

WELCOME TO THE
PARTICIPANTS OF 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF
DANISH FOLK HIGH SCHOOLS

AN OVERVIEW OF BACE & GONOBIDYALAYA

(Community School)

PRESENTED BY

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INTRODUCTION ABOUT BACE GONOBIDYALAYA

- BACE (Bangladesh Association for Community Education) is a Non-Government organization (NGO) established in 1977 by a group of distinguished individuals concerned with education and human resource development in Bangladesh.
- BACE has been experimenting with alternative ways of achieving Universal Primary Education, reducing primary and secondary school dropouts and improving educational levels particularly among the women, educated unemployed youth. Life skills and economic development in the rural Bangladesh are the other areas of concern of BACE.

MISSION:

- To conduct and undertake sustainable education and development program through participatory process for empowering disadvantaged class / groups.

VISION:

- BACE sees active and collective participation, involvement with the responsiveness of youth communities of Bangladesh through access in basic rights, justice and entitlements and the capability of utilize the potential information, knowledge, services and resources and use of institutional power for safe and sustainable livelihood and contributory role as a potential citizens to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of Bangladesh.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES:

- Engage in the field of formal and non-formal education sector. Also educate children, women, school drop-out and deprived children.
- Engage in research and experimental pilot project on education and other development issues.
- Provide vocational and life skill development training to the youths and adults.
- Promote right based issues, democracy, advocacy & governance, gender and welfare of disable and handicapped people.

MAIN ACTIVITIES:



Non-formal
education



Vocational &
Livelihood Training



Micro finance/
Credit program



Health Care



Disaster
Management



Rights &
Advocacy

GONOBIDYALAYA (COMMUNITY SCHOOL)

- Gonobidyalaya (GB) is a one of the project of BACE, which was instigated by Danish Folk high school and DANIDA.
- There are five GBs in five different places of Bangladesh.

BACE GONOBIDYALAYA



**Khan jahania
Gonobidyalaya, Bagerhat**



**Uchai Gonobidyalaya,
Panchbibi, Joypurhat**



**Dr. M.A. Sattar Central
Gonobidyalaya,
Sonargaon, Narayanganj**



BACE GONOBIDYALAYA



**Rangunia M.A.Chashi
Gonobidyalaya,
Chittagong**



**Panchagram
Gonobidyalya,
Shahrasti,
Chandpur**



- GB is a non-formal educational institution imparting life-oriented education and following a learner-centred, participatory teaching methodology. It differs from other non-formal schools in that it not only provides basic education and skill development training based on the needs of community, but also tries to instill into the students a wide range of qualities and skills, which would help them to create a better life for themselves, their families as well as for the community in which they live.

CONCEPT OF *GONO BIDYALAYA* (GB): OUR HERITAGE

- It is not surprising that great individuals of our culture always emphasized on the need to impart proper education to the downtrodden. One can name Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar (1820-1891). Then of course Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1942), the nobel-laureate, who was not only a great advocate for non-formal education but himself established '*Shantiniketan*', an unique educational institute where young people learn things amidst, and through, cultural activities in a non-formal set up.

Gandhi (1869-1948) in his own way also had ideas to impart practical education to the children of poor farmers, weavers and other subaltern classes. “*Mitraniketan*” of Kerala in India remains a good example of how Gandhian idea of education can be transformed into reality.

Actually in our Indian sub-continent we always had this tradition of learning in *Gurumukhi Ashram* or *Tol* which were something like residential educational institutions. The *Gonobidyalayas* are built upon this cultural heritage of our people.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE *GONOBIDYALAYA (GB)* PROJECT IN BANGLADESH

- By seeing the plight of poor men and women of this land, some educationists and civil society activists as Dr. Abdus Sattar, pioneered to set up a non-formal school for poor adults by establishing the first *GB* at Chandpur district in 1980, patronized by *Bangladesh Association for Community Education (BACE)*.

Almost simultaneously, on the northern part of the country some community leaders conceived the ideal of *GB* and decided to set up an institute at Joypurhat. Similar schools also opened up in Bagerhat and Chittagong district. The initiators were greatly influenced by the Folk High School movement of Denmark, especially by the pedagogical philosophy of N.F.S. Grundtvig (1783-1872).



GONOBIDYALAYA (GB) OBJECTIVES:

- The broad approach of non-formal education practiced at the GB is aimed at helping the students:
- To develop their self-confidence and personality;
- To develop their understanding of life and society;
- To equip them with adequate general knowledge and vocational skills

COURSES OFFERED AT THE *GONOBIDYALAYAS* (GB)

- GBs offer a six month course in general education and in skill training for 30-60 students, preferably equal number of males and females. 30% of the school time is used for teaching the general subjects, 60% for vocational training and 10% for 'Sramdan' (voluntary labour). As the GBs are not just trade schools, and as enlightenment and consciousness raising are the main objectives of GB.

The following subjects are covered in general education;

- ✓ Democratic Society and Human Rights
- ✓ Income and Employment
- ✓ Society and Environment
- ✓ Health, Nutrition and Disease
- ✓ Moral, Society, Culture
- ✓ Own Country and Latest World



General Class

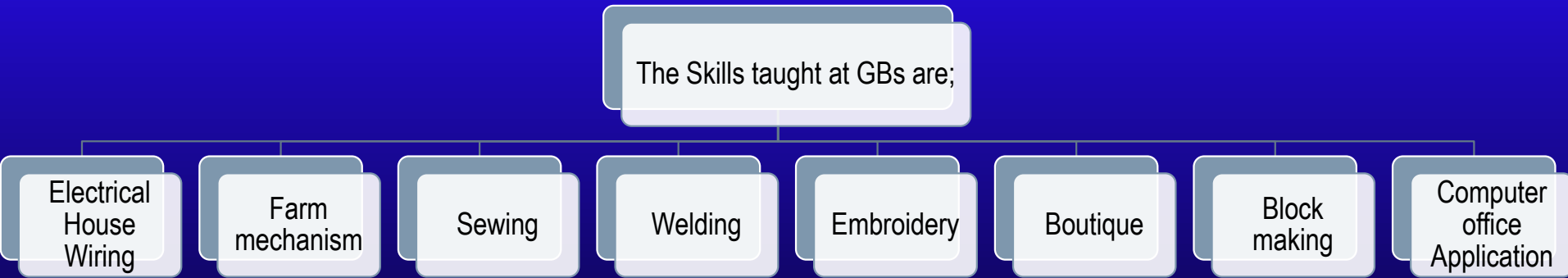


Discussion



Open discussion

- Skill training in the form of practical training on specific trade or vocation are imparted in the GBs to make it possible for the students to find employment, or to start a business, which eventually improve their economic life situations.





Handicrafts



Handicrafts



Skill training



Skill Training

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE *GONOBIDYALAYA (GB)*

- For the pedagogical success of *GB* it is important to involve the local community in the management of the schools. The highest local authority of a *GB* is the Advisory Council, chosen from the members of the community according to the criteria laid down in the byelaws.

SOCIAL OUTPUT OF *GONOBIDYALAYA* EDUCATION

- Many evaluations show that *Gb* education has definitely enhanced self-esteem and confidence among the deprived rural youth, particularly women.
- The number of students completing course at the *GBs* so far is more than 9000 out of which 40-45% are female. The major outputs are:
 - - Provides enlightenment
 - - Developed rational thinking
 - - Problem resolving abilities
 - - Improved consciousness about sanitation and other basic health care
 - - Gender awareness, moral values and sense of responsibility
 - - Improving the living standards etc.

DANIDA SUPPORT AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE *GONOBIDYALAYA*

- DANIDA provided financial & FFD provided technical support from 1981 to 2008 to continue the GB education. BACE constructed the required infrastructure at every GB. In addition BACE purchased land for income generating activities. After a long support DANIDA has phased out beyond 2008. Hence sustainability is one of the main issues for the *GB*. To consider the local demand and acceptance of the community, *GB* intended to continue the program beyond 2008 from its own IGA. For this reason BACE has introduced some IGA activities to run the *GBs*, which are as follows:

- Renting of Seminar room, Guest house, Accommodation facilities at 2 GBs
- Renting of Picnic spot
- Nursery
- Fish culture
- Chicken and duck rearing
- Paddy cultivation
- Fruits & Vegetable selling
- Tuition fee etc.

But now BACE has been facing the following challenges to run the 5 GBs from this IGAs, because the income is not sufficient to run the all costs.

- ✓ Engagement of quality teacher for pedagogical discussion
- ✓ Appointment of Skilled Instructor for vocational training
- ✓ Maintenance of infrastructure
- ✓ Lack of students and drop-out



Seminar room



Dinning hall



Hostel room



Picnic spot



Fish cultivation



Mango garden and paddy cultivation



Duck culture

Thanks by -

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