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Democracywatch is an NGO working to promote democracy, human rights, and good governance in Bangladesh since 1995. It conducts research and training and also undertakes different projects to build awareness on democracy, human rights, and good governance. To achieve the objectives we have held festivals, national debates, hard questions, quizzes, trainings, election observation, and poster exhibitions. We have also conducted research on different social and political issues.

This is the first annual report of Democracywatch. Therefore we have included details of our last major project “Promotion of Democracy” which was a three-year project from August 1999 to July 2002.

This was a very successful project, at the end of which about two thousand five hundred young people had some idea about good governance, and democracy. Approximately forty thousand people came to the democracy festival, where all the development partners of Bangladesh were brought together to give the message of governance to the people. We feel very proud to say that we are successful in bringing leaders from all political parties.

We look forward to continue working in the area of democracy, good governance, and human rights for years to come.



Taleya Rehman
MA, Dip Ed (London),
FIL (UK)

The Executive Director of Democracywatch, Taleya Rehman, is a founder member of South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR), member of International Election Observer Groups, Bangladesh Women’s Association in UK, Business Women’s Association in Dhaka, and a prominent Rotarian.

She was also an examiner of London University and has 30 years teaching experience in England with Deputy Headship of a school.

She is most well known for her 30 years broadcasting experience with BBC World Service.

Basic information about DEMOCRACYWATCH:

Address	7 Circuit House Road, Ramna, Dhaka 1000
Establishment	Democracywatch was registered as a trust in 1995 , which later became an NGO in July 1997
Legitimacy	Registered under NGO Affairs Bureau, Registration no. 1174
Accountable to	NGO Affairs Bureau, Board of Governors, and Donors

Main contact person:

Ms. Taleya Rehman, Executive Director, Democracywatch, 7 Circuit House Road, Ramna, Dhaka 1000. Phone: 9330405, 9344225-6. Fax: 8315807, e-mail: dwatch@bangla.net,
Web site: www.dwatch-bd.org

Mission Statement

Democracywatch is a development organization working to promote and strengthen democracy, good governance, and human rights by creating awareness about rights and values through research, training, advocacy, and mobilization of media to fight against injustice and human rights violation.

Goal

The goal of Democracywatch is to be an active and sustainable organization fulfilling its mission effectively towards establishing a democratic culture, rights and values, which are essential for good governance.

Objectives

- To educate and create awareness about democracy and human rights
- To establish good governance and a true democratic culture in the society
- To impart education and leadership qualities among youths for strengthening democracy

Board of Governors:

- Barrister Abul Mansur (Barrister at Law), Chairman of the board
- Mr. Shafik Rehman, Editor, Jai Jai Din
- Mrs. Taleya Rehman, Executive Director, Democracywatch
- Prof. Dr. Sufia Ahmed, National Professor
- Mr. Enam Ahmed Chaudhury, Chairman, Privatization Commission
- Mr. M. M. Rezaul Karim, Former Ambassador and Secretary (retd.), Newspaper Columnist
- Mrs. Saqeba Ali, Principal, Marie Curie School
- Mr. Sultan Uz Zaman Khan, Ex Secretary, Director ESCAP
- Mrs. Mosfaka Rahman, Principal, SRMK Schhol
- Mrs. Latifa Akanda, Teacher, Central Women's University
- Mr. Shumit Rehman, IT consultant

Total staff of the organization:

Level	Male	Female	Placement	Total
Top Management	0	1	Dhaka	1
Senior Staff	4	2	Dhaka	6
Program officers	3	2	Dhaka	16
	3	0	Mymensingh	3
Part timers	1	0	Dhaka	1
	3	0	Mymensingh	3
Volunteers	5	2	Dhaka	7
Support Staff	7	3	Dhaka	10
	1		Mymensingh	1
			Total	48

Projects ended in the year 2001 - 2002

- Promotion of Democracy
- Popular Slogan
- Voter Awareness Poster
- Election Watch 2001
- Electronic Media Watch
- Bogra Democracy Festival

Project SUMMARY

1. Name of the project : **Promotion of Democracy**
2. Goal : Promotion of democratic culture and values.
3. Objectives : Promote good governance,
Develop leadership qualities, and
Increase awareness about democracy in the community.
4. Location : Dhaka and 3 selected outreach areas (Mymensingh, Comilla and Chittagong).
5. Duration : 3 years, August 1999 to July 2002
6. Development Partner : The Royal Norwegian Embassy funded Balance.
7. Number of Employees : 26 full time and 3 part time

Objectives Achieved

Objective 1: Promotion of good governance

Activities	Achievements
<p>Democracy and good governance Training Programme (DTP)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The first syllabus on democracy and good governance with a Bangladeshi perspective: <i>This was the first syllabus developed on democracy and good governance in Bangladesh.</i> 2. Good governance has become a part of the curriculum in the university level in Bangladesh: <i>The training programme inspired other universities to launch similar courses in their under-graduate programmes.</i> 3. One Hundred and Twenty qualified individuals on democracy and good governance: <i>These, DTP produced, trained individuals are working in the governance related organizations and also promoting the concepts of good governance and democracy.</i> 4. Research methodology to measure performance of the government: <i>DTP introduced research methodology as a part of curriculum to measure performance of the government.</i> 5. Immediate actions taken by the government following publication of DTP research: <i>Each batch of DTP students has measured performance of the government in a specific area and presented their findings in front of policy makers and relevant authorities. In some cases actions have been taken following their findings, for example the Ministry of Education took immediate steps to redress grievances after publishing the research on "Government Primary School in Dhaka City".</i> 6. DTP opened a new horizon of developing better political culture which is a prerequisite to achieve good governance: <i>DTP opened avenues for the younger generation to work closely with top politicians and MPs. Democracywatch placed some of the DTP students as interns, with the parliamentarians, for the first time in the country. These interns were even allowed to observe parliamentary committee meetings. They assisted the MP's to understand the needs of the people of their respective constituencies.</i>

Activities	Achievements
Research And Social Surveys	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Government made more accountable: To make the government more accountable RASSU surveyed and analyzed people's views on the performance of the government every year and advocated the findings. Improved service of some government organizations: The Research and Social Survey Unit (RASSU) helped Dhaka and Chittagong city corporations and government organizations to improve their services through producing Report Cards on their performance Commitments for improved governance: RASSU, by presenting its research findings to the policymakers, have been able to get commitments for improved services from some public service providers (i.e. Dhaka and Chittagong City Corporations, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority)
Community Action Programmes (CAP)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Demand for better governance: CAP has mobilized community people of Mymensingh, Chittagong, Bogra and Dhaka by arranging seminars, workshops, rallies, hard question sessions on local issues. CAP also organized democracy festivals for raising awareness to demand better governance among the local community people. Approximately 40,000 people visited these festivals. Platform for the people to interact with the policymakers: CAP has established a platform for the people to interact with the policymakers. Through its hard question sessions it also made the authorities more accountable to the people by creating scope to question them.
Coalition/joint Initiatives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Governance coalition, initiated by Democracywatch, has strengthened the advocacy for good governance: Governance coalition has organized a series of seminars at divisional level on reformed agenda of governance. Other members of the coalition are, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA), Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), Khan Foundation, Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA), Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Action Aid Bangladesh and Ain-O-Salish Kendra (ASK). Free and fair election: As a member of EMWG (Election Monitoring Working Group), Democracywatch took part in election monitoring. Democracywatch engaged 10,000 observers all over the country through strong networking with local NGOs and organizations.

Objective 2: Develop leadership qualities

Activities	Achievements
Democracy and good governance Training Programme (DTP)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2,500 confident individuals with global and democratic perspective: DTP conducted a series of lifestyle and global issue classes among the students of Democracywatch. After attending these special classes the students felt more confident and their knowledge on different global and democratic issues made them more concerned about the society and democracy. Moreover, they were more prepared to lead their way through to their individual success as well as to social development. Leadership through knowing the leaders: Democracywatch placed some of the DTP students as interns with the parliamentarians. These students could follow the top political leaders of the country closely. This experience helped them know and understand many aspects of leadership and boosted their

	<p>confidence. We believe that these trained individuals are such future leaders of Bangladesh who will play important role in achieving a good democratic culture in the country.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Leadership through practice: All the 120 students of DTP have been trained on leadership techniques such as public speaking, debate, extempore speech, and team leadership. 4. Leadership qualities for the local NGO activists: DTP conducted independent training programmes to develop leadership qualities and to improve capacity of many local NGO activists. After attending this program many of them have been able to strengthen their local network through dynamic leadership and some of them have taken new initiatives in their communities.
Research and Social Surveys	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leadership through practice: RASSU provided the students with opportunities to apply their training on leadership techniques. DTP students took part in many field works where they had to lead small teams. They also had to present their findings in front of a formal audience.
Community Action Programmes (CAP)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leadership through practice: A number of students have developed management skills by organizing campaigns and outreach activities.

Objective 3: Increase awareness about democracy in the community

Activities	Achievements
Community Action Programmes (CAP): Democracy Festivals, Seminars, Hard Question Sessions, Rallies, Workshops	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Awareness at grassroots community: Through CAP activities, Democracywatch increased awareness about democracy of different communities all over Bangladesh. Cap activities have helped the grassroots people realize their role in achieving a democratic culture in the society. General people of all level have highly appreciated activities like democracy festival, hard question session, and workshops and have expressed need for more of such activities. 2. Awareness about people's role in achieving accountability and transparency: CAP has established a platform for the people to interact with the policymakers and government authorities. Everywhere, participants and audience of CAP activities, have realized the need for accountability and transparency and the role of open discussion and questioning, to establish a democratic culture. 3. Demand for accountability and transparency: One of the major achievements of CAP is the demand it has created among the grassroots communities for accountability and transparency of the government.
Democracy and good governance Training Programmes (DTP)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 120 concerned individuals: All the 120 DTP students are now concerned about developing a democratic culture and they are willing and equipped to play their role to achieve it. These individuals are also ready to demand their democratic rights. 2. Awareness through research and publication: DTP conducted a number of researches on different public services in the urban communities. Through the interview process and media coverage of the findings of the research Democracywatch has informed the people about their democratic rights and privileges.
Research and social	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Awareness through research, publication, and advocacy:

Activities	Achievements
surveys	<p>Publication of RASSU's governance and democracy concerned surveys are creating awareness about democracy.</p> <p>2. Awareness through media coverage: RASSU received huge coverage of its reports in major national and local newspapers and electronic media. Some major national dailies have written their editorial and sub-editorial in view of RASSU reports.</p>
Coalition/joint Initiatives	<p>1. A drug free zone: 'Chortha' a seriously drug affected area in Comilla town has been declared as a drug free zone by the community people after series of programmes organized jointly by CAP and CCHRB Comilla, BHRC Comilla, Department of Narcotics Control and Vision 2000.</p> <p>2. A united attempt of increasing awareness and advocacy: Apart from governance coalition and EMWG Democracywatch has worked with a number of organizations to promote democratic culture and values in Bangladesh.</p>
Democracy Resource Centre: Library and Web-site	<p>1. Democracywatch has established a modern and up-to-date library on Democracy and Good Governance, which has around 2000 registered members. Many research organizations and local and national NGOs use the facilities of this library.</p> <p>2. More than 250 people visit us a day: According to the hit-count 8,406 people visited our web site in the last month. Now a days web is an essential medium of disseminating information. A number of people and other organizations are getting information about democracy, human rights and good governance issues visiting our web-site (www.dwatch-bd.org)</p>

Project OUTPUTS

Followings are the outputs of the project obtained in achieving the project objectives:

Outputs	Activities done
A syllabus on good governance	A unique syllabus on good governance developed in September 1999
120 trainees trained in principle of good governance and research methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ DTP trained 120 individuals in 9 batches during the last 3 years in good governance and research methodology. ➤ The trainees were placed in a number of organizations for internship. They are: Under-privileged Children's Educational Programme (UCEP), Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), Power and Participatory Research Center (PPRC), Ain O Shalish Kendro (ASK), Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA), ActionAid Bangladesh, Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), Democracywatch and ILIT
Research reports for publication	DTP and RASSU conducted 15 researches and opinion polls. A book and a number of research reports have been published. Many newspapers also published RASSU and DTP reports.
Around 2,500 aware students taken lifestyle classes	Students both from DTP and Democracywatch Education attended a series of lifestyle and global issue classes during three years. Around 2,500 students attended in more than 70 lifestyle classes.
10 Debates	CAP and DTP organized 10 mock parliamentary debate competitions where more than 200 students participated. They also attended workshops and received training on debating techniques. Major topics of the competitions were: Human Rights is Ensured Mainly through Safeguarding Women's Rights; High court benches should be established in all divisional headquarters to resolve all legal disputes in due time; Cancel reserved seats in the parliament for women: introduce direct election for women; Child labor should be legalized in Bangladesh; Grading system should be initiated from SSC and HSC levels; Bangladesh can become a well-developed country by controlling terrorism, and law and order situation; Only the implementation of judicial procedures can stop corruption; Political instability is the main reason of social degradation etc.
10 Quiz contests	CAP and DTP organized a number of quiz competitions on democracy. More than 300 DTP and HRD students participated in the competitions. Besides, CAP organized quiz cells in the democracy festivals where a number of general people took part. Altogether 10 quiz contests were organized during the project period.

Outputs	Activities done
Media reports	<p>Democracywatch conducted a number of media researches during the last 3 years. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 'Mass Involvement in Media' in April 2000; ➤ Media research on 'Law and Order Situation of Awami League Government' in April 2001; ➤ Media research on the 'Performance of Caretaker Government' in October 2001; ➤ Media research on the 'Performance of first 3 months of 4 Party Alliance Government' in January 2002.
3 Democracy Festivals	<p>CAP organized its 1st democracy festival of the project in Dhaka in March 2001. The 2nd one was held in Chittagong in December 2001 and the 3rd festival was held in Bogra in May 2002. Approximately 40,000 people visited these festivals.</p>
12 Hard Question sessions	<p>Hard questions are one of the major successful events of CAP. During the period CAP organized 12 hard question sessions in different places of the country. The topics are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Transshipment (Mymensingh, 22 October 1999); ➤ Decentralization for Development (Mymensingh, 3 March 2000); ➤ Hartal (Dhaka, 10 May 2000); ➤ Life in Dhaka City (Dhaka, 29 June 2000); ➤ Harmful Influence of Drug Addiction and its Remedies (Comilla, 16 September 2000); ➤ Transportation Problems in Dhaka City (Dhaka, 20 January 2001); ➤ Hard question on election (Dhaka, 22 March 2001); ➤ Electoral Hard Question (Mymensingh, 29 June 2001); ➤ Hard Question on Election (Mymensingh, 20 September 2001); ➤ Chittagong Port and Private Container Terminal (Chittagong, 28 December 2001); ➤ Women Empowerment and Democracy (Bogra, 3 May 2002); ➤ Open Stage called 'Mukto Mancha' (Bogra, 3-5 May 2002)
12 Campaigns	<p>CAP observed a number of international days by organizing rallies and campaigns. World Human Rights Days, World Environment Days, International Mother Language Days and some special issues like Security for Women and Children, Fair Election Campaigns were the major events of campaigns. Moreover, CAP carried out a number of campaigns in outreach areas.</p>
4 Nation-wide Opinion Polls	<p>4 nation-wide opinion polls conducted by RASSU are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transshipment: Its Impact and Implication (October 1999); 2. Law and Order Situation for the period of Awami League Government (May-June 2000); 3. Pre-election Opinion Survey (September 2001); and 4. First 100 Days of BNP Government (January 2002).

Outputs	Activities done
<p>11 Social surveys in selected location</p>	<p>RASSU conducted 11 local surveys in some selected locations. They are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Impact of Hartal on the Poor of Dhaka City (January 2000); 2. Mass Involvement in Media (April 2000); 3. Report Card on the Services Delivered by the Dhaka City Corporation (June 2000); 4. Transportation Problem in Dhaka City (October 2000); 5. Drug Addiction Among the Youths of Comilla Town (January 2001); 6. Report Card on the Services Delivered by the Dhaka City Corporation (February 2001); 7. Pre-election Opinion Survey (June 2001); 8. An Assessment on the Uprooted Slum Dwellers of Dhaka City (October 2001); 9. A Study on Government Primary Schools in Dhaka City (December 2001); 10. Recreation Facilities for the Middle Class of Dhaka City (March 2002); 11. Women's Representation in Jatiya Sangsad (ongoing)
<p>18 seminar, workshops and outreach functions</p>	<p>CAP organized 2 seminars, 2 workshops and 2 outreach programmes in each year. Altogether 18 seminar, workshops and outreach functions were organized by CAP in three years.</p> <p><u>Seminars:</u></p> <p>Transshipment and South Asian Economic Cooperation at Dhaka (4 November 1999); Seminar on Decentralization at Mymensingh (3 March 2000); Unity to Protect Citizen Rights at Mymensingh (25 August 2000); Chittagong Port Private Terminal Issue at Chittagong (28 December 2001); Seminar on Effective Local Government Functioning (4 May 2002); Seminar on Know, Think and Vote at Dhaka (22 March 2001); Seminar on Education, Health and Security – My Birth Rights at Dhaka (10 December 2001); Seminar on Golden-Jubilee of Bangla Language (17 February 2002)</p> <p><u>Workshops</u></p> <p>Decentralization for local government at Mymensingh (4 March 2000); Drug Addiction and its Effects in Comilla (5 September 2000); Partnership between the Parliamentarians and the Civil Society for the Promotion of Good Governance at Dhaka (26 November 2000); Discussion on Election at Chittagong (19 September 2001); Progress and Prospects of Agri-business in Bangladesh at Bogra (5 May 2002); Obstacle and Solutions for Free and Fair Media at Dhaka (24 June 2002)</p> <p><u>Outreach</u></p> <p>Decentralization for Development at Mymensingh (4 March 2000), Drug Addiction and Health Problem at Comilla (5 September 2000); A Mini Festival 'Movies for Broadening Your Mind' at Chittagong (7-10 September 2000); Pre Election Situation at Mymensingh (20 September 2001); Democracy Festival at Chittagong (27-28 December 2001); Bogra Democracy Festival at Bogra (3-5 May 2002)</p>

Outputs	Activities done
Joint activities with other NGOs on voter education and other theme	<p>Democracywatch conducted a number of activities in coalition with other NGOs.</p> <p>As a founder member of the Governance Coalition, Democracywatch jointly organized a series of seminars on 'Confrontational Politics: A Reform Agenda'.</p> <p>In collaboration with the Election Monitoring Working Group (EMWG) consisting of 29 NGOs, Democracywatch observed the 2001 general election by deploying 10,000 neutral observers in 177 constituencies.</p> <p>Democracywatch has developed a coalition called Democracy Partnership with Approximately 40 organizations. Through this coalition it conducted a nation-wide voter education campaign in all 300 constituencies.</p> <p>Moreover, CAP organized a number of campaigns in partnership with many local organizations in Mymensingh, Comilla, Chittagong and Bogra.</p>
A well stocked resource centre	<p>During the period Democracywatch has developed a well-equipped library. A fair number of Books on democracy, human rights, environment and good governance, films and documentaries, many national and international journals are there in the library. Around 2,000 registered members regularly visit Democracywatch resource centre.</p>
6 Newsletters	<p>Democracywatch published 2 newsletters a year. Altogether 6 newsletters have been published during the reporting period.</p>
1 Book, 1 festival booklet and 1 poster	<p>RASSU has published a research book comprising of 7 social surveys and opinion polls. CAP published 3 festival souvenirs incorporating newsletters and 1 poster during Millennium Democracy Festival.</p>
Democracy Web site	<p>A web site has been developed in January 2001. Along with Democracywatch activities, articles, publications and news on democracy, human rights and good governance have been posted in the web site.</p>

Project SUMMARY

- | | | |
|------------------------|---|---|
| 1. Name of the project | : | Popular Slogans for Free and Fair Election |
| 2. Goal | : | Identify the most effective slogan to educate voters on their rights and responsibilities |
| 3. Location | : | Nation wide |
| 4. Duration | : | 23 January – 5 May, 2001 |
| 5. Development Partner | : | The Asia Foundation |
| 6. Major achievement | : | Identified 3 most effective slogans for voter education posters |

Introduction

Democracywatch organized a slogan contest in an attempt to identify the most effective slogan to educate voters on their rights and responsibilities and to raise awareness through popular slogans among the voters for a free and fair election. Our aim is to create a new generation of informed and conscious voters who will be vocal in expressing their rights.

With this view, we planned to go for a slogan contest and invited the citizens to write and send us new slogans through advertisements in some national dailies and weeklies. Each of the contestants could send a maximum of 9 slogans under three categories. The categories reflect the following spheres:

1. The right and responsibility of voters to cast their vote independently and thoughtfully
2. Against violence and intimidation
3. Full-fledged and spontaneous participation of women voters

Selected Slogans

The response was huge and we received a total of 16,562 slogans from 3,316 contestants within a month. Panel judges of five persons from five different professions were appointed to select the best fifteen from them. In order to reflect peoples' participation we then carried out a field test with those fifteen slogans in 10 constituencies of six divisions. Respondents were asked to elect the best three under three categories.

Deshher shebai jaake pabo amaar vote taake debo was elected as the best according to the results from both individual and focus group discussions. It means, "I will cast my vote for the candidate who will best serve for the country".

Under the second category **Deshe akhon proyojon shantrashmukto nirbachan** had been the best slogan with most consensus. It means, "the country mostly needs a non-violent and free election".

Naree kimba purush noi voter amaar porichoy got the most popular votes under the last category. It implies, "Neither male nor female, voter is my identity".

The Slogan Contest at a glance

Number of letters received from all contestants	:	3,316
Total slogans received under all three categories	:	16,562
Adjudicators	:	5
Number of Slogans received under category1	:	5,875
Number of Slogans received under category 2	:	5,438
Number of Slogans received under category3	:	5,249
Number of primarily selected slogans	:	1,489
Number of secondarily selected slogans	:	33
Number of thirdly selected slogans	:	15
Final selection :		3

Project SUMMARY

- | | | |
|------------------------|---|--|
| 1. Name of the project | : | Popular Slogans for Free and Fair Election |
| 2. Goal | : | Educate voters through posters |
| 3. Objectives | : | 1. Design, print, and distribute voter awareness posters to educate voters on their rights and responsibilities
2. Design, print, and distribute voter awareness posters to encourage voters to stand against violence and intimidation |
| 4. Location | : | Nation wide |
| 5. Duration | : | August to October, 2001 |
| 6. Development Partner | : | The Asia Foundation and USAID |

Voter Awareness Posters

Democracywatch, with support from The Asia Foundation and USAID has successfully designed, printed, and distributed voter awareness posters in all the 300 constituencies of Bangladesh. This was actually initiated through an earlier project which Democracywatch organized in an attempt to raise awareness through popular slogans among the voters with a view to gradually pave the way towards a free and fair election. Three best slogans under three categories were selected from a countrywide slogan competition.

On 30 August 2001, Democracywatch and The Asia Foundation agreed to develop and distribute 555,000 posters disseminating the message of the first category. And on 16 September 2001, Democracywatch and The Asia Foundation agreed to develop and distribute 750,000 posters disseminating the message of the second category.

We accomplished the objectives of this project by three steps of activities:

Step –1

Cartoons and Illustrations are very effective method to acquire people's attention. Keeping that in mind Democracywatch contacted renowned and promising cartoonists and artists to develop the design of the poster. From the designs submitted the one of Mr. Maksudur Rahman, a prominent artist and cover designer of Bangladesh, was selected to be most appropriate for the poster of category 1. And the design of Mr. Shishir Bhattacharya, a prominent artist and cartoonist of Bangladesh, was selected to be most appropriate for the poster of category 2.

Step – 2

In the second step Democracywatch printed 555,000 four-colour posters on 70 gsm offset paper and 750,000 bi-colour posters on Bashundhara paper. Everybody involved with this project cherished both the design and the printing quality.

Step – 3

Final and most important part of this project was the effective distribution of the posters. Democracywatch developed a distribution network with like-minded organizations as well as many EMWG (Election Monitoring Working Group) members. This network helped Democracywatch distribute posters smoothly and successfully to all 300 constituencies. We are thankful to our partner organizations.

Our observation and evaluation

More than thousand people were directly or indirectly engaged with the poster distribution activities. We observed enthusiastic participation of those who were involve with the process and curiosity of the people passing by the posters in the time of hanging them. Moreover, the trail and turnout of this year election proves the effectiveness of these sorts of efforts.

Project SUMMARY

1. Name of the project : **Election Watch 2001**
2. Goal : Free and fair election
3. Objectives :
 1. To encourage large-scale participation of voters in the election by building confidence on the electoral process.
 2. To detect election fraud, manipulation and irregularities
 3. Deter irregularities, intimidation and undue influence in election.
 4. Ensure people's all-out participation, especially women and new voters in the electoral process.
 5. Ensure free, fair, meaningful, and participatory election.
4. Location : 39 districts
5. Duration : August to October 2001
6. Development Partner : The Asia Foundation

Pre-Election Activities

1. Pre-election Opinion Survey: Dhaka City
2. Pre-election Opinion Survey: Nationwide
3. Media Monitoring

Relation with EMWG

With the objective of monitoring the parliamentary elections 2001, 29 organizations formed an association entitled the Election Monitoring Working Group (EMWG). Over a nine-month period EMWG deployed observers and designed the methodology and capacity to undertake election observations activities with the direct help of Democracywatch. Over 1,50,000 observers, both stationary and mobile, were involved on the Election Day covering all constituencies across the Country. Respective activities of the participating organizations were coordinated under the umbrella of EMWG. Democracywatch - a partner of this coalition co-operated with them satisfactorily including organizing the press conferences, releasing a series of press releases and coordinating the media.

Democracywatch Activities on Election Monitoring

1. Public Awareness and Voter Education
2. Signature Campaign
3. Press Conferences
4. Training
5. Election day monitoring

Constituency-wise Observers Deployed by Democracywatch

Number of observers deployed: **9635**

Number of constituencies covered: **177**

Districts Covered: Dinajpur, Nilphamari, Bogra, Rajshahi, Natore, Sirajganj, Jessore, Bagerhat, Khulna, Satkhira, Barguna, Patuakhali, Bhola, Barisal, Pirojpur, Tangail, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Mymensingh, Manikgonj, Munsigonj, Dhaka, Gazipur, Narshngdi, Narayanganj, Rajbari, Gopalganj, Madaripur, Sylhet, Moulavibazar, Brahmanbaria, Comilla, Chandpur, Feni, Noakhali, Chittagong, Khagrachhari, Rangamati, Bandraban.

1. Name of the project : Electronic Mediawatch during Caretaker Government
2. Objectives :
 1. Ascertaining people's right to information.
 2. Equal access to the electronic media by all major and relatively smaller parties
3. Duration : July 01, 2001 to October 31, 2001
4. Development Partner : United States of America through the Public Affairs Section, American Embassy, Dhaka, Bangladesh

INTRODUCTION

With the formation of the Caretaker government in Bangladesh on 15 July 2001 Democracywatch took an initiative to monitor the performance of seven electronic media e.g. BTV, ETV, Channel-I, ATN Bangla, Betar, BBC Bangla, and Voice of America. Democracywatch monitored coverage of different political parties in the programs and news with the support from American Center, Dhaka.

TASKS UNDERTAKEN

1. Daily Monitoring of Electronic Media
2. Publish Findings on a Daily Basis
3. Weekly Analysis
4. A Press Conference After the 2nd Month of the Caretaker Government
5. Press Conference at the End of the Project
6. Publishing a Booklet

Project SUMMARY

1. Name of the project : **Bogra Democracy Festival**
2. Objectives :
 1. Making grassroots people, especially the youth and women, aware of their democratic rights and privileges to pave the way of good governance in Bangladesh
 2. Dissemination of information on how democracy is practiced in mature democratic countries of the world and what different development agencies are doing for promotion of democracy and good governance
 3. Creating the ground for interaction among policy makers, local people and members of civil society
4. Location : Bogra City
5. Duration : March 14, 2002 to June 10, 2002
6. Development Partner : The Australian High Commission

Objectives Achieved

Awareness of grassroots people:

Most of the spectators of the Bogra Democracy Festival (over 16,000) were from Bogra and some other northern districts including people from all class and profession. The major portion of this crowd was the youth and a significant part was the women. This proves that the festival was successful in attracting the target group.

The first seminar, which was on "Democratic Process and Empowerment of Women", was successful in creating awareness of the importance of women empowerment and their democratic rights and privileges.

The seminar on "Effective Local Government Functioning", which was the second seminar of the program, made the audience aware of the need of effective local level governance for achieving good governance and giving democracy a strong root.

The last but not the least, a seminar on "Problems and Prospects of Agri-business in Bangladesh" made the audience understand, how by developing agro-based industries the people of Bangladesh and especially the people of the North can achieve economic freedom.

Dissemination of information:

The exhibition of the Bogra Democracy Festival effectively disseminated information on how democracy is practiced in mature democratic countries of the world and what different development agencies are doing for promotion of democracy and good governance in Bangladesh. The participation of Australian High Commission, European Union, United Nations Information Centre, UNDP, The World Bank, ADB, BRAC, NDI, TIB and other similar organizations has helped the festival to achieve this objective.

Creating the ground for interaction among policy makers, local people and members of civil society:

As in all its festivals Democracywatch has ensured the participation of local civil society representatives, local leaders, and the general people in the Bogra Democracy Festival. In our seminars they have heard the policy makers (Ministers, MPs, Govt. officials) and asked them questions. In the mukto mancho general people have expressed their opinions in front of press and important government and civil society representatives.

1. Media Training on Human Rights
2. Assessing Union Parishad Women's Training
3. Research on Women's Representation in the Parliament
4. UP election monitoring
5. Functional Local Government
6. Local Government Networking
7. People's Reporting Centre

Summary of Cash Flow

Following is the summary of cash flow of Democracywatch in the last four years:

Grants Received in the last four years

Donors:	Amount Received				Total
	1999	2000	2001	2002	
The Royal Norweign Embassy, DFID	10,575,155				10,575,155
The British Council, The Royal Norwegian Embassy		10,560,073			10,560,073
The Asia Foundation, The Royal Norwegian Embassy, The American Center, DFID, The Action Aid Bangladesh			17,172,724		17,172,724
The Royal NoNorweign Embassy, The Australian High Commission, British High Commission, CIDA				6,483,289	6,483,289
					-
Total Grants (A)	1,05,75,155	1,05,60,073	1,71,72,724	64,83,289	4,47,91,241

Income generated in the last four years

Source of income	Amount				Total
	1999	2000	2001	2002	
Tuition fees of training courses	3269825	363750	7506406	538978	11678959
Festival Advertisement	203350		211584	239750	654684
Other Income	838349	30046	2415233	2020234	5303862
Total (B)	43,11,524	3,93,796	10,133,223	27,98,962	1,76,37,505

Total (A+B) cash in flow	1,48,86,679	1,09,53,869	2,73,05,947	92,82,251	6,24,28,746
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Payments (cash outflow)	1,47,58,092	1,02,22,296	2,62,81,135	89,46,483	6,02,08,006
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Closing Balance	1,28,587	7,31,573	10,24,812	3,35,768	22,20,740
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