-15 years age group, because:

- This age group (11-15) is neither covered by adult nor children's education programme.
- BRAC cannot let them wait to be eligible for an adult education programme which may not cover them.
- Investment in older children's education will bring a higher social and economic return.
- This age group is the most important segment of the demographic scale; their literacy is urgently necessary.
- As the children of this age group do not engage in household work or in other jobs full time, they are able to spend a longer time in school which the adult cannot afford.
- Progress of youngsters is much ^{faster} better than adults, as found in our education programmes.

In view of the above, BRAC has proposed a two years course for this age group of ~~3~~ years duration on an experimental basis.

Curriculum content for the course will include basic literacy, numeracy, health, hygiene, nutrition and social studies. The 3 years NPPE course is planned to be condensed and adapted into two years for this purpose assuming that progress of older children shall be faster.

We propose 400 centres for the pilot project beginning 1988. The opening plan is as follows:

Year:	1988	1989	1990
Centres to be opened	200 (1st year)	200 (2nd year)	
		200 (1st year)	200 (2nd year)
Total:-	200	400	200

Implementation Plan

4. The following steps are proposed for implementation.

- 4.1 **Area Selection:** BRAC will open 200 teen PEOC Centres in 1988 and another 200 in 1989 in the districts of Manikganj, Jamalpur, Tangail and Rangpur.
- 4.2 **Accommodation:** The single classroom schools are favoured for villages. The minimum space required to accommodate 30 pupils is 20' X 12' feet. The houses rented for this purpose have simple tin or thatched roofs and bamboo walls. For 1988-89, 400 school houses will be rented.
- 4.3 **Teacher selection and training:** PEOC teachers will be recruited from the community with a minimum of 9-10 years schooling. Attempts will be made to recruit 70% women teachers.

Prior to joining the PEOC centres the recruited teachers will undergo a 15 days' basic intensive training which will be followed by a refresher's course in the 2nd year.

- 4.4 The table below shows estimated training requirements for 1988-89. Usually 10% of trainees fail to complete the course.

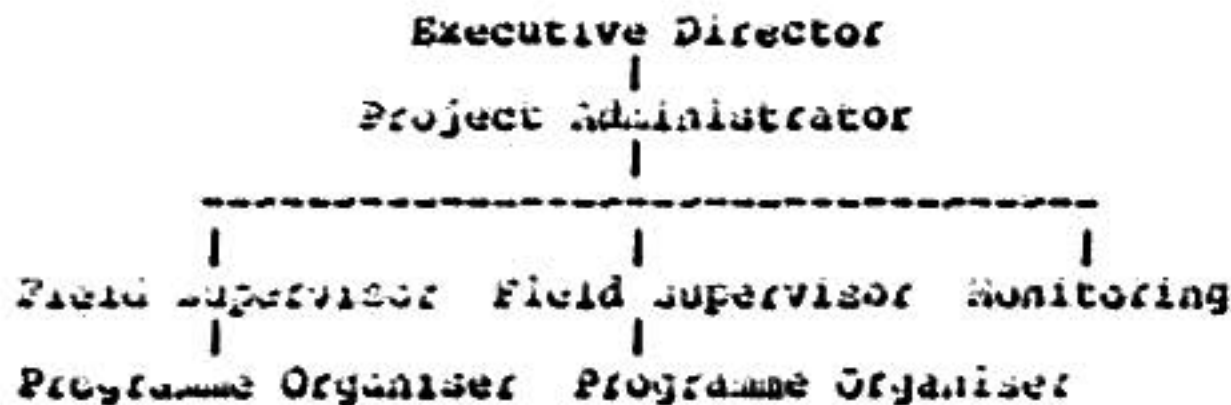
Year	Number of Teachers	Mandays of Basic Training	Mandays of 2nd year Training	Mandays of teachers' workshop:
1988	220 200	3300	1320	2640 2400
1989	220 200	3300	1320	2640 2400

Teachers will be paid a monthly honorarium.

4.5 **Student Selection:** The students will be from the disadvantaged section of the community who never enrolled in formal schools or dropouts within the 11-15 years' age group. The student body will comprise of 65% girls with 30 students in each centre.

For this age group, culturally in formal system coeducation is not usually allowed. In consideration of this factor, the age of boys will not be over 12.

4.6 **Management and administration:** A Project administrator will be entrusted with the responsibilities of the project who will be accountable to the Executive Director of BRAC. Two field supervisors (F.S.) will be recruited, one in 1988 and another one in 1989, each of whom will be in charge of 100 centres and will be accountable to the project administrator (P.A.). F.S. will supervise the activities of programme organisers (P.O.). Each P.O. shall directly supervise at least 15 centres. Management set up is shown in the following organogram:



4.7 **Monitoring and Evaluation:** In order to maintain quality, regular monitoring will be done by Head Office team. Besides, donor agency and other interested quarters will be invited for evaluation.

4.8 **Supply of Materials:** Each PEOC centre will be supplied with the following materials: books, slates, pencils, rulers, erasers, picture-word-cards, hard boards, charts, exercise books, black boards and a steel cabinet to store supplies. All these materials will be procured by the Head Office Logistic Department and will be dispatched on requisition made by the concerned education centre authority.

4.9 **Community Participation:** The success of any programme is largely dependent upon the active participation of the beneficiaries. An education programme is no exception. To ensure smooth running of the PEOC centres parents committee will be formed. The committee shall assemble periodically to discuss the progress of their sons/daughters in presence of the teacher and BRAC personnel.

5. **Budget:** The budget of PEOC is attached.

**Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC)
Primary Education for Older Children (PEOC)
Budget 1988 - 90**

Figures in '000'

	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	TOTAL
	Tk.	Tk.	Tk.	Tk.
I. Teachers Training & Development				
a. Training				
- Tk.2,000 per teacher for 15 days training for 200 teachers for yr 1 and yr 2	200 400	400	—	800
b. Refreshers' course				
- Tk.875 per teacher for 5 days course for 200 in each yr of 2 & 3	—	175	175	350
c. Workshops				
- Tk.120 per teacher per year for 200, 400 & 200 teachers	24	48	24	96
d. Trainees' Travel & Transportation				
- Tk.150 per teacher per refresher course/training for 200, 400 & 200 teachers	30	60	30	120
TOTAL I	454	683	229	1366 I
II. Salaries and Benefits				
a. Teachers				
- Tk.400 per month per teacher for 200, 400 & 200 teachers	960	1920	960	3840
b. Program Organisers				
- Tk.3,500 per month per PO for 14, 28 and 14 POs	588	1176	588	2352
c. Program Supervisors				
- Tk.5,000 per month per supervisor for 2, 4 and 2 supervisor	120	240	120	480

Contd....P/2

X d. Program Administrator				
- Tk.6,500 per month for 1 Administrator	78	78	78	234
✓ A. Program Monitor				
- Tk.3,500 per month for 1 monitor	42	42	42	126
✓ E. Fringe benefits 3%				
- 50% salary excluding that of teachers	414	768	414	1596
① 30% TOTAL II	2202	4224	2202	8628 II
✓ III. Staff Travel and Transport				
- 10% of salary excluding that of teachers	83	154	83	320 III
✓ IV. Educational Materials				
✓ a. - Tk.4,800 per school per year for 200, 400 & 200 schools	960	1920	960	3840
b. Teachers materials				
✓ - Tk.300 per school per year for 200, 400 & 200 schools	60	120	60	240
TOTAL IV	1020	2040	1020	4080 IV
V. School accommodation & utility				
- Tk.100 per school per month for 200, 400 & 200 schools	240	480	240	960 V
✓ VI. Office stationery & supplies				
- Tk.2,000 per month for year 1 & 3 and Tk.4,000 per month for yr 2.	24	48	24	96 VI
VII. Furniture & Fixture				
- Tk.1,600 per school per year for 200 & 200 school for yr 1 & 2. 2 3000	320	320	--	640 VII

Contd.....P/3

VIII TRANSPORT

a. Motor cycle (2 in yr 1, 2 in yr 2)

- Tk.40,000 per unit 80 80 -- 160

b. Bicycle (14 in yr 1, 14 in yr 2)

- Tk.5,000 per unit 70 70 -- 140

TOTAL VIII 150 150 -- 300 VIII

4493 8099 3798 16390

H.O. Management & Support Services (10%)

449 810 380 1639

GRAND TOTAL

TK. 4942 8909 4178 18029

US \$ (\$ 1 = Tk. 30)

165 297 139 601

Total Budget : U S Dollar six hundred and one thousand only.

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