



SEQAEP Newsletter



Secondary Education Quality and Access Enhancement Project (SEQAEP)



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Editorial

This 6th issue of the newsletter deals in the first quarter activities and achievements of SEQAEP in 2016. It is presented to the enthusiastic readers both in Bangla and English versions. This periodical, also, accommodates as a medium of retrospection the qualitative quest into the project implementation process by capturing wide angle view and impact level perspective.

We have a wider point of view with the upcoming issues of our Newsletter to create an opportunity and open up a window for our countrywide young learners to inspire them in creative activities by publishing their innovative art works i.e. poems, rhymes, short stories, thrilling experiences and success stories, paintings etc including recommendations from parents, teachers, SMCs and MMCs. We hope, we would be able to produce every issue of our Newsletter as learning tools especially for students.

We would like to convey our sincere thanks to all including DPDs, ADs, POs, consultants and others who were involved with this Newsletter production and put their sincere efforts to make it happened. We, also, acknowledge our thanks and regards to readers.



Classroom teaching-learning activity at a SEQAEP institution



Honorable Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, MP attended an ACT orientation program accompanied by Education Secretary Md. Sohorab Hossain and Director General of Secondary and Higher Education Prof Fahima Khatun, SEQAEP APD Dr. Md. Jahangir Alam and WB Consultant Mosharrarf Hossain. SEQAEP Project Director Dr. Md. Mahamud-Ul-Hoque presided over the session.

Additional Class Teacher (ACT) Program & Orientation in 30 Batches

ACT scheme is an important sub-component of SEQAEP to address students' weaknesses in difficult subjects very particularly in English, Math and Science subjects. Remotely located 2000 project institutions are brought under the ACT scheme in 64 upazilas of 64 districts.

It aims at overcoming students' fear and developing their skills in tough subjects, increasing pass rate in public examinations and, above all, ensuring quality education.

ACT program has been effectively functioning since March 2015. 735 ACTs joined in 397 institutions in the first phase (2015). Further, 2251 more ATCs joined in 905 selected institutions in the first quarter of 2016 under the year's deployment mapping, so far, in the second phase. Redeployment of ACTs in the vacant posts from the 'eligible ACT list' is a continuous process. SEQAEP redeployed 923 ACTs in vacant posts by the end of March 2016.

It is a good impact making initiative while 'before-after ACT' comparison and other indicators show that students are now doing better and making good results in public examinations. SEQAEP completed 30 batches of one-day orientation workshop, so far, for a total of 3362 concerned stakeholders including 1692 ACTs,



Teaching-learning activity in a smart classroom at a SEQAEP institution

739 SMC and MMC chairpersons or representatives, 900 institutional heads and 31 USEOs in the last one year period from April 2015 until March 2016.

Honorable Education Minister Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, MP participated ACT orientation workshops in two occasions on 14 January and 28 March of 2016. He delivered motivational and guiding speech and said, "We will ensure international standard quality education for our children. We have to build our new generation as architects of modern Bangladesh."

ACT Support is Impacting Well in JMR High School

An ACT supported SEQAEP institution JMR High School locates at Chatmohar upazila under Pabna district. Md. Mozaharul Islam, Head Teacher of this institution, recently talked to the SEQAEP Newsletter team and said that SEQAEP responded their demand and deployed three Additional Class Teachers in English, Math and Science subjects in 2015. He, also, said, "A transformation has occurred in the school's academic activities as soon as ACTs started working. Their diverse initiatives have brought qualitative improvement among students. They are evaluating and finding out weak students, taking regular and additional classes, arranging parents/guardians meetings, making liaison with teachers and SMC members. The students are doing well in tests and examinations."

The head teacher further told that previously students used to go to private tutors, but now the tendency had considerably been reducing on one hand and attendance in additional classes increased on the other hand.



Project Officer (PMT focal person) Nazrul Islam hands over PMT stipend to students at a SEQAEP institution in Kolaroa, Satkhira

Over 7.9 Million Students get PMT Stipends and Tuitions

SEQAEP has been providing stipends and tuition to poor students in project institutions since 2009 through the Proxy Means Testing (PMT) scheme. It is a self assessment tool to determine students' household poverty. The component helps increasing access and retaining poor girls and boys in secondary schooling without any additional expenses by their own. The enrollment of poor students in secondary institutions rose up to 41% in 2015 from 30% in 2008 because of PMT-based stipends (Semi-Annual Monitoring Report: January-June 2015).

A total of 79,31,374 students received PMT stipends till March 2016. In Fulbaria upazila of Mymensingh 25,830 students got stipends which is the highest figure among all project upazilas. On the other hand, in Ruma of Bandarban district only 268 students got stipends scoring the lowest during July-December 2015 period.



Honorable Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, MP hands over a laptop to a USEO. He attended logistics and accessories distribution ceremony along with BSK chairman Prof Abdullah Abu Syeed, Director General of DSHE Prof Fahima Khatun and SEQAEP APD Dr. Md. Jahangir Alam. SEQAEP Project Director Dr. Md. Mahamud-Ul-Hoque presided over the meeting.

Distribution of Logistics and Accessories among 215 USEOs

Upazila Secondary Education Officers (USEOs) are the integral part of SEQAEP since FSSAP time in 1993. SEQAEP revitalizes the role of USEOs by arranging Annual Planning Workshops for 215 USEOs and signing Result Agreement with them. Moreover, it equipped Upazila Secondary Education Offices in all 215 project upazilas with laptops, photocopiers, printers, scanners, fax, 3G modems and motorbikes etc.

A simple ceremonious meeting was organized to handover these equipment to USEOs. Honorable Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, MP graced the occasion as the chief guest.



Students read and enjoy books of DRH program with much enthusiasm

Selection of Reading Books under DRH Program

SEQAEP has been successfully implementing Developing the Reading Habit (DRH) program through an important implementing partner Bishwo Shahitto Kendro (BSK) in all secondary institutions and madrasahs of the project upazilas since inception. The program provides extra-academic learning environment to students through book reading competition aiming at their cultural and knowledge base development.

SEQAEP has been providing reading books of great and eminent writers suitable to growing up students on range of topics encompassing environment, civilization, literature and cultural heritage of the country and the freedom movement. It is an important means of ensuring quality education. School based libraries are, also, being developed in SEQAEP institutions. DRH program is enabling and encouraging students to establish reading habit, to endeavor creative things, to avoid bad association and idle pass time.



Book Review Committee members headed by Director General of Bangla Academy Prof Shamsuzzaman Khan are evaluating books

SEQAEP completed primary works of 'DRH book selection' procedure in the period of 8-10 March 2016 through the support of an expert panel comprising of Director General and senior officers of Bangla Academy, eminent writers, critic and civil society representatives. A total of 290 publishers for their 1348 number of books have applied to get selection. It is expected that students will get quality books of good writers.



Nilphamari Sadar Municipality Mayor hands over Institutional Achievement Award to the Head Teacher (R) of Panchapukur High School. SEQAEP Project Officer (focal person) Goutam Kumer Roy (C), USEO and Super of Tupamari Fazil Madrasah are present there.

Distribution of Incentive Award of 2015 Academic Year

SEQAEP urges students, teachers and institutions in rural area to perform in the best manner and provides incentives as a means of encouragement for best students, teachers and three institutions in every upazila to stimulate greater output. The Incentive Award sub-component has been effectively contributing to promotion of quality education at the secondary level.

Three kinds of Incentive Awards of SEQAEP include:

- Best Student Incentive Awards for the best performing girls and boys in all classes in SEQAEP institutions worth Taka 1,000 and a certificate per awardee.
- PMT SSC/equivalent Incentive Awards for all PMT stipend holder students who have passed the SSC/equivalent exams. It is a one-time incentive of Tk. 1,500.
- Institutional Achievement Awards (IAA) for top three institutions (two schools and a madrasah) in each of all 484 upazilas every year worth Taka 1,00,000 as school grant.

PTA Initiative to Stop Eve Teasing and Child Marriage

Parents-Teachers Association (PTA) is an important tool to ensure quality education in institutions. PTA has been formed in 9,840 project institutions while 67,810 PTA members have been provided with training on SEQAEP activities. In most of the institutions PTAs remain active. A PTA committee looks after a range of important activities i.e. cooperation to SMCs in maintaining transparency and accountability, accessibility and increased enrollment, reduced dropout, social audit, safety and security of girls in the way to institutions and back home, stop eve teasing and child marriage.

The member secretary of Savar Girls' High School PTA committee told that they had been working to address dropouts, child marriage and eve teasing. The head teacher, also, used to advise students to attend school regularly, to maintain cleanliness and personal hygiene during school assembly.



Parents-Teachers Association (PTA) meeting at Savar Girls' High School

Implementation of ISF Activities for Improving Environment

Improved institution environment is an integral part of quality education and SEQAEP has been addressing the issue through the Improving School Facilities (ISF) sub-component. The activities of the program include safe drinking water supply, hygienic sanitation system and infrastructural improvement in institutions.

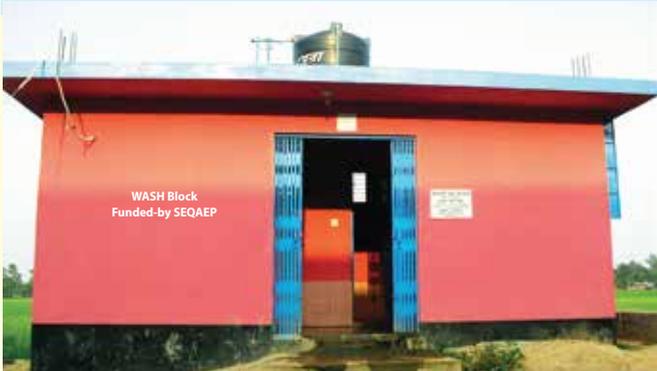
SEQAEP made following achievements, so far until March 2016: classroom repair and improvement in 501 institutions, 153 improved and 600 low cost WASH blocks building, 1480 deep tube-wells and 980 shallow tube-wells and 1826 twin latrines installation, water pumps and overhead water tanks development in 1783 institutions and 5 solar water plants. Importantly, users committees were formed for maintenance and looking after neat and cleanliness of the compound, classroom, toilets and water points. Teachers-students together ameliorate institutional environment.



One DPHE chemist is showing the results of sample Manganese test in drinking water. SEQAEP Project Officer (Admin) Mahfuza Easmin and ISF focal person Amina Parveen observe the process.

Shikhali H/S Students becoming Habituated in Hygienic Sanitation

Md. Ibrahim, Head Teacher of Shikhali High School of Pequa upazila in Cox's Bazar, told that everybody including students, teachers, SMC members were happy with the improved wash block funded by SEQAEP. None of the surrounding institutions has such a nice tiles fitting wash block and they are proud of it. He thanked SEQAEP to support improving the school environment and sanitation facilities. He, also, said, "Students are using the wash block with pleasure. They maintain personal hygiene in better manner than previous times, even are practicing cleanliness at home now. Every institution should install such hygienic WASH block."



SEQAEP builds an Improved WASH Block for students of Shikhali High School in Pekua upazila of Cox's Bazar district

Success of Rajapur and Kalaroa Upazilas in ICT Use

SEQAEP provides ICT grants amounting Taka 9,600 per annum (Tk. 800/month) to every School/Madrasah Management Committee (S/MMC) of the project institutions. The objective of this incentive grant is to make the institutional management body used to and apt in ICT for information sharing. In January-June period of 2015 highest number of 88 institutions in Rajapur upazila of Jhalakathi district and 55 institutions in Kalaroa upazila of Satkhira district got ICT grants.



SEQAEP Deputy Project Director (Quality) Prim Rizvi conducts a session on ICT Grant sub-component in an ACT orientation workshop

Social Audit in SEQAEP Institutions

Parents-Teachers Association (PTA) as an important stakeholder has been operating social audit in respective institutions. This new kind of program is a frequent and regular basis in-depth observation into academic activities as a cross-checking mechanism which will ultimately contribute to quality education and equitable access in institutions. SEQAEP provides an amount

of Taka 5,000 to every PTA annually as grant money. A total of 6018 nos. of PTAs received this grant until December 2015. SEQAEP has, so far, provided training to 1798 nos. of PTA members with the view to manage social audit in better manner.

Assessment of Education Quality

Assessment of Education Quality is an important sub-component of SEQAEP. The Monitoring and Evaluation Wing (MEW) of Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) has been implementing the tasks of this sub-component. MEW already performed two rounds of learning assessments in 2012 and 2013 consecutively.

In the mean time, the government had decided to implement learning assessment program in the secondary level nationwide being encouraged by the successful implementation of two successive Learning Assessments in SEQAEP Institutions. The field level survey of Learning Assessment of Secondary Institutions 2015 was completed on 27 October 2015 in 527 secondary level educational institutions under 55 upazilas of 32 districts. A total of 26,877 students (13,191 in Class VI and 13,686 in Class VIII) in Bangla, English and Mathematics subjects participated in the assessment test.

Request for Write-up:

SEQAEP requests the pleasure of enthusiastic students, ACTs and other teachers, PTA, S/MMC members, USEOs to send write-ups, paintings by students at seqaep@bdcom.net.

Publications of 2015-16

- Publication of 'SEQAEP – Five Years Success Story'
- Publication and distribution of various components focused 15 types of Manual
- Development and distribution of posters, leaflets, brochure, calendar, diary etc.
- Progress Report on SEQAEP Implementation September 2015
- ACT Orientation Completion Report 2015
- Annual Planning Workshop for USEOs, DEOs and DDs

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