

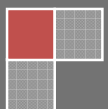
2010

# Practical Answers Bangladesh

## [Case Studies on knowledge centers]

[Described four knowledge centers of Bangladesh where two centers are developed by Practical Answers Bangladesh, one by Bangladesh Government and one by a NGO ]

*Compiled by: A.M. Shamsuddula, Coordinator, Technical Knowledge Management, PANs Bangladesh*



Prepared by: **R. I. Akram, Sr. Knowledge Officer, Practical Answers Bangladesh**

### **Introduction**

A local knowledge centre is being set up at a high school of Borokhata union, Hatibandha upazila of Lalmonirhat district northern area of Bangladesh. This knowledge centre is near by Dimla upazila of Nilphamari district, Patgram upazila of Lalmonirhat district and Tista barrage. Union parishad, Market and bus stand is beside this knowledge centre.

It is made MOU with school committee and than committee provided a room of school to set up this knowledge centre.

To manage this knowledge centre a managing committee is formation with eleven members. UNO of Hatibandha upazila is president of this committee and head teacher of Borokhata high school is general secretary. NGO representative, local elite person and another school teachers representative is member of this committee and upazila Agriculture officer, upazila livestock officer of Hatibandha upazila is advisor.

### **Services**

It is found that after analysis the recent experience of knowledge management, it is not sufficient to solve any problem through only advice, it required input and service. The services from local knowledge centre are available as follows:

- ✚ Agriculture advice, Computer training, Photocopy, Photo print, Vegetable seed sale, Vaccine sale and service
- ✚ Fisheries, Agriculture, Livestock related advice.
- ✚ Provide necessary material like seed, vaccine, weeder.
- ✚ Provide effective service about Fisheries, Agriculture, Livestock related advice and service by traibed RTE.

### **Services Through**

- ✚ RTE (Rural Technology Extensionist): Trained RTEs are providing support to solve different type of problem from farmers at their own villages and also another areas
- ✚ Govt. official: Monthly one day Govt. official (Agriculture, Livestock) comes at gyaner Hat (Local Knowledge Centre) and provide advice to farmers to solve agricultural and livestock related problems.
- ✚ RTC staff: Two staffs is working with Local Knowledge Centre and they are receiving enquiry from farmers and also make connection between RTE, Govt. official and related expert.

### **Regular Activity of Knowledge Centre**

- ✚ Courtyard session

- ✚ Leaf let distribution
- ✚ Expert farmers talk show
- ✚ Story writing or success farmers with picture and hanging at union council and school campus.
- ✚ Technical enquiry collection
- ✚ Follow of RTE
- ✚ Different result provide through internet
- ✚ RTE debriefing meeting
- ✚ Computer training
- ✚ Milking and postering

### **Equipments and Devices at Knowledge Centre**

- ✚ Computer, Multimedia projector, Photocopier, Fridge, Photo printer, Laser printer, Scanner, Fan, PH-meter, Digital camera, movie camera etc.

### **Beneficiaries**

Farmers Students, Teachers, Businessman, unemployed young people, Employee

### **Cost recovery approach**

- ✚ This knowledge centre is running by cost recovery approach. Full time two staff is working in this centre so it is essential to pay some honorarium/salary and other cost, to running this centre smoothly Practical Action Bangladesh provided some equipments from which can earn some money. Equipments are Computer, Photocopier, Photo printer, Digital camera.

### **Looking changing**

- ✚ Local people/farmers are coming at knowledge centre and receiving service.
- ✚ Guardians are sending their child to learn computer.
- ✚ NGOs workers are coming to using internet
- ✚ Students are coming to receive different result through internet
- ✚ Job seeker are receiving circulation from daily news paper and internet

### **Challenges**

- ✚ No profit of school
- ✚ Migration of RTE
- ✚ Slow internet Connectivity
- ✚ Electric equipment repairing problem
- ✚ Electrical load shading in a day
- ✚ Farmers fill shy to enter into this school based centre.

Prepared by: **Md. Kamrul Islam Bhuiyan**, Sr. Knowledge Officer, PANs Bangladesh

### **Introduction**

This center situated 2 km far from Kaliganj bus stand of Satkhira district. Kaliganj degree college situated very close to the centre. Head office of Shushilan NGO situated at Kaliganj and NGO staffs provide support to run the centre. Farmers of the nearer village used to come to the centre for different types of Agricultural support.

### **Infrastructure and Equipments**

Computer room, a library of 4000 different kinds of books, computer, printer, multimedia projector, digital camera, mobile phone and furniture.

### **Services**

Computer training-compose, internet service, enquirer answers provide from directly AIS, Khamarbari, Dhaka. By showing 50 animation based multimedia knowledge object they attract the farmers for their agri-based problem solutions.

### **Management**

Funding by D-Net, supported by Shushilan. One permanent staff. Shushilan provide a room for the

centre while D-Net provide Different kinds of equipment and technical support. Specially animated films provide by D-Net.

### **Beneficiaries**

Farmers, students, businessmen are the main beneficiaries. Each month 400 farmers, 500 students, 100 businessmen used to come to the centre. Farmers get some agriculture problem based solution, students for computer learning/training, and some businessmen come due a plant nursery, small poultry and dairy, and compost preparation by waste management this sorts of business.

### **Challenges**

- Due to less income economical support need from Shushilan NGO
- Due to power cut 4-5 hours computer related works become undone everyday
- GPRS based internet is very slow due to remote area network which is time consumable.

*Prepared by: Md. Kamrul Islam Bhuiyan, Sr. Knowledge Officer, PANs Bangladesh*

### **Introduction**

In the year 2003 by a survey with the help of local clubs established Agriculture Information Communication Centre (AICC) at Gaidghat, Jessore. It is 33 km far from Magura district on the way of Jessore-Magura road. Sixty two club members (Farmers and Youth) support to buy a small place at Tetul Tola, Gaidghat and build a room for the centre, where AIS, Khamarbari provide equipments and furniture. Club members are the heart of this centre.

### **Infrastructure and Equipments**

A single room for computer room, computer, printer, multimedia projector, sound system, digital camera, mobile phone and furniture.

### **Services**

Computer training-compose, internet service, enquirer answers provide from directly AIS, Khamarbari, Dhaka. By showing seventeen multimedia drama and street drama they aware poor farmers regarding agriculture problem based solution.

### **Management**

Local club, Agriculture Information Service (AIS) are the main management team for this centre. One male and one female person employed there and club members provide monthly fee @ taka 5.00 by these the centre providing its running cost.

### **Beneficiaries**

Poor populace of the villages, 2000 members of different clubs, maximum are farmers and nursery seedlings seller.

### **Challenges**

- Due to less income monthly fee need to take from the club members regular basis
- Due to power cut 4-5 hours computer related works become undone everyday
- GPRS based internet is very slow due to remote area network which is time consumable.

Prepared by: **Md. Kamrul Islam Bhuiyan**, Sr. Knowledge Officer, PANs Bangladesh

### **Introduction**

From February 2009 a knowledge centre (local name Gyaner Haat) running its activity at Atulia Union Parish 11 km far from Shyamnagar upazila in Satkhira district occupied by two rooms. After a survey at Mongla, Shoronkhola upazila of Bagerhat district and Munshiganj, Kashimari, Atulia union of Shyamnagar upazila, Atulia Union Parishad selected for shrimp, sea fish, crab market and Kholpetua river. Besides those a college, high schools, madrashas, primary schools and 23 village occupied by 37,252 populace maximum are affected by cyclone are also special causes for selecting the place.

### **Infrastructure and Equipment**

Computer room, a library room of 500 books, computer, laptop, photocopy, printer, multimedia projector, digital camera, video camera, refrigerator, vaccines of livestock, internet connection and some furniture. Library and computer room provided by Atulia Union Parishad with agreement.

### **Services**

Services provide by Advice, Input Service (AIS). The main services are answering farmers problem, computer training-compose, internet service, library cum reading room (by using online and offline software). By showing multimedia knowledge object of agricultural problem based solutions is one of the major knowledge management activity of this centre. By developing 30 Rural Technology Extensionist (RTE) from unemployed villagers of that union farmers are getting door step service on agriculture, fisheries and livestock related problems. Two entrepreneur working full time on that centre as a result with work opportunity they increase their skill. Basically 32 unemployed get employment opportunity through this centre.

### **Management**

Gyaner haat implementing its activity with the funding of Practical Answers Project and supported by Atulia Union Parishad. A local management committee consists of 11 members (UNO, UP chairman & secretary, school teachers, local elites) are always monitoring centre activity and its prospects. Due to prompt acting by two entrepreneurs and 30 rural technology extensionist the centre become famous at its working place. By earning photocopy, computer composes, renting video camera and multimedia projector its running well and the honorarium of the entrepreneurs also providing from the center's income which show sustainability of the centre.

### **Beneficiaries**

Farmers, students, businessmen are the main beneficiaries of the centre. Monthly approx. 400 farmers, 700 students and 400 businessmen used to come to the centre for their need. Farmers are coming for solution of their agricultural problem, students are coming for computer training and reading books in the library. Some are coming for job circular both in newspaper and internet based, exam results from internet, different types of Govt. forms.

### **Challenges**

- ✚ Due to power cut 4-5 hours photocopy and computer related works become undone everyday
- ✚ GPRS based internet is very slow due to remote area network which is time consumable
- ✚ Due to climate change problem especially cyclone affect its income and it is situated in the southern part of the country may disappeared due to sea level rising in near future.
- ✚ Electronic equipments such as photocopy, computer repairing is difficult due to remote place.