



Gono Unnayan Prochesta (GUP)

Mr. S.A. Wahab
Executive Director
Gono Unnayan Prochesta
13A/3A Babar Road, Block-B, Mohammadpur,
Dhaka –1207, Bangladesh
Tel: 88-02-8113216, 8123389, Fax: 88-02-9120041
Email: gup@dhaka.net

Gono Unnayan Prochesta (GUP), meaning People's Development Efforts, started functioning from 22nd April 1973. GUP was formed out of the working experiences of the affected people in the rural areas of Bangladesh shortly after the war of liberation in 1971. The initial thought behind the establishment of GUP was to give a development orientation to the activities done during organization's relief and rehabilitation phase immediately after the war and reduce the relief mentalities of the community. Over the last 30 years, GUP has grown and expanded the scope of its activities. The early years of GUP's activities were marked with road construction, raising community flood centers, excavations of ponds under food for work programs, indicating more of a relief/rehabilitation stance. Concurrently, development program services were also initiated including agriculture, children's health care and adult education. However, by the 1980's GUP's portfolio expanded gradually to incorporate programs that focused on women, youth participation and school education. Later on in 1982, GUP along with its development thrust established the Centre for Peace and Development Studies (CPDS), emphasizing peace and human rights education. Its objective was to create conditions for the prevalence of peace and harmony at the personal and community level by developing the capacity and skills for conflict resolution.

In the past amongst its other project activities, GUP has organized more than 20,000 most vulnerable people were brought under Samities (Associations) and Federations to alleviate poverty. The collective savings of these Samities are Tk. 7 million. Due to intensive motivational drives and training inputs the level of awareness and skills of the people have been raised to a certain level. There have been a number of positive changes in the rural society in the fields of education, agricultural inputs, health, nutrition, maternal and child health care (MCH), water and sanitation supports, technology transfer, women's empowerment, generating alternative employment opportunities, community participation and local resource mobilization. The united efforts of the people through their samities, towards better education, access to credit and economic activities have also contributed towards the removal of many social odds like— injustice, dowry, gender discrimination, social exploitation, reduction in environmental degradation etc. This has created a positive mindset for them to develop further and take more control of these initiatives by themselves.

GUP's Goal

GUP envisions a just and peaceful society free from all forms of exploitation and discrimination with equal opportunity for all.

Objectives

- Enabling the people to identify and find solutions to their problems
- Empowering the powerless through conscientization efforts to increase the individual's strength, action, decision-making power and capacity building.
- Stimulating cooperative efforts to mobilize resources and capital in the community for the promotion of self reliant people's organizations and institutions.
- Promoting human rights, education, social justice, ecological balance, harmony and peace in the community by overcoming exploitation, gender discrimination, poverty, ill-health, illiteracy, unemployment and all forms of injustices through systematic non-violent actions.
- Complementing effective national efforts in assisting the development of the disadvantaged groups and in initiating innovative people's developments approach, which may eventually inspire other organizations.

Geographical Program area

GUP is working in 350 villages of 92 unions in 16 upazilas of Dhaka, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Shariatpur, Brammanbaria and Chittagong districts.

Regional Office

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Gono Unnayan Prochesta (GUP)
South West Region
Rajoir
Madaripur | 2. Gono Unnayan Prochesta (GUP)
South East Region
House # 13 Road # 1, Block-B
Chandgaon R/A
Chittagong |
|---|---|

South West Regional Branch Office

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1. District Office
Thana Para
Gopalganj – 8100 | 2. District Office
Chowrangir More
(West side of Officer's Club)
Shariatpur Sadar
Shariatpur- 8000 | 3. Thana Office
Shibchar Poura
Shibchar Sadar
Madaripur |
|--|--|--|

South East Regional Branch Office

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1. Thana Office
Khan Bhadur Bazar
Banskhali,
Chittagong | 2. Thana Office
Anowara
Chittagong | Project Office: 1. Project Office
High School Road
Upazila Sadar
Bancharampur
B. Baria |
|--|--|---|

Target People

GUP works with the people of the community through both Target and Community approaches. However, GUP's activities emphasize mainly the socio-economic upliftment of the backward sections of the community - the landless, marginal farmers, widows, women, adults,

youths and children. GUP also works with professional groups and members of civil societies on issue based interventions.

Type of Programs

- Agricultural & Ecological Initiatives
- Cooperative & Credit
- Education
- Engineering Cell
- Fisheries & Livestock
- Training
- Women & Children development
- Jono Shasthaya Seba (Community Health Care)
- Disaster preparedness
- Peace promotion
- Democracy and Civic Awareness
- Safe Water Supply and Sanitation
- Community Based Arsenic Mitigation Project in Bancharampur, Brahmanbaria
- Environmental Sanitation, Hygiene and Water Supply in Rural Areas

GUP's Infrastructure and Strength

In addition to the Head Office in Dhaka, GUP has one Regional Office and district offices. In its southwestern regional office at Rajoir, GUP has its Central Training Centre with training and meeting facilities for 50 people. The Center for Peace and Development Studies (CPDS), located in Khalia Union (5 km far from the regional office in Rajoir) has a capacity for training and meeting facilities for 30 persons. GUP has a team of 12 member trainers to runs the training program of GUP. GUP has also developed some assets for its own sustainability such as ponds, paddy lands and hatcheries, as well as roadsides planted trees over the years to build assets for the poor and asset-less. These assets will ensure GUP's future sustainability and thus help continue its committed activities.

Program Level

a) In the past years the poor and marginalized people have been organized. Cooperation among them has been increased as a result many samity (association)/group formed. Samity members are becoming more and more aware of human rights and have raised their voices against human rights violations. Women group members in particular have been more assertive and mobilized to voice their grievances and problems.

b) Formation of District and Union sub-district level Disaster Management Committee's has widened the scope for collaborative efforts among the government and non-government sectors. At present 87 Union Disaster Management Committee's (UDMC) exist in 87 unions of 7 Sub-districts.

c) The improvement of the ecological balance and economic welfare is evident due to initiative of tree planting by the public roadsides and homesteads of samity members. GUP has so far planted 208,978 trees along the roadsides covering 256 km roads in its working area.

d) Enabling asset-less poor women to have access to resources. In the roadside forestation of 256 km, the asset-less poor women have a 60% share while the share of GUP and the local Govt. is 20% each.

e) Youths have been motivated for voluntary work and are now taking initiative for social development, health care and emergency services. At present GUP have 1,620 trained volunteers in its working area, of which 50% are female.

Organizational Level

a) GUP has developed its Central Training Center at Rajoir and Peace Center at Khalia. In both these centers, GUP can provide training facilities for 50 people concurrently. Besides its own training, GUP is now conducting training for others. As training partner of PKSf, GUP conducts training to PKSf partner organizations as well. It has a training pool having 20 trainers including 6 trainers especially for disasters.

b) The establishment of the Center for Peace and Development Studies (CPDS) popularly known as the 'peace center/Shanti Kendra' is now well recognized in the community and in the country. Inter-religious and inter-class harmony has increased to some extent in GUP's working area because of the activities of the Peace Center.

Program Management, Coordination and Evaluation

There is a General Committee of 29 members and a 9-member Executive Council (EC). Every 2 years the Annual General Meeting (AGM) is held and the EC members meet at least 6 times a year. A team of 204 skilled and experienced staff members run the organization with the Executive Director at the top. A Senior Management Committee comprising of the Executive Director, Directors, Deputy Directors and Regional Managers is responsible for the overall management of the organization. Usually the Senior Management Committee (SMC) seats once a month. At the field level monthly coordination meetings are held. Weekly staff meetings and Samity (Group) meetings also contribute in the smooth functioning of the management. GUP has a well-designed M&E system for smooth monitoring and evaluation.

Mobilization of People and Resources

Since its inception GUP has been emphasizing people's participation at all levels of the community through its social mobilization activities. GUP's objective and commitment for enabling the people to identify their own problems, to which they themselves can find solutions, has been strengthened by entering a partnership with Christian Aid in Arsenic Mitigation Program through Community Mobilization; CARE-Bangladesh in Disaster Management; and with UNICEF in Arsenic Mitigation and Environmental Sanitation, Hygiene and Water Supply projects. More recently GUP's partnership with the National Democratic Institute (NDI) has created the scope to engage people of various sections in Alternative Dispute Resolutions (ADR). Under these projects GUP adopted strategies to involve the people in the community through school programs, street drama, round table meetings and by using billboards and signboards to raise awareness. In these cases GUP has utilized the facilities and resources available in the communities at the Union, Upazila and District levels.

Resources

GUP has a team of 322 staff with 207 permanent and 115 project staff. GUP in its working area has organized 20,000 poor and marginalized people under samity and groups. GUP also formed 87 Union Disaster Management Committee (UDMC) in 87 unions of 7 Sub-districts comprising the various sections of the society which has widened the scope for collaborative efforts among the government and non-government sectors. GUP has enabled asset-less poor women to have access to resources. In the forestation of 256 km of roadsides, assets-less poor women have a 60% share while the roadside plantation share of GUP and the local Govt. is 20% each. Moreover; youths have been motivated for voluntary work and are now taking initiatives for social development, health care and emergency services. At present GUP have 1,620 trained volunteers in its working area, of which 50% are female.

Network and Collaboration

Over the last 3 decades, GUP has developed collaboration and partnerships with a number of organizations. It took a leading role in finding a number of organizations, networks and forums of the country. GUP is the founding member of Voluntary Health Services Society (VHSS), Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA), Network for Information Response and Preparedness Activities in Disaster(NIRAPAD-a forum of Disaster Management partners of CARE-Bangladesh), Coordinating Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh(CCHRB), and AMF (Arsenic Mitigation Forum-an effort of partner organization of Christian Aid). It is also a member of Effort for Craft Organizations Trading Advancement (ECOTA). GUP is the Council member of Campaign for Mass Popular Education CAMPE and is actively involved in fulfilling the commitment of Education for All. GUP has got experience working with Government, The National Democratic Institute (NDI) and UN agencies. GUP is a partner of Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation(KSF) and has collaborative projects with United Nations International Children Emergency Fund(UNICEF) and Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) in arsenic mitigation programs.