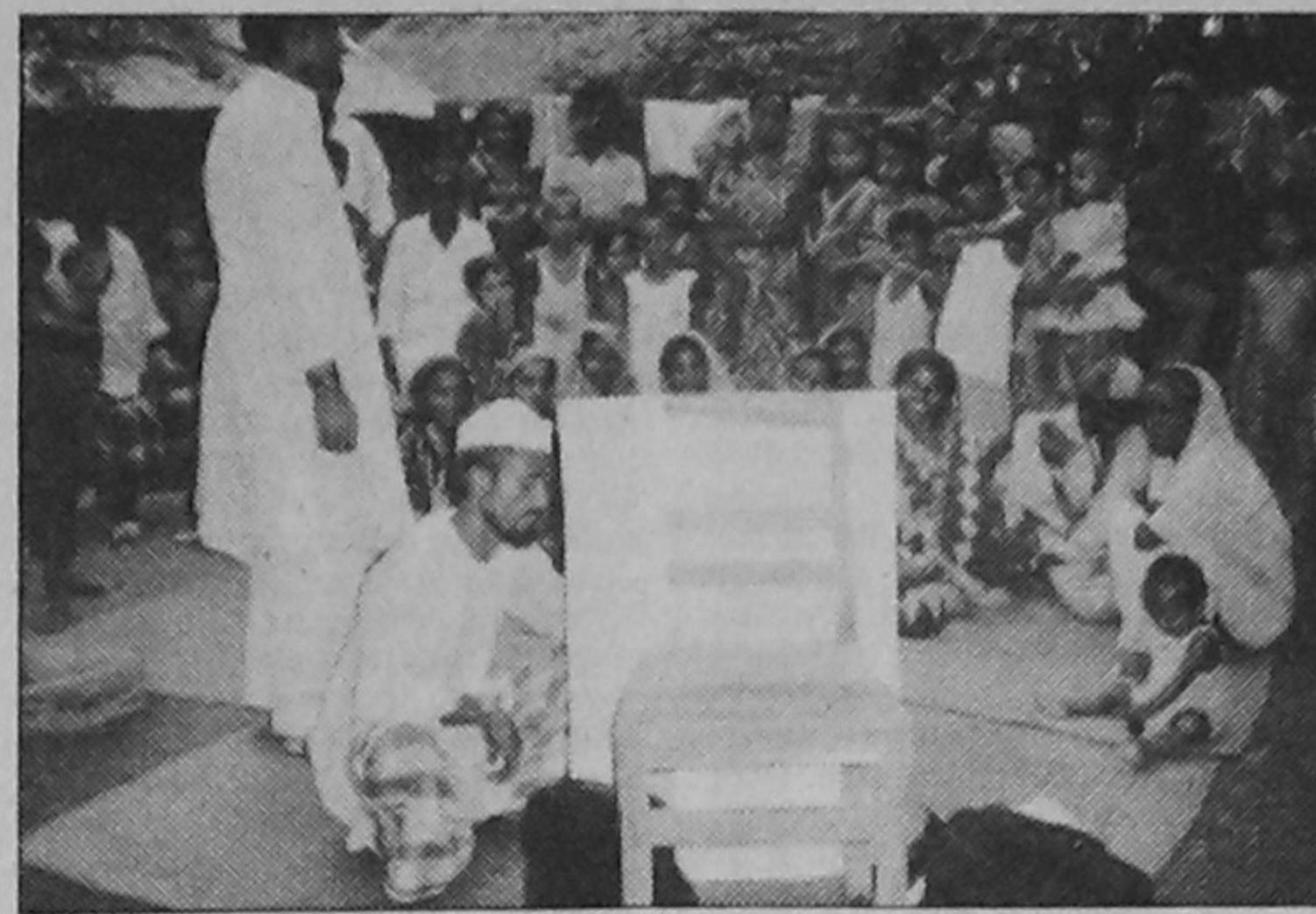


## Effectiveness of the Community Resource Persons

by M. Farhad Hossain



Community participation is of the essence in promotion and protection of child rights.

**T**HE Child Access to Right, through Development (CARD) Project of Save the Children Australia (SCA) has a provision for building human resource base in the community for promoting child rights for sustainable impacts on the lives of the target children in the project intervention areas of Tangail district. To facilitate this process, SCA planned to involve various stakeholders of the community for promoting and establishing child rights in the light of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC). Subsequently, as a process of building human resource base, SCA identified 27 potential resource persons to be trained as the 'Community Resource Persons (CRPs)'. After receiving Training of Trainers (ToT) at SCA Tangail Resource Centre in October 1999, these CRPs conducted orientation sessions among the school teachers, Union Parishad chairmen and members, the local social leaders and elite. They started community based CRC promotion sessions from October 1999. These sessions are still being conducted by the CRPs among different walks of people of the society both in the rural areas and in the town ship.

SCA Bangladesh decided to evaluate the effectiveness of the role played by the CRPs among the rural and township people. The purpose of the evaluation is to assess the effectiveness of orientation sessions conducted by the CRPs and their involvement and activities for social mobilization towards the establishments of child rights in the light of the provision of UN CRC in the program intervention areas of Tangail district.

The open group discussion was the methodology that was adopted to evaluate the effectiveness of the CRPs who had ToT on UN CRC conducted by SCA. Group discussion meetings were arranged with the CRPs and they narrated their experiences, the usefulness and effectiveness of their role as CRPs. Out of 27 trained CRPs, 25 took part in the group discussion meetings. Eight group discussion meetings were held with 25 CRPs at the offices of the partner organizations at the field level. The meetings were held in a cordial and reciprocal manner. The evaluation team was comprised of two professionals - one was the project coordinator (partnership) and another was the communications consultant of SCA.

### Findings

The findings of the group

discussion meetings are quite interesting and encouraging. The community resource persons have responded to questions and queries made by the evaluation team. All of the CRPs who have participated in the evaluation meetings took part in the ToT organized by SCA. The following are the core findings of evaluation meetings with them.

While having group discussions with the CRPs they have revealed that they did not know anything about CRC before they attended the ToT on CRC. After having ToT on CRC, they have been able to convince teachers, guardians and social leaders to take steps for the development of children. They have observed that, earlier, nobody thought about the children in the light of CRC. The CRPs have unanimously agreed that the programs taken for child development are quite good. They are highly satisfied with their current responsibility of child rights promotion and establishment. During the group discussions, they have told that the results of the child rights advocacy are quite impressive in the areas of sports, education and other social programs.

The CRPs have been able to judge the changes that have occurred in the light of CRC. But they have said that the public representatives or political leaders have not shown their interests in the CRC. Religious obstructions in the villages are observed. However, after the introduction of CRC through CRPs, students' attendance in the school and interest in studies have been grown to a considerable level.

The CRPs are increasingly being invited to address at the rallies, gatherings, meetings, of primary school students, teachers, etc. After introduction of CRC advocacy work, child participation in the different national programs has increased. As a result, children are getting chances to participate in different socio-cultural programs. Even they have started to write plays by themselves. The society is being served by the CRPs after the introduction of CRC. They have revealed that after the introduction of CRC, behavioral changes are being observed among the children. The CRPs have informed that the interests of the local Union Parishad leaders, the elite and social leaders have been found.

Acceptance of the social elite by the society has been increased. Now the people have positive attitude towards child development activities. Every member of the society is committed to child development. Such orientation on CRC may play an important role in changing the society. The CRPs have felt that advocacy work on CRC is a good step to change the society amid a lot of problems. One of the CRPs has reported that CRC orientation conducted for the primary school teachers has been 100% successful and an assistant than education officer has also attended it. The same CRP has told that CRC orientation with the UP members has not been very successful. But, the teachers have been encouraged and inspired by the CRC orientation.

While talking to the general public at market places, such orientation initiatives on CRC have been widely appreciated. Due to CRC advocacy, teachers are promising not to punish their students. One of the CRPs has mentioned a case of the British children as an example. He has said that the British children met their Prime Minister and demanded to amend the British Act of 1860 of punishment to children. In re-

lation to that demand, the Act was amended.

One of the lady CRPs has said that she has talked to her adult daughter regarding CRC orientation. She has mentioned that her neighbors have paid attention and appreciated to what she had said to them on CRC. The above mentioned lady CRP has felt that it is necessary to work for a longer time on CRC orientation. Another lady CRP has said that she is hopeful that she would be able to do some social service to the society. Two lady CRPs, who are schoolteachers, have agreed that punishment should be abolished from schools. They are totally against it. It has been reported by the CRPs that progress has been made in the area of birth registration as well.

The findings mentioned above, show that tangible and laudable changes have taken place in the program intervention areas. Some of the findings may sound repetitions, but it is due to similar observations/comments made by different groups of CRPs. All the findings are received from each separate group of CRPs.

The above findings are very positive, appreciable and self analytical. It is clear from the findings that the CRPs are a very effective and influential mode of delivering core messages on CRC to the society as a whole. They are playing a very important role to change the existing social attitude to the

children. They have feelings that the objectives of the CARD project may be both expanded and replicated in other places of Tangail district as well as in Bangladesh. The present number of CRPs is very meager one, because only a total of 27 can never reach the target beneficiaries of the whole areas of the project.

It has been found that each CRP is greatly motivated and inspired to do the job without any material benefit. Their only benefit is their self satisfaction and social honor and recognition. They are the leaders/elite of the society, considered as the instrument for changing the society. Only these people can be trusted with this responsibility.

### Recommendations

A number of valuable recommendations/suggestions/comments have been received from the CRPs while evaluation team have gone to meet eight groups of them at the partner NGOs offices. Every recommendation made by the CRPs is encouraging and praiseworthy. The recommendations so far received are given below.

The SCA evaluation team has had a discussion meeting with the CRPs of PKS, Kalihati.

They have recommended that the CRC orientation should be done more extensively. It is their recommendation that taking assistance from the rich people may expand this work. Such CRC orientation meetings should be organized with the school managing committee, school teachers, and the head masters to convince them to implement the CRC at the grassroots.

The evaluation team has had another group discussions with the CRPs of FRIDAY, Gopalpur.

One of the CRPs has opined that a seminar on religious fundamentalism with the local religious priests/leaders should be held to promote CRC and its necessity. Side by side, assistance to household work and farming has been suggested. Another one has opined that it would not be wise to hold a seminar for the religious priests/leaders. It is hoped that an overall change might occur if CRC is introduced and implemented widely. More training sessions on CRC are necessary to expand the CRC activities.

The CRPs have suggested that areas of CRC activities should be expanded. Child volunteers should be trained up to spread the provisions of CRC. The evaluation team has had group discussions with the CRPs of SSS, Tangail.

Direct supervision by SCA has been suggested by one of the CRPs to see how they work. The youth and teachers may be motivated to work as CRPs in the society. The CRC program needs to be comprehensive and should be for a long term to have wider impact. The CRC orientation courses provided to the teachers should be followed up among them to see whether the de-

sired/committed works are done. The CRC program needs to be expanded.

It was suggested by one of the CRPs that the village youth clubs and elite should be involved in the CRC orientation process. The workers of other NGOs and social workers might be involved in the process as well.

The team has met the CRPs of FCWC, Modhipur. Their recommendations have been known through discussion. They have recommended that if such a program on CRC is carried forward, it will have greater impact on the society.

The teachers' training course may have component of CRC to promote good teachers and teaching. The continuation of CRC orientation must be maintained to have long-term impact on the society. Village shalishas are other places where CRC may be raised. Debates or meetings on CRC might be arranged among the students, schoolteachers, social and religious leaders/elite to promote it. The distressed children might be helped with educational materials or clothes. Discrimination may be eliminated through promotion of CRC. The basis should be created at villages among the people for human resource development (CRPs).

The team has had group discussion with the CRPs of GUP, Kaloha Bazaar, Kalihati. They have suggested that the parents' mentality should be changed through introduction of CRC. Mothers and fathers should be included into the urban balthak / meetings on CRC. It is their recommendation that more CRC orientation workshops need to be held for making new CRPs in future.

As a part of the process of evaluation, the team has had a discussion meetings with the CRPs of JJS and REDO, Elenga and Bhupur. One of the CRPs has suggested that the child artists at Union Parishad level should hold different cultural programs to promote the CRC. The CRPs will attend such cultural meetings for the promotion and establishment of CRC. One of the CRPs has proposed that the members of the child clubs and their parents should replicate the CRC program and carry forward it at village level.

The evaluation team has had group discussion with the CRPs of SSS, Tangail.

Finally, the recommendations/suggestions should be further reviewed by a team of specialists and appropriate steps need to be undertaken to expand the CRC extensively among the rural and urban people.

The writer is the Communications Consultant of Save the Children Australia - Bangladesh.

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2. **Digital Picture** : WEGA টেলিভিশনটিতে আছে সর্বাধুনিক প্রযুক্তির ডিজিটাল কম্ব ফিল্টার (comb filter) যা ছবিকে করে তুলবে একবারেই স্পষ্ট, নিখুঁত এবং জীবন্ত।

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4. **High Tension Aperture Grille** : WEGA-র High Tension Flat Aperture Grille-এর ছবি হয় Brilliant Colour এবং High Resolution সম্মত। আর এ স্ববিধার জনাই WEGA TV কে Computer Monitor হিসেবে সহজেই ব্যবহার করা যায়।

5. **Intelligent Picture** : WEGA TV-তে আছে Built-in Intelligent Picture System ফলে Weak ক্রাকাস্টিং সিগনালগুলোকে ব্যবহৃতভাবে Strong করে নেয় এবং পুরো ক্ষীণ জুড়ে দেয় High Quality Image।

6. **Favourite Channel** : কেবল লাইন-এ অসংখ্য চ্যানেল থাকে। WEGA TV-র Favourite Channel সিস্টেমের মাধ্যমে উটি পর্যন্ত পছন্দের চ্যানেলকে ইচ্ছুক ধারাবাহিক তাবে একই ফ্লেমে সাজিয়ে রাখা যায়, ফলে নির্দিষ্ট বাটনে একবার Push করেই পছন্দের চ্যানেলে সহজেই পৌছানো যায়।

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8. **PIP (Picture-in-Picture)** : এই পদ্ধতির মাধ্যমে WEGA ২৯ ইঞ্জিন এবং ৩৪ ইঞ্জিন টিভিতে একই সাথে দুটো প্রোগ্রাম উপভোগ করা যায়।

9. **Picture Rotation** : WEGA TV-তে সহজেই Picture Position কে TV Screen এর সামন্তরাল তাবে স্থান করা যায় কিন্তু ঘূরানো যায়।

10. **FD Trinitron Picture Tube** : এর বৈশিষ্ট্য হলো Flat Trinitron Picture Tube. আর তাই এই ক্ষীণ সমতার SONY-র সম্পূর্ণ নিজস্ব টেকনোলজির সাথে আছে SONY-র নিজস্ব উত্তীর্ণকৃত Trinitron কোশল। কাজেই একমাত্র SONY-ই বিশ্বকে দিতে পারে সম্পূর্ণ Flat FD Trinitron WEGA-তে Digital Picture উপভোগ করার ক্ষমতা অনুভূতি।

11. **Auto Frequency Control (AFC)** : এতে আছে AFC ডিভাইস। ফলে টিভি টি টিভি টেলিভেনের কাজেই ধারুক কিন্তু অনেক দূরেই ধারুক WEGA-র ছবি হয়। এর ক্ষেত্রে কাঁচাখিত মানের কোনই পরিবর্তন হচ্ছে না। AFC ব্যবহৃতভাবে Weak Frequency-কে পর্যাপ্ত ভাবে Strong করে TV-র অভ্যন্তরে পাঠায়ে দেয় আর তাতে ছবি ও শব্দ হয়ে উঠবে নিখুঁত এবং স্পষ্ট। সাধারণ TV-তে যা কল্পনাই করা যায় না।

12. **PIP (Picture-in-Picture)** : এই পদ্ধতির মাধ্যমে WEGA ২৯ ইঞ্জিন এবং ৩৪ ইঞ্জিন টিভিতে একই সাথে দুটো প্রোগ্রাম উপভোগ করা যায়।

13. **Picture Rotation** : WEGA TV-তে সহজেই Picture Position কে TV Screen এর সামন্তরাল তাবে স্থান করা যায় কিন্তু ঘূরানো যায়।

14. **FD Trinitron Picture Tube** : এর বৈশিষ্ট্য হলো Flat Trinitron Picture Tube. আর তাই এই ক্ষীণ সমতার SONY-র সম্পূর্ণ নিজস্ব টেকনোলজির সাথে আছে SONY-র নিজস্ব উত্তীর্ণকৃত Trinitron কোশল। কাজেই একমাত্র SONY-ই বিশ্বকে দিতে পারে সম্পূর্ণ Flat FD Trinitron WEGA-তে Digital Picture উপভোগ করার ক্ষমতা অনুভূতি।

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16. **PIP (Picture-in-Picture)** : এই পদ্ধতির মাধ্যমে WEGA ২৯ ইঞ্জিন এবং ৩৪ ইঞ্জিন টিভিতে একই সাথে দুটো প্রোগ্রাম উপভোগ করা যায়।

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