



Research Initiatives Bangladesh

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Brief Description of Activities :

Research: A research on early childhood education with the children from 20 hardcore poor families of the village Kajoli under Sripur Upazila (sub-district) of Magura district was undertaken in 2003. Mr. Bashir Ahmed, a professor of local college conducted the research with support extended by RIB and its Chairman Dr. Shamsul Bari. The ECD model so developed from this study now popularly known as Kajoli model. The research succeeded in developing the model but still continuing for searching social sustainability. Research is now concentrated on identifying the potential areas for identifying social sustainability that can be continued without the financial dependence on external sources. Research is also targeted to further improvement in methodological aspects of the model.

Training: Teachers (who are the girls/women of the localities) and the champions (who are the local initiators of establishing such centres) where the Kajoli Shishu Bikash Kedros (ECDs) are received 3-day duration training in Kajoli Teachers' Training centre. In addition to exposing them on teaching methodology during training emphasis is also given on involving the local communities and community members. Workshops are also organised with joint participation of the teachers, champions and members of the local community. From 2007 and onwards, it is now planned to organise refresher training of the teachers and champions. After completion of each calendar year (also the education year) children fairs are organised both regionally and nationally. Three such children fairs have already organised this year, one in Nilphamari on 9 December, one in Natore on 10 December and the third in Jessore on 13 December.

Evaluation: Activities of the Shishu Bikash Kedros are closely monitored and evaluated centrally by RIB. Beside RIB, the Organisations and champions who have initiated these Kedros also monitors and evaluate the activities of the Centres locally.

Material Development: No book, pencil and khata are used in Kajoli model-run Centres. Instead of these, following educational materials are used: word cards with pictures (117 Nos.) - 1 set, word cards without pictures (117 nos.) - 1 set, Bengali letter cards with pictures and poems - 1 set, letter cards for making words (375 Nos.)- 1 set, 1 Pocket Board made by cloth for using the pocket cards, a 32 feet long and 2 feet wide black board and a very amusing book on "Learning reading stories aided by pictorial illustrations".

Others: The model that was started with one centre in 2003 in Kajoli, Sripur, Magura as a pre-school is now being practiced in more than 150 such centres across the country over 26 districts. Districts where these centres are located include: Narsingdi, Kishoreganj, Maulvibazar, Sreemongal, Cox's Bazar, Noakhali, Chandpur, Barisal, Jhalokathi, Patuakhali, Rajbari, Magura, Satkhira, Panchagarh, Bagerhat, Narail, Meherpur, Kustia, Natore, Sirajganj, Joypurhat, Gaibanda, Rangpur, Nilphamari and Dinajpur can be mentioned here. Two major characteristics of Kajoli model are: (i) reading and writing; and (ii) participation of the local community members. For reading and writing, instead of books, khatas and pencils pocket cards, pocket board and black boards are used. Members of the local 'Somaj' play important roles in organizing and managing the Kajoli model-run centers. Activities that are performed by the local community members include: selection of children for the centre, selection of women teacher, raising fund for meeting the expenses particularly the honorarium of the teacher and organizing lunch for the children of the centre by each mother. Children are also involved in reciting poems, singing songs, dancing and playing.