



## Centre for Advanced Research and Social Action (CARSA)

# Ongoing Programmes of CARSA

### INCOME GENNERATING ACTIVITES:

From its inception CARSA emphasizes on assisting local people, especially women, to secure income through their own efforts. In 1996 CARSA started this program with one unit and several hundred members. Till now CARSA has organized more than 13000 members in about 1000 groups under this program, of whom more than 90% are women. Now this program covers 70 unions of 10 thanas of Madaripur, Shariatpur, Faridpur and Barisal districts.

CARSA initiated this program with help of ASA but now it is funded by Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF). Since 1997 CARSA is working as one of the partner organizations of PKSF.





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### HEALTH PROGRAM:



CARSA runs its health program through establishing a Community Clinic situated in a remote village in Kalkini thana of Madaripur. This clinic was established with the help of local people, Dhaka Community Hospital, Bangladesh Freedom Foundation (BFF) and CARSA's own donation. This program has been running since 2001. BFF's grants supported the operational cost of the clinic during 2002-2005.

The program is providing low cost medical support to local people, including free treatment to the hardcore poor and disadvantaged groups. Through issue based courtyard meetings facilitated by health workers, women become aware about nutrition,

natural sources of vitamins, appropriate nutrition during pregnancy, etc. Under this project CARSA has trained local Traditional Birth Attendants (TBA). They are playing a very important role for ante natal care and safe delivery. About 60%-70% of the common diseases are being treated here using basic curative services and preventive measures.

Since year 2000 we are conducting health camp in our clinic premises by specialized doctors of various sectors, i.e., Medicine, Eye, ENT, Gynaecology, Surgery etc. Using leaflets, posters, loud speakers, we give publicity in the remote villages before the event. Thousands of people including male, female, children receive treatment; minor surgeries are performed here for the patients as well. We arrange this programme jointly with Dhaka Community Hospital (DCH).





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### EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM:

One of our aims is to remove illiteracy and ensure proper education for the primary students. Although almost every village has a government primary school and children also attend them, school drop out rate is alarming. We have seen that most of the parents of remote rural areas are not conscious about continuing their children's schooling.



In addition, the parents do not have the time or capacity to help their children's day to day home work. School teachers also fail to give proper attention to all students for various reasons. As a result, a large number of students fail to get promotion to the next level and they stop going to school.

CARSA has started 10 centers in 10 remote villages in Alinagar union of Kalkini thana. Every centre has one female teacher and 20 students of class one and two. These teachers help the students to prepare their school tasks and conduct some extra curricular activities.



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### WATER AND SANITATION:

Initially CARSA started to work at remote unions of Kalkini thana of Madaripur district. At that time safe drinking water and proper sanitation was an acute problem in the area. Diarrhoea and other diseases were normal phenomenon. So, CARSA immediately took a program to increase awareness on necessity of safe drinking water and proper sanitation.



Workers under this project are still playing a vital role in the community to raise health, sanitation and hygiene awareness.

CARSA with close coordination with local Union Parishad has already ensured 100% sanitary latrines for effective sanitation in Alinagar union and also installed a deep tube well for safe drinking water. This program is continuing with the organization's own fund.



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### **DISASTER MANAGEMENT:**

Bangladesh is a land of natural disasters. Flooding, cyclone etc. are regular event for Bangladesh which causes immense sufferings for the people of the country.



CARSA always try to do something for the victims. This program includes livelihood restoration program and distribution of relief materials, medicine and pure drinking water among the affected people. We undertake these activities using a portion of surplus earned from income generating activities and donation from local people. Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) also helps to make our disaster management fund.



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### TRAINING:

Training is a must for skill development. CARSA has conducted a series of training for its members for income generating activities, eg., sewing,



small business, poultry rearing, vegetable gardening, horticulture nursery etc. About 1000 members received the training. Under the health program local Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) have received antenatal and post natal care training. We also have plans to educate women and adolescent boys and girls on reproductive and sexual health.



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### RESEARCH:

Undertake and promote research activities on various aspects of development is one of the main objectives of the organization. The first program of the organization was an Action Research titled 'Access of the Hard Core Poor to GO and NGO Resources' funded by the Grameen Trust. Now not only in Bangladesh but also all over the world micro credit program is considered as one of the most



effective tools of poverty alleviation. The paradox was that available evidences suggested that credit allocation is negatively correlated with the degree of poverty, i.e., the poorer the person, the less the credit access because of the assumption of positive correlation between intensity of poverty and risk of repayment. In view of the existence of a substantial portion of hard core poor, it was pertinent to analyze the situation of making the credit program more effective for poverty alleviation in Bangladesh. This Action Research was the ever first attempt to explore how to include the extreme poor in credit program.

It is necessary to carry out another Action Research Program for sustainable development for the indigenous people who live in plain land. By reestablishing their indigenous knowledge, culture and practices promotes their rights to ensure food security and uplift their livelihood as well as their land rights.



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### HANDICRAFTS:

CARSA initiated this program in 2008. This Program creates employment opportunities for disadvantaged rural women who have no other options of employment. Two members of this project received training on various handicraft items from "Hathay Bunano", a renowned handicraft house and afterwards they trained 20 other members of this project. CARSA collects order for the members and distributes the total income among the members. This program is also supported through CARSA's own fund.

