

Progress in 2007

Community Development Center

A self-help education and skill development program of Al-Falah Bangladesh

At the end of 2006, some well-wishers of the community living in Bangladesh and abroad encouraged Al-Falah with their guidance and financial supports to spearhead a self-help education and skill development program. Al-Falah formed the Community Development Center (CDC) in November 2006 to design and implement a self-help education and skill development program focused on the following:

A) Foundation Schools: With three young educated community volunteers (including one female), the CDC established its first Foundation School with 30 children in December 2006. This Foundation School was established in the premises of Al-Falah Model Clinic at the Geneva Camp, Mohammadpur, Dhaka. With a population of 18,000 this is the largest camp of the Urdu speaking community. The Foundation School aims to save the children under 5 years from being lost and becoming street children. Within one year the CDC has opened a total of 10 Foundation Schools in the following locations:



Place	Centers
Geneva Camp, Dhaka	3
WAPDA Camp, Mirpur, Dhaka	1
Chamragodam Camp, Syedpur	1
Rasoolpur Camp, Syedpur	1
Guard School Camp, Ishurdi	1
Patgodam Camp, Mymensingh	1
Khalispur Camp, Khulna	1
S.B. Nagar Camp, Chittagong	1
Total	10

Out of the 317 children taught in the Foundation Schools in 2007, 63 got admission in the Government Primary School (Mohammadpur 42, Syedpur 12 and Mirpur 9). In addition, 10 high school and college going female students have been given sponsorship to continue their education. In lieu of the sponsorship these young girls are teaching younger children in their respective Foundation Schools. Most of these schools are makeshift & require upgrading in terms of furniture & teaching aids. The teachers themselves need training to enhance their performance.



B) Sponsorship program: Introduced in December 2006 to promote secondary, higher secondary, diploma and degree level education among the poorest camp based students. During the past 12 months, the following students in various camps received sponsorship from CDC:

- 13 SSC students were sponsored for attending Coaching Classes
Male 8 & Female 5
- 11 HSC students were sponsored for 1st Year Admission
Male 8 & Female 3
- 4 HSC students were sponsored for continuation of their study
Male 2 & Female 2
- 5 Honors students were sponsored for continuation of their study in various subjects
Male 4 & Female 1
- 4 Students were sponsored for pre-university coaching
Male 3 & Female 1
- 4 HSC students were provided text books
male 3 & Female 1
- 54 SSC students were sponsored for SSC Final registration & fee payments
Male 23 & Female 31

Well-wishers of the Self-Help Education & Skill Development program visited the CDC project in July 2007. In the picture they are seen talking with sponsored students who passed SSC Exam and got admitted in college for HSC Course.



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Some of the successful sponsored students were given gifts and certificates by the CDC in a simple ceremony attended by executive members of Al-Falah, students, volunteers and mothers of the students.

C) Computer Training: The CDC received 9 Computers for establishment of a computer training class. The computer class offers a three-month training course on MS Word, Excel and Power Point. Three sponsored students volunteer to provide this training to fellow community members. By the end of 2007, 19 male and 38 female completed their basic computer training in the Geneva Camp. The Computer Training Class has been set up in the Geneva Camp for giving training on basic computer skill to the educated unskilled youth and students. 57 male and female students completed three months course in 2007



Future Program (2008)

The major cause of illiteracy among the Urdu speaking camp dwellers is the financial constraints, political discrimination and inadequacy in Bengali language.

A survey conducted by Al-Falah in 2005-6 found a very depressing state of the community in economic and social fields. In the Bihari camps the overall literacy rate is as low as 8.55 percent. The literacy rate among adult male and female is 0.56 percent and 7.97 percent respectively. However, the situation is not very different among the school going children under age group of 4 to 12 years. In this group boys constitute 7.48 percent and girls students are 6.40 percent.

Education is the backbone of any community. Al-Falah's CDC project aims to further consolidate its Self-Help initiatives. The camp dwellers have a right to a better life and the development of their skill and education level is their only true hope. For the year 2008, the CDC had set itself the following targets:

- Increase the number of Foundation School to 25,
- Upgrade the existing 10 schools with teaching aids & furniture
- Provide training to volunteer teachers
- Support 500 children in the Government Primary School,
- Support admission of 200 students in class VI to VIII
- Support admission of 50 students in Open University for SSC Course,
- Support admission of 30 students in Open University for HSC Course,
- Establish one text book library in Geneva Camp,
- Establish 6 more Computer Classes within different camp schools & expand their training curriculum.
- Spoken English Classes in 4 Centers.

The above program is far more ambitious than our existing one. Its success will depend on greater technical and financial support from the individual contributors and well-wishers of the community. We gratefully acknowledge the guidance & financial assistance provided by our well-wishers in 2007 & look forward to their continued participation.

For more and update information please visit www.alfalah.com.bd

Or

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