

Narrative Report

*Capacity Building of Marginalized Young Women
on Communication Rights & Voice for Strengthening Community
Radio.*

PROJECT REFERENCE:

2271.

PROJECT DURATION:

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PROJECT FUNDED BY:



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ACLAB operates community radio Naf at Teknaf (sub-district) of Cox's Bazar district. The goal of community radio Naf is to exchange the developmental information and knowledge among people living in rural area, side by side to broadcast the information of govt. and non-govt. services in local language and to ensure the participation of community people. It plays role as an active mediator and platform for marginalized, unprivileged and disadvantaged people where they can share their needs, interest, problems and find out solutions of their problems.

The purpose of the project is to build the capacity of marginalized young women and adolescent girls and to enhance their empowerment, self-reliance, poverty reduction, and raise voice through the participation in the community radio. The project has changed the situation of deprivation, discrimination and rights of access to information. Almost 400 women and adolescent girls were target beneficiaries. ACLAB provides to build the capacity of the adolescent girls and young women of the marginalized communities and they are playing significant role in strengthening community radio.

Objectives of the Project

- To build the capacity of marginalized young women and adolescent girls to enhance their empowerment and raise their voice.
- To ensure participation of marginalized young women and adolescent girls into the Community Radio (CR).
- To increase knowledge on communication rights of marginalized young women and adolescent girls through the community radio
- To sensitize and knowledgeable about different social, economic, cultural issues.

Project Activities: Community Radio Naf has successfully completed following activities as per the project proposal and guideline. These are:

1. Listener Group Formation: Community Radio Naf has formed 20 community radio listener groups with young women and adolescent girls at Teknaf, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Total members of all listener groups are 400. These groups have been formed in ward, village and union level. These listener groups are divided into two categories according to their age.

Listener groups	Age
10 adolescent girls group	14-18
10 young women group	19-25

All girls and women are from different professions like students, services, farmer, fisher women, small entrepreneurs, tailoring and housewife and so on. Listener groups were formed with the support from community radio Nafs' staff and volunteers. All volunteers are girls and they have been working with radio Naf for 3 years. During the formation of listener groups, local girls and young women were enthusiastic and friendly to join the groups as well as volunteers collected some primary information about the members of groups. They filled up form as a member of listener group which is contained of name, address, age, profession, literacy status, special skill and mobile number.

2. Group Discussion: Radio Naf staffs and volunteers conducted group-wise discussion at ward, village and union level. These discussion meetings were held at radio station, schools rooms, and house yard. 20 discussion meetings have completed on issues such as early marriage, dowry, gender, sexual & reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, fishing, livestock, food security, nutrition, trafficking of women and children, disaster preparedness, human & child rights, and water and sanitation.



3. Conducted Survey: A comprehensive study has been conducted among the target beneficiaries. Both quantitative and qualitative methods like survey questionnaire and focus group discussion (FGD) methods were used. 4 investigators and 7 female volunteers were involved in survey. Personal information, socio-economic condition, community radio, communication knowledge, skills, communication means and needs of beneficiaries were collected under this survey. We collected data from 400 target beneficiaries. Furthermore, 10 focus group discussions have conducted with 200 beneficiaries. Volunteer Lalai conducted FGD sessions as a facilitator and producer Jahangir was as a note taker. Perception and opinion of beneficiaries about community radio and communication knowledge, skill, means and needs have been recorded on tape recorder.

4. Listener group visited CR station: Community radio Naf arranged a visit program for women listener groups. Groups were invited to radio station and visited to recording & editing rooms of radio Naf. They learned how to voice is recorded, edited and broadcasted through radio. An open discussion meeting was also conducted with group where they expressed their opinion about radio Naf as well as interested in working with community radio.



5. Coordination & sharing meeting: Community radio Naf organized a coordination and sharing meeting with members of advisory committee & management committee, from taking representative of information ministry, civil society people, journalists, NGO representatives, agriculture officer, and education officer and so on. Almost 27 participants attended in the meeting and they shared their opinions and suggested to implement the objectives of WACC project, to involve local marginalized women in radio program, to provide training on radio programs and to produce radio programs on different issues like maternal & child health, nutrition, gender-based violence, trafficking and other importance issues.

6. Capacity Building Training:

Community Radio Naf organized capacity building training for marginalized young women and adolescent girls at radio station. The objective of the training program was to develop the capacity of young women and adolescents on different developmental and social issues. Capacity building trainings have been completed with young women and adolescents. Total 200 participants attended in the training programs

including indigenous young women and adolescents and each batch was contained almost 25 persons. As a guest, Advisory Member of community radio Naf and Station Manager, Radio Naf were in the training opening sessions. The training programs were started with self-introduction of the participants. Then, Aminul Islam, Station Manager of radio Naf, opened the training session and welcomed to the participants on behalf of ACLAB and community radio Naf 99.2 fm. Slides, projector, folder, pen, pad, schedule, materials of radio naf, banner, and electronic speakers were used as tools and group discussion, presentation and field assignment were the methods of training program. Radio Specialists of Bangladesh Beter (radio), Technical officer of radio naf and Program Producer, radio Naf were in the training program as resource persons. Training covered following these issues: Training on problem/issue identification, selection, prioritizing local issues and news collection, gender & development, access to right information,, content development, ICT script writing, and episode production, local news collection and broadcasting, social advertisement and sustainability, Disaster preparedness and management.



7. Produce and Broadcast Radio Episodes: Listener group members produced and broadcasted radio episodes on early marriage, dowry and child rights, nutrition, environment and climate change and other issues. After the theoretical training session, they learnt practically how to produce and broadcast radio programs. Field assignments have been given to participants by trainers. They produced radio magazine programs which are contained reporting, related songs, interview, and case studies. Young women of listener groups were collected data from victims and conducted interview on following issues with Government and non-government officials. Detail about three radio programs are given below:



a. Early Marriage: Early marriage is a common social problem of Bangladesh due to poverty, illiteracy, and ignorance of people. Every year a number of girls are becoming victim because of early marriage. As a result they are facing various health problems during and after pregnancy. Community radio Naf is playing an important role for raising awareness on the impact of early marriage in Teknaf, Cox's bazaar, Bangladesh. Under this project, community radio Naf produced and broadcasted radio magazines on this issue for raising awareness among local people. This magazine was made by Joya Poul, Listener group member, Hla Hla Ye Rakhaine, Program producer, Jahagir Alam, Producer of radio Naf and Faruk Hossain, Technical Officer of radio Naf. The title of the magazine is *"Forthcoming Possibility"* which is locally called "Agamir Sambhabona". This program contains following things:



sl#	Contents	Descriptions
1.	Report	Definition & Background of early marriage in Bangladesh, problem of early marriage, problems of birth registration, lack of law implementation on early marriage and health problems due to early marriage
2.	Local Song	Local artist sang a song on the impact of early marriage in rural Bangladesh
3.	Case Studies	Case studies prepared based on early marriage and it causes health problems
4.	Radio Cartoon or Drama	Radio drama or cartoon was produced regarding the early marriage of Bangladesh
5.	Interview	Interview conducted with Women Affairs Officer of Teknaf sub-district of Bangladesh on early marriage

b. Child Rights: Bangladesh has a population of 140 million people, of which 65 million are children. The majority of the population is very poor with 35 % of the population living below one US dollar a day. Because of poverty, children are facing a number of problems like early marriage, sexual abuse, trafficking, exploitation, labour and so on. Lack of knowledge on the harmful effects of child labour and child's rights many poor parents engage their children in labour for supplementing family income. Children's participation is very limited at all stages of society. Children are not heard in their families, at schools nor at their working places. In general, children do not have any influence in decisions regarding their own life. Community radio Naf also produced and broadcasted a magazine program on child rights under this project. This magazine program is entitled *"Child's Dream"* which is locally called "Shishur Shopno". The program contains following things:



sl#	Contents	Descriptions
1.	Report	Definition & Background of child rights in Bangladesh, problem of child rights, Child rights according to UN and Bangladesh constitutions.
2.	Local Song	Song "We Shall overcome"
3.	Voxpop	Local children and people share their concept and idea about child rights.
4.	Radio Cartoon or Drama	Radio drama or cartoon was made on child rights and violence against child
5.	Interview	Interview conducted with Women Affairs Officer of Teknaf sub-district of Bangladesh on child rights to education, health and nutrition, participation.

c. Dowry: In this country there are many kinds of unpleasant customs. Dowry is the most common unpleasant custom of those. It is also a social imprecation or problem in Bangladesh. Women of Bangladesh are becoming victimized of dowry system day by day. Poverty, illiteracy, narrow mentality, negative attitude to the women, dependence on husband and living on their income, social corruption and so on are the main causes of dowry. Community radio Naf is also playing a vital role to raising awareness on dowry at Teknaf, Bangladesh through on-air and off-air activities. The title of the magazine program is *"Forthcoming Possibility"* which is locally called "Agamir Sambhabona". Under the title of this program, community radio naf produced a number of magazines program on different social cross-cutting issues. This program contains following things:

sl#	Contents	Descriptions
1.	Report	Background of dowry system in Bangladesh, How dowry force to violence against women, law of dowry system
2.	Local Song	Local artist sang a song on the impact of dowry in rural Bangladesh
3.	Voxpop	Local people share their concept, knowledge, and experiences about dowry system at community level.
4.	Radio Cartoon or Drama	Radio drama or cartoon was made on dowry system in Bangladesh
5.	Interview	Interview conducted with Women Affairs Officer of Teknaf sub-district of Bangladesh on dowry system

8. Recommendation:

- Need to organize more training workshops for young women and adolescents;
- Need to establish an ICT base training Centre for Young women and adolescents;
- A female journalism fellowship program need to start for increasing the empowerment of women;
- Community level off-air activities such as meetings, campaign and etc. need to be increased.

9. Conclusion

Adolescents and young women were trained on radio journalism through training programs and they are playing important role in their community as spoke persons by developing radio programs on different socio-economic and political issues. Their participation and involvement with community radio has made a great inspiration to others.