

Annual Report

2018-2019



15 Eskaton Garden Road, Ramna, Dhaka

Tel: +88 02 9344225-6, 88 02 8315807

Email: info@dwatch-bd.org, Web: www.dwatch-bd.org

List of Abbreviations

| | | |
|---------|---|---|
| NGO | : | Non-Government Organization |
| DW | : | Democracywatch |
| LGSP | : | Local Governance Support Project |
| RTI | : | Right to Information |
| UP | : | Union Parishad |
| CG | : | Community Groups |
| EWG | : | Election Working Group |
| RPO | : | Representation of the People Order |
| SAP | : | Social Action Program |
| ToT | : | Training of Trainer |
| LTO | : | Long Term Observer |
| USAID | : | United States Agency for International Development |
| SDC | : | Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation |
| CLGF | : | Commonwealth Local Government Forum |
| LGI | : | Local Government Institution |
| SAHR | : | South Asian for Human Rights |
| WYMD | : | World Youth Movement for Democracy. |
| NDI | : | National Democratic Institute |
| EWR | : | Elected Women Representative |
| PEWR | : | Potential Elected Women Representative |
| VGD | : | Vulnerable Group Development |
| BBG | : | Basic Block Grant |
| VGF | : | Vulnerable Group Feeding |
| LGD | : | Local Government Division |
| CBO | : | Community Based Organization |
| EC | : | Election Commission |
| DLAC | : | District Legal Aid Committee |
| UZLAC | : | Upazila Legal Aid Committee |
| UPLAC | : | Union Parishad Legal Aid Committee |
| DLAO | : | District Legal Aid Officer |
| UDC | : | Union Digital Centre |
| PRODIGY | : | Promoting Democratic Inclusion and Governance through Youth |
| ACYLT | : | Active Citizens Youth Leadership Training |

Executive Summary

This year the Founder Executive Director and Chairperson of Democracywatch was away sick so the full responsibility of continuation and smooth running of the projects, managing and maintaining transparency in Dhaka and district based offices were colossal task for the Acting Executive Director the Deputy Executive Director and the Directors. My heartfelt thanks to my colleagues, who had faith in Democracywatch and to our Chairperson and the Board of Directors whose support gave us the moral strength and inspiration to carry on, work hard and explore new avenues of interventions in spite of enduring enormous pressure. We implemented six projects in our main area of intervention of Governance. They were:

- Local Governance Program SHARIQUE
- PRODIGY: Promoting Democratic Inclusion and Governance through Youth
- Aparajita: Political Empowerment of Women
- Strengthening Community Participation and Empowerment (SCOPE)
- Active Citizen Youth Leadership Training (ACYLT)
- Ensuring Free and Fair Election

Local Governance Program: SHARIQUE contributes to the empowerment of local citizens to make and implement inclusive, gender sensitive and pro-poor collective choices about their lives and livelihoods through democratic, transparent, inclusive and effective local government systems. SHARIQUE is being implemented in Gaibandha district's seven Upazilas (Gaibandha, Fulchari, Saghata, Gobindaganj, Palashbari, Sadullapur and Sundarganj). Sixteen staff members work at Gaibandha who are frontline team members responsible for implementation of Sharique project. During the reporting period we have conducted 246 training on Social Safety Net-SSN where 6,647 members of Ward Platform-WP participated among them 3,267 were female. We have conducted 210 Participatory Gender Analysis-PGA practice to CBOs where 6,722 members of WP have participated among them 3,387 were female. We have also considered inclusion of the poor and disadvantaged people in the WPs. Beside this a total of 2,520 members including 1,425 women of WP have participated in Ward Shava meetings conducted by Union Parishad.

Promoting Democratic Inclusion and Governance through Youth (PRODIGY): The goal of PRODIGY-II is to build on the achievements of PRODIGY and scale up the project in a sustainable way. PRODIGY-II empowers youth leaders in Bangladesh with advanced knowledge of principles of transparency, accountability, inclusivity, non-violent civic participation, pluralism and freedom of expression to enable them to promote democratic inclusion, social cohesion and peace building in their own communities.

During the reporting period we have conducted 5 batches training on leadership, Transparency and accountability, Social harmony and grant management. A total of 160 participants attended these trainings. Also 14 Social Action Projects have been successfully implemented their communities.

APARAJITA: Political Empowerment of Women: Aparajita builds on the achievements, lessons learnt and recommendations of its first two phases (2011-2015 and 2015-2017). This time the project is more geographically focused and work in 6 divisions. The primary stakeholder groups for the Aparajita project are firstly, women who have been elected in Local Governments; secondly, potential women candidates who sought or seek positions in the LGIs; thirdly women who are already in other leadership positions in the communities; and fourthly, young women, aged around 16-35, who are taking part in social, development activities in their communities and aspirants to be leaders/ politically influential.

Aparajita endeavors to improve its outreach strategy to be more diverse and inclusive. The project continues to strengthen previously participating women, while also facilitating space for inclusion of disadvantaged women. The project seeks to understand how it can influence the wider society by engaging with male elites, political party leaders and local government representatives. The project has its overall development goal that "Aparajita contributes to equal participation, representation and leadership of women within local governance".

Significant signs of progress have been made during the period. Primary stakeholders have been identified and under which 734 women leaders received training on women's leadership. In these initial months, the project staff have enhanced their professional liaison with local administration for effective coordination at different stages of field level, with regular meetings and conversations with Union Parishad members. Some specific activities have been undertaken in regards to sensitizing the male elected representatives and staff in the UPs, and also meetings to create networks and improved working relationships between the Aparajitas and local service providers. The Aparajitas take more interest in the local governance system by participating in the quarterly interface meetings, and being more vocal, and showing interest in being involved with community development activities.

HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation is responsible for the overall management of the project and provides capacity development and coaching support to the national partner organizations. An alliance of four national partner organizations (referred hereafter as partner NGOs or PNGOs) - namely Democracywatch Khan Foundation, PRIP Trust and Rupantar- are in charge of the implementation of the project in 6 cluster areas/divisions, covering 16 Districts, 62 Upazilas and 541 Union in Bangladesh.

Strengthening Community Participation and Empowerment (SCOPE): Democracywatch has achieved high reputation and experiences in activating UP Standing Committees, formation of inclusive and vibrant citizen groups, implementing different social accountability tools such as Community Scorecard Process (CSP), Social Audit, Report Card and Budget Expenditure Tracking and Analysis (BETA) to ensure pro-people governance at UP level.

With the support from ManusherJonno Foundation (MJF) the organization has taken up an intensive community driven action to make the public service delivery institutions pro-people and participatory. The goal of the action is to transform service delivery into a well governed institutional environment where poor marginalised and vulnerable people enjoy better quality of life. The expected outcomes are,

- Public service delivery agencies are more transparent and accountable to the people and responsive to the needs of people especially poor, marginalised and socially excluded section.
- Poor, marginalised and vulnerable citizens are more able to access resources, services and opportunities.

Community groups are mobilized, enriched with knowledge and capacity to raise voice as their civic responsibilities. On the contrary capacity of elected representatives being developed to respond to the demand of citizens by creating a space for participatory planning and budgeting. So far the project has recruited project personnel and set up the regional office in Tangail. We have formed 71 Citizen Support Groups (CSG) with 710 community people including male, female, PWD, old aged persons etc. We are strengthening the coordination and communication with the relevant stakeholders and local officials who delivers SSN programs.

Ensuring free and fair elections: Democracywatch has been a leading member of Election Working Group (EWG) which is a coalition of 27 NGOs formed in 2006. Funded mainly by DFID supports and at General Election periods SDC, USAID, EU and other European countries also donate to this huge body of trained observers who cover all constituencies for ensuring free and fair elections. Fund is managed and coordinated by The Asia Foundation. Democracywatch works for ensuring free and fair election and it engaged hundreds of trained observers on GNDEM principles to monitor all elections held since 1996. Democracywatch took part in dialogues with the civil society and media held at Bangladesh Election Commission and raised some important issues. Although the organization trained over 2,400 observers during the period but due to funding constraints it did not conduct any election monitoring during the period.

Active Citizen Youth Leadership Training (ACYLT): Active Citizen is a unique programme funded by British Council since 2011. This project has been renewed every year with some gaps. Youths from different educational institutions participate in trainings for four days to be aware of their social responsibilities, overcome traditional barriers which hamper development, acquire gender sensitivity to influence their community through various Social Action Projects (SAP). Many of these SAPs are continuing and praised by the community. This successful programme created some amazing leaders

who were sent abroad for further training to be facilitators who are involve in training and inspiring other youths for the development of their community and sustainability of the programme.

Lifeskills Training: This is our own income generating project which was DW's first initiative taken in 1995. Our leadership training includes:

- English for general purposes
- Basic Computing
- Programming
- Graphics and Web Designing

Lifestyle classes are given free with all courses which include manner, etiquette, ethics and social behavior to build their confidence. This has always been a very popular course. So far over 26,000 students benefitted by this unique leadership training, many of whom are engaged fruitfully in the social and economic spheres of Bangladesh. Unfortunately admission to these courses reduced drastically due to various reasons which affected us badly as we had to struggle for resources to share the project funding and meet the administration cost.

Many thanks to the donors, development partners, NGO Affairs Bureau, The Board of Governors, local administration, stakeholders, well-wishers and my dear colleagues who continued to keep faith, confidence and extent supports to Democracywatch fulfilling its aim of strengthening democracy by involving people. We look forward to your cooperation and goodwill.

Thank you.

Wazed Feroj
Acting Executive Director

GOOD GOVERNANCE PROGRAMMES

Name of Project: SHARIQUE Local Governance Program

Development partner: HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Bangladesh

Duration: July 2018 to June 2020

Focal Person: A Khanif Muhammad, Team Leader, Sharique

Local Governance Program: SHARIQUE contributes to the empowerment of local citizens to make and implement inclusive, gender sensitive and pro-poor collective choices about their lives and livelihoods through democratic, transparent, inclusive and effective local government systems.

Goal: The overall project goal is that Sharique contributes to the empowerment of local citizens to make and implement inclusive, gender sensitive and pro-poor collective choices about their lives and livelihoods through more democratic, transparent, inclusive and effective local government systems.

Objectives:

Outcome 1: Citizens, demonstrate more effective participation in decision-making and more effectively hold Union Parishads to account in the selected (2) districts.

Outcome 2: Union Parishads in the selected (6) districts demonstrate more effective, accountable and inclusive local governance and apply efficiently public management systems.

Outcome 3: National actors use and institutionalize tested Sharique capacity development tools for strengthening Union Parishad governance

Stakeholders: All Citizens, especially pro-poor of Gaibandha district.

Project Office: DokhinDhanGhora, Opposite to SP Office, 4th floor, Gaibandha.

Manpower: A team of 16 staff, including one Team Leader, one Finance and Administration Officer (Female), Documentation and Monitoring Officer (Female), 12 Field Officers and two support staff, is working here. There are 5 female staff in the team, who deal with all the adverse conditions and are working using Motor Cycle.

Major Achievements:

During the reporting period we have conducted 246 training on Social Safety Net-SSN where a total of 6,647 member of Ward Platform-WP participated among them 3,267 were female. We have conducted 210 Participatory Gender Analysis-PGA practice to CBOs where 6,722 member of WP has participated among them 3,387 was female. We have also ensured inclusion of the poor and disadvantage people in the WR. Among them a number of 2,520 members including 1,425 women of WP has participated in Ward Shava meeting conducted by Union Parishad.



Ward Shava meeting in Horinathpur Union of polashbariUpazila

Significant achievements:

- A total of 63 persons from Ward Platform members have been included in different committees of Union Parishad.
- A total of 298 citizens have now access to services by UPs with the interventions of Ward Platform Members.

Challenges:

- Communication with WP members at ward level by using local transport was difficult and time consuming.
- Ensure timely presence of participants in trainings and other project activities during harvesting season.
- Communication gap between demand and supply side.

Case Study

Shihab wants to be an effective Change Maker for his community

Accountability, transparency, participation and equal justice for all is the most important elements of good governance when the service providers deliver services ensuring transparency. To practice the good governance it is essential to develop capacity of both service providers and receivers. It is needed to know the roles and responsibilities as a citizen as well as local institutions like Union Parishads.

In order to enhance capacity of the citizen groups Sharique Project has trained members of Ward Platform-WP (Citizen Group) with better understanding on governance issues. ShihabUddin, the son of Sharul Islam one of the potential member of WP under Horirampur Union of PolashbariUpazila. He has received training on Roles & Responsibility, WradShava and training on Social Safety Net to CBOs. After receiving these training he realized that most of the elected member of Union Parishad-UP didn't perform their responsibilities properly because they didn't ensure the participation of citizen in activities of local government. Citizens have been deprived of their rights due to lack of opportunities meaningful and effective participation UP activities. For this reason citizens maintain distance with elected members and lost their interest in UP activities. Shihab now concern about good governance. Due to unconsciousness of public representative in filling up the question paper for evaluation they didn't ensure the participation of citizen in local governance. Shihab realized that even though his father was an UP



Ward Shava meeting in Podumshahar Union of SaghataUpazila

member he was till unaware about UP rules. His father did not know what are duties and responsibilities of UP bodis, how to arrange Ward Shava, how to receive demand in Ward Shava from people? Shihab decided he will organize a meeting in presence local UP member Shahrul Islam and members of Citizen Forum. They discussed about the result of LGSA- local government self-assessment practice which they have applied in practice session of their Ward Platform. From this meeting they will decided that they plans of develop an action plan and list of demand for Ward No-7. They also decided that in upcoming Ward Shava meeting they will present plan and list of demands also the problems. From this month January 2019 they will communicate with the UP bodies on regular basis. They think that Ward Shava is the right platform to reduce distance between citizen and UP representative. That is, by taking such initiative they can ensure practicing of good governance. Shihab want to see him as a catalyst of this change. He thought participative local government development plan will gradually spread out all unions from the ward No 7. He believed that this small initiative will bring a positive change in the community and make more participatory which will eventually enhance LG transparency and accountability.

Name of Project: Strengthening Community Participation and Empowerment (SCOPE)

Name of Donor: UKAID/ ManusherJonno Foundation

Duration: 01 January 2019 to 30 June 2019

Focal Person: Md. LutforRahman, Project Coordinator

Goal: Poor, marginalized and vulnerable people have quality life in democratically functioned local governments.

Objective: Marginalized peoples will claim their rights and entitlements, strengthen officials' capacity to citizen demands and community support group will strengthen for monitor the activities of government service delivery institutions.

Working Area: Silimpur, Porabari, Dainna, Hugra, Kakua, Gala, Mogra, TangailPourashava at TangailSadarUpazila and Lawhati, Fazilhati, Delduar, Atia, Pathrail at DelduarUpazila in Tangail District.

Beneficiaries: Total 12930 (Widow, Distress, Older and Disable), direct beneficiaries-12920 and indirect beneficiaries-310 (participation in different committee/ forums).



Stakeholders: LEB representatives, Government Officials, Support Group, Local elites etc.

Major Achievements/ Progress:

- Staff recruitments and set up of the regional office inTangail.
- A total of 71 Citizen Support Groups (CSG) have been formed with 710 community people including male, female, PWD, old aged persons. We are strengthening the coordination and communication with the relevant stakeholders/ Officials according to the project plan.



Major Challenges:

LEB representatives/ few officials are less responsive towards sensitization programmes, instead they prefer to receive direct feasible benefits. Staff turnoutduring initial months hamperedtimely implementation of project activities.

Way forward:

Rapport building and frequent communication & coordination with LEB representatives/ officials by project staff members.

Name of Project: Strengthening and Promoting Active Citizenship in Bangladesh

Name of Donor: The Asia Foundation (TAF) and Own Fund

Duration: July 2018- 30 June 2019

Focal Person: Feroze Nurun-Nabi Jugal, Focal Person

Democracywatch is a member of 27 member body of election observers' group (EWG). It has been observing all national and local government elections, by-elections and re-elections from its inception in 1996. In this connection the organization observing and Planning for 11th National Election-2018. The organization trained about 2,430 observers for election-day observation which could not be conducted polling station monitoring due to funding and other management constraints.

Goal: Ensuring Free and Fair Election.

Stakeholders: Voter (Male and Female), Election Commission Bangladesh, Upazila and District Election Offices, Government Officials including Law Enforcing Agencies, International and National Election monitoring Organizations, Political Parties, Civil Society and Media.

Major activities undertaken during the reporting year:

- Observer training and orientation for national election observation.
- Election observation (candidate campaigns, performance of the election officials and law enforcing agencies, voter turnout, election management and post-election environment)
- Observed child engagement in the election process.



Achievements:

- Successfully conducted Partners Orientation for National Parliament Election-2018.
- Successfully conducted training for the LTOs.
- A total of 2,430 observer's bio-data collection among them 30% were female
- Prepared observer training plan.
- Developed check list on pre, during and post-election observation.
- Attended in different meetings with Bangladesh Election Commission and updated BECAbout observation issues.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES

Name of Project: APARAJITA- Political Empowerment of Women

Name of Donor: HELVETAS SwissIntercooperation Bangladesh

Duration: 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019

Focal Person: Feroze Nurun-Nabi Jugal, Program Coordinator

Goal: The Goal of the Aparajita project is to contribute to equal participation, representation and leadership of women in local governance.

Objectives:

- Potential and elected women representatives effectively participate in local government institutions and local governance processes in the selected districts.
- Elites, men and local institutions support the effective inclusion of women in local political life in the selected districts.
- Improved policy and legal framework and attention to hindering and enabling factors at national levels accelerate political empowerment of women.



Working Areas: 3 Districts (Rangpur, Dinajpur & Nilphamari) 10 Upazilas (Rangpur Sadar, Mithapukur, Gangachara, Dinajpur Sadar, Birampur, Chirirbandar, Kaharol, NilphamariSadar, Kishoreganj and Saidpur) and 95 Union Parishads.

Stakeholders: The Primary Stakeholders contains of Elected Women Representatives (past and present ones) and potential candidates, women leaders in the communities and young women in the community and the secondary stakeholders contains of men in the LGIs, spouses, family members, youths, local civil society, elites/ influential persons in the community, local authorities/ leaders, public sector service providers, private sector service providers, political parties and MPs, media associations and personnel, larger community, Bangladesh Election Commission (BEC), Parliamentary Standing Committees etc.

Major Achievements:

- A strong professional relationship with local administration has been established in 10 Upazilas. Through establishing a network and sharing project information with relevant stakeholders the project creating a clean image of the organization at the local level.
- At least 734 Elected Women Representatives & Potential Women Representatives have been trained on Women's Political Empowerment and Leadership.
- A total of 173 events have been completed during this period of time, where 3,896 men and women have participated in these events.



Major Challenges:

- Patriarchy, social stigma and fundamentalist ideology at grassroots level.
- Limitations of quality training venue at UP level.
- Wrong perception about political empowerment of women.
- The Elected Male Representatives have a wrong perception of leadership training.
- Ignorance towards systematic approaches.
- Culture of corruption at local level governance.
- The present local context becomes much more male-oriented rather than being women-friendly.

Way forward

- Establishing smooth professional relationship with stakeholders
- Contingency planning to implement the project activities and adoption of new strategies to tackle any challenges/ emerging issues of concern.

Case Study

Sultana's dream is to be an MP and develop her community

Sultana Akhtar was born to an affluent, politically affiliated family in Ronochondi Union of Nilphamari Upazila. After completing her schooling up to class 9, she was married and had to stop her education after completing her Higher School Certification.

Being well known in her community, and with her Father-in-law being a former UP Chairman, Sultana first ran for Upazila Chairman but was defeated. After that, her community people asked her to stand for the Union Parishad elections in 2016. She ran against her own brother-in-law in the UP Chairperson position, and even with his support from the ruling party, Sultana won and became one of the 29 female chairpersons in Bangladesh.

Surprisingly, for Sultana, she says that even with the UZ and District Parishads having female Chairpersons, the inequality and patriarchal bias in the governance system is stark. She still has to face blatant disregard being a woman and has to fight harder to ensure her rights in the local governance structure.



In the future, Sultana hopes to run for and be elected as a Member of Parliament. She thinks the local level government bodies do not have enough budget to carry out sustainable development activities.

Sultana Akhtar is a member of Bangladesh Jatiya Party, and is currently the Secretary of the Rangpur District Women's Wing, and the Asst. Secretary of the Upazila Women's Wing.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

Name of Project: Active Citizens Youth Leadership Training (ACYLT)

Name of Donor: British Council and Own Fund

Duration: July 2018- 30 June 2019

Focal Person: Rafayet Ara, Program Coordinator

Objective: To increase the number of young people that see active citizenship as a way of overcoming traditional barriers, accessing decision makers and influencing the lives of their community.

Achievements

- Ten Social Action Projects initiated from Active Citizens volunteers in different remote areas of Bangladesh.
- Seventeen 4-days long ACYLT sessions were arranged and 450 participants (225 male and 225 female) joined in those sessions.
- Two volunteers from DW participated in an International Study Visit (ISV) held in UK.

Participants' Competence: In total 450 youths, both male and female, participated in the training and responded that the training helped them build skills in identifying their potentialities and gain competence to seek help in order to utilize local resources. The youth participants shared their social action project (SAP) plans i.e. Token of Life-Birth Registration for Street Children, Happy Day-Spent quality time to street children, Sounds of Tree- Know name of Trees, Education for street children by which they work together with their community for local developments.



Several groups of volunteers emerged from these training from Dhaka, Mymensingh, Kushtia, Sylhet, Noakhali and Narshindi. Some of them have been working on sustainable development such as waste management, promote positive social behavior, stop child abuse, mental health, tree plantation, violence against women, Stop online harassment and sanitation etc.

Most of the volunteers have been proactive and responsive to immediate needs of their community considering the limitations they have. Some of the Social Action projects initiated by DW volunteers have received supports from community people, entrepreneurs, clubs and trusts.

Challenges

- ACYLT is short-term program and huge trainings have conducted by three months.
- Conducting training sessions in urban areas due to Participants manage is a very difficult
- Designing and implementing Social Action Project (SAP) by the participants
- Volunteers and Facilitators manage and utilization for ACYLT trainings
- Regular monitoring and evaluation of SAPs after the training session

Way Forward:

To overcome some of the above mentioned challenges, actions to overcome are being taken in consultation with British Council and other partner organizations for smooth operation in future.

Name of Project: Promoting Democratic Inclusion and Governance through Youth (PRODIGY)

Name of Donor: DRL/British Council

Duration: July 2018- 30 June 2019

Focal Person: Rafayet Ara, Program Coordinator

Goal: The goal of PRODIGY II is to increase peaceful and meaningful civic participation in local governance and to create a more inclusive society by promoting accountability, transparency, inclusivity and social cohesion as well as upholding pluralism and valuing difference in perspectives.

Objectives:

Objective 1: Youth demonstrate knowledge on leadership, accountability, transparency and Inclusivity, pluralism and freedom of expression.

Objective 2: Empower a network of trained group of youth to engage wider communities in issues around governance, pluralism and freedom of expression to raise awareness and level of motivation among citizens.

Objective 3: Recognition and demonstration of youth activities.

Areas: Ward 12 and Ward 19 Dhaka South City Corporation, Amin Bazar, Bongoan and Tetuljhora Union in SavarUpazila.

Beneficiaries: Community people of 5 areas around 5,000 citizens were the direct beneficiaries.

Stakeholders: Youth leaders, LEB representatives, community, government officials, like-minded youth and development organizations.

Major Achievements

- A total 160 participants got training on leadership, Transparency and accountability, Social harmony and grant management.
- 23 social action projects were implemented by PRODIGY youth leader out of which 14 got awarded from BC.
- A total 23 Social action projects are designed by which 6 are related for social cohesion and peace building, 4 are related for right to Information 6 for Environment, 4 for governance and 2 for gender related issues.
- A total of 5 participants got the opportunity to work with the Local Government for 3 months.
- One Participant got opportunity to participate International Study Visit in Indonesia.

**Major Challenges**

- Political inclination is a challenge to work with almost newly elected UP bodies and councilors of the DSCC;
- Ensuring 80% participation of youth leaders from old cohort is difficult due to migration, marriage, profession and study completion.
- Due to several terrorist assaults, the movements of youth leaders, especially female are restricted by the family members.
- Less opportunity to engage community people directly under the city corporation law
- It's a challenge to work with government office for the placement of intern due to different bureaucratic complexity.
- The Government offices were less responding

Way forward

- Committed, sincere and hardworking field staff.
- Rapport building with potential stakeholders regarding activities purpose.
- We had a contingency plan that helps to implement target activities as per plan

Case Study

Let's make a promise to keep our community neat and clean

In the middle of Dhaka City, the slums around Malibag, Gulbag, Shantibag etc. are slumped with problems like unhygienic environment, disorganized garbage system, open drainage system, and drug addiction. The roads are often clogged and the situation is exacerbated by sand, concrete pieces from under construction buildings and garbage produced by the citizens. Ward no. 12 under DSCC has no proper garbage disposal system and very frequently the roads are flooded with overflowing manholes.

“Keep our area free from water logging through clean drainage and Sewerage system” is the Social Action Project (SAP) initiated by PRODIGY youth leaders to create awareness among the citizen for proper waste management as well as some activities for local governance to create the role of mentoring and monitoring.

The team arranged 3 meeting with the ward councilor and the ward waste management committee. They identified the under-construction buildings. Besides, they made a draft MoU for the landlords and are arranging campaigns and orientation programs to raise awareness. They are incorporating interventions like cultural show, documentary show, drawing competition, design poster and leaflet and a ceremony for signing the MoU.



So far, they have been successful in increasing accountability and bridging the gap between the ward councilor office and community people. Landlords who have signed the MoU have been responsible and more people are coming up to be included in this SAP every day.

MONITORING

Democracywatch has a monitoring system. An experienced monitoring team is responsible for this and regularly monitors the project activities for protecting and safeguarding the interest of donors, as well as fulfilling the objectives of the organization.

Monitoring activities have been undertaken for the proper utilization of funds as well as effective and efficient implementation of the various programs. Monitoring process covers all aspects like drawing up of program guidelines, wide circulation, selection of deserving project proposals, release of funds, project implementation, etc. NGOs and donors both will monitor all such project activities as a tool of control mechanism. Democracywatch has a monitoring guideline. Monitoring team follows different methods and tools. According to this guideline Democracywatch monitors closely and regularly all the activities of the Partner NGOs starting from the selection process to ending of the projects. Similar monitoring activities have been performed by Democracywatch for its Field Office and activities undertaken at all level. We collect both qualitative and quantitative data from the field according to project indicators.

Monitoring Policy

- Ensure that the benefits of the projects reach the target groups in time.
- Ensure that the organizations have legality, loyalty to the people, credibility, reliability and capability to deliver the services required for the beneficiaries.
- A general attribute of the selected organization should be that it remains a non-political and non-partisan organization with members dedicated to community service.
- Ensure that the NGO should be able to bring about innovation and experimentation in organizing services, which are to be related to the needs of the people instead merely deploying people around services.
- Monitor all the activities related to filed program and financial management system of Field Office/Partner NGOs and own projects on regular basis and prepare a quarterly monitoring report for submission to the Executive Director of Democracywatch.

MANAGEMENT

Democracywatch has a General body of 15 members out of which 7 members are elected as members of the Board of Governors. A significant factor is that the majority members of DW's Board of Governors are women. The Board of Governors meets once in every three months and decisions are taken in a participatory manner. The BOG helps and support in formulating policies for general administration, staff welfare, financial & monitoring planning and evaluations of programs. The board members also personally take part in many activities and programs including recruitment, procurement etc. on invitation as and when needed which promote complete transparency and enhance goodwill. They are also involved in social and motivational activities of the staff.

The internal management is ensured through the Executive Director's initiative of taking all decisions in consultation with the Directors and other members of staff. The monthly Management and Coordination Meeting is one of the monitoring tools of Democracywatch. It aims at looking at the progress, success and limitations of both program and administration. The Coordination Meeting is held at two levels i.e. one with the senior managers and the other with all staff level. Senior Management meetings are held on a weekly basis and all staff coordination meetings are held Bi monthly. Project implementation meetings are held with project staff for planning and execution of project activities. In addition field coordination meeting are held at field level where respective project in charge are present.

The organization has well set, trained and experienced management staff who take care of internal management in a professional and friendly manner. Governance of Democracywatch is ascertained according to the rules and regulations of the Memorandum with clear vision mission, goal and values.

FINANCE

During this period significant progresses have been made under this project, such as three project offices and a cluster office have been set up at different districts and cluster level.