



BRAC

BANGLADESH RURAL
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

3, NEW CIRCULAR ROAD, MAGHBAZAR
DACCA-17 BANGLADESH

MANIKGANJ PROJECT REPORT
April '76 to March '77

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MANIKGANJ PROJECT REPORT
Covering 1st April 1976 to 31st March 1977

INTRODUCTION:

Manikganj Thana lies 45 miles from the city of Dacca connected by moterable road to the Thana Centre. Most of the Thana is low land which gets inundated during the monsoon months when Aus and Aman rice crop is grown. The sandy loam soil is not particularly suitable for rice cultivation. The yield per acre is therefore no more than 10 maunds(1/3 ton). During the dry winter months most of the land remains fallow. But where irrigated water is available some rice, wheat, sugarcane and oil seeds are grown.

The population of 163,000 lives within an area of about 70 sqr. miles. The density of population is over 2,300 per sqr. miles. The primary occupation is agriculture. Dependence on extremely limited land and water resources makes the people one of the poorest in Bangladesh.

Preparatory Phase I: In order to develop a new approach to integrated development in the Manikganj Thana BRAC decided to start a food for work programme in the Thana in winter 1975. The preparatory phase covered a period from November 1975 to March 1976. During this period 10 food for work programmes were completed(see report on FFW 1975 - 76). In addition to developing agricultural resources of the Thana the objective of the programme was to identify The target groups -- i.e.(1) the poorest section of the community who participated in manual work (2) community leaders who assisted in planning and supervising the programme (3) the youth members who worked with BRAC workers with dedication for the development of community resources. The activities during phase I established **BRAC** in the Manikganj Thana and cleared the way for implementation of an innovative programme of integrated rural development.

STRATEGY:

the functional interest groups such as the landless, the women and the unemployed youth in a process of conscientisation through a functional education programme. This process is believed to be an essential element in eliciting participation of hitherto uninvolved majority in the development process. As the functional groups develop their capacity to engage in self-help activities BRAC starts to provide financial and technical assistance in support of these activities. It has been decided that BRAC will not undertake any programme which has not been initiated locally.

FUNCTIONAL EDUCATION:

Functional education is the main thrust of BRAC's conscientization programme in Manikganj project. 192 male and 95 female volunteers were trained in the methodology of functional education to conduct functional education courses on voluntary basis. Two volunteers have been given the responsibility of conducting each centre.

So far 82 male and 47 female functional education centres have been organised for disadvantaged homogenous groups such as the landless, destitute women, share-croppers, weavers and potters. Out of these, 3 male and 1 female centres discontinued. 462 male and 215 female obtained graduation from 24 male and 13 female centres. Presently 55 male and 33 female centres with 1,060 male and 625 female learners are attending functional education classes and are expected to complete the course by the end of June '77. Additionally 17 male and 3 female centres are expected to be opened by mid-June.

In the mean time 17 male and 18 female learners groups having 326 male and 317 female membership have gone in group economic activities.

COOPERATIVES:

Formation and development of cooperative societies for generating concerted group action is one of the key programmes of Manikganj

project. Functional education is being used as a vehicle for organising cooperative groups for cooperative self-help activities.

By the end of April '77 20 landless farmers' cooperatives, 14 women's cooperatives, 1 weavers' cooperative and 1 potters' cooperative have emerged from among the functional education learners with a total membership of 726. The main emphasis of cooperative programme is on the direct participation of all the members in the activities of the societies.

The cooperative societies organise weekly meeting of the members and discuss the affairs of the societies and collect weekly savings from the members. By the end of April '77 Tk.12,335.00 has been collected from the members in the form of share capital, savings etc. part of which have been invested to the group economic activities the rest have been deposited in a Bank.

BRAC workers are presently assisting the society members in planning their activities.

Male groups: Most of the members of male cooperatives are only Bhitarbari (homestead land) holders having no cultivable land. Only few members have land exceeding .50 acres.

The members of 16 landless farmers cooperative having a membership of 313 took agricultural land on 50% share cropping basis from the local landholders and have gone on joint cultivation. They have cultivated 21.00 acres of local variety of paddy, 35.00 HYV of paddy, 15 acres of wheat and 3.00 acres of sugarcane. They had to hire power pump from Government for irrigating their land. BRAC provided Tk.50,745 as loan for the cost of seeds, fertilizer, tilling and irrigation cost of 9 such landless cooperative societies having a membership of 184. The remaining 7 societies arranged their capital inputs from their own fund.

Previously, the members of the weavers' and potters' cooperative had to sell their products in advance of production to the middlemen at a very low price for raising capital inputs. BRAC provided

Tk.7,350.00 to one weavers' and one potters' cooperative society as loan to save them from the clutches of the middlemen.

Female groups: Most of the members of the female cooperatives are usually engaged in earth cutting and a few are housewives of landless peasants. 11 female cooperative societies having a membership of 157 have gone for paddy and pulse husking programme and 10 female societies including paddy husking groups having 179 members have gone for agriculture programme. They have taken land on 50% share cropping from the local landholders. The local youth club members had to assist them in getting land because no landowner was willing to give land to women. They have cultivated 3.00 HVT of paddy, 3.00 sugarcane and 15.00 acres of potato and other crops.

BRAC provided Tk.20,730.00 in cash as loan for paddy and pulse husking to 11 female societies having membership of 157 and Tk.3,370.00 in cash as loan to 6 female societies having membership of 120 for agriculture. The remaining 4 societies managed their capital inputs from their own fund.

One female cooperative having a membership of 15 have gone for bidi(local cigarettes) making. BRAC provided Tk.2,100.00 in cash as loan to them. They have started production.

In addition to this, both male and female cooperatives were engaged in horticulture and vegetable cultivation. BRAC supplied at cost price to them 680 saplings of a variety of plants, 24 lbs. papaya seeds, 11,850 gm. winter vegetable seeds and 4lbs. summer vegetable seeds.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES:

There are hundreds of rural youth groups in Bangladesh, whose membership usually consists of the educated unemployed. Important positions in the Management Committee are usually in the hands of the powerful village leaders. Due to better quality of leadership some of these groups venture into adult education, agriculture

extension and related development activities. These initiatives are often dissipated due to the lack of financial support, institutional guidance, misdirected and inadequately developed programme, which serves to further frustrate and alienate the youths from the rural area.

From the initial stage of this project BRAC involved some of the members of youth groups to serve voluntarily in selection, implementation and supervision of 'Food For Work' programme, functional education, public health, family planning and cooperative societies. BRAC workers conducted a number of workshops with the members of youth clubs in different villages to find a way to activate them in welfare activities of their own community and have decided to provide them financial support and necessary guidance to execute the welfare activities for their community.

26 youth groups with 449 members have so far been identified as interested in welfare activities. 192 males and 95 females have been given functional education teachers' training; 69 males and 74 females were given mixed training on leadership, communication, group dynamics and consciousness raising in order to involve them in social welfare activities.

One male and two female youth members were given training on duck raising and were supplied with 115 ducklings of Thai variety. The ducks have now started laying eggs which are being distributed to the destitute women for hatching.

28 youths in 14 villages were given training on poultry vaccination and have vaccinated 4,271 chicks under the supervision of BRAC workers. It is hoped that these Youth Members will be able to conduct future vaccination programme without BRAC assistance.

One female member of a youth club was given training on sericulture and BRAC supplied her 500 worms to start the programme in her own home. BRAC has plans to supply her two spinning wheels,

one for her and one for trainees. She is now capable of providing training to others. BRAC workers have started a campaign for "Bherenda tree" cultivation throughout the project area in order to expand this programme.

2 members of a youth club were given training on fish culture. They were each supplied with 500 Nilotica fish fries to cultivate in their own pond. They will provide training to those who will take up pisciculture programme. So far 3 ponds have been brought under fish cultivation and BRAC supplied 7,100 Nilotica fish fries to these ponds at cost price.

28 male and 15 female members of different youth groups were given training on an ongoing base-line survey conducted by BRAC in 20 randomly selected villages of the project area covering a population of 20,348.

90 male and 30 female members of youth groups were engaged in fertile couple registration in 60 villages covering a population of 40,263.

34 male and 31 female members were given training on family planning motivation, contraception techniques and record-keeping.

70 youths who had received training on Functional Education earlier were given training on nutrition to conduct health education with interested villagers.

RURAL WORKS PROGRAMME:

During the dry season 76 - 77 rural works programme initiated by the cooperative groups were executed with voluntary labour from the groups upto about 20% and remainder paid by BRAC in cash. These programmes were mainly in the nature of resource development for these groups -- viz. land raising for horticulture, pond and tank excavation for pisciculture, levelling of fallow land and plantation

HEALTH & FAMILY PLANNING:

are engaged in preparing a treatment manual in Dacca.

Initially 30 villages with 23,467 population will be covered under this programme. 90 health workers of which 55 are male and 35 female have been selected for this programme. Two male and atleast one female worker will be given training on three different groups of ailments for each village. This programme is expected to start by the 1st of July 1977.

60 villages have been initially taken under family planning programmes covering a population of 40,263. The local volunteers have completed the couple registration and the number of fertile couples is 4,831.

The paramedics provided training to 34 males and 31 females on Family Planning motivation, techniques and record keeping. More village level F. P. workers will be given training in the project area. In the meantime the F.P. workers have enrolled 101 pill acceptors who were supplied oral contraceptives, after proper physical checkup by the paramedics.

BRAC also provided financial assistance of Tk.50,000.00 to Manikganj Janashankha Sinitikaran Samity, a local voluntary organisation engaged in permanent sterilization for the period from July'76 to June'77. By the end of March'77 the position of the voluntary sterilization programme was as follows:

No. of clients: (July'76 - March'77)

- | | | |
|-------------------|---|-----|
| 1. Vasectomy | - | 1 |
| 2. Tubal ligation | - | 420 |

421

In addition, the doctor and the clinic assistants worked in a special Government programme at Bogra during the month of March and did 188 tubectomy and 31 vesectomy operations there.

Since the clinic has no village level followup service, they keep the clients for 2/3 days after operation and provide food,

malnutrition, and communicable diseases- are all preventable and do not usually require a doctor or hospitalization. Inadequate sanitation and contaminated water sources predispose the population to many serious diseases. What is required are trained and motivate village level health workers who can treat the most common diseases, conduct vaccination drives and teach public health to the people e.g necessity for drinking non-contaminated water, environmental sanitation etc.

In early January BRAC transferred one Medical Officer and 6 paramedics to develop village level health workers and to train them on the preventive aspects of health care and curative care of a few common diseases.

The Medical Officer is now engaged in developing training materials and programmes for the Village Level Health Workers which is expected to be completed by May'77.

The paramedics conducted a survey on the disease pattern in the project area. The findings are as follows:

1. Water borne	43.33%
2. Skin diseases	12.79%
3. Respiratory diseases	12.02%
4. Viral infections	17.35%
5. Vitamin deficiency	4.72%
6. Others	9.74%
100%	

Village level health workers are now being recruited and they will be trained in all aspect of disease prevention in addition to the treatment of a limited number of common diseases.

In order to introduce a curative medical service at a reasonable cost within the financial resources of the common people, BRAC plans to introduce Homeopathic and Ayurvedic drugs together with the Allopathic. At present the experts of all three branches

lodging and necessary medicine.

Average age of tubectomy clients:	29 years
Average No. of Parity	4.32
Average cost per client:	
From July to December	Tk.99.00
From January to April	Tk.110.00

The increase in the cost per person during the period January - March was due to the closure of the clinic for the month of March. Although the doctor and his team were requisitioned by the Government to conduct sterilization programme elsewhere the overheads had to be incurred.

FIELD ORGANISATION & PERSONNEL:

In order to cover the unions of the municipal areas of Manikganj ERAC workers are now operating from 4 field camps situated in Manikganj, Betila, Gorpara and Balirtak. Now Field Workers do not need to travel more than 4 miles to reach the farthest villages.

Initially, Manikganj served as the controlling centre which has now been shifted to Betila. Only one camp, Gorpara, is completely owned by ERAC since there was no suitable rented accommodation available. A new camp is required to be constructed in Balirtak where the Staff are accommodated temporarily in a Government warehouse.

The project started with 6 Programme Supervisors which has gradually increased to 14 headed by a Project Administrator. One medical officer and six paramedics joined the project in February to initiate a rural health and family planning motivation programme.

Staff training for the new project was conducted as required. An average of one man-month training was given to all programme Staff joining this project.

MANIKGANJ PROJECT

Receipts & Payments Statement
For the Period from 1st April '76 to 31st March '77

Receipts:

Donation from 'Bread for the World'	10,35,000.00
	<u>10,35,000.00</u>

Payments:Medical Programme

Doctor's salary	1,800.00	
Equipment	1,565.00	
Medicine	326.00	
Family Planning	39,186.00	
Training	134.00	
Paramedical Salary	4,355.00	
Travelling	1,055.00	
Furniture & Fixture	5,215.00	
	<u>53,636.00</u>	

Institutional Support

Grants-Youth organisation	29,926.00	
" -women organisation	75,249.00	
" -Cooperative	24,426.00	
Loan to Cooperatives	56,641.00	
	<u>1,86,242.00</u>	

Recurring Expenses

Stationery & Office supplies	18,468.00	
Utilities & Rent	10,517.00	
General Expenses	6,640.00	
Transport running Expenses	5,988.00	
Salaries of service Staff	10,709.00	
Salaries of Field Staff	1,02,442.00	
Field Staff Travel	15,226.00	
H.O. Support	1,33,031.00	
	<u>3,03,021.00</u>	

Organisational Requirements

Camp Development	71,424.00	
Motor Cycle & Bicycle	29,066.00	
Office Furniture & Equipment	71,277.00	
	<u>1,71,767.00</u>	
Balance in hand		3,20,334.00
		<u>10,35,000.00</u>