

SULLA PROJECT
ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT
1981

**BANGLADESH RURAL
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE
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1. INTRODUCTION

With the end of 1981, the Sulla project of the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee(BRAC) has completed 10 years of operation in rural development with the disadvantaged rural poor. Starting as a relief and rehabilitation effort it has matured into an integrated development programme aimed at developing human and institutional capacities for improving the quality of life of the disadvantaged rural poor.

Phase I from February 1972 to October 1972 was concerned with rehabilitating the returning refugees of the war of liberation. 10,200 houses were constructed and 3900 houses were repaired. An attempt was also made to rehabilitate the refugees in their respective occupations. Fishermen cooperatives were supplied 4500 Ibs. of nylon twines and 169 fishing boats. Seeds and fertilizers were supplied to the farmers. To provide medical care, 4 rural clinics were established and a child-feeding programme was carried out to improve the nutritional condition of the children.

Resettlement provided immediate relief to the war affected refugees but did little to change their condition of lives. They remained as ever victims of injustice, exploitation, poverty and diseases. This prompted BRAC to redirect energies to a more development-oriented programme. Thus Phase II, covering the period from November 1972 to December 1975 was a period of integrated development activities consisting of a number of Sectoral programmes; agriculture, fisheries, functional education, community centre development in the village, health care and family planning and vocational and human

development training.

Phase II experience has resulted a radical change in BRAC approach from integrated community development to a more comprehensive people oriented approach in its third phase operation. Identification, mobilisation and organisation of the disadvantaged people are the basic elements of this people centred approach. BRAC provides necessary support and services to facilitate the process of building people's capacities and organisational skills to deal with the structural barriers that impede their advancement.

This report briefly describes the major activities undertaken during the year 1981.

II. CAPACITY BUILDING AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

During the year BRAC continued to strengthen the organisational skills of the landless people . Efforts were made to develop solidarity, and integrity among the landless by bringing more and more landless within their organisational activities. Various forums were continued to strengthen the process of linking up village level organisations into central level organisations. Upto the end of 1981, 155 village organisations were formed of which 82 are male and 73 are female. Total membership in all these organisations is 7655 - male 4121 and female 3534. 61% disadvantaged landless people in 101 project villages are covered. Total target households covered under the village organisations is 6024.

In the context of traditional organisational setback and short-comings an innovative democratic structure of the central landless organisation was developed in 1981. Under the new structure, the central organisation is an organisation of conference participated by representatives from the Area level organisations of conferences. Village organisations

remain the powerful sovereign body of the landless people. An area level organisation of conferences is participated by representatives of village organisations in a particular area consisting of 15 to 20 villages. Representatives in the central conference are selected through decisions in the area conference. No representative is selected more than twice to attend either Area conference or central conference. Decisions regarding common issues are taken in the central conference and Area conferences and are disseminated to members of village organisations through area conference and meetings in the village organisations respectively.

All decisions regarding programme activities including economic and health programmes are taken by the members of respective village organisation through participatory consensus process. For ensuring financial and organisational disciplines various sub-committees at different levels are formed on a short term basis not exceeding 4/6 months for example, for operating bank account, the signatories are changed every after 4/6 months.

A constitution for landless organisation has been drafted with participation of landless members and BRAC staff and is already put in force. During the year 105 Area conferences and 7 central conferences were held and attended on average by 42 and 48 representatives from groups respectively.

Various forums and processes are initiated to strengthen their organisational capabilities, understanding and exploring their leadership potentials so that they can think, plan and act on their own behalf without depending much on outside assistance.

These forums are weekly meetings of the village organisations, block meetings of clustered villages (4 to 5 villages),

Area conference, cadres workshop, inter-area meetings, central conference, continuous need based training, functional education, advance functional education course.

The objective of these forums are to create awareness of their socio-economic problems and activating them for organised actions to overcome their problems. Nature of issues for actions vary from socio-economic oppressions to economic actions. With training, guidance and support from BRAC, these organisations plan implement and manage their own activities including educational forums. At all levels of actions leadership is provided by the landless through collective decisions and collective actions. 325 cadres in the project area are providing leadership to mobilise and organise landless people.

In December, a landless convention was held at DeraI Thana head quarter and attended by 9564 landless people from all over the project area. This convention voiced against exploitation, corruption and demanded participation and representation of landless people in the local administration and in the implementation of development programmes. Report about this convention was published in almost all the leading daily and weekly national newspapers and had raised discussion about it at national level.

In 18 villages, landless groups continued to provide leadership in the 'Gram Sarker' administration. One of the group members is elected as thana prodhan(thana chief) and another is elected in the national committee. Most of the groups have entered into conflict with power elites on different social and economic issues. Some groups are victimised by false cases which they are collectively and boldly facing.

The most remarkable achievement is their emergence as a power group in the society. They are no longer considered by elites as passive objects for manipulation.

Until the end of 1981, 35 landless village organisations are registered with the IRDP and 27 have applied for registration. 11 groups have already received credit support from IRDP.

In order to develop their financial strength, the landless organisations have created different funds for specific purposes such as savings funds, emergency fund to provide emergency support to members in odd situations, reserve fund to finance collective income generating activities, health fund to run health programme and general fund. An amount of Tk. 317942.50 has been created in different funds. Most of the village organisations have bank accounts.

Solidarity, Unity and collective actions remain the fundamental aspects of mobilisation and organisation of the landless.

III. HEALTH CARE AND PREVENTIVE SERVICES

The present landless based self managed health programme is the outcome of past BRAC experiences. The main thrust of the programme is to develop the skills and ability of the landless group members to run health care programme for dealing with common diseases through curative and preventive services. The exploitation by village quacks is tremendously felt and to deal with them they felt the need for developing health cadres from among the landless groups. They are called Shysta Sebok/Sebikas (S.S). The main tasks of S.S. are to provide curative and preventive services to group members and others from the community on certain common diseases like dysentery, worms, scabies, diarrhoea, cold fever, malnutrition etc. which are considered common ailments. In each village organisation, two members are selected by V.O.s as S.S. and are trained by BRAC in curative and preventive aspects. A health committee is formed in each village who are supervising the S.S.s and report to village organisation. A health fund is created and a stock of

simple medicines is kept and are sold to patients at cost price under the treatment of S.S. BRAC paramedics provide followup, supervision, guidance and continuous theoretical and practical training and refresher courses to the S.S. The quality control is ensured at all levels - S.S./Paramedics through constant and regular observation, supervision, training and refresher. The complicated cases are referred by S.S. to paramedics to qualified doctors. Up to the end of the year, 137 S.S.'s are trained of whom 65 are in active service. 44 Health Committees are formed and 48 groups (male+female+together one group for health programme) have raised health fund.

During the year a total of 2449 patients were treated by S.S. and 154 were referred to paramedics. An amount of Tk. 6327 has been raised in the health fund in the project area.

BRAC has supplied necessary equipment to S.S.'s. The S.S. in collaboration with the BRAC staff conducts health education meetings. During the year 100 health education meetings were conducted with an average participation of 22 members per meeting. BRAC staff in collaboration with S.S.'s have distributed 2960 Vit. A capsules to 1469 children and 516 children were immunised with DPT. Iron tablets and multivitamins were supplied to pregnant and lactating mothers by S.S.'s.

Under BRAC T.B. control programme, 24 patients are under treatment with free medical support from BRAC.

In order to improve the skills and knowledge of traditional birth attendants(Dais) Dai upgrading programme was undertaken in 1978. Uptill now 137 Dais were trained and are provided continuous guidance, training and refresher courses. Necessary equipment for sterilisation and delivery were

supplied and the uses of these equipments are checked frequently. Of the 137 dais 98 were upgraded and their services are satisfactory.

IV FAMILY PLANNING

Because of the national policy, BRAC has mostly stressed on the motivational aspects of family planning and refers the couples to Govt. family planning services. However, BRAC still continues to provide contraceptives and other services to couples where such are considered necessary. In cooperation with Bangladesh Association for Voluntary Sterilisation (BAVS) the motivated couples are sent to their clinics for permanent sterilisation (Vasectomy and Tubectomy). Total acceptors in different methods is 965 under BRAC family planning programme. Detail statistical summary is given in APPENDIX I.

V. ECONOMIC SUPPORT

The objectives of economic support is to -

- i) reduce the dependency of landless people on 'Mohajons' (money lenders) and there by strengthen their economic power;
- ii) improve the planning, management, financial and leadership skills of the group members, and foster group cohesiveness, and understanding
- iii) generate group funds for future actions to improve their conditions and thereby helping self sustained economic activities.

BRAC economic support programme consists of short-term credit to viable agricultural and non-agricultural projects developed by the landless groups.

During the year BRAC provided credit scheme management training and logistic support to 12 male and 6 female groups in its 7 agricultural and 12 non-agricultural projects involving 695 male and 297 female landless members. A Total of

Tk. 184,200.00 was advanced against the above projects and an amount of Tk. 59,372.00 was earned as profit from these projects which was distributed to group members and to different funds of groups. Besides BRAC economic support, almost all the groups implemented different projects on collective basis utilising their own funds and also funds received from IRDP.

VI AGRICULTURE & ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

During this year two powerpumps projects were experimented where two groups had taken the management responsibility of two blocks under HVY rice cultivation. They were provided scheme management training. The experiment was successful and they earned a profit of Tk. 20,000.00 out of an investment of Tk. 44000.00. Because of the efficient management of the farmers these blocks had recorded higher yields than previous year. Besides these, three groups were involved in HYV paddy cultivation. Because of the regular followup and training these groups were able to earn a profit. An intensive papaya cultivation programme was undertaken and about 2500 papaya seedlings were supplied to 500 group members. Winter vegetable gardening programmes were organised and 170 individual group members received seeds. A total of vegetable gardens were organised where 16 groups consisting of 286 members were involved, and an estimated 10 acres of land were under this programme. For the first time in this area BRAC introduced the cultivation of "Sona Mukhi" (expensive pulse) through some group members and its production was extra-ordinarily good. This has created a very big demonstration. More and more groups have expressed their interest to cultivate Sonamukhi on fallow land in the next season.

Representatives from seven area organisation of conference were trained in animal husbandry and veterinary. A total of 687 cows were vaccinated against "enthrax" and "foot and mouth

disease" by the group members. These trained members are very active and providing leadership in veterinary services to groups and others in the area. In providing their services they are keeping close contact with thana livestock officers.

Group to group duck extension programme was undertaken. Eggs of Khaki cambles were supplied to different groups for hatching purpose and 61 landless group members were trained in duck extension programme.

VII. ORGANISATION AND PERSONNEL

As the Central organisation of conference is becoming more active and viable in taking the responsibility in mobilising and organising their fellow landless, BRAC's ideal of transferring power to people has come into reality. As a result No. of staff were substantially reduced in 1981 by almost 50% compared to 1980. At the end of 1981 BRAC had 13 workers in Sulla project compared to 24 in the end of 1980. The No. of camps remained 7 from where the Programme Organisers are keeping in constant touch with the landless groups.

Besides regular training, weekly, fortnightly and monthly staff meetings are the forums for staff development action and reflection through free flow participation remains the guiding principle for sharpening their understanding and skills in the multi-disciplinary social change process.

VIII. CONCLUSION

1981 was a year of social actions for the landless groups in Sulla. The greatest achievement is the fostering of a sense of belongingness and solidarity that activated the disadvantaged in mobilising actions for social justice. Many groups have acquired 'Khas land'(govt. land) hitherto illegally occupied by the rich. Many groups are also burdened with false

litigations and thereby economic hardships. But however the morale of groups have gone up instead of going down and strengthened their solidarity and integrity. The organisational framework has already been developed and is found viable as an institution of the landless. However more skills are yet to be developed, more landless are yet to be mobilised and activated. In this process BRAC commits to be partner with the landless in the days ahead.

APPENDIX-1

Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee(BRAC)

Sulla ProjectStatistical Summary Report, 1981

1.	<u>VILLAGE COVERAGE</u>		
	a. Total No. of villages		150
	b. No. of villages covered		101
	c. No. of fully covered villages		41
2.	<u>HOUSEHOLD COVERAGE</u>		
	a. No. of total households in the covered villages		13538
	b. No. of target households		9999
	c. No. of target households covered		6024
3.	<u>POPULATION</u>		
	a. No. of total population in covered villages		75639
	b. No. of total target population covered		27429
	c. Percentage of target population covered over total target population		61.02%
4.	<u>LANDLESS GROUPS</u>		
	a. Total No. of groups	Male:	82
		Female:	73
		Total:	155
	b. No. of group members	Male:	4121
		Female:	3534
		Total:	7655
5.	<u>CORE GROUPS</u>		
	a. No. of core groups		65
		Male:	39
		Female:	26
	b. No. of members in the core groups	Male:	2336
		Female:	2044
		Total:	4380

6. GROUPS ORGANISED BY CORE GROUPS

a. No. of groups	Male:	15
	Female:	18
	Total:	33
b. No. of members in the group	Male:	477
	Female:	436
	Total:	913

7. CADRES

No of cadres	Male:	167
	Female:	158
	Total:	325

8. GROUP MEETINGS

a. No. of meetings held	1934
b. Average attendance	24

9. BLOCK MEETINGS

a. No. of meetings held	100
b. Average attendance	72

10. AREA CONFERENCE

a. No. of area conferences held	105
b. Average attendance	42

11. CENTRAL CONFERENCE

a. No. of central conference held	7
b. Average attendance	48

12. LANDLESS CONVENTION

A landless convention was held at Derai thana H.O. and attended by 9564 landless people from all the groups.

Male:	4985
Female:	4579
Total:	9564

13. INTER AREA MEETINGS

a. No. of inter area general members meetings held	32
b. Average attendance	45

14.	<u>GROUP REGISTERED WITH GOVT. IRDP AS CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES</u>		
	a. No. of groups registered		35
	b. No. of groups applied for registration		27
15.	<u>GRAM SARKAR</u>		
	a. No. of Gram Pradhan (village chief) from the landless groups		18
	b. No. of groups occupied the full cabinet of the Gram Sarkar		17
16.	<u>FUNCTIONAL EDUCATION</u>		
	a. No. of F.E centres opened	Male:	5
		Female:	10
		Total:	15
	b. No. of learners enrolled	Male:	83
		Female:	163
		Total:	246
	c. No. of centres discontinued	Male:	3
		Female:	7
		Total:	10
	d. No. of graduates	Male:	22
		Female:	20
		Total:	42
17.	<u>ADVANCE COURSE ON FUNCTIONAL EDUCATION</u>		
	a. No. of centres opened		4
	b. No. of learners enrolled	Male:	31
		Female:	85
		Total:	116
	c. No. of learners graduated		48
18.	<u>HEALTH CARE AND PREVENTIVE SERVICE</u>		
	a. No of Shyasta Sebok/Sebika(S.S) (health cadres)trained in the year	Male:	37
		Female:	47
		Total:	84
	b. No. of qualified S.S	Male:	39
		Female:	33
		Total:	72
	c. No. of S.S under training	Male:	3
		Female:	12
	d. No. of total S.S trained	Male:	61
		Female:	76
		Total:	137

e. No. of S.S in service	Male: 27 Female: 38 Total: 65
f. No. of health committees	44
g. No. of groups raised health fund	48
h. No. of group members covered under health programmes	1693
i. No. of patients treated by S.S.	2449
j. No. of patients reffered to skilled P.O.s (paramedic)	154
k. No. of health education meetings held in the year.	100
l. Average attendance	22
m. No. of midwives(Dai)	137
n. No. of Dais up graded	98
o. No. of kit boxes supplied to Dais	74
DPT Immunization	516
VIT A. distribution	2960
Iron tab. distribution	1027
Multivitamin distribution	1193
Q. No. of T.B. patients under treatment	24
19. <u>FAMILY PLANNING</u>	
a. No. of fertile couples in the project area	8001
b. No. of acceptors	
pill	396
inj.	222
vasectomy	190
tubutomy	28
I U D	41
condom	49
E M K O	<u>39</u>
Total	965

For administering and managing health programme, both male and female groups in a village are treated as one group.

20. ECONOMIC SUPPORT PROGRAMME

a. No. of groups received loans from BRAC	Male:	12
	Female:	6
	Total:	18

b. No. of schemes	Agriculture	7
	Non agriculture	12
	Total	19

c. Nature of the project:

Dry fish processing	2
Power pump operation	2
Paddy cultivation	2
Land levelling	2
Bamboo business	2
Stock business	5
Sweet potato cultivation	1
Paddy husking	2
Total	<u>19</u>

d. No. of members involved 992

e. Amount of loan disbursed Tk. 184,200

f. Total profit earned by group " 59327

g. Total amount of outstanding loan " 63000

h. No. of groups received loan from IRDP and other agencies 11

i. Total amount of loan received (IRDP and other sources) " 143,000

21. FUND CREATION BY GROUP

a. Members savings Tk. 256325

b. Emergency fund " 26295

c. Reserve fund " 27450

d. General fund " 1540

Total " 311,610

22. TRAINING

	Participants	
a. Leadership development		156
b. Resource mobilisation	"	17
c. Planning	"	39
d. Accounting and management	"	34
e. Consciousness raising	"	61
f. Functional education teachers training	"	9
g. Duck rearing(khaki cambel)	"	26
h. Animal husbandry and vaternary		11
i. Shysta Sebok/Sebika training	"	4
j. Dai refresher's	"	229
k. S.S. Refreshers'	"	180
Total		766

24. DUCK(Khaki Cambel) EXTENSION

a. No. of eggs distributed to landless women for hatching	79
b. No. of ducklings distributed	24

25. VEGETABLES GARDENING

a. No. of vegetable garden organised	36
b. No. of groups involved	16
c. No. of members involved	286

26. TRAINING OF STAFF

No. of staff trained in different courses	13
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27. STAFF POSITION

a. Programme organisers (including paramedics and administrative staff)	13
b. Service staff	9

28. No. of field camps in the project area	7
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APPENDIX-2

Sulla Project

Receipts and payments statement for the period from
January 1 to December 31, 1981.

RECEIPTS:

Donation received from Bread for the World	2,50,000
BRAC's internal resources	2,09,937
	<u>Taka : 4,59,937</u>

PAYMENTS:

Capacity Building and Institutional Development

Functional Education	535
Training Accounts	33,250
Staff Salary	1,32,176
Travelling and Transportation	45,052
	<u>2,11,013</u>

Health and Family Planning

Training and Refresher courses	650
Other supplies	4,026
Staff salary	69,668
Travelling and Transportation	22,354
	<u>96,698</u>

Agricultural Programme

Veterinary service	1,045
Staff salary	37,978
Travelling and Transportation	14,744
Store house construction	11,879
	<u>65,646</u>

Administration:

Staff salary	23,815
Travelling and Transportation	2,226
Stationary and Recurring expenses	60,539
	<u>86,580</u>

Taka : 4,59,937