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Community Empowerment in Combating Violence Against Women in Char Area (CEC-VAW) Project

Implemented by: National Development Programme-NDP

Project Final Report

Reporting Time: October 2018 to March 2019



Project Area :SirajgonjDistrict

Mechra and Kawakola union of SadorUpozila

Context:

The goal 5 of SDG is 'Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls' and the important targets include eliminate all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere; eliminate all forms of VAW in the public and private spheres; eliminate all harmful practices, such as child/early marriage.

One in three women worldwide is beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her life time. Gender based violence (GBV) is also the most pervasive form of human rights violation and dominant notions of masculinity in Bangladesh are linked to toughness, honor, sexual prowess and dominance, which promote GBV. Bangladesh VAW Survey 2015 revealed that 80% of married women have experienced any kind of violence by their husband. A USAID study found that most of domestic violence in Bangladesh is nearly 2% of GDP. Bangladesh has the second highest prevalence (63%) of child marriage in the world. 367 domestic violence related deaths reported in newspaper in 2016.

VAW like domestic violence, dowry related violence, sexual and physical tortures by husbands are also commonly happening in Mechra and Kawakola Unions of Sirajgonj Sadar Upazila of Sirajgonj District. It is found that family violence commonly included dowry related violence and physical torture by husbands and the girls children are discriminate in their families. According to the Human Rights Analysis Report in Sirajgonj district, 5 death due to dowry, 29 suicide cases, 28 rape cases, 27 physical violence, 9 sexual abuse, 7 attempt of rape and 7 incidents of acid throwing to women occurred in a year.

Despite awareness and existing laws, poor implementation of laws is one of the major barriers in curbing the problem. Most of the cases the perpetrators are remained unchallenged or even if challenged but fail to give any exemplary punishment. VAW is a deeply entrenched problem in the society because attitudes and practices that support violence are institutionalized in custom.

Work with youth and men is necessary, as men with gender equitable attitudes are significantly less likely to perpetrate intimate partner violence and sexual violence. Therefore, positively changing gender related attitudes actually matters for prevention of gender based violence. Work with youth and men have a positive, transformative impact for the lives of women and girls but also for the lives of men and boys. Their roles not only prevent and reduce GBV, but also improve their lives by freeing them from these harmful and limiting aspects of masculinities.

In addition to development of accountable service providing institutes, it is necessary to develop and implement programs that work with young boys and girls to promote healthy, equitable intimate relationships where sex is always consensual and to change boys and men's

gender attitude that condone gender inequality and violence and attitudes regarding sex, and to take men as aliens in intervention against GVB.

October 2018 to March 2019

SL	Name of Activities	Indicator	Target	Progress	Allocated	Expenditure
1	Staff Deployment	# of staff	4	4		
2	Staff Meeting	# of meeting	6	6	2400	2962
3	Project Launching Workshop	# of workshop	2	2	12000	11980
4.	Leadership development					
4.1	Formation of youth Leadership(Mentors of Violence Prevention-MVP)	# of group	2	2	1800	1785
4.2	Provide Training to the MVP	# of youth	30	30	15000	15000
4.3	Community level awareness raising & actions of the MVPs	# of actions				
4.4	Formation of School Brigade (GEMS)	# of brigade formed	2	2	2000	1922
4.5	Provide training to GEMS leaders on gender and rights (2 days)	# of person	40	40	32000	31986
4.6	Organize school debate competition (high school & college level) to create awareness on prevention of VAW	# of event	2	2	20000	20000
4.7	Formation of Couple group: Couple groups (PRIA	# of group	30	30		
4.8	Organize orientation to the PRIA group	# of group	30	30	30000	29960
4.9	Conduction of monthly session at PRIA group	# of meeting	180	180	18000	18000
4.10	Day observance (International Day for Protest Women's Day for VAW; 25 November)	# of event	2	2	12000	11875
5.						
5.1	Re-activation meeting of Union NNPC	# of meeting	2	2	8000	7940
5.2	Facilitate bi-monthly meeting of NNPC	# of meeting	6	6	24000	23811
5.3	Issue based campaign for pressing demand like memorandum submission /press conference/rally/ human chain, etc against VAW and gender	# of event	2	2		8000

SL	Name of Activities	Indicator	Target	Progress	Allocated	Expenditure
	discrimination					
6.	Provide legal aid support					
6.1	Provide legal support to extreme poor victims	# of victim	4	4	14000	14000
6.2	Organize legal aid clinic	# of legal aid clinic	4	4	14000	13979
7.	Monitoring	Ongoing				
8.	Reporting	# of report	6			
9	Audit	# of report				

Key achievements (Narrative)

In October 2018 to March 2019 we completed our task as follow the action plan. 02 Unions volunteer and one project officer as well as one project coordinator (partially) developed to the project. Within this period we completed two project lunching meeting of Union level and Upazillalevel. Formed two MVP team, two GBV team, thirty PRIA group , one NNP committee, one re-active NNP committee, four legal aid clinic meeting, legal support to four extreme poor,



Project lunching meeting at SadorUpazillaSirajgonj, present Sokar Mohammad Raihan, UNO of SadorUpazilla, Sirajgonj

four different type training provide to the different participants, and different activities have done each Union for observed a long campaign of International VAW protection day. International Women day observed in two union with different activities such as Human chain, Rally, drama show, village

game competition by Women, Two Debate competition by the school student.

Mentors of violence prevention-MVP group: To raise voice and advocate to change the deep-rooted patriarchal social norms of gender discrimination and violence against women two MVP group build in two unions. Total 30 youth mentors selected from two Unions (15 from each union). They received training for developing leadership, communication skill and capacity of

mentor for violence. They take part for created awareness in the community of early marriage and sexual harassment. In VAW day, they participated of rally, discussion and essay competition. They made a sexual harassment protection committee in their village. They made a theater group for showing street theater. In International women’s day they arrange a cultural program in their village. Their group presented a drama of early marriage and domestic violence. They made a quarterly action plan for their tusk.



MVP group planning their action plan



MVP group presented theater in International Women's Day

Formation of Adolescent School(Gender Equality Movement s by students – GEMS): To create awareness about women’s rights and dignity, A total of 2 school selected where 2 GEMS formed. Each GEMS have 15 members, with a president and a secretary. The GEMS create and awareness about gender. Two days long training named “Mentoring development Training” provided to them. They made a action plane which they can do in their school time. They made two wall magazine of Women’s violence. In this magazine their writing creativity skill developed. A committee of VAW protection also formed by SMC, teacher, students. A complain box put the school for protection the victimized student.

Victim student can take action by GEMS group. Good students of GEMS group mentoring the others weak students.



GEMS group discussing about their activities

One girl student put her complain in the complain box



Couple Group (changing partner Inner Attitude –PRIA): To create and promote awareness on domestic violence thirty PRIA group have formed for two Unions. There have ten couple in each group. One module named “Dompotti Dialog” has developed. There have Seven content like Types of women’s Violence, Effect of domestic violence, Illegal Divorce, Social Image of male female, Availability of Family nutrition , Financial control, Equal participation of men and women in the house work 1, 2. A day long orientation have provide to them.



Couples participate in Dompotti session

Capacity building and enhance accountability of rights-holders and duty bearers: About defend, protect and promote rights of women and girls through civil society vigilance and monitoring Narinirjatonprotirodh committee have formed each Union.



NNPC meeting In Kawakola Union porishod

Legal aid Clinic meeting and Provide Legal support to Extreme poor: In Char Area people they do not know the different directions of the law. For this they do many crime in their unknowingly . In project timing 04 legal aid clinic meeting was done and provide legal support to 04 extreme poor.



Legal Aid meeting conducting by Advocate



Legal support provide to Hasina for physical harassment by her husband

International VAW protection Day observance campaign : Different activities was done In two Union for International VAW protection campaign. Especially Rally, Discuss, Drama show, symbol , essay competition, Court yard meeting were done in the VAW campaign. Root level village women were participate with enjoy in this program.



School Essay competition about VAW Protection



Village women participated in VAW Protection day Observation Rally

Some different training provide to different participants:



Participants of Leadership development training of MVP group



Mentoring Development training to the GEMS group. They made a wall magazine by their own writing about VAW



Dompotti Orientation to the PRIA group. Fifteen couple participated in the day long orientation from the two Union.

International Women’s Day observation in two Union: .Human chain, Rally, discussion, cultural program, Village sports competition were held 8th March for IWday . In these program local resource persons , Adolescent girls & boys, Youth, women participated and enjoy.



Debate competition : In two high school debate competition have done.



Description of the Achievements of outputs:

Result -1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two Youth Forum have formed for protection VAW and social awareness. • Two School students Forum have formed for awareness rising and create a equal relation between girls and boys with developing their leadership. • 150 Couple have got message of domestic violence from PRIA couple group meeting • 500 people have participated “International VAW protection Day” and they can put role play to create, promote and Publicity awareness on VAW and Gender equity issues. • Local Government and stakeholder are engage to create project goal and objective • 450 people have participated “International Women’s Day”. They couldn’t know about this day before. Women also participate sports competition with pleasure. • they can put role play to create, promote and Publicity awareness on VAW and Gender equity issues.
Result-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Union NNPC formed and they doing their responsibility for protection Women’s violence
Result-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Char Area people have got the various types of Law relate message especially women’s violence and also get legal support.

Change Made through the project actions:

Baseline status	Changing status
Community especially girls, young and women are not aware about their rights and they have no sense of violence. They can’t raise their voice combating gender discrimination and patriarchal social norms.	At least 35% women’s and girls are aware about their rights and 25% people can raise their voice against gender discriminations.
Local duty bearers are not active and much capable to protect discrimination and violence against women and girls	Now local duty bearers have included of Union parishod and community. They have started to provide support services to vulnerable Women’s.

Lessons Learned through the Action:

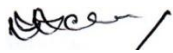
Lesson learned:

- **Government scope:** Local government have opportunities to help vulnerable Women’s for protecting them from violence for legal support. The women’s are not aware their rights scopes. If local government works actively, all types of violence will reduced. The project is helping to open this window.
- **Organized way of support:** Involving community people especially youth can reduce violence in a proper organized actions soon.
- **Good response from society:** In Char area women are deprived from all types of cultural facilities, First time they joined this type program, so they joined the VAW protection day and International Women’s day celebrate with very enjoying.

Challenges:

- **Communications barrier** :In Rainy season Char Area all most land affected by waterlogged that time life is difficult but easy for communications by boat . In winter season there have no way on the sand bar. Only foot allow for going to one village to another village. So it is a barrier for implement projects activities.
- **Volunteers:** The project has assigned one volunteer in each Union. It is difficultwork to thevolunteer for cover the Union's all villages of the huge char area. Here have no Communications travel, the Volunteer need more time to reached the member so that So she cannot communicate with many people at the same time.
- **Social customs and Religious belief:** Their social customs and religious beliefs are very strong. It is difficult to get them out of this project in a short time. In their society they can't allow women raising voice.
- **Professional Variations:** All most people of Char area are illiterate. For their life support they engage all time seasonal work outside of village. In couple meeting both husband wife present is at a time have problem.
- **Education facilities barrier:** Education facilities barrier is one of the cause of Early marriage. Kawalola Union have no high school facilities. After finish primary course, girls need to gosirajgonjsador high school across the Jamuna river by using boat. Here have some risk to attack sexual harassment. So that girls victimized early marriage.
- **Project timing:** In 06 months project activities implementation timing is very short for various types of activities. For build up awareness rising need more time to create a relation.

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