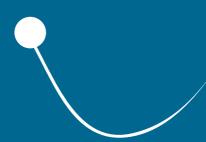
Annual Report July 2007 - June 2008







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2007-2008 at a Glance

August, 2007

• Gunijan launches the programme for school children in remote areas to introduce our Gunijans (eminent personalities).

September, 2007 •

 D.Net's Pallitathya and mobile lady concept is presented to the chair of UN-GAID and the chairman of the board of Intel Corporation, in an ICT exposition organised by BTN.

• D.Net becomes the member of the board of Trustee of Corporate Social Responsibility Centre for promoting CSR in business and NGOs.

November, 2007 •

 D.Net comes forward to support the SIDR victims with its own resources, provided by Manusher Jonno Foundation and VAB,NJ. D.Net also facilitates relief and rehabilitation work through creation of database with photographs of victims' family members for proper distribution of rehabilitation support.

December, 2007 •

 D.Net in collaboration with other international organisations produces a handbook titled 'Towards Knowledge Society: A Handbook of Selected Initiatives in South Asia', launched during Global Knowledge Conference 2007.

• D.Net, as the first secretariat of Bangladesh Telecentre Network, spearheads the grand launching of Mission 2011, a multi stakeholder initiative for building a sustainable and inclusive information and knowledge system for the poor and marginalised by the 40th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence.

February, 2008 June, 2008 • D.Net participates in the 23rd Ekushey Boi Mela.

• D.Net joins in an international research collaboration initiated by IDRC (International Research Centre), Canada and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The planned multi year research project is titled 'Investigating the Social and Economic Impact of Public Access to Information and Communication Technologies.'

June, 2008

• D.Net joins global information and knowledge intermediary working group as a member of core team to promote concept of 'knowledge into policy' and 'knowledge into research'.

July, 2008

• D.Net launches a venture named 'Multimedia Content and Communications Ltd' to leverage the potential of digital content development.

• The Multimedia Content and Communication (MCC), a venture of D.Net, launches the first video animation series centering MONI – the lady who visits households in rural area with mobile phone or portable computer riding her bicycle.

www.dnet.org.ba

Chairperson's Message

I am very glad to learn that D.Net is going to publish the web version of its annual report for the fiscal year 2007-2008. D.Net has been playing a vital role in the cutting edge areas of development research and in translating those research findings into livelihood development of the common people since 2001.

D.Net has always been trying to bring innovative and meaningful changes to society by its activities. The creativity and devotion of our young talented team is our main strength. D.Net also successfully promulgates its success to local and global domain.

The main driving force of D.Net is its young and energetic workforce. With limited resources but sincere efforts, D.Net colleagues have been able to buildup reputation among the stakeholders at the grassroots level, which is the most important capital for the organisation. D.Net's endeavor has also attracted attention of the global stakeholders.

D.Net has substantially expanded its horizon of activities; it is now time to focus on consolidation and quality. Through formulation of internal management policies and Framework of Internal Governance, the process of institutionalisation of the organisation has gone deeper.

This annual report is the document of transparency and accountability of the organisation to its stakeholders. I would like to express my gratitude to the young team of D.Net on the occasion of the publication of its 'Annual Report 2007-2008'.

Toufic Ahmad Choudhury, Ph.D.

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About D.Net

Background

D.Net (Development Research Network) is a social enterprise conducting research and implementing action programmes for the economic development of Bangladesh. Incepted in January 2001, D.Net obtained legal status in August 2001 under the Societies Act 1860 with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, Bangladesh. D.Net is also registered with NGO Affairs Bureau to work with foreign grants. Working with like minded institutions at home and abroad D.Net thrives to build up itself as a multi-disciplinary research institution.



Vision

A society where information and knowledge play their designated role in facilitating participation of all stakeholders for generation of wealth and its equitable distribution for poverty alleviation.

Mission

To become a premier institution by conducting research and undertaking various action programmes in areas where information and knowledge can contribute to poverty alleviation, economic growth and peace.

Goals

- Knowledge generation and sharing for broader constituency.
- Thriving to play a visible role in ICT and development policy.
- Sharing innovations in South Asia and beyond.

Objectives

- To work for development of the ICT network through out Bangladesh
- To work for intermediation of knowledge and information into policy making and practice through integration of ICTs
- To promote access to information and knowledge from rights, development and governance perspectives
- To facilitate sharing knowledge among the poor and SMEs of Bangladesh through ICTs to enhance their participation in the development process.
- To work for integrating ICTs in mainstream development endeavours including in agriculture, health, education, human rights, disaster management

- To promote concept of social enterprise, responsible business practices, gender parity, public goods, innovation and inclusion
- To promote collaboration among institutions and individuals in public, private, not-for-profit and philanthropy sectors for creating new opportunities for common people

Introduction

D.Net under its Mission 2010, the five- year strategic plan, conducts research and implements action programmes under six thematic areas:

- 1. Access to Information and Knowledge
- 2. Enhancing Business Competitiveness for Economic Growth
- 3. Governance and Human Rights
- 4. Human Resource Development
- 5. Institutional Capacity Development
- 6. Economic and Development Policy Research

This report elaborates programmes and projects undertaken and implemented in programme year 2007-08. The report has been made descriptive to inform D.Net's stakeholders in detail about its activities. Thus, it probably went beyond the traditional format of annual report. Such descriptive nature of the report would help stakeholders to know about D.Net in greater depth and breadth.

Research and Programme



Access to Information and Knowledge

Innovative Solutions

Telecentres play a vital role for building an information society. Operating in a diverse social and economic environment the telecentres are facing various challenges. In order to make telecentres socially and economically sustainable a few important elements such as uninterrupted power supply using alternative power sources and new innovative services are deemed essential among many other things.

To continuously monitor new developments in global and national telecentre landscape and provide appropriate solutions to make teleentres a vibrant place for communities to access information and knowledge through ICTs, D.Net initiated a new project titled 'Innovative Solutions'. The aim of D.Net under this project is to develop innovative solutions for the telecentres operating in Bangladesh and abroad. Under this project, D.Net already developed economic long time power back system for computers. Under the project D.Net took initiatives to popularise LED based light in the rural areas. D.Net has also developed a second generation model of 'mobile lady', which is a viable profession for educated women in rural areas for providing ICT-based services to rural community, specially women at home. For detail, please visit www.dnet.org.bd/publication/ info lady.

Development of South Asian Regional Hand-Book

ICT4D issues are presently getting priority in various development activities around the globe, including South Asia. It has been seen that in many instances, South Asia has managed to be the

pioneer in creative ideas and the successful realisation on the ground. To support the growing need for information and knowledge regarding some practitioners ICT4D initiatives. organisations in South Asia namely a group of Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) members consisting of D.Net, Bangladesh; Bellanet, Nepal; CSDMS (Centre for Science, Development and Media Studies), India and Sarvodaya, Sri Lanka collaborated to produce a handbook titled 'Towards Knowledge Society - A Handbook of Selected Initiatives in South Asia' as a resource for individuals and organisations involved in the development sector. The handbook was edited by the Head of Research of D.Net, Dr. Shah Md. Ahsan Habib.

Walter Fust, Chairperson, GKP and Dr. Rinalia Abdul Rahim, Executive Director, GKP launched this handbook in the GK3 conference, in December, 2007 at Kualalampur, Malaysia. The four GKP member representatives Dr. Ananya Raihan, Executive Director, D.Net; Shikha Shreshtha, Bellanet; Ravi Gupta, Executive Director, CSDMS and Dr. Harsha Lianage, Managing Director, Sarvodoya-Fusion were present at the launching programme.



Towards Knowledge Society A Handbook of Selected Initiatives in South Asia







This publication is also available online at GKP and D.Net website (weblink). This handbook is an initiative for creating a single source of information and knowledge about prominent ICT4D practices in South Asia and to share the South Asian selected initiatives on ICT4D among ICT4D practitioners, policy makers, development partners, private sector, academicians and students.

It is believed that this partnership effort among the GKP members in South Asia will benefit the readers and ICT4D practitioners not only in South Asia, but around the world. Overall, D.Net was able to establish its image not only as a leader in ICT4D activities in South Asia but also as a primary research institution in the region. D.Net also successfully utilised the GKP platform for its various learning and sharing endeavours.

It is to be mentioned that a group of professionals volunteered their time to develop this handbook. Only travel and printing cost was born by Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP).

Public Access Information Venue

D.Net is currently involved in a multi-country research on Public Access Information and Communication Venues. The research is commissioned by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and coordinated by University of Washington. This research programme focuses on the public access to information and communication landscapes in 24 countries, with specific focus on the information needs of underserved communities, public access to information and communication venues, and the role of ICT. Building on the notion of 'Real Access' (www.bridges.org/Real_Access) the research examines the physical infrastructures and human resources of such venues, information content and services usage patterns, communication & knowledge production, as well as environmental factors such as government policies, geography, ethnic and linguistic differences among others.

www.dnet.org.

Through field research conducted in 24 countries by local research partners and cross-country comparative analyses based on common research design elements, the project aims to contribute to the knowledge in the field of information and ICT for development. The issues focused include key venues and the depth of relevant knowledge to elicit success factors and scenarios in order to understand how diverse population access and use of ICTs can be in order to improve their lives. The research is scheduled to be concluded in August, 2008 and all outputs of this research will be broadly disseminated to interested stakeholders and placed in the public domain.

Technology for Women

D.Net signed an agreement with CIDA-PSU (Canadian International Development Agency-Program Support Unit) with a view to contribute in the technology oriented development agenda. The basic aim was to re-emphasise the role of women and help them understand the role of domestic stakeholders and technology for empowering women and reducing poverty.

In this context, it was found that it is important to attract the attention of the relevant stakeholders, particularly the government and the institutions who are working for mainstreaming gender in the development process in Bangladesh through the publication of a handbook on 'Technology for Women'. This one year project aims to bring together national stakeholders in a national workshop in Bangladesh, to share experiences on the impact of technology integration in the livelihood of poor women and launch the handbook on 'Technology for Women'.

Handbooks of other countries based on technologies could be useful to practitioners and women leaders in Bangladesh. It is hoped that this handbook on 'Technology for Women' followed by a workshop will trigger an interest among the stakeholders and the government and the important women organisations will also develop interest on vital technology issues.

Evaluation and Monitoring of Projects

'Monitoring and Evaluation' are the two ingredients that play a vital role for the smooth implementation of any programmes. These two significant elements also contribute to keep the projects on track and ensure the objectives and purposes.

The main objective of 'Monitoring & Evaluation of Projects under Theme-1' is to evaluate and monitor two of the most important flagship programmes of D.Net, namely Abolombon II and CLICK. 'Outcome Mapping' and 'Gender Evaluation Methodology-GEM' is being used as the tool for evaluation. Moreover research frameworks are also prepared on a regular basis, in order to update the relevant stake holders, academicians, researchers and all interested groups.

Prior to the conclusion of the CLICK project in July 2008, necessary data was collected for the purpose of internal evaluation and report writing. It is hoped that the strengths and weaknesses of the project will be learned after the successful completion of this evaluation research. Moreover, findings of this evaluation research will enhance the implementation of CLICK project in its next phase.

Community for Learning Information, Communication and Knowledge (CLICK)

CLICK is a project of D.Net with objectives to create a global-standard technology learning space for the underprivileged groups in rural areas; to nurture technology skills for emerging ICT-based professions in rural Bangladesh; to facilitate rural community information centres in achieving sustainability; and to enhance information and knowledge acquiring scope for the rural youths. Under this project 13 Pallitathya Kendras are operating in different geographic locations of Bangladesh. The model of these Pallitathya Kendras is a hybrid one, combining D.Net's Pallitathya (an information system for the poor and underprivileged through Telecentre) and Computer Literacy Program (CLP) for the rural underprivileged youth. Microsoft is providing cash grant equivalent to USD 100,000 and operating system and application software valued USD 67,000 for implementing the project. Major hardware support is coming from the local partner organisations. The duration of Microsoft support for this project is from January, 2007 to June, 2008.

Goals and expected observable changes under CLICK



Goal 1: Creating a global-standard technology learning space for the underprivileged groups in rural areas: A Pallitathya Kendra should be established with about 7 computers, MSUP curriculum, internet connectivity, mobile phone, information and knowledge base and necessary logistics. 2 to 3 trainers cum infomediaries in each centre should provide skills development training to the rural underprivileged youth. The rural underprivileged youth in turn can spend time for capacity building and employment search. These youngsters use latest technology to access global knowledge base and equip themselves to compete in the job market.

Goal 2: Creating an army of technology-oriented youth for taking advantage of new opportunities created through various interventions: At least 142 rural people (unemployed, students, teachers, GO/NGO employees, journalists, women and different groups of people) is to receive training from each Pallitathya Kendra during every year. At least 4,800 rural people is to receive livelihood information (like health, education, agriculture etc.); ancillary services (photography, computer compose, printing service, soil testing etc.) and browse internet for knowledge acquisition and job searching.

Goal 3: Promoting employment opportunities for the underprivileged youth: In Bangladesh there are a large number of service providers and NGOs that are functioning and most of them are using computers and computer based systems for their operations. Unfortunately, they fail to get computer literate local people for hiring which again gives rise to two main problems: firstly, computer literate people from outside the community need to be hired at high cost, and secondly, this creates a situation of lack of employment opportunities for the local youth. This intervention will hopefully help to improve the situation.

Number of CTCs established with Microsoft certification: According to the project time plan a total of 13 CTCs were established in different geographic locations of Bangladesh in collaboration with 13 local partner organisations. The location of 13 CTCs are as follows:

No.	Local partner organisation	CTC Location
1.	Dhoritry Samaj Kallyan Shongha (DSKS)	Mongla, Bagerhat
2.	Gandhi Ashram Trust (GAT)	Joyag, Noakhali
3.	Digonter Dak (DDak)	Maijdee, Noakhali
4.	Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK)	Sadar, Gaibandha
5.	Hanger Free World (HFW)	Kaliganj, Jhenaidah
6.	Samsuddin Nahar Trust (SNT)	Baitpur, Bagerhat
7.	Shariatpur Development Society (SDS)	Sadar, Shariatpur
8.	Tripartite Development Council (TDC)	Charghat, Rajshahi
9.	Welfare Association for Rural People (WARP)	Damurhuda, Chuadanga
10.	Community Development Association (CDA)	Kaharol, Dinajpur
11.	Youth for Excellent Society (YES Bangladesh)	Rupatoli, Barisal
12.	Activity for Reformation of Basic Needs (ARBAN)	Purbadhola, Netrokona
13.	Socio-Economic Development Association (SEDA)	Sadar, Moulavibazar

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training, livelihood information and necessary IT based ancillary services in 13 CTCs. 71 computers are being used for IT skills training and 26 computers for livelihood information and ancillary services. 13 CTCs are connected with internet (EDGE enabled modem) and have LAN facilities. Microsoft Windows, Microsoft Office, Information and Knowledge Base (Jeeon-IKB), necessary software and UP curriculum are available in all CTCs.

Trainer and infomediary: A total of 37 trainers (24 males and 13 females) from 13 CTCs received ToT for project operation. In addition, 3 staff from 3 CTCs received infomediary training for project operation. The duration of these trainings were 15 days each.

Service Status of 13 Pallitathya Kendras

Service status during May, 2007 to June, 2008

- Project target: 10-13/days
- Total beneficiaries (up to March 2008): 49705 (male 51% and female 49%)
- Target achieved: average 15/days
- Livelihood information recipients (up to March 2008): 36350 (male 52% and female 48%)
- Ancillary service recipients (up to March 2008): 13355 (male 49% & female 51%)
- Male: Female: 51:49

Opportunities created

CTCs as a regional HUB for IT skilled manpower production: Bangladesh Telecentre Network (BTN) declared mission 2011 (establishment of 40,000 telecentre across the country by 2011) and decided that each telecentre is to recruit at least 2-3 IT skilled manpower. CTLCs are producing IT skilled manpower and course curriculum is mostly relevant with telecentre operation. CTLC graduates will get the privilege to compete for employment in telecentres. D.Net is working to link the CTLC graduates with other telecentre operators.

CTCs as a regional HUB to provide technical assistance: The CTLC staff attained telecentre management and troubleshooting training. Hence, they are able to provide technical support to other telecentres during operation. They can also provide telecentre set-up services which will be established newly in their surroundings. For example, currently 3 telecentres are operating with the support of D.Net in Bagerhat, which is close to the CTLC at Baitpur, Bagerhat. This CTLC can easily provide technical support to the 3 telecentres. The plan will be implemented by July 2008. D.Net is also working to link all CTLCs with other telecentres in the same way. CTLC can also provide technical assistance to other IT service providers surrounding the locality. As for example, CTLC at Noakhali already started this service. In addition, CTLCs are planning to introduce hardware and troubleshooting training among the graduates. This training will create contractual employment opportunity for the graduates. Integration of this service will generate income for the CTLC, which will contribute to financial sustainability of CTLC. On the other hand, operation cost of other telecentres will be reduced.

Network Startup- Bangladesh Mission 2011 Telecentre Network Support

As a network, Bangladesh Telecentre Network (www.mission2011.net.bd) has emerged just a year ago and started functioning independently, probably as one of the latest telecentre networks in the world. The active participation of the members make BTN's image a national credible organisation where the selected policy issues are chosen by task force members. For important issues such as capacity building, BTN members always share their own knowledge resources for developing national training commons. D.Net in collaboration with BTN has been organising regional consultations with the members to improve BTN's credibility nationwide.

The project funded by Telecentre.org and administered by D.Net is mainly to support Bangladesh Telecentre Network with an objective to commence its initial functions as a separate secretariat.

১১১ঃ দরিদ্র ও প্রান্তিক মানুষের জন্য তথ্য প্রযুক্তিভাওত

Chief Guest Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed

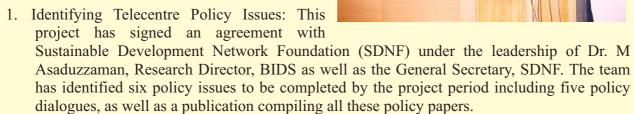
Chief Adviser, Caretaker Government

People's Republic of Bangladesh

Date: December 6-7, 2007 Venue: Bangladesh China Friendship Conferen

This project will be completed by November 2008.

At present the project is progressing on the right track and has been able to achieve all its targets so far. The national launching of Mission 2011 has been the biggest milestone of the project which facilitated Bangladesh Telecentre Network (BTN) to establish its Mission 2011 with all the stakeholders. More specifically the outputs of the project are:



2. Conducting Study on 'training need assessment' and Mapping on 'training capacity' within the Member Organisations: Under this task force, the planned activity was to start a mapping exercise. On May 15, 2007 Bangladesh Telecentre Network held the initial meeting with BTN members to understand the need of the telecentre workers as well as to share knowledge to build a national consensus on training for the telecentre practitioners. Currently, BTN secretariat is working with other BTN members to develop training commons consisting of a

compilation of all the existing training manuals in Bangladesh.

- 3. Conducting Mapping Exercises on Content Development **Institutions:** Under segment of work-plan, Win Incorporate is working to develop a comprehensive mapping of contents in agriculture, health, education, financial information, law, human rights etc.
- 4. Development of an Online National Reference Desk for Telecentre Operators: This component of the project is being carried
 - out by D.Net, as the leader in the reference desk task force. D.Net has successfully come up with two hunting mobile numbers, e-mail id and Skype options. Now the reference desk is providing services on: Computer hardware related troubleshooting, printer and scanner troubleshooting, computer software installation and maintenance, computer network troubleshooting, Internet (Browsing, EDGE/GPRS modem, handset as modem) etc.
- 5. Development of an Online Platform for Telecentre Reference Desk: The online platform for telecentre reference desk has been developed in Bangla language and can be viewed online at http://www.mission2011.net.bd/support/. D.Net has also initiated archiving the existing know-how from the telecentres, where D.Net, Relief International and Grameen Phone share their knowledge base. More than 100 questions and answers have been already archived in the



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knowledge system. As of now a total of 40 questions are asked in this reference desk by 26 telecentre managers. 54 telecentres are already registered in this system in order to receive the services of the reference desk.

- 6. Development of Promotional Materials: Under this project BTN has developed promotional materials for the successful inauguration of Mission 2011. The list of promotional materials produced under this are: BTN brochures (10,000 copies), Mission 2011 event brochures (4,000 copies), Mission 2011 event folders (4,000 copies), programme schedule of Mission 2011 (9,400 copies), invitation cards (20,800 copies), envelopes (12,500 copies), writing pads (9,000 copies) and note books (4,000 copies).
- 7. Launching Event of Mission 2011: The biggest success of BTN is the national launching of Mission 2011. Honourable Chief Advisor to the caretaker government of Bangladesh, Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed formally launched the Mission 2011, on December 06, 2007. it targeted to set up 40,000 telecentres by 2011, coinciding with the 40th anniversary of the glorious independence, with the vision of an inclusive knowledge society in Bangladesh, where the poor and the marginalised can get access to information and knowledge for improving their livelihood through the use of modern information and communication technologies. The event turned out to be a unique one for several reasons: This was the biggest telecentre network launching in the world with about 2,000 people attending the programme; this was the second national telecentre launching event with head of the state inaugurating the mega event; highest number of grass-roots participation was also ensured in this event; moreover, the event managed to receive huge national and international recognition.

Apart from the national inauguration there were other events which received extensive recognition, like the media briefing; launching of the exhibition on telecentre practices in Bangladesh; seminar on multi-stakeholder; partnership for building information and knowledge system for the poor and marginalised; launch pad and grassroots storytelling and such programmes.

8. Development of a National Data Gathering System for Providing Up-to-date Status on Telecentre Operations in Bangladesh: Bangladesh Telecentre Network has initiated to develop a national data gathering system for the telecentres. BTN has also signed a MoU with D.Net for developing a GIS base database to receive up to date data and information about the telecentres.

Apart from the task forces the project also emphasised on some additional activities which would give BTN a separate entity, like the formation of an independent secretariat from February 2008 onwards; as well as the formation of an independent and skilled team to carry out the functionalities of the secretariat.

Abolombon II: "Empowering People and Alleviating Poverty through Improved Access to Livelihood Information"

As a part of the umbrella programme of Pallitathya, run by D.Net, Abolombon was designed to improve access to information on governance and human rights for rural people using various ICT channels. With the financial support of Manusher Jonno Foundation, D.Net completed this 18 month long project in August, 2006.

Abolombon II is implementing the financial support of Manusher Jonno Foundation for 3 years, which started in March 2007. This project, aims to spread the experience of the first phase and the experiment under D.Net's Pallitathya programme to new locations of Bangladesh with a focus on local ownership and sustainability. Under this project, D.Net is working closely with a number of local organisations for establishment of Pallitathya Kendra, a common access point for livelihood information for the rural community, with emphasis on women, the handicapped and other

minority people for accessing a whole spectrum of livelihood information. The contribution, both financial and material of the local organisations is the key new element of the second phase. Goals of this project are:

- a. To develop D.Net's capacity as a hub of information and knowledge base with cost-effective and relevant technology solutions and capacity building of local social entrepreneurs, so that D.Net can support a large number of Pallitathya Kendras, established with full or joint local ownerships;
- b. To providing support to a number of organisations and groups for establishing and operating Pallitathya Kendras, where support of recurring cost will be provided with a diminishing share of D.Net over a period of three years so that the centres can operate on their own.

Major Activities and Progress of this Project

Identification of partner organisations: Operation of the Pallitathya Kendras is a critical issue at the local level which happens to be the next level operator and the owner of Pallitathya Kendras, in order to continue the services for the community after the project phase. In this context, this project focuses on those types of local partners which have social activities, commitment to work



for the people, willingness to run this type of initiatives, are eager to be partners, have a sharing mind-set and institutional stability. The project target was to identify 25 organisations for operating 25 Pallitathya Kendras in the village level. In the 1st year 15 partner organisations were identified for operating 13 Pallitathya Kendras. At least 12 partner organisations will be identified in the 2nd year for operating 12 Pallitathya Kendras.

Pallitathya Kendra establishment: Pallitathya Kendra is a common access point in the community for getting livelihood information and services

using information and communication technology. Pallitathya Kendra provides livelihood information on agriculture, fisheries, poultry and livestock, health, legal and human rights, education, non farm economic activities, appropriate technology, awareness, rural employment, disaster management, government services, directory etc. It also provides ancillary services which has a demand by the people and does not create conflict with the information services. It has been planned to establish 25 Pallitathya Kendras in the rural areas. In the first year, 13 Pallitathya Kendras have already been established in Rajshahi, Khulna and Chittagong division while the other 12 Pallitathya Kendras is to be established in Barisal, Sylhet and Dhaka division by the 2nd year.

Infomediary training: Infomediary is an information literate person, from within a community, who is there for addressing the problem of double illiteracy for the community beneficiaries. She or he is a human interface between knowledge-base and rural illiterate and print-disabled people. It is not desirable that the illiterate or ICT illiterate community people would be deprived from the benefit of modern ICTs for accessing information and knowledge for improving their livelihood. In each of these situations there is a need for a physical person who knows how to understand the end user's specific situation and find a solution in the offline content database, in the websites or contact experts at the help desk. This is precisely the role of the information worker or knowledge worker, a kind of information intermediary or infomediary. In this regard, infomediary identification and their capacity building is a critical element of this project for making the ICTs

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useful to the rural people. In total, 47 infomediaries received capacity building training to operate Pallitathya Kendras under this project. In the 2nd year, at least 36 more infomediaries will be trained in order to operate the rest of the 12 Pallitathya Kendras.

Content development: Content development is mainly focused on collecting and organising the villager's livelihood related information in such a manner so that it is easily retrievable and useful for the rural people. The process of content development includes collection of information in the related field, organising and rewriting the content in such a way that villagers can easily understand it. The content development comprises of texts, pictures and sketches and is served through the software developed by D.Net. Addition of pictures and sketches usually get priority, so that the text is easily explicable and the infomediary and self-browsing users can understand the topics effortlessly. D.Net has also developed a huge repository content which is available in CD form in different information centres for public access. From earlier experiences, it was found that there are several new areas where content demand exists; these areas have been brought to focus during the new phase of content development. Under this project, content development has been completed (over 2000 pages) on the following issues:

- Agriculture
- Fisheries
- Livestock
- Non farm economic activities
- Education
- Government service
- Legal and Human Rights issues

Audio-visual content development: Production of audio-visual content is a key deliverable under this project. Audio-visual content development has been completed on 10 issues (3 on poultry and livestock disease, 1 on goat rearing, 1 on fish cultivation, 4 on crop and vegetable disease and 1 on fertilizer use), which have been deployed to Pallitathya Kendras for public access.

Help Line support for the poor, particularly women and physically handicapped: A functional help line is established with new features under this project with both online and mobile phone based channels. Eight experts (helpdesk) on the following areas have been deployed for providing counselling and reference services to the rural community: agriculture, fisheries, poultry & livestock, health, non-farm income generating activity, law & human rights, government services and education. During May 2007 to June 2008, in total 7495 questions were answered from the helpdesk where 65 percent questions were asked by the women folk.

Development and update of directory database on service providers: One of the major demands for livelihood information is directory service. Information of the directory database includes detail address of different product sellers and service providers; product or services available with particular service providers and their pricing information. Directory database gathered information on service providers related to health, legal support, agriculture etc. in regions around the intervention area with a large radius. Under this project details of 13,500 service providers are to be collected and entered into www.jeeon.com/thikana database. Up to June 2008, information related to the directory was collected from 4,922 number of service providers.

Promotion and mobilisation for the information centres: This activity includes development of promotional materials (like posters, leaflets, brochures etc.), organisation of issue based camps, yard meetings, door step movement, organisation of van campaigns etc. The issue based camps

take place in the following four areas: agriculture camp, health camp, education camp and legal camp. It was planned that a total number of 237 camps would be organised in 25 locations during the project period. In total, 33 camps (10 on agriculture, 12 on health, 4 on education, 4 on law, 1 on government service and 2 on non farm economic activities) were organised by the Pallitathya Kendras up to June 2008. 3,997 number of rural people received livelihood information and direct consultation services from issue based camps where 62 percent recipients were female.

Monitoring and evaluation: A monthly monitoring system (beneficiaries and service tracking system) has been developed to ensure the growth of centre performance. Simultaneously, outcome mapping framework is being used for regular monitoring and evaluation of the project.

List of the all Pallitathya Kendras

No.	Name of the Organisation	Region
1.	Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK)	Gaibandha
2.	Pallybadhu Kollyan Shangstha (PBKS)	Gaibandha
3.	Udayan Swabalambi Sangstha (USS)	Gaibandha
4.	Nagorik Committee	Nilphamari
5.	PASS	Kurigram
6.	Darpan Somaj Unnayan Kendro	Commila
7.	Ghashful	Chittagong
8.	Digonter Dak	Noakhali
9.	Gandhi Ashram Trust (GAT)	Noakhali
10.	Gono Gobeshona o Unnanyan Foundation (GOUF	Jessore
11.	Shushilan	Satkhira
12.	Padma Somaj Kollayan Shangtha	Jhenaidah
13.	Dharittry Samaj Kallyan Shangha	Bagerhat
14.	Protik Trust	Satkhira
15.	Rural Development Centre (RDC)	Jhenaidah
16.	Usha Somaj Kallyan Sangstha	Jhenaidah
17.	Alor Chhoa	Chuadang
18.	We Are Friends For Human (WAFFH)	Moulvibazar
19.	Padma	Sunamgonj
20.	Sabalamby Unnanyan Somity	Netrokona
21.	Dhaw	Tangail
22.	Samannita Samaj Unnayan Kendra (SSUK)	Gopalgonj
23.	Grameen Samaj Unnoyan Songstha (GSUS)	Barishal
24.	Protibondhi Unnoyan Songstha (PUS)	Jhalokhati
25.	Palli Punargathon Club(PPC)	Pirojpur
26.	SEDA	Moulovibazar
27.	YES Bangladesh	Barishal
28.	ARBAN	Netrokona
29.	Shariatpur Development Socity	Shariatpur
30.	Hunger Free World	Khulna
31.	Samasuddin-Nahar Trast (SNT)	Bagerhat
32.	Welfare Association for Rural People (WARP)	Chuadanga
33.	Community Development Association (CDA)	Dinajpur
34.	Tripartite Development Council (TDC)	Rajshahi
35.	Gono Unnayan Kendra	Gaibandha
36.	Digonter Dak	Noakhali

www.dnet.org.

Centre management support: This activity include collection of the monthly centre status report, providing feedback to the centres about their performance, assisting local organisations in developing promotional and marketing strategy, development of centre management strategy etc.

Currently, 13 Pallitathya Kendras (PK) are operating in the village level under this project. In total 35,312 number of users received livelihood information (80 per cent) and ancillary services (20 per cent) from 13 PKs during May, 2007 to June, 2008. Per day per PK average users are 12.3, where 48 per cent are women.

Five channels deliver livelihood information from PKs. Jeeon-IKB (offline CD based Bangla information and knowledge base) and audio-visual content are used to answer most of the 61 per cent of the livelihood queries. Mobile phone based helpline are used to answer 15 per cent of the livelihood queries. Another 15 per cent users get information and consultation services from the issue based camps. Generally photography, desktop publishing, personal call through mobile phone, weight and height measurement are the most popular ancillary services found during the period.

Teletathya

Helpline is one of the most important features of the Pallitathya Kendra providing services on access to need based information among the rural villagers in their every day life. The main function of this project is to accumulate questions regarding the problems of the mass, regardless of their age, sex or physical incapacity, then collect accurate answers by sending questions to the helpline and convey the solution to the respective beneficiaries. People are able to receive the services of the helpline via the mobile lady or infomediary or even from telecentres. If the mobile lady fails to deliver necessary services



from her own resource, she collects the respective information from helpline over phone or through e-mail and delivers it to the beneficiaries. Currently 8 (eight) availableservices are provided to the beneficiaries via helpline, they are:

- Health
- Agriculture
- Education
- Law and Human Rights
- Non Farm Enterprises
- Livestock
- Government Services
- Fisheries

The infomediaries are subjected to maintain the following time frame in receiving the helpline solution:

Mobile to Mobile = on the spot
 Mobile to Message = 7 days

• Messenger to Messenger = on the spot / 7 days

Message to Message = 14 days

In future it is hoped that the helpline will be open to all; just like the 'Call Centres' and it will be renamed as 'People's Call Centre'.

Bangladesh Online Research Network (BORN)



www.bdresearch.org.bd is an online knowledge centre brought to the audience by D.Net with a vision to participate in building 21st century Bangladesh, based on knowledge shared through different forms of Information and Communication Technology.

BORN collects publication from reputed institutions both from home and abroad, related to Bangladesh in all sphere of knowledge which is categorised under 81 themes. With the help of 'key word search' one can easily find the writer, date of publication, abstract of papers or the required papers. The home page of this website updates

relevant news of recent times. Moreover, the online discussion forum enables anyone to provide their comments regarding a research paper and communicate with the author for any queries or discussion.

At present there are 14 institutional members that regularly publish their papers through BD Research; these institutions are: Bangaldesh Centre for Advanced Studies, Bangladesh Economic Association, Bangladesh Enterprise Institute, Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management, Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad, Bickayan, Center for Policy Dialogue, Department of Anthropology and Business Administration from Jahangirnagar University, Khulna University, The University Press Limited, Unnayan Shammunnay and Eldis – Institute of Development Studies from University of Sussex UK.

BORN annually webcasts 'National Budget' to facilitate the understanding on national budget. Moreover, it provides running commentary of the budget, along with comments from prominent researchers, economists as well as industry leaders.

Recently, Bangladesh Online Research Network (BORN) programme has been identified as a focal point of Electronic Information for Library to build a national consortium of libraries that facilitates developing countries in accessing knowledge repositories useful to students, teachers, and researchers at a cheaper rate. In this regard, with a view to disseminate the information of the resources available through EIFL and BORN – a brainstorming session was organised at the BRAC University for the librarians of different universities in Bangladesh.

Gunijan.org.bd

Building a Proud Heritage

The initial aim of 'Gunijan' was to inspire the young generation of the nation by elucidating on the great personalities who had served or are serving the motherland with their creative mind and to

the ideals of peace, humanity and social justice. The initiative of Gunijan is to present the best products of our soil to the entire world, who have made a mark in history through their writings, words, scientific or artistic work and other creative pursuits.

Gunijan Web Journal

A group of passionate researchers (mostly journalists and development activists) usually collect information on these personalities. The information include complete biographies, selected writings or creative work, awards or recognitions, pictures and videos, and in-depth interviews of the renowned people regarding their thoughts, beliefs, feelings and contribution to the nation.

A research team provides a comprehensive list of gunijans whilst a three member advisory committee guides the gunijan team in identifying the gunijans and in taking important decisions in various matters related to the programme. The website called www.gunijan.org.bd is an electronic journal on these eminent personalities.



The thematic areas of Gunijan are: liberation movement, education, music, literature, fine arts, social science, philosophy, performing arts, mass media, human rights, science & technology, medical science, sports, law, woman rights, adibashi odhikar andolon and such. Overall the programme is running on passion and patriotism.

To date, it has published 63 profiles & will post another 55 profiles shortly, which are in the pipeline.

Gunijan CD 'Mohima Tobo Udbhashito'

Keeping in mind the fact that majority of people in the country do not have access to the internet, 'Gunijan' launched a CD featuring the compilation of biographies of 55 (fifty five) gunijans. The CD, titled 'Mohima Tobo Udbhashito', was launched on February 26 at the Liberation War Museum where prominent educationalist Hena Das unveiled the CD. The CD contains biographies, selected work, articles, interviews and photographs of the renowned personalities.

The theme song of the CD is sung by Aditi Mohosin, the Logo music has been created by Bappa Majumdar and the animation is done by Sharif Mahmud Shabuj while the photographs have been taken by Din Mohammad Shibly.

The launching programme was presided over by the VC of BRAC University, Jamilur Reza Chowdhury. Among the participants, Anisuzzaman, Abdul Matin, Sardar Fazlul Karim, Mohammad Habibur Rahman, Sukumar Borua, Morsedul Islam, Ataus Samad, Ferdousi Priobhashini, Chashi Nazrul Islam, Mamunur Rashid, Hameeda Hossain, Mustofa Monowar, Qayyum Chowdhury, Rahija Khanam Jhunu, Djizen Sharma, A.M. Harun-ar-Rashid, Sufia Ahmed, Shamim Ara Toly, Abdul Hamid and others were also present in the programme.

The launching programme of the CD has been extensively covered by the print and electronic media. The CD review has also been published by some newspapers including The Daily Star, Dainik Jugantor and Dainik Somokal.

Gunijan School Events

For the period July 2007 - June 2008, four school events have been arranged by the programme called 'Gunijan School Event'.

These events were held in Gaibandha on 24th November 2008; at Shila Roy Chowdhury High School in Jessore on 26th April, 2008; at Babrijhar Dimukhi High School in Nilfamari with collaboration of Pallitathya Kendro, on 24th May, 2008; and at Children's Fair Kindergarden School, Jurain, Dhaka, jointly with Shopnodut Khelaghor Ashor, on 13th June, 2008.

Huge number of students congregated in all the events with an objective to learn and acquire knowledge about the gunijans. The moderators displayed the Gunijan homepage, different sections of the website, profiles and photos of the gunijans.

It is to be mentioned that each programme was concluded with heart touching cultural shows, quiz competitions and various other activities which made the days extremely special and memorable for the children. Teachers, guardians and other guests were also present to witness and enjoy the programmes.

Donation & others

It is to be mentioned that 'Gunijan' is a voluntary programme of D.Net run by financial contributions from individuals and national citizens. This year, the members of D.Net have donated a large amount for further development of Gunijan; Mr. Kazi M Badruddoza, an eminent scientist, has been kind enough to make a generous donation for the programme as well. Gunijan has also made some money from the sales and success of the CD 'Mohima Tobo Udbhashito'.

During the last year, Gunijan had organised a number of meetings with its advisory committee and with other researchers, photographers and with various volunteers who showed their interest to work with Gunijan. In the meeting with the advisory committee, a number of future activities of the programme and a list of 650 new gunijans and categories had been approved.

The Gunijan team is working with utmost devotion and sincerity towards the programme and is determined to bring success to the programme.

Enhancing Business Competitiveness for Economic Growth

Development of Handbook on Standards and Environmental Regulations

It is imperative to clearly understand the rules and regulations relating to standards and environmental issues in order to reap maximum benefit from the free trade regime. These issues came up as substitutes to tariff barriers when the WTO was formed in 1995 with the aim to foster free trade among the trading nations. In this context, to help the exporters of Bangladesh a handbook was prepared by Dr. Sarwar Uddin Ahmed, Senior Research Fellow of D.Net to explain the significance of global regime on standards and environmental issues and provide country-wise as well as product wise source of information on rules and regulations for standards and environmental issues. The handbook was for creating awareness and sharing knowledge with the exporters on proper standards, adopting quality control measures as per the requirements of WTO, EU, USA, Canadian, Australian and Indian rules and regulations. The preparation of the handbook was commissioned by FBCCI for promoting environmental and standard issues among its members. This handbook mainly targets the local exporters of RMG products, frozen foods, leather and leather products, agricultural and agro-processed products. It is hoped that it will largely benefit the exporters of Bangladesh with information link for understanding various issues regarding rules and regulations relating to standard and environmental issues of the import regime countries, which are major export destinations of Bangladesh.

Development of Handbook on IPR

The importance of having proper knowledge on TRIPS (Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) provisions and IPR regimes in the major trading partner countries increased significantly, because arbitration in case of violation of IPR can be too expensive to a trader or manufacturer in a country like Bangladesh. Bearing this in mind a handbook was prepared by Dr. Shah Md Ahsan Habib, Research Director, D.Net to assist the traders, exporters and importers to identify and understand Intellectual Property Right [IPR] regulations applicable for design, process and branding of products and services. The main objective of this handbook was to create awareness and share knowledge on TRIPS issues and adopt quality control measures as per the requirement of WTO, EU, USA, Chinese, Canadian, Australian and Indian rules and regulations. The handbook was developed for FBCCI.

In order to avail the opportunity for producing patented products and obtain access to available foreign technology by the manufactures and exporters under license or joint ventures, protection of the IPR in developing countries is very important. The willingness of foreign investors in developed countries to manufacture or for them to involve in joint ventures in the developing countries depends on the extent of the protection of their property rights in terms of technology.

The handbook covers WTO Agreement on TRIPS and International Conventions and Industrial Property, Copy Right and related rights in countries like EU, USA, Canada, Japan, Australia, India and China.

Feasibility of Institute of Corporate Governance in Bangladesh

Under the auspices of Netherlands government BEI (Bangladesh Enterprise Institute) and D.Net a study was commissioned on the feasibility of establishment of an Institution on Corporate

Governance. As part of the project, a day long workshop titled 'Corporate Governance in Bangladesh: How to go About it Institutionally?' was organised, at BEI Conference Room, Gulshan, Dhaka on November 21, 2007 with participation of wider stakeholders of the future institutions. The workshop was conducted by Dr. Ananya Raihan, Executive Director, D.Net while Ms. Lopa Rahman, Project Director, BEI facilitated the workshop. The Opening & Plenary Session was chaired by Dr. Haroon-ur-Rashid, Former Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission; Mr. Faruq Ahmad Siddiqi, Chairman, SEC was also present during the session. Dr. Sarwar Uddin Ahmed presented a feasibility study report for creating a self-sustaining infrastructure to develop and deepen the culture of corporate governance in Bangladesh. The break out session consisted of questions and answers and the participants were divided into 5 groups. A talk show was organized, which was attended, among others, by Mr. Abdul Hannan Zoarder, Executive Director, SEC. Dr. Ananya Raihan, Executive Director, D.Net moderated the talk show.

Supporting CSR Centre with Product Development

Stakeholders usually expect that companies should be environmentally and socially responsible in conducting their businesses. In the business community, CSR is alternatively referred to as 'corporate citizenship,' which essentially means that a company should be a 'good neighbour' within its host community.

In order to create an understanding on the theoretical and practical ways to assess CSR activities in different organisations and help develop necessary action plan to strengthen and communicate these activities to all stakeholders - CSR Centre Trust organised a three-day workshop on Fundamentals of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) during May 16-18, 2008 at Nitol Bay Resort, Cox's Bazar.

D.Net, as a part of its commitment to the CSR Centre, and as a member of the board of trustees of the centre, designed the workshop. Dr. Ananya Raihan, Executive Director, D.Net; Dr. Sarwar Uddin Ahmed, Senior Research Fellow, D.Net and Dr. Syed Ferhat Anwar, Professor, IBA, University of Dhaka conducted the workshop as the resource persons. Mr. Humayun Mostaque, Head of Operations, D.Net participated in the workshop as a participant whereas Ms. Rasna Hasan of Novartis delivered lecture as a resource person. Mr. Shahamin S. Zaman, CEO CSR Centre inaugurated and wrapped up the workshop and Mr. Jahangir Saadat, President, KEPZ distributed the certificates to the participants at the end of the successful completion of the workshop.

It is to be mentioned that D.Net also developed a toolkit for 'the CSR Assessment'.

Governance and Human Rights

Online Legal Reference System



Since its inception in 2001, D.Net has been striving to create an information and knowledge system for the poor and the marginalised people. In order to ensure people's access on law related information, D.Net launched a website on legal and human rights issues titled www.abolombon.org. continuation of these activities D.Net is going to launch website (www.rights.org.bd) where

references of cases will be available for the use of the human rights activists and lawyers. The following organisations and persons agreed to collaborate and develop a website on legal references: Ain-O-Shalish Kendra (ASK); Advocate Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury; Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST); Dr. Kamal Hossain and Associates; Development Research Network (D.Net) and Law Review.

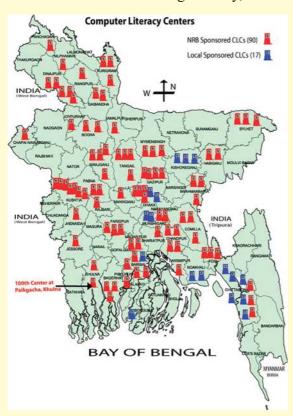
In Bangladesh lawyers, police, judges, magistrates, students, researchers and various activists still use hard copies of legal and human rights issues in the form of text books, journals, reference books and such. The objective of the initiative is to make legal references and legal texts available to the above stakeholders via a website with the help of the internet. This will make their work less complicated and help them produce more quality work in less time. Easy access to the website via the internet will also help the victims without unnecessary delay and reduce loads of paper work and exertion required for rummaging around masses of books. This process will immensely assist the judges in easily uploading a judgment by the simple process of logging and using password. It will further facilitate the protection of victims of violation of rights and to receive necessary information about the remedies according to the decision of higher courts. Knowledge sharing about human rights issues will also be made possible with the help of this procedure.

Activities under this project include: To search the landmark judgments on human rights issues from DLR, BLD, BLC, MLR etc. to select those references which will be done according to the nature of violation of rights, year of judgment, name of the parties, date of publication, the name of publication etc. to upload the references in the website using a structured format; and to update the website according to the collection of judgment.

Human Capacity Building for Development

Empowering the Underprivileged Youth of Bangladesh through Computer Literacy Programme

In order to build a knowledge society, as announced in the national Information and Communication



Technology (ICT) policy of Bangladesh, and to reap the benefits of a new economy; it is imperative that the young generation of Bangladesh be adequately educated and acquainted with the state-of-the-art knowledge of ICT. Despite having common historical and cultural origins, Bangladesh lags behind India in terms of producing sufficient numbers of ICT professionals contributing in the economic growth and development of the country. Bangladesh is also trying to catch up with the various countries of Southeast Asia in developing various innovative initiatives to benefit the rural people, with the assistance of the government and private initiatives in order to make ICT work for of the marginalised people.

In developing a base for the skilled ICTprofessionals, various plans are underway; which are mainly concentrated in urban or semi-urban areas. Students and youths in rural areas rarely get a chance to learn about computers and ICTs, and thus hardly know how to use this modern technology to improve their livelihood condition. It is comprehensible that with the poor resource base, it is not easy for the government

alone to provide facilities and necessary resources for learning ICT skills throughout the country. Therefore, a programme named 'Computer Literacy Program' (CLP) was conceived by a New Jersey based organisation - VAB (Volunteers Association of Bangladesh) in 2004 in association with D.Net.

As of June 2008 there are 82 Computer Learning Centers (CLCs) both in urban and rural areas of the country. Many corporate entities and residing citizens became inspired by the spirit of the non-resident Bangladeshis in the US, and expressed their willingness to join and contribute in the programme. Based on the successful operations of the centres some individuals and corporates from home and abroad showed their willingness to sponsor the CLC in different parts of Bangladesh.

Some important aspects about CLP

Number of Districts Covered	36
NRB Sponsored CLCs	66
Local Sponsored CLCs (Bank Asia Ltd., Hossain Trust and D.Net)	16
Enrolled Students in 82 Centers	10,756
Successfully Completed CLP Course from 82 Centers as of March 2008	10,626

Capacity Building of D.Net Staff Members

The basic aim of the capacity building programme is to increase knowledge, skills and proficiency of the D.Net staff members for strengthening and supporting organisational structures and systems. During the fiscal year 2007-2008, several staff members of D.Net participated in various seminars, workshops, conferences, roundtable programmes and so on. Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) organised three workshops titled 'Advocacy Capacity Building Training for Strengthening Good Governance & Human Rights Initiatives'; 'Advocacy for Right to Information in Bangladesh' and 'Human Rights and Governance Training'. A number of D.Net's staff members participated in these workshops. Moreover, a good number of D.Net staff took part in several trainings, workshops and conferences organised by MMC, CAMPE, BKMEA, South Asia Partnership-Bangladesh, RIB, GTZ, UNDP, Power & Participation Research Center (PPRC), Voluntary Health Services Society (VHSS), ASK, Bdjobs & BSHRM, Oxfam GB, Unnayan Onneshan, PKSF & Institute of Microfinance.

Internship

D.Net regularly invites national and international interns for receiving hands on experience in development research through participation in its various activities. During 2007-2008 fiscal year, two international and four national interns competed their internships successfully from D.Net. Of the international interns, Pedro Ramos completed his graduation in Business Management from Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal and Rahin Khandaker was an undergraduate student from the University of Florida, USA. Among the national interns, Trisha Huq and Shibly Sultana completed their graduation from USTC, Chittagong and National University respectively; while Abdul Alim and Tanzima Akhter graduated from Dhaka University and Jahangirnagar University respectively.

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Institutional Capacity Development



Fund Raising for Expansion of Computer Learning Programme

Since 2005, more than 10,000 students of rural schools have received basic computer learning through Computer Learning Centres (CLCs) located in rural schools in 36 districts and community centres under Computer Literacy Programme (CLP), operated by D.Net and sponsored by the non-resident Bangladeshis through Volunteers Association for Bangladesh (VAB), New Jersey.

Following the footstep of non-resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) Bangladeshi individuals, corporates and development partners also came forward to spread the programme through their financial and in-kind contribution.

A recently concluded Impact Assessment Study as well as anecdotal evidence, makes an objective assessment of the CLC on students, teachers and the host academic institutions. Based on that assessment and other metrics, it appeared that it is time to build D.Net's capabilities and expand the scope of the programme by bringing more CLCs into operation. D.Net thus, has taken an ambitious plan to establish 1000 CLCs in rural Bangladesh by 2010 with the support of different institutions in Bangladesh. It is presently looking for partners who can help sustain this useful and unique programme by donating computer hardware and equipment. On the above background D.Net has designed the project and identified the following objectives: to mobilise more resources

side by side with NRBs for developing facilities in rural areas and for educating and training underprivileged youths on ICTs; to integrate local people into the programme through participation in the implementation of the programme; and to expand CLP with the help of individuals and institutions in Bangladesh.

As part of the major activities of the project, 286 potential institutions were identified initially and some necessary materials were prepared such as - letters to potential donors, donation option, D.Net brochures, CLP brochures, CLP flyers & others brochures. Moreover a textbook titled 'Esho Computer Shikhi' was published. To attract potential donors about 160 letters were sent and some appointments were also received. After that a process of follow up by sending mails, meeting donors and exchanging relevant documents have been going on.

Donor response from 2007-08

Bank Asia	10 CLCs
Hossain Trust	1 CLC
Siemens Bangladesh	2 PC & 3 monitors

Other national and international organisations also showed their keen interest to support CLC.

Economic and Development Policy Research



Impact of IFIs' Policies on Agriculture

The study was designed to focus on the implications of some selected policies implemented under the guidance and financial assistance of three IFIs viz. the World Bank (WB), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), for the rural livelihood. D.Net arranged a seminar titled 'Implications of IFIs' Policies for Livelihood of Agriculture-dependent People' held on October 29, 2007 at 1000 hrs in the BIDS Conference Room, Dhaka to present the draft report of the study.

Dr. M. Asaduzzaman, Research Director, BIDS was present as the seminar chairman and Professor M M Akash, University of Dhaka as the panel discussant. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Ananya Raihan, Executive Director, D.Net and Ziaul Hoque Mukta, Programme Coordinator, Livelihoods Programme, Oxfam GB Bangladesh. The paper titled 'Implications of Selected Policies of International Financial Institutions for Agriculture Sector and Rural Livelihood of Bangladesh' was prepared by Md. Jahirul Islam and Dr. Shah Md Ahsan Habib. Dr. Habib, Research Director, D.Net presented the report in the seminar.

The researchers were greatly benefited in finalising the study from the comments of the seminar participants which was also published, titled as 'International Financial Institutions in Bangladesh: Implications of Selected Policies for Agriculture Sector and Rural Livelihood' with a view to facilitate the significance and outcome of the seminar to a wider audience.

Knowledge Management

D.Net put significant emphasis on publication, in the programme year 2007-08.

Newsletter

D.Net has regularly published its Newsletter, titled D.News since 2005. This newsletter covers all D.Net activities and informs the stakeholders about it on a quarterly basis. The soft version of the publication is always available on the website at http://www.dnet.org.bd/DNews.php.

Pallitathya Bulletin

The 'Pallitathya Bulletin' has been published in Bangla since 2004, under the Pallitathya programme. The bulletin has become popular among the rural people through RICs and direct posting. At present the bulletin is distributed free of cost and only a small price is charged after registration. The collected money is again used for supporting the distribution. The bulletin basically covers topics that are interrelated with the mass people such as - agriculture, non-agriculture, education, health, human rights, information various other technology and awareness programmes.

Publications of D.Net Series

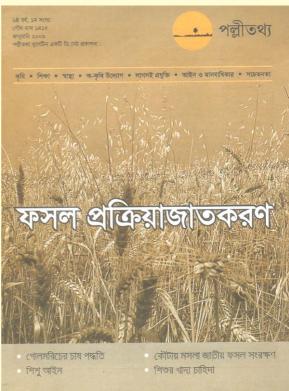
D.Net (Development Research Network) as the name implies, conducts in-depth researches on various topics of public interest to create knowledge and awareness which in turn can have a notable impact on economic growth, poverty reduction and technological development.

Four main publication series have been developed in D.Net so far. They are Research Papers, Occasional Papers, Working Papers and Seminar Papers. Other than these books, CDs and monographs are also published on a regular basis. A new series called the Research Note Series has also been launched recently.

These publication series have managed to receive scores of appreciation from various academics, institutes, organisations and stakeholders. It is further hoped that this non-profit organisation will continue to strive for excellence and deliver information in the research arena in Bangladesh and abroad.

Total publication during 2007-08 programme year:

Research Note	2
Research Paper Series	3
Saminar Paper	1
Monographs and Books	5
CDs	12



PAN Localization: A Regional Initiative to Develop Local Language Computing Capacity in Asia



Content Development Methodology and Infomediary Training Curriculum

The practice to accelerate development and foster empowerment by developing livelihood content through Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is known globally. Many institutions in Bangladesh have started developing content in different forms. The major challenge confronted at present is integration in a single system for end users; content has no meaning if the target groups cannot access it. At this stage the importance of standardisation of content and its development process is being felt strongly. Another obstacle in developing livelihood content is the language and subject matter. Under PAN Localization Project - Phase-2, D.Net in collaboration with BRAC University is enriching its content database in Bangla.

As part of the project from August 26, 2007, D.Net organised a workshop titled 'Content Development Methodology and Infomediary Training Curriculum' in its conference room. Representatives from different development organisations attended the workshop.

The workshop commenced with the welcome speech of the Executive Director, Dr. Ananya Raihan who informed the participants about the goal and objectives of developing the content database and

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infomediary services for the poor and the marginalised people. He added that in the content development sector D.Net is working with different organisations using various technologies and methods, striving to define a standard strategy through which the sector can move forward and gain more experience. He further mentioned the limitations and obstacles which may be faced during developing such a content database. Dr. Mumit Khan, Chief CRBLP (Centre for Research Bangla Language Processing) also spoke at the workshop and briefed the participants about the PAN Localization Project. Mr. Masum Billah, Head of the Knowledge Management Division, demonstrated the content development methodologies of the different development organisations of Bangladesh. Some textual and animated content, developed by D.Net, were also presented by him. A number of eminent development representatives from BRRI, UNDP, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, CAMPE, RIB, YPSA and other organisations were present in the workshop.

Training on Local Language Content Development

D.Net conducted a training workshop under Pan Localization project in collaboration with BRAC University titled 'Local Language Content Development' for the information workers and local community people involved in content development from different telecentres and government institutions. The training was held at D.Net training room during March 25-30, 2008. This training proved to be useful for the people involved in content developing areas or interested to develop an information bank with local context. A number of tools were introduced to the participants which greatly enhanced their content searching and developing skills and they also had the opportunity to enrich the information bank by uploading the information of local resources and cultural heritage to the internet. It is hoped that in the long run these skilled trainees will develop a rich information bank for all telecentres and service beneficiaries.

Fourteen participants from different telecentre practitioners and government institutes like Agricultural Information Services, Directorate of Agricultural Marketing, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, World Net, Dhoritry Samaj Kallyan Shongstha, Digonter Dak, Gandhi Ashram Trust, Shariatpur Development Society, Ghashful, Socio Economic Development Association, Participatory Advancement Social Service and Darpan Samaj Unnayan Kendro participated in the training.

Multimedia Content and Communications

The main objective of 'Multimedia Content and Communications' (MCC) is to integrate innovative communication methodologies into development and social change programmes and initiatives as well as to equip communities and NGOs with an understanding of communication techniques and technologies.

MCC basically specialises in creating and integrating communication support system for various development projects with extensive experience in developing and designing communication strategies and tools on appropriate technology, awareness, non farm initiative, health, education, agriculture, disaster management and Law and Human Rights. The projects under MCC usually span an entire spectrum of development communication.

MCC provides key inputs and initiatives, both at the policy and training and field implementation extensively with the national and agencies for example with UNDP multimedia contents targeting the

With over half a decade of innovative, creative and purposive and communication materials,



support for development planning level, as well as at the levels. It has also worked international development in order to develop animated rural people.

hands-on experience in generating audience-derived audiovisual tools MCC communication tools are

being used nationally and internationally. Many of these tools - notably the animation-based fiction feature film promoting the intermediary lady with the mobile phone named MONI - have set new standards in development communication.

MCC projects are implemented and guided by communication experts who have extensive experience in the development sector and working with the United Nations, World Bank, the bilateral aid and support organisation system, the Government of Bangladesh and other countries.

The Core Competencies of MCC Include:

- Developing a complete 'Behavioural Change Communication Strategies' and action plan, especially for issues such as appropriate technology, awareness, non-farm initiative, health, education, agriculture, disaster management, Law and Human Rights.
- Designing and producing innovative content using a variety of media including audio, radio, video, print, animation and multimedia with alternate and exploratory use of new technologies like mobile communication, internet, satellite etc.
- Implementing behavioural change communication interventions on a variety of development related issues (ranging from appropriate technology, awareness, non-farm initiative, health, education, agriculture, disaster management, Law and Human Rights.)
- Training and capacity building of key stakeholders and partners in using communication to enhance the impact of their development projects especially those related to appropriate technology, awareness, non-farm initiative, health, education, agriculture, disaster management, Law and Human Rights as well as advocacy with mass media towards greater coverage of development issues.

Other Activities

Ekushey Boi Mela



Ekushey Boi Mela, which merely started as a book fair, has evolved into a national cultural festival reflecting the cultural spirit of entire Bangladesh. With an objective to promote and disseminate the love and respect of Bangla, D.Net partook in the month long Amor Ekushey Gronthomela 2008, organised in the Bangla Academy premises. This year the 23rd Ekushey Boi mela was observed with a lot of pomp and splendour offering various publications for the book lovers and visitors. D.Net presented many books, magazines, CDs and various publications at the book fair.

Prof. Mustafizur Rahman, the noted economist and the Executive Director of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) inaugurated the bookstall of D.Net on February 04, 2008. From the range of publications that D.Net had to offer, Gunijan and Moni CDs proved to be the most popular and managed to attract large number of visitors. The Gunijan CD contained the biographies of 55 gunijans (eminent citizens) who served the country for peace, humanity and social justice with their creativity and talent. The CD also contained audio and video interview, their writings and other writings about these gunijans.

Another CD called 'MONI' was launched during the book fair. Moni is the the symbolic name of the lady who visits every doorstep in a village riding her bicycle introducing the vast field of information technology with the help of the widely used ICT tool, the mobile phone. Moni CD is a video animation series, where Moni is a central figure. The first episode dealt with the importance of land registration and illustrated various problems and related solutions on land registration. The CD was widely appreciated by many researches and field workers.

The whole content was divided subject wise in eight CDs, namely: agriculture, non-farm activities, education, health, law and human rights, appropriate technology, disaster management and awareness. The visitors were provided with the opportunity to tour the content, sitting at the stall with the help of computers. The CDs with the content on agriculture, non-farm activities and health created much interest among the visitors.

D.Net published 13 books and research papers of different kinds on the occasion of Ekushey Book Fair 2008. A significant publication which managed to make a mark was the book – Bangladesh Education in Transition: Policy. Performance .Way Forward. The research book is based on the issues related to education in Bangladesh. People interested in education research were found to be greatly benefited from the book.

The visitors at the stall could visit websites of D.Net as well. Some of them included bdresearch.org.bd, pallitathya.org.bd, abolombon.org.bd and dnet.org.bd. D.Net's participation at the Ekushey book fair received a lot of publicity and coverage by the media.



The Bangla New Year 1415, was celebrated in D.Net with a lot of pomp and splendour. All employees of D.Net were adorned in colourful attires and accessories and were in a very festive mood. A cultural programme was also organised by the staff and a variety of Bengali food was served to all at the end of the programme.

Ekushey Provat Feri

Language is not only the most important tool for communication, but plays significant role in defining culture, nature, history, humanity and a civilizations ancestry. Like every other year, D.Net observed the International Mother Language Day with due respect and solemnity. Every member of the D.Net family participated in the rally and offered wreaths at the National Shaheed Minar to pay homage to the brave and spirited martyrs of the language movement.



Relief Operation of D.Net

The staff of D.Net donated their one day's salary for the flood hit marginalised poor families; food and necessary medicines were also distributed with the fund. The relief goods were distributed among 100 families living in Saghata, Gaibandha by Udayan Somaj Kalyan Songstha and among 200 families in Jhenidah by Padma.

Retreat 2007

D.Net staff enjoyed a 5 day retreat from December 25-30, 2007 at Saintmartin-Coxsbazaar. The retreat was organised with an objective to refresh and energise the hard working team in the year end so that they can start the upcoming New Year with full zest and vigour.

During the retreat all the members participated in a number of self developing activities and dialogue sessions. One of them which turned out to be very useful was the session on 'Engendering Dialogue Culture'. The main focus of discussion was 'Self-reflection: Overcoming Obstacles to Create a Dialogue Culture'.

Another session was called the 'Identification of Core Values'. This session focused on D.Net staff's collective opinions on four major programmes namely Pallitathya, CLP, BORN and Gunijan.

Another important session included the one on 'Review & Outlook'. The main focus of this session was to evaluate the progress of work in accordance to each of the six themes and to ascertain whether D.Net was in the right track theme-wise.

Over all the retreat turned out to be a total bash where each and every person thoroughly enjoyed with their families and returned to work with fresh ideas and clear minds!

Combating Cyclone Sidr

Hurricane Sidr hit the coasts of Bangladesh on November 15, 2007 in the Sundarban coasts and Mongla port, Khepupara, Dublar Chor and Hiron point in Khulna district. The cyclone gradually gained force and speed and moved through Barguna, the coastal belts of Barisal and passed through Faridpur and Dhaka districts. The fierce cyclone managed to wreck havoc and destroy the south western coast, wiping out houses and schools, uprooting trees, halting transportation, disrupting electricity and causing severe shortage of food and water.



D.Net came forward to help and support the people in need and distress immediately and reached the distressed region on November 17, 2008. The team tried to measure the losses incurred and partook in a relief work to support the communities in four districts and managed to provide help to about one thousand families suffering in misery.

The staff of D.Net donated their one day salary for the marginalised poor families affected in the hurricane. Water, food, purifying tablets and necessary medicines were also distributed with the fund. D.Net utlised contingency fun of Abolombon project Phase II, supported by MJF, amounted to BDT 195,444 for emergency relief distribution in the SIDR affected areas.



D.Net through its partner VAB-NJ (Volunteers Association for Bangladesh) distributed rehabilitation materials which amounted to USD 8000 (Eight Thousand) for the cyclone victims. D.Net installed five deep tube wells in some of the affected areas with the fund of VAB-NJ and help from Faria Lara Foundation (a national NGO) in Barguna. About 500 sets of textbooks (class six to nine) and 500 lamps were also distributed to the students\families in Barguna district with the help of Faria Lara Foundation in Barguna, Work Foundation

in Jhalokathi, SN Trust & & Dharitry Samaj Kallan Sangha in Bagerhat, Shanuhar M.A. High School (Computer Literacy Center) & local school teachers. These initiatives of VAB-NJ & D.Net, managed to bring smiles in some of the faces and encouraged some children to dream again for a bright and secure future ahead of them.

D.Net also supported a USA based non resident Bangladeshi initiative namely, United Bangladesh Appeal (UBA) to distribute a compensation fund of about USD 266,472 for the families of the deceased. D.Net also prepared a database of the rehabilitated people who had lost their near and dear ones. This database was used for the proper distribution of money in order to build shelters for these victims.

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Financial Report



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Dhaka - 1212, Bangladesh. Phone: 8837285-7 Fax: 880-2-8837698 E-mail: aqasem@aqcbd.com

Auditors' Report

We have audited the accompanying Balance Sheet of D. Net (Development Research Network) as at 30 June 2008 and the related Statement of Income and Expenditure and Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year then ended. The preparation of these financial statements is the responsibility of D. Net (Development Research Network) management. Our responsibility is to express an independent opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

Scope:

We conducted our audit in accordance with Bangladesh Standards on Auditing (BSA). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements as referred to above, prepared in accordance with Bangladesh Accounting Standards (BAS) in all material respects, give a true and fair view of the state of D.Net (Development Research Network) affairs as of 30 June 2008 and of the results of its operations for the year then ended.

We also report that:

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit and made due verification thereof;
- (b) In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by D. Net (Development Research Network) so far as it appeared from our examination of those books;
- The financial statements dealt with by the report are in agreement with the books of account.

Dated, Dhaka 12 February 2009 A. Qasem & Co. Chartered Accountants



Chartered Accountants

D.Net (DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH NETWORK)

Consolidated Balance Sheet
As at June 30, 2008

ASSETS	Note	30-06-2008 Taka	30-06-2007 Taka
Property, Plant & Equipment At cost less accumulated depreciation	4	5,922,526	4,184,230
Current Assets Cash and Bank Balance Accounts Receivable Advance and Prepayments Fund Advance Staff Loan	5 6 7 8 9	20,333,263 4,762,725 13,236,105 513,222 1,780,211 41,000	9,840,726 8,628,351 81,000 440,062 667,813 23,500
Current Liabilities Accounts Payable Outstanding Liabilities Net Current Assets Net Assets	10 11	3,442,649 3,318,644 124,005 16,890,614 22,813,140	420,707 279,473 141,234 9,420,019 13,604,249
Financed By		55 V	
Fund Account Loan & Advance Bank Loan Inter project Loan	12 13 14 15	22,195,441 (50,000) 150,000 517,699 22,813,140	12,636,550 (50,000) 500,000 517,699 13,604,249

The annexed notes form an integral part of the Balance Sheet.

Chairman of Governing Body

Executive Director/Member Secretary of Governing Body

Signed in terms of our separate report of even date annexed.

(A. Qasem & Co.)
Chartered Accountants

Dated, Dhaka 12 February 2009



A. Qasem & Co. Chartered Accountants

D.Net (DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH NETWORK)

Consolidated Statement of Income and Expenditure For the year ended June 30, 2008

	Note	2007-2008 Taka	2006-2007 Taka
INCOME: A			
Foreign grants/donation	16	19,779,634	10,232,019
Local grants/donation	17	27,403,778	15,560,226
Donation Received	18	-	4,201,000
Foreign grant received by mother a/c	19	12,382,224	6,137,815
Project Income	20	7,347,378	3,205,565
Sales of publications	21	538,950	167,879
Fund Transfer	22	624,792	-
Miscellaneous Income	23	1,283,153	196,500
Training Exp.	24	-	15,139
Bank Interest	25	317,053	183,639
Membership Fees	26	-	19,000
D. Net contribution		· · · · · · · · · · · ·	66,488
Transfer		-	2,465,735
Total Income	=	69,676,962	42,451,005
EXPENDITURE: B			
Salaries/allowances	27	13,086,732	6,775,816
Salaries/allowances-PO	28	2,338,849	-
Honorarium	29	4,126,647	2,716,075
Office Rent	30	1,660,900	923,380
Stationery	31	888,301	642,641
Printing and Publication	32	1,692,057	908,272
Internet and Communications	33	1,576,792	924,780
News papers & Periodicals	34	15,588	6,036
Repair & Maintenance	35	684,802	711,604
General office expenses	36	125,145	242,161
Local conveyance	37	53,288	56,042
Domestic travel	38	1,251,687	1,183,427
International travel	39	503,533	299,106
Utilities	40	502,912	302,677
Entertainment/refreshment	41	90,873	101,010
Seminers, workshops, meetings & cultural functions	42	5,794,017	1,429,056
Resource material	43	-	31,492
Domain registration	44	22,263	80,008
Advertisement	45	63,654	130,338



Chartered Accountants

		Note	2007-2008 Taka	2006-2007 Taka
Audit & Professional fees		47	78,150	75,000
Insurance premium		48	-	2,830
Tax on salary		49	_	105,503
Training expenses		50	1,727,621	333,174
Research expenses		51	1,585,571	2,848,625
Medical expenses		52	14,700	6,915
Registration fees		53	63,901	46,325
Bank charges		54	200,235	41,968
Legal fees		55	15,000	15,000
Retreat		56	174,325	57,132
Rental		57	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	73,000
Overhead/Visual Material		58	502,120	180,179
Foreign grant transfer to project		59	12,382,274	10,232,019
Local Grants Transfer		60	1,343,600	4,480,000
Contingencies		61	195,444	-, 100,000
Relief / SIDR		62	635,665	_
Fund Transfer		63	257,178	40
Audio Visual		64	161,995	
Generator Fuel		65	55,310	
Office Equipment		66	24,427	
Miscellaneous		67	29,000	_
Books		68	3,827	_
Furniture & Fixture		69	26,820	_
Computer & Peripherals		70	3,268,319	1,060,670
Depreciation		4	2,717,750	1,356,290
•			59,974,112	38,446,050
Excess of income over expend	iture (A-B)		9,702,850	4,004,955
Grand Total			69,676,962	42,451,005

The annexed notes form an integral part of the Statement of Income and Expenditure.

Dated, Dhaka

12 February 2009

Executive Director/Member **Secretary of Governing Body**

> Signed in terms of our separate report of even date annexed.

> > (A. Qasem & Co.)

Chartered Accountants



Chartered Accountants

D.Net (DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH NETWORK)

Consolidated Statement of Receipts and Payments For the year ended June 30, 2008

	2007-2008 Taka
RECEIPTS	
Opening Cash and Bank Balance	8,628,351
Foreign Grants/Donation	25,308,116
Local Grants/Donation	24,425,552
Project Income	4,661,817
Sales	162,849
Reimbursement/ Expenses Refund	7,576,941
Miscellaneous Income	1,245,153
Fund Transfer	2,705,340
Staff advance, staff loan realised	140,489
Inter Project loan	5,460,834
Bank Interest	317,053
Bank Loan	900,000
	81,532,495
PAYMENTS Salaries/ Allowances	18,290,291
Salaries/ Allowances-PO	2,338,849
Honorarium	3,899,069
Office Rent	2,609,900
Stationary	920,864
Printing and Publication	1,581,348
Internet & Communications	2,077,153
	15,588
News papers & periodicals	686,817
Repair & maintenance	124,693
Office General Expenses	53,288
Local conveyance Domestic Travel	1,274,150
International Travel	503,533
	634,889
Utilities	90,873
Entertainment/ Refreshment	5,833,849
Seminars, Workshops, Meetings and Cultural Functions	22,263
Domain Registration	58,115
Advertisement	32,840
Staff Training & development	
Training expenses	1,823,641
Research Expense	407,271
Medical Support to Staff	14,700
Registration Fees	73,901
Bank charges	200,236
Legal fees	14,250
Audit Fees	25,675
Retreat	174,325



Chartered Accountants

	2007-2008 Taka
Generator Fuel	55,310
Audio Visual (UNESCO-II)	160,870
Fund Transfer	1,427,167
Tax (last year)	279,473
Contribution	-
Contingencies	195,444
Overhead	424,573
Loan and advance	24,000
Inter Project Loan	5,460,834
Bank Loan (repayment)	1,250,000
Staff Personal Loan	41,000
Staff advance	180,947
Fund advance	1,112,398
Computer & peripherals	6,141,196
Office Equipment	1,383,171
Books	16,275
Furniture & Fixture	331,968
Relief (SIDR)	635,665
Local Grants/Donation- D.Net-Gunijan	1,343,600
Foreign Grants/Donation-Transfer	12,382,274
Payments of Outstanding liabilities:	
Internet & Communications	37,385
Utilities	53,849
Audit Fees	50,000
	76,769,770
Closing Balanco	4.762.725

Closing Balance

Cash in hand Cash at Bank **Grand Total**

Dated, Dhaka

12 February 2009

4,762,725

18,288 4,744,437 81,532,495

The annexed notes form an integral part of the Statement of Receipts and Payments.

Chairman of Governing Body

Executive Director/Member Secretary of Governing Body

Signed in terms of our separate report of even date annexed.

(A. Qasem & Co.)

Chartered Accountants



D.Net Governing Body

Governing Body 2007-2008

Dr. Toufic Ahmad Choudhury : Chairperson 1. 2. Ms. Selina Hossain : Member 3. Dr. Debapriya Bhattachrya : Member Dr. Shah M. Ahsan Habib 4. : Member 5. Dr. Shahnaz Karim : Member Mr. Anir Choudhury : Member 6. 7. Mr. Fahim Mashroor : Member 8. Mr. Azmat Khan : Member 9. Mr. Sarwar Uddin Ahmed : Treasurer 10. Mr. Mridul Chowdhury : Member

11. Dr. Ananya Raihan : Member Secretary



Development Research Network

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