



পলাশীপাড়া সমাজ কল্যাণ সমিতি (পিএসকেএস)
PALASHIPARA SAMAJ KALLAYAN SAMITY (PSKS)

PROFIL



Least advantaged People celebrate
their lives with dignity

Background: Palashipara Samaj Kallayan Samity (PSKS) was established as a Club by some enthusiastic youths of village Palashipara of Tentulbaria Union under Gangni Upazila of Meherpur District belonging to the south-east region of Bangladesh on 15 February 1970. The organization came into being in concern of education and control of early marriage and exceeding population in the un-elevated and problematic area. The Club had no Office of its own till 1975. The library was started in the wall-almirah in the reading room of the Founder Secretary Md. Mosharrof Hossain with personal endeavor of the members. PSKS got registration from the Department of Social Welfare in 1976 and from NGO Affairs Bureau in 1984. The organization also has registration of Department of Family, Department of Youth Development. The focus area of PSKS are Health, Education, Employment Creation, Agriculture Development and Social Development.

Mission: We are committed to empower the least advantaged people including the poor and martialized of Bangladesh. For this, reflecting dire needs of livelihood, quality education, women's and human rights, health & family planning, climate change, human development and democratic governance, climate change and health & family planning in collaboration with the key actors in the public sector, private sector, and civil society, we:

- support the individuals in blooming their inner innate potentials through awareness, education and skill transfer
- play a catalytic role in strengthening linkage between the rights holders and the duty bearers; and
- Facilitate supply of financial and non-financial inputs

Vision: Least advantaged people celebrate their lives with dignity.

Values: PSKS is for all including the least advantaged.

PSKS's Goals: In order to assist women and disadvantaged groups of the community, following are PSKS's goals:

- To help improve education
- To improve health & Sanitation of women and children
- To help establish democratic and governance through participation of people
- To alleviate poverty and improve socio-economic status
- To increase awareness on legal and human right issues
- To help establish the rights of children, youth, women, the differently able and marginalized people
- To ensure a healthy environment.
- To foster peoples' capacity to cope with the impacts of climate change
- To prevent trafficking in-person

Legal Status of the Organization: PSKS is registered with NGO Affairs Bureau, Department of Social Services, Department of Family Planning of the Government of Bangladesh, Micro-credit Regulatory Authority (MRA), Department of Youth Development and others.

Kushtia-60/76 (Social Welfare Department)

Dated: August 20, 1976

FP/KST/78/1349 (32) (Family Planning)

Dated: August 15, 1978

DSS/FDO/R-157 (Under Foreign Donation Voluntary Activities)

Dated: April 18, 1984

MRA-03164-00606-00069 (MRA, Dhaka)

Dated: November 29, 2007

DYD/ Meher-64/2009 (Department of Youth Development)

Dated: July 12, 2009

TIN: 136236878401 (National Revenue Board)

Dated: January 19, 2005

VAT: 14201004118 (National Revenue Board)

Dated: November 10, 2008

P.F: 1/Anu/Aa:Sa:/2013-2014/804

Dated: January 20, 2014

G.P.F: 1/Anu/Aa:Sa:/2020-2021/454

Dated: September 30, 2020

Gratuity: 08.01.0000.035.02.549.21/43

Dated: March 8, 2022

SAM-DUNS: 731579558/RBLHGJL55XY7

Dated: March 07, 2022

Establishment: Palashipara Samaj Kallayan Samity (PSKS), a local non-government organization (NGO) was established by some local youths on February 15, 1970 in order to enhance quality of life of the under-privileged section of people by undertaking different community responsive programs.

Location: PSKS's head office is located in Gangni Upazila headquarters under Meherpur district. Its work places include Gangni, Meherpur and Mujibnagar Upazilas of Meherpur district; Alamdanga, Chuadanga Sadar, Jibonnagar and Damurhuda Upazila of Chuadanga district; Kalkini, Madaripur Sadar, Rajoir and Shibchar Upazilas of Madaripur district; Alfadanga, Char Bhadrasan, Nagarkanda, Faridpur Sadar, Boalmari, Bhanga, Madhukhali, Sadarpur and Saltha Upazilas of Faridpur district; Jhenidah Sadar Upazila of Jhenidah district; Ghior, Daulatpur, Manikganj Sadar, Shibhalaya, Satoria, Singair and Harirampur Upazilas of Manikganj district; Gosairhat, Zanjira, Damudya, Naria, Bhedarganj and Shariatpur Sadar Upazilas of Shariatpur district and Kumarkhali, Kushtia Sadar, Khoksa, Daulatpur, Bheramara and Mirpur Upazilas of Kushtia district.

Organizational Policy: The organization developed various required manuals and policies including Constitution, Human Resource Management Manual, Gender Policy, Finance and Administrative Policy, Program Management Policy, Staff Welfare Policy (i.e.: Contributory Provident Fund, General Provident Fund & Gratuity). Every staff of the organization has a well-defined Job description.

Management Structure, Capacity and Strengths: PSKS's Executive Committee consists of 9 members. Over the years, it has expanded its development activities. Through different activities of the organization, PSKS has strengthened its capacity to manage and implement challenges of projects. Activities of the projects are managed and implemented by a team of well qualified staffs. The staffs are classified as 5 top management, 97 mid-level management, 159 field and 10 support staff. Of the staff, 85 are female and 186 males. PSKS also has 75 female and 0 male volunteers. Board members and its staff have participated in training courses on leadership, management, project planning, supervision and monitoring, Advocacy Training for Democracy Partnership, communication and counseling, community participation, training of trainers, organizational sustainability, etc. All the staffs work under four departments: Human Resource (HR), Finance, Monitoring & Evaluation and Program.

Strength: PSKS had started programs for disadvantaged people on education and skills building since its inception in 1970 at a disadvantaged village Palashipara under Gangni Thana. From 1990s, PSKS gradually expanded its initiatives in other development sectors such as health, agricultures, livestock, microcredit, fish culture, education, alternative dispute resolution (ADR), library program and sustainability program. PSKS has been successfully implementing projects under the sectors mentioned above. PSKS has strong financial and program monitoring system. The organization believes in financial transparency in every step of expenditures. The organization has recently been implementing or has completed implementation of the following projects/programs:

USAID's Community Nutrition and Health Activity:

USAID's Community Nutrition and Health Activity (CNHA) aims to sustainably impact the nutrition and health of women and children in their first 1000 days of life. PSKS is implementing "USAID's Community Nutrition and Health Activity (CNHA)" with the technical support of CARE Bangladesh in the Madaripur cluster (Faridpur, Madaripur and Shariatpur district). CNHA will use the Core Team model to improve the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of Bangladesh's community health system. CNHA will use effective social and behavior change (SBC) strategies to boost demand for services and good health, nutrition, and family planning practices. By assisting Bangladesh in achieving self-sufficiency, the CNHA will tackle the disparities in nutrition and health outcomes among the most vulnerable population segments. This will be accomplished through targeted community health system strengthening efforts. The primary objective of CNHA is to promote the sustainable enhancement of the community health system.

The overarching goal of this Activity is to sustainably impact the nutrition and health outcomes of women and children in their first 1000 days. The activity will strive to achieve its goal by contributing to the following result areas:

Result 1: Strengthened community health systems to deliver nutrition, family planning, and health services.

Result 2: Improved household (HH) nutrition and health behaviors.

Result 3: Enhanced leadership and governance for improved nutrition.

Result 4: Resilience of communities and households to potential nutrition shocks increased.

Under CNHA, the consortium works with different departments of the ministries, especially the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) of the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) at the national, regional, and local levels, to improve nutrition status by strengthening the community health system and support the effective implementation of the Second National Plan of Action for Nutrition (NPAN2). This will work at multiple levels of local government institutions, specifically with the nutrition coordination committees at the district and upazila

levels focusing on the community health system and strengthening the Core Team approach and local nutrition-governance mechanisms.

Shongzog Project: Shongzog is the short name of “Connecting First Time Parents to Contraceptive Services through Diverse Platforms (Connect/Shongzog)”. The project is technically supported by Save the Children International and Financially supported by Bill & Milinda Gates Foundation. PSKS started to implement Shongzog in 2 upazilas of Madaripur district, namely, Madaripur Sadar and Kalkini. The goal of the project is Increased use of postpartum family planning and improved coverage and timing of PNC for first-time parents and their newborns in Madaripur. There are five objectives of Shongzog. They are

- (1) Improved health system readiness to provide ANC, delivery, PNC and PPFP services for first-time parents and their newborns.
- (2) Improved quality of services for first-time parents and their newborns.
- (3) Improved referral for first-time parents and their newborns.
- (4) Improved engagement of first-time parents and their families.
- (5) Improved stakeholder engagement for first-time parents.

Since first time mothers are the most vulnerable people during gestational period, they have been brought under the project interventions that include promotion of ANC, delivery, PNC and PPFP. Capacity building of the local level management of DGHS and DGFP, their service providers and local government engagement are main focuses of this project. Shongzog project creates community awareness people to abolish existing myths, misconception/superstition around Family Planning (FP) especially Postpartum Intrauterine Device (PPIUCD), danger of home delivery and proper birth spacing and increase PPIUCD acceptance rate along with proper birth spacing.

Nutritional Surveillance Project: PSKS started its Nutritional Surveillance Project in 1998 at Gangni of Meherpur district with financial assistance by Helen Keller International (HKI).

MaMoni Maternal and Newborn Care Strengthening Project (MaMoni-MNCSP): MaMoni-MNCSP will contribute to USAID Bangladesh's Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) goal and Strategic Objective 3 namely Health Status Improved through the project's Strategic Objective of Increased Equitable Utilization of Quality Maternal and Newborn Care Services. PSKS is one of the four partners that are implementing the project interventions at the field level. PSKS started to implement the project since 01 June 2019. We are implementing the project in 32 Upazilas of 5 districts, namely, Manikganj, Faridpur, Kushtia, Madaripur and Shariatpur. The MaMoni MNCSP consortium embraces the Government of Bangladesh vision of "a Bangladesh where there are no preventable deaths of newborns or stillbirths, where every pregnancy is wanted, every birth celebrated, and women, babies and children survive, thrive and reach their full potential" and will meaningfully contribute to achieving its goals of reducing the neonatal mortality rate to less than 18/1,000 live births and the maternal mortality ratio (MMR) to less than 121/100,000 live births by 2022. Key outcomes will be achieved through the following four closely linked intermediate results (IRs)-

- IR1: Improved responsiveness of district health systems to deliver patient-centered MNC services
- IR2: Improved quality of MNC services and governance of quality of care
- IR3: Sustained improvement in access and demand for MNC services and HH practices
- IR4: Improved national capacity to deliver quality MNC services at scale

Enhancing Resources and Increasing Capacities of Poor Households towards Elimination of their Poverties (ENRICH) Program: ENRICH is a flagship program of PKSF. ENRICH is a holistic development approach that envisions restoring the self-confidence of poor people and bringing out their latent potentials. Component of the ENRICH:

- I. Health
- II. Education
- III. Youth development
- IV. Environment
- V. Community Development
- VI. ENRICH Centre
- VII. ENRICH : Home
- VIII. Appropriate Finance

ENRICH Health component is designed to provide comprehensive primary healthcare services to all the households in the selected unions. Each household is visited at least once a month by a Health Visitor who collects health-related information of all its members. The collected information and data are recorded in the household health-cards. The field work is supervised by the Health Officers, who conduct static clinics in ENRICH

unit offices every day to attend to patients, usually advised by health visitors to go there. Patients needing further treatment are advised to visit the satellite clinics held once a week in each Ward. Satellite clinics are conducted by MBBS doctors. There is also a referral arrangement with both public and private hospitals and clinics for patients who need specialized medical services. Costs are substantially subsidized; and for the extremely poor, services are provided free of cost. Health camps (ophthalmic, dental, cardiac issues, diabetes, etc.) are also organized under the ENRICH, and when required, with specialist doctors conducting them. In these camps, patients with serious ailments are referred to different public and private hospitals and clinics where their treatment is arranged free of cost or at a nominal cost. ENRICH has also launched a deworming campaign, giving away free medicines to 100% of its registered households, covering all household members above 5 years of age.

ENRICH Education service aims to reduce the dropout rate and improve the quality of students at the primary level by implementing educational assistance activities. Students of playgroup, Class I & II are tutored in the afternoon education assistance centers.

ENRICH Environment emphasizes on raising awareness regarding the climate change and its impacts. Some adaptation activities such as raising the plinths of houses and planting trees and bushes for protection of houses from strong winds and water surges. Some mitigation activities such as installation of solar home systems and improved cooking stoves are encouraged and facilitated.

ENRICH Youth Development, a component has been specially designed to help the youth acquire skills in accordance with their respective aptitudes and, at the same time, be imbued with human and social values. That is, the purpose is to equip them to find employment on the one hand and help create healthy social environment in their locality by getting rid of such social ills as child marriage, teasing of girls, violence against women, child labor, dowry taking and drug addiction.

ENRICH Community development promotes repairing or building culverts, bridges, sanitary latrines, and shallow tube-wells in public places such as schools, colleges, madrasas, mosques, temples, and libraries.

ENRICH Centers generally function as community hubs. project provides the construction cost of the centers built on land donated by local communities. It is managed by an 11-member Ward committee consisting of the local Union Parishad member, senior citizens, local elites, teachers, youths, and representatives of the ENRICH-implementing Partner Organizations (POs).

ENRICH House focus on the best utilization of the existing resources of each household, the concept of establishing ENRICHed homes has emerged. The idea is to utilize the homestead land to the best extent possible through proper planning, taking into account the amount of land available. An ENRICHed home contains house(s) for the members of the family to live in and also to use for relaxing and entertaining. There is a sanitary latrine and, usually, a tube-well for drinking water. Economic activities conducted at the homestead include livestock, poultry, and pigeon rearing; cultivation of vegetables, and lemon, sajna, fruit and other trees, and medicinal plants.

ENRICH offers three types of credit services. They are: Income Generating Activities Loan (IGAL), Livelihood Improvement Loan (LIL) and Asset Creation Loan (ACL).

Smiling Sun Franchise Project (SSFP): Previously the name of the project was NGO Service Delivery Project (NSDP), financially supported by Pathfinder International. The project areas were Gangni upazila and Meherpur Sadar of Meherpur district and Daulatpur, Bheramara and Sadar upazila of Kushtia district. Under the supports, PSKS had established Emergency Obstetric Care (EmOC) service from its Gangni and Jhenidah clinic; Safe Delivery (SD) and Home Delivery (HD) services from its Gangni, Daulatpur and Jhenidah clinic; Comprehensive laboratory service from its Gangni, Meherpur, Kushtia and Jhenidah Clinic and Health Care Mart (HCM) & Pharmacy from its Gangni, Daulatpur, Kushtia and Jhenidah clinic. This project ended on 31 December 2018.

Campaign for Reproductive Rights: PSKS implemented this experimental project in 1999 for six months with financial and technical assistance by Bangladesh Center for Communication Program. Various activities like seminar, meetings, folksongs and video-show were launched under this project. Besides, relevant audiocassette, posters and leaflets were distributed for quick promotion of people's awareness about reproductive health as well as reproductive rights. The experiment showed positive results of the special communication in its outcomes.

Comprehensive Food Security Data Collection Project: Comprehensive Food Security Data Collection Project was designed and implemented for disaster preparedness, monitoring of CARE/World Vision activities and nutritional trends in Bangladesh. Survey of 1920 households in 18 villages of two unions was completed in the last two years of the project. The project was financially and technically supported by The Asia Foundation and Data International Ltd.

Self-Help & Rights through Empowering Young & Adolescent (female)- SHREYA Project: PSKS had implemented the project to contribute to the Government Policy of reducing the discrimination and experienced by rural adolescent girls and young women through providing opportunities and knowledge so that

they could be able to utilize their potentials. The objectives of the project were (i) To establish local level women organization which would act as a platform to deal with the issues and participate in development initiatives; (ii) To reduce the vulnerability of women and increase their participation in mitigating their social and economic rights; (iii) The Union Parishad would significantly contribute to women empowerment and gender related issues with more active role in planning and implementing local development initiatives. USC Canada-Bangladesh provided financial and technical support to run the project.

HIV/AIDS prevention among the young people in Bangladesh: HIV/AIDS prevention among the young people in Bangladesh is a partnership program of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Bangladesh and Save the Children-USA financially supported by Global Fund and it continued up to 2016. The whole management of the program is under Save the Children-USA. The project is implemented through five technical packages. HASAB consortium is implementing technical package-2 which includes HIV/AIDS and STD alliance Bangladesh (HASAB), Ad-din Welfare Center, Association for Community Development (ACD) and Young Power in Social Action (YPSA). PSKS is a strategic Partner of Ad-din Welfare center to implement the project under Meherpur district. PSKS is implementing following part of the project:

- Conduct LSE session
- Establish Youth Friendly Corner
- Condom access for youth
- Youth Friendly Health Service

Motherhood Allowance Program for Poor Mothers: To assist the helpless and neglected community, Bangladesh government has undertaken a test basis program naming 'Motherhood Allowance Giving Program for the Poor Mothers' from financial year 2007-2008 through giving monthly Tk. 300 as motherhood allowance for two years. PSKS implemented this program with financial support by the Department of Women Affairs (DWA) in 2014 with a total number of 207 women.

Integrated Child Development Project - Shishuder Jonno (ICDP-SJ): The goal of Integrated Child Development Program-Shishuder Jonno project is all children of Meherpur will learn and develop with their full potential. The activity of the project covers entire Meherpur district of which Gangni and Mujibnagar Upazila are under PSKS operation. So, all the children and adolescents aging from 0-19 years in Meherpur district get the holistic support project for their multidimensional development. The support includes Early Childhood Care and Development including Early Stimulation, Basic Education, School Health & Nutrition, Child Protection, Child Rights Governance and Community Mobilization. The project also provides support to National Child Taskforce (NCTF) so that they can enhance Child Rights Governance (CRG) to ensure child rights, security & protection. Palashipara Samaj Kallayan Samity (PSKS) becomes a partner of SCI from January 2015 to implement the project in association with Govt. Primary Education and Secondary Department, Health, Social Welfare Department and Union Parishad closely to achieve the goal of the project.

National Children Task Force (NCTF) Program: NCTF is an organization by which children can prepare and implement national work plan and can inform associated groups by evaluating and monitoring the activities by themselves. The main objective of NCTF is to uphold the rights of all children according to declaration of United Nations Organization. A General Committee consisting of 171 children between 12-18 years of age has been formed in Meherpur district. A District Committee consisting of 11 elected members is formed from the general committee. PSKS is cooperating the District Committee to make the committee self-dependent. The District Committee has to perform the following activities: Monthly meeting of the Executive Committee; Publish quarterly newsletter; Public hearing or face-to-face program; children rights monitoring; contact with local administration to resolve the problems of the children; observation of child rights related national and international days; information collection and monitoring of children assaults and anti-drug programs.

Children & Women Trafficking Prevention Program: Children & women trafficking in Bangladesh is gradually increasing. This trend is observed all over the world. It has defeated all the past history of the barbarous slavery during the middle age. We, on reading the newspaper, know innumerable instances of terrified trafficking of children and women by the trafficker teams every day in some new techniques. The children without guardians, vagabond and working children and their guardians as well as severely poor, illiterate, semi-literate, divorced and widow women are the usual victims of trafficking. These children and women are trafficked abroad through different routes. Many of the trafficked children and women are firstly taken to India through Kushtia, Chuadanga and Meherpur border and then move therefrom to different countries of the world. To such an extent PSKS organized community volunteers to prevent trafficking. Public awareness is being raised for protecting children and women trafficking in the project area.

Good Governance through Youth of Higher-Level Schools and Madrassahs: PSKS started operation of this project from June 2015 with financial support by the Asia Foundation. The overall goal of the project is to promote values of democracy, tolerance, diversity, social harmony and understanding among youth in the project geographic areas, recognizing the influence that youth will play in determining the future direction of Bangladesh. The project will contribute to this goal by building the leadership capacity of youth aged 17 to 24 from selected madrassahs and secular schools in Jessore Sadar Upazila and Kushtia Sadar Upazila to promote good governance practices, including accountability, transparency and democratic participation in decision-making process at the community level.

Women's Employment Creation (Micro Credit) Project: PSKS started this program in 1982 and the program is being continued. Under this program, the staff members organized groups with destitute women within Gangni, Meherpur and Mujibnagar Upazilas of Meherpur district; Alamdanga, Chuadanga Sadar, Jibon nagar and Damurhuda Upazila of Chuadanga district; Kushtia Sadar, Daulatpur, Bheramara and Mirpur upazila of Kushtia district.

Initially, PSKS received financial and technical supports from the Government Social Welfare Department and Unitarian Service Committee of Canada in Bangladesh (USCC-B). Later, the Ministry of Women Affairs, and Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) made available generous supports for its continuation and expansion.

Agriculture Development Program: Eighty five percent (85%) people of Bangladesh depend on agriculture, but much production of food grain is failed for lack of adequate skills, knowledge, and capital of the farmers. On these observation PSKS started agriculture and irrigation program from 1984 with funding from PKSF. Utilizing the project experience, the farmers of the project area are growing vegetables and crops and marketing those in the local as well as in Dhaka market.

Fisheries Development Program: Bangladesh is a land of rivers, but for its navigability, canals and lowland is loosed. As a result, local varieties of fish are being annihilated day by day. PSKS managed fishery program is being implemented through providing training, financial support and modern technologies to save from this imperiled situation as well as to ensure much production of local fishes. The organization has hatchery to produce trout of fish species which are near to be extinct. This year the organization is going to produce trout of local fish species and distribute them among local fish farmers.

Livestock Development Program: The major portion of protein demand of the country is filled-in from livestock. There is much potentiality of tending domestic animals and fowl and opportunity for employment in this agriculture-based country. In this view, PSKS is implementing livestock program through providing appropriate method, technical service and financial assistance to the community people.

Black Bengal Goat Rearing Program: Black Bengal is one of the native species of goat which is found entire Bangladesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Assam and Odisha. The common complexion of the species is black; however, it is also found in tan, white and brown color. The size of a Black Bengal goat is small, but its body is hard. Its horns and legs are small. The weight of a male goat is 25 to 30 KG and a female weighs 20 to 25 KG. It is weak to produce milk. It is very popular in Bangladesh as it takes a small quantity of feed and produce bigger number of yeanelings. The black Bengal gets breeding age earlier than other species of goats. The she goat gets pregnant twice a year. This species gets easily accustomed of any environment and its immunity to diseases is very high. It produces high quality meat and skin. Besides, researches have been done on poultry farming, cow rearing, its feed and and fodder, disease treatment, establishment of farms of poultry and cow for commercial production and persuaded by the result of the researches, people are establishing at large scale poultry and cow farms. But there is no significant research work on goat farming, its disease and disease treatment and establishment of commercial goat farm at government or nongovernment level. That's why only domestic farming of few goats is considered to be profitable. Though intermittent initiative of establishment of small, medium and large-scale commercial goat farms were found, they didn't succeed. There are large-sized goat farms with sufficient facilities at government level, they are not anyway profitable, but depend on subsidy for operation. PSKS is operating black Bengal Goat Rearing Program with financial support of PKSF. Under this program, the organization has its own farm where the genetic purity of this species of goat is preserved and bred; and financial and technological assistance is provided to make Black Bengal goat rearing popular at beneficiary members level and consequently it creates opportunity for poor people to establish Black Bengal goat farm at domestic level that creates way of breeding yeanelings and it creates employment.

Cattle Rearing Farm: PSKS has established a cattle farm where cows and Black Bengal goats are reared. This farm is a breeding centre of Black Bengal goats. This farm produces beef through cow fattening. The farm is situated on PSKS's own land. All types of modern farm facilities and equipment are available at this farm. This is

an income generating sector of PSKS. The organization is turning this farm not only an income source but also a potential asset which is and will contribute enhance economic development of the society.

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Project: The project is to establish fundamental human rights by making local people aware of law and human rights. Especially complaints of the inexperienced and orphan children who are deprived of their legal rights for not having proper guardian as well as complaints of the women who are oppressed, neglected or abandoned by the husbands, about maintenance, dowry, divorce, dower (Moharana), second marriage and torture/assaults are compromised through mediation. In addition, land disputes of the landless people, complaints arisen from the lands settled tenure, land cases of the inexperienced children, widows and helpless people are taken for compromise in order to keep up their benefit.

We can perceive from our experience that it needs a lot of money, time and for nothing exasperation to conduct a court case. Besides expenses, it is a matter of long period to reach a solution. So, to avoid court complicity and huge expenditure, complaints are compromised through mediation. Cases which are not resolved through mediation are sent to the respective court with financial assistance by the organization in order to reach solution.

The organization is working as an active patron of the Union Parishads (UPs) to establish legal rights of the rural poor and helpless people, especially, assaulted and oppressed women through making preparation for proper judgment. As a result of regular contact with the UP representatives as well as providing them with necessary assistance, village courts are getting dynamic.

Under this project, training on legal issues and human rights & mediation is provided to the community leaders including teachers, local leaders & UP women members, religious leaders and youths.

Legal Aid Program: PSKS implemented its Legal Aid program in all villages in three upazilas of Meherpur district from 1992 to 2000. This project was financially supported by The Asia Foundation and its democratic partners BRAC and USAID. PSKS also worked with another same project naming Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in ten unions of Daulatpur upazila under Kushtia district in 1999 & 2000 with financial support by the European Commission through the Asia Foundation. As a social mobilization activity PSKS conducted 819 orientation sessions and awareness meetings with 26,309 community people including local leaders, women group members and other NGO staff on legal issues to increase awareness of the people about law and human rights. The organization also launched 26 seminars on different legal issues with 6,203 local people under the Legal Aid Project. District Judge, Sub-Judge, Assistant Judge and senior advocates were present in these seminars as chief guest, special guest and discussants.

This program was served to establish legal and human rights of the disadvantaged people, especially women and children. PSKS provided training on the principles, procedures and methodologies of alternative dispute resolution to 338 local elected bodies (LEBs) and 5,227 elite. PSKS conducted 19 Union and two Thana Coordination meetings with 2,495 trained mediators including LEB leaders. As a result of the training, coordination meetings and regular contact with the LEBs, the leaders have become aware of their roles and responsibilities in local dispute resolution. Now most of the village courts are performing efficiently and impartially.

Under this program a total number of 1,598 complaints were resolved through the PSKS's mediation efforts. In addition, PSKS settled 74 cases through the respective court as well as 28 union parishads and one municipality settled 1,601 disputes. The Asia Foundation and its Democracy Partners, BRAC and USAID supported for this project till December 2000. Since then, the project was running with PSKS's own endeavor and presently Bangladesh NGO Foundation is providing monetary aids for this project.

Senior Citizen Development Program: Generally, the ending period of average age of a human being is said to be agedness or elderliness. According to United Nations Organization, people of 60 years or above in the underdeveloped country and that of 65 years or above in the developed country are defined as elderly ones. In Bangladesh perspective most people under 60 years are regarded as aged in our country. These elderly people are provided with monetary supports, health services, scarf, winter-scarf, walking-stick and winter clothing.

Drinking Water and Sanitation Program: Crisis of safety drinking water is a major problem in village life. Lacking safety water and sanitation causes 80% diseases. PSKS enjoined this program to rescue the community people from these diseases. PSKS's workers motivate the organized group members and other community people to drink arsenic free water from tube-wells or any other sources as well as to use sanitary latrine. PSKS has installed 102 tube-wells in its project area. It has set up three village sanitation centers (VSCs) in Gangni upazila of Meherpur district. Total 3,001 low-cost sanitary latrines have been distributed from the VSCs. PSKS started this program in 1989 with the assistance by "NGO Forum for Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation."

Social Forestry/Plantation Program: Trees are an excellent gift of the nature. It is a must to keep the environmental balance of the nature. Besides, trees are widely used to prepare medicine that is an incomparable gift. Since 1984, PSKS has been contributing to woods and develop social forestry and plantation programs through its organized group members.

Arsenic Mitigation and Water Supply Program: PSKS implemented this project in Bheramara upazila of Kushtia district in collaboration with Bangladesh Arsenic Mitigation Water Supply Project of the Govt. of Bangladesh in 1999. Under the project PSKS worked for identification of arsenic contaminated tube-wells and plotting, identification of arsenic affected patients, arsenic health education campaign among the people through information dissemination, and provided low-cost water treatment option in severely affected villages. After closing out of the project with Bangladesh Arsenic Mitigation Water Supply Project of the GOB, PSKS's workers are regularly discussing among the organized groups within Meherpur district about the harms caused by arsenic contaminated water as well as make them aware of avoiding the harms.

Election Observation and Monitoring: PSKS has gained vast experience in providing voter education, election observation and monitoring (long-term, election day and post-election monitoring) since 2001. It assisted Election Commission-Bangladesh in listing of voters and publishing voter ID cards. PSKS observed the National Election-2008 in two constituencies- one in Meherpur-2 (Gangni) and the other in Kushtia-1 (Daulatpur). Besides, it also observed Upazila Election-2009 in Gangni upazila under Meherpur district. The project was run through financial and technical supports by the Asia Foundation and Election Working Group (EWG).

Post-Election Activities: Prior to the General Election of the parliament (Jatyto Sangsad) held in 2008 and 2014, District and Upazila Level 'Citizen Friendship Committee for Transparency & Accountability Development' was formed in view to raising awareness. Upazila Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Meherpur sadar upazila were invited to a meeting of District Committee in quest to share opinion with the elected bodies regarding women and youth issues and local problems as well as expectations of the public. In addition, a cultural function on the issues of transparency and accountability of the elected bodies was arranged at Shahid Dr. Samsuzzoha Park, Meherpur. Honorable Parliamentarian of Meherpur-1 constituency, Mr Joinal Abedin was invited and he was present in this function as the Chief Guest. Besides, UP representatives and representatives of the civil society as well as local elite attended this program after the General Election of 2008 and 2014.

Strengthening Civic Engagement in Election and Political Processes for Enhanced Transparency and Democratic Accountability Programme: Before and after the General Election of 2008 and 2014, the activities of the 1st and 2nd phase of the project were implemented by EWG and the donor agency 'The Asia Foundation' itself. In the 3rd and 4th phase activities were done by 2 staffs of the organization as per guidelines provided by the donor agency. List of unregistered voters of age 18+ were collected in 6 villages of 6 unions under Bheramara Upazila of Kushtia district and 6 villages of 6 unions under Jibonnagar Upazila of Chuadanga district through household survey in 6 days as part of Observation of voter registration. Information of reasons for remaining unregistered and others were collected through filling up the prescribed forms provided earlier. List of 120 people taking 10 ones from each of the particular village/Union and information of the relevant household head and other voters were collected and sent to the donor agency.

In the next phase information of No.25 male voter and No.25 female voter from each of the wards of 3 Unions of both the Upazilas were collected from the voter list displayed in the Upazila Election Offices. Information was physically verified by reaching the houses of the above mentioned voters. Then

information of 1 male and 1 female voter of the two households instantly next to 6 households from No.25 voters were collected by using the prescribed format. Afterwards the staffs used to match/verify the information with the voter lists displayed/preserved in the Upazila Election Offices. Besides, the staffs stayed full time for 9 days in the Upazila Election Offices to observe the activities of the office as well as what the relevant Officers and other staff are doing and collected information on 'Voter List Updates'.

Integrated Community Based Arsenic Mitigation Project: Under this project PSKS provided low-cost water treatment options in severely affected villages under Gangni Upazila during 2001-2002 fiscal year with financial and technical supports from NGO Forum.

Library Program: To help flourish humanistic knowledge and create scope of gaining ethical knowledge, PSKS set up a library at Palashipara under Gangni Upazila in 1970. Local interested youths used this facility for meet their thirst of knowledge. Presently the library has been shifted to Gangni with the headquarters containing a total number of 4,325 book titles.

Sewing Training: PSKS started a sewing training center in 1981 and provided training to 341 destitute women. After receiving training, many of the learners bought sewing machines to begin sewing business. In need, they got some loan funds from PSKS to run their business and have been rehabilitated.

VGD Development Support Services Project: The Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) programme is the largest social safety net programme of the Government of Bangladesh that targets ultra poor households. PSKS enjoined its VGD Development Support Services Project with financial support by the Department of Women Affairs (DWA) in 2010 with a total number of 3,429 VGD women – 1,939 in Gangni Upazila and 1,490 in Mujibnagar upazila who received monthly food ration for the households. The development support services consist of providing training on Social Awareness and Income Generating Activity (IGAs), savings management and may have access to credit. To ensure sustainability of development results and to provide VGD women with opportunities to further improve their livelihoods

After closing up of 2010-2011 cycle, PSKS started the same project for 2011-2012 cycle with 450 VGD participants in Gangni upazila and 317 participants in Mujibnagar upazila. The VGD participants are supposed to be mainstreamed into PSKS's regular development programmes after completion of the cycle.

Sustainability Program: With a view to reducing dependency upon donor agencies and making the organization self-reliant through procuring own resources, PSKS has been able to set up a husking mill and it bought 1.64 acre of cultivable land & residential areas altogether as its income generating approach. There is a two-storied own office building of the organization in the village of Palashipara for program operation. Besides, a three storied clinic building and another two-storied building has been constructed at Gangni upazila headquarters (village Banshbaria) with the organization's own income.

Financial Year	REVENUE BUDGET	Budget in Million
2021-2022		BDT. 280.99 USD. 2.728
2022-2023		BDT. 280.99 USD. 2.728
2023-2024		BDT. 280.99 USD. 2.728

development partners we are working with



Care
Bangladesh



Save the Children

AFFILIATION WITH OTHER NETWORKS



NGO Federation

ফেডারেশন অফ এনজিওস ইন বাংলাদেশ (এফএনবি)
Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh (FNB)



CREDIT & DEVELOPMENT FORUM (CDF)

The National Networking Organization working for
the Microfinance Industry in Bangladesh



Bangladesh ECD Network (BEN)



Meherpur NGO Samity



NCTF
Bangladesh



CSA
for
SUN



মেহেরপুর জেলা

Find Us



<https://www.facebook.com/psksmeherpur>



<https://www.youtube.com/@psksinfo>



<https://www.psksgm.org>



পলাশীপাড়া সমাজ কল্যাণ সমিতি (পিএসকেএস)

PALASHIPARA SAMAJ KALLAYAN SAMITY (PSKS)

Banshbaria, Post Office : Gangni-7110, Upazila : Gangni, District : Meherpur, Bangladesh.
E-mail : psksmeherpur@gmail.com & info@psks-gm.org, Website : www.psksgm.org