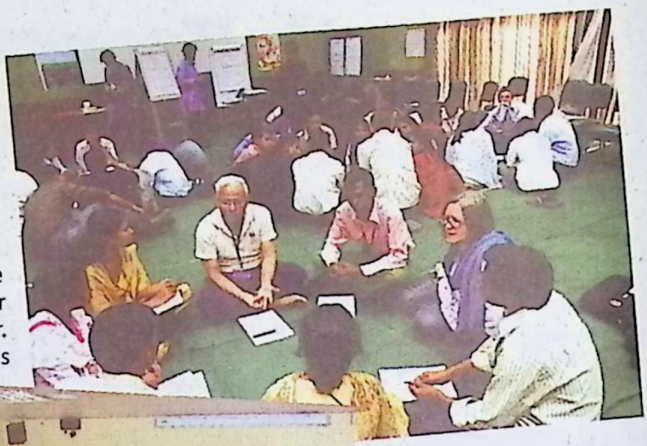
Issues such as adult literacy rate and sanitary problems were of significance in most communities. However, some SAPs suggested encouraging debates and tackling climate change as well. Some of these projects have already been completed and they were developed with the help and assistance provided by influential characters and mentors within the community. Despite the support, there were obstacles and adversities that the young people faced but it did not halt their work. Rather it motivated them to work harder. In the end, the fruit of their success was evident.





In Baniazuri village of Manikganj, illiteracy was a major problem. So, the young people involved in the Active Citizens programme decided to demolish illiteracy by opening a literacy centre. This literacy centre would help 300 people to overcome illiteracy; it focused on providing education to adult women. The women can read and write now.

Lastly, the 'Share globally' segment focuses on exchanges with international communities and international conferences. The intercultural dialogue aims to approach and provide solutions to overcome the problems of the people in various communities of UK and Bangladesh. It also encourages promoting global citizenship. In February 15 young Bangladeshi volunteers went to Scotland and 12 Scottish youths visited Bangladesh in March and they shared their experience and learning on different problems faced by the people of the different communities in Scotland and Bangladesh.



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The effectiveness of the cross cultural exchange was portrayed by Nazmul Haque, Project Manager of Active Citizens as "means that bring new techniques to young Bangladeshis in citizenship training used internationally -- for example, encouraging the development of critical thinking and working through new approaches to problem-solving." He added "Bangladesh's future lies in how it will tap its 'youth dividend' to effect change in its communities -- and from our first year workshops and social action projects so far, it's evident young volunteers are highly enthusiastic about building up their skills to take an effective role to change society for the better. Active Citizens is giving them a window on the world of volunteering as it takes place globally".

Active Citizens is an ongoing project and it is opening new doors of opportunity for more than 4000 Bangladeshis to take part in the programme each year - bringing them under the roof of a global network with countries like Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan and the UK.