

# Summary Report

Project Title: **Action Research in Child Trafficking**

Duration of the Project : July' 2000 – June' 2002

Reporting Period : July' 2000 – June' 2002

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Target (No. of events)</b>	<b>Acheived (No. of events)</b>
01. Baseline Survey;	1	1
02. Monthly situation analysis;	24	24
03. Workshop for determining strategies for combat against child trafficking;	1	1
04. Organize special workshop with the participation of local level organizations for formation of vigilance team;	4	4
05. Meeting with vigilance team;	16	16
06. Case study/Fact Findings;	20	20
07. Awareness Raising (Group meeting);	10	10
08. Border area situation analysis Report	1	1

(For detail please see the attachment progress report)

## Past Experience in Child Trafficking

A comprehensive report on the situation of child trafficking in Bangladesh comprising case studies, supported by the Save the Children, Denmark (Red-Bernet).

(Please see the attached report)

**Progress Report on**  
**Action Research in child trafficking in Bangladesh:**  
**a pilot project in Satkhira (July, 2000 - June, 2002)**

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## **Project at a glance:**

Problem of child trafficking is not new one in Bangladesh but gradually the numbers of events are increasing day by day. So a massive drive to combat against trafficking is very much important and timely demanded issue. Because of disguised nature in business this is difficult to combat against trafficking without people's participation. So a programme can start in this objective. The parties involved in the issue thought that involvement of the people at local level could act to mitigate the stated problem in a very effective manner by accommodating local level administration including the representatives from law and enforcement agencies e.g. Bangladesh Rifles & Police.

Bangladesh Manobadhikar Sangbadik Forum (BMSF) has been working to prevent the child and women trafficking by involving the people from different sections in border based areas of Satkhira district and of course the media personnel at respective areas are the main actor in this drive. This programme is supported by *DANIDA/Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BASf)* for two years, which was started in July, 2000. This is a research programme side by side awareness and develop a model for fighting against child trafficking in Bangladesh.

## **Objectives:**

- To develop and analysis trafficking situation in Satkhira;
- To develop the strategy to combat against trafficking;
- To aware the local level people in trafficking;
- To develop a vigilance team in local level participation in respective area;
- To develop a model on fighting against trafficking in Bangladesh in local level participation.

## **Activities:**

- 1) Analysis of the situation of child trafficking
- 2) Workshop on determining strategy of mitigating the child trafficking
- 3) Develop social vigilance team in participation of local level media personnel, lawyer, representative from administration, representative from law and enforcement agencies, representative of NGO and Human rights activist.
- 4) Documentation of all activities
- 5) Develop linkage to the local level media personnel, police personnel and local govt. bodies.

## **Activities:(in quantity)**

- Monthly and yearly situation analysis report
- Vigilance Team: 4 ( four) meeting in a year
- Three workshops, Three vigilance team and a report on experience on vigilance team

**Coverage of this programme** : *Border belt areas of Satkhira district( a district southern part of Bangladesh)*

## **Activities has been done:**

### 1) **SITUATION OF CHILD TRAFFICKING IN SATKHIRA (July, 2000 – June, 2001)**

**Base line Survey** – This is a part of the situation analysis and develop work plan in that area. The status report on the child and women trafficking at Satkhira has been developed for 1996-2000 and using source of the report was registered cases of local Police stations in Satkhira.

According to study, 24 women and child was rescued during the period and 8 cases have registered in different police stations in this district.

Number of Rescued women and children in Satkhira district (1996-2000)

Year	Thana (Police station)				
	Satkhira sadar	Shamnagar	Kaliganj	Kalaroya	Devhata
1996	9	☐	☐	☐	☐
1997	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
1998	2	☐	☐	☐	☐
1999	1	2	☐	☐	☐
2000	1	☐	8	☐	☐

**Note:** ☐ for no rescued event

## **2. Situation analysis:**

### **Source Of Information**

Official & unofficial both sources of information are used in situation analysis, unfortunately accuracy of information related to child and women trafficking is still questionable because forms of this business are main hindrance to get the information in accurate basis and exchanging views with the people of border belt used as method to collect the information specially the people those who are in regular interaction to border belt areas.

Side by side official information is lopsided one and parties involved in official information has been trying pass their responsibilities to other shoulders and not even they are not ready to accept the term trafficking as event in border based areas. So at this stage events counting procedure are based on the number of rescues.

Here dependency only on the observation based information we consider the information from observation are nearer to accuracy because this is accepted that traffickers are mostly known to the People living in border based areas but because of the trafficker's strong organization with money and muscle the people are in afraid of them and threaten to life none is interested to disclose any information openly and so getting the informers is not an easy task.

Another important feature of that locality is that most of the people aren't in authoritative and financially not sound. So prevailing economic backwardness is an instrument to exploit them.

Only those who have an entrance to the people because of their professional position are capable to handle the job. Considering stated issues and making the drive effective BMSF is focusing on more and more local voices to identify causes and solution regarding this problem – presently to develop a vigilance team comprising representation from different sections of people is solution with responsibility of analyzing the situation, monitoring the situation and identifying the local solution.

### **SITUATION (July, 2000 - June, 2001)**

*Unofficial Source:*

- ▶ 30-50 women and children in a month, not in a group but in different groups

*Official Source:*

- ▶ One trafficking event has occurred in August, 2000
- ▶ Two in January, 2001
- ▶ One in February, 2001
- ▶ Two in April, 2001
- ▶ Three in June, 2001

### Number of Rescued children in Satkhira district (July'2000-June'2001)

Satkhira sadar	Shamnagar	Kaliganj	Kalaroya	Devhata
6	☐	2	1	☐

**Note:** ☐ for no rescued event

**Sources:**

*Official : Bangladesh Rifles, border security forces and Local Police station*

*Unofficial :Local People in those areas (specially workers in transportation sector)*

**Limitations:**

Difficult to identify the events of trafficking by general observation because hundreds of people legally and illegally are crossing the border every day in family form and traffickers are utilizing this as opportunity. So their path of trade are to maintain more and more similarity with regular movement of people at that area.

### 3) Workshops for determining strategies for combat against trafficking

A Workshop on determining strategies for preventing child trafficking in participation of different sections of people in that locality was held on November 9, 2000 at Zilla Parishad Auditorium, Satkhira and total number of participants are 31:One from Bangladesh Rifles, One from Police, Two from NGO's, One cultural activist, one Human Rights activist, One from local level public representative, one businessman, two women activists, one Lawyer and rest of the participants were local level media personnel. For gathering voice from them workshop used in participatory method.

### **Workshop Findings**

Workshop designed a work schedule as follows:

<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITIES</b>
-Develop a Vigilance cell -Awareness at grassroots level -In depth report on trafficking -To identify vulnerable areas	Journalists
Accelerate proper enforcement of law	Law and Order authorities for PROPER ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS
Lobbying in policy making and implementation	Peoples Representatives to act as LEADER IN SOCIAL MOVEMENT
Awareness at grassroots level Awareness programme at school level	NGOs
Awareness at grassroots level	Religious leaders as an accelerator of MASS AWARENESS
Legal help to victim	Legal Practitioners for LEGAL AID TO VICTIMS

#### **4)Develop civil vigilance team consisting of journalists, Lawyers, Representatives of Local Administration, Representations from Local level NGOs, Human rights activists**

The civil vigilance team has been developed in different workshops within the following objectives:

- To develop a civil vigilance team consists of representatives of different sections of people from local level
- To determine working strategies of vigilance teams
- To determine the areas of work of teams

Four vigilance teams already developed in this district: Satkhira sadar (district head quarter), Kaliganj, Kalaroya and Devhata. For formulating the district committee a workshop was at Zilla Parishad Auditorium, Satkhira, on December 23, 2000 and Number of Participants was 30.

### Workshop Findings

a) district committee of vigilance on child and women trafficking at Satkhira:

Name	POSITION
Kallan Banerjee	Convener, Journalists
Mohammad Mia	Representative of BDR
Babar Ali	Representative of Police
Advocate Azarul Islam	Human Rights Activist
G M Feroz Kabir	Human Rights Activist
Neli Afrin	Women Activist
Madab Datta`	Development Activist
Selim Akhter	Educationist
Sheikh` Shafikudullah Sagar	Ward Commissioner
Amirul Asraf`	Theater activist
Mosarrof Hossain	Journalist
Momtaz Ahmed Bapi	Journalist
Asrafuzzaman Dipu	Journalist
Habibur Rahman	Journalist
Ramkrishna Chakrabarty	Journalist
Kalidas Roy	Journalist
Mustafizur Rahman	Journalist
M Kamruzzaman	Journalist
Ashan Habib Palash	Journalist
Yarab Hossain	Journalist
Moniruzzaman Monir	Journalist

b) How to vigilance team work

- In a two to three months interval the vigilance team of district and thana teams to sit together in presence of representative of head office of BMSF;
- Thana teams also to sit separately once in a month;
- Recommendations of thana teams to send to district team and district team to send this to head office of BMSF;
- Local level BMSF committees also to maintain close contact to vigilance teams and cooperate to teams as per requirement;

- Last but not least composition of vigilance should maintain inclusion of representatives from local level administration, Police, BDR, Peoples representatives, Human rights activists, women activists, development activists, Journalists and Legal practitioners.

### 5. District Social Vigilance Team activities:

Bangladesh Manobadhikar Sangbadik Form (BMSF) organized 2 meetings with the district vigilance team on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2001 & 29<sup>th</sup> May' 2001 in Satkhira. The meeting presided by Mr. Kallyan Bannerjee. The representative of Journalists, Teachers, NGO's workers presented in the meeting. The Coordinator of BMSF Mr. Syed Sofi also attended in the meeting. The attended participants briefly discussed on the following issue:

- How to protect;
- Role of law enforcement agencies
- Awareness raising.

### 6. Upazila Social Vigilance Team

Bangladesh Manobadhikar Sangbadik Form (BMSF) organized 6 meetings with the upazila vigilance team at 3 upazilas. The detail meetings as shown as below:

Upazila	Date	Discussed Issues	Venue	Attended type of persons
Debhata	22.03.2001 30.05.2001	-Formation of group -Miking, Postering, Handbill distribution, Banner, Festun etc. -Follow-up	Press Club, Debhata BMSF Office, Debhata	Journalists, Lawyers, Teachers, Public representatives, Businessman, NGO's workers
Kolaroya	19.03.2001 28.05.2001	-Formation of group -Miking, Postering, Handbill distribution, Banner, Festun etc. -Follow-up	Press Club, Kolaroya	Journalists, Lawyers, Politician, Administration representative, Teachers, UP Chairman, Businessman, NGO's workers
Kaligonj	20.03.2001 01.06.2001	-Formation of group -Miking, Postering, Handbill distribution, Banner, Festun etc. -Follow-up	Press Club, Kaligonj	Journalists, Lawyers, Politicians, Doctors, Teachers, Public representatives, Businessman, NGO's workers

## **7. Awareness Raising:**

For the awareness raising on the impact of trafficking BMSF organized series of group meetings among the Boatmans, Transport workers, Tampoo drivers, Hotel boys, Farmers and Rikshaw & Van drivers at border-belt area in Satkhira district.

## **8. Border area situation analysis report:**

Bangladesh Manobadhikar Sangbadik Form developed a report on the situation of Satkhira, Benapol, Chuadanga & Meherpur border-belt area. In the report the situation of border-belt area analyzed.