

STUDY ON THE UNIT COST OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE RELATED TO ADOLESCENT ISSUES

Prepared for



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose and Methodology

In Bangladesh, UNICEF committed itself to work with the government agencies and civil society for fulfilling international commitments towards the rights of children, and to contribute to promoting an equitable environment for both girls and boys. As part of the global commitment, UNICEF Bangladesh had piloted the Empowerment of Adolescent Girls Project during 2001-2005, which had been extended to 2010. The overall goal of the project is to invest efforts for improving the quality of vulnerable adolescents' life especially emphasizing the girls in the selected intervention sites. The accompanying study aims at examining various costs associated with the process of achieving the project goal. The study is expected to answer questions including the number of adolescents benefiting from the project; sustainability and replicability issues; most and least successful interventions and reasons thereof; cost of different interventions; and the involvement of different stakeholders including parents and communities with the project.

Data/information collected for this study consists of both quantitative and qualitative method. Data have been collected both from the office and field level. At the office level, data have been collected from the Project Implementation Unit (PIU), UNICEF, PNGOs (BRAC and CMES), and the training organization (SCA). Data collected from the office level principally consists mainly of program and financial data. At the field level, data have been collected by conducting KIIs and FGDs. A total of 11 types of Data Collection Instruments (DCIs) have been used to accomplish this study. Data have been collected from the six districts namely Dhaka, Kushtia, Rangpur, Chapai Nawabgonj, Chittagong, and Sylhet and the sample design has been constructed on the basis of the relative coverage of the PNGOs.

Project Benefits

A total of 2,860 adolescent centers/*samittees* as of June 2009 have been actively operational in 28 districts of Bangladesh, of which 2,500 own by BRAC and 360 by CMES. On an average each adolescent center has 25 to 30 adolescent female members. These centers have several activities among which sessions on LSBE module are the main concerns. As of June 2009, a total of 114,519 members have received LSBE of which 82,169 are female and 32,650 male. Out of the 114,519 members receiving LSBE courses, 103,719 are from BRAC and 10,800 from CMES. For the adolescent centers of BRAC and CMES dropout rate has been calculated as 0.68% and 13.5% respectively. Dropout rate has been found higher among the male than female members in both BRAC's and CMES's centers.

Livelihood training has been provided to the adolescent members to economically empower them. As of June 2009, 3,034 members with 2,963 female and 71 male have been given training on livelihood. Therefore, only about 2.6% of the project beneficiaries have been covered under the livelihood training so far. To increase knowledge and awareness on adolescent issues at community level, IPT shows have been performed by the adolescent members. The number of adolescents received IPT training as of June 2009 is 4,000 – 2,020 from BRAC and 1,980 from CMES. The total number of IPT shows performed at BRAC is 1,334 and that with CMES 219.

Peer leaders have received different types of training throughout the project period. Six-day training on LSBE Module 1 and LSBE Module 2 has been provided to 3,396 and 2,620 peer leaders respectively. As of June 2009, 6 days basic training have been given to 4,500 peer leaders of BRAC and 870 peer leaders of CMES. Parents of every adolescent member of the adolescent centers/*samitees* are involved in this project. Every year, 6 sessions are held for the mothers associated with BRAC and 24 sessions held for the mothers associated with CMES.

Cost of Different Interventions

The study reveals that the project has spent a total amount of BDT 344 million during January 2006 to June 2009, of which management constitutes 24%, operational activities 71 %, and evaluation and monitoring 5 %. The total annual expenditure constitutes BDT 124 million with direct cost 90 million (79%) and joint cost 24 million (21%). Out of BDT 114 million (US\$ 1.7 million) per year, the expenses related to life skill based education (LSBE) component costs about 17 million BDT (US\$ 0.25 million), the training of adolescent members costs about 43 million BDT (0.6 million US\$), and community participation costs 30 million BDT (0.4 million US\$).

Using the amortization approach, the average yearly amortized expenditure constitutes about BDT 64 million (\$ US0.9 million). The average yearly amortized expenditure of LSBE constitute BDT 9.8 million (\$ US 0.14 million), the training of adolescents BDT 23.9 million (\$US 0.35 million), and community participation BDT 16.8 million (\$ US 0.24 million). The average yearly amortized operational cost 37.1 million BDT (0.5 million \$ US or 58% of total); management cost 24.5 million BDT (0.3 million \$ US or 38% of total); and research, evaluation and monitoring cost 2.8 million BDT (0.04 million \$ US or 4% of total).

Average yearly simple and amortized costs per *Kendra* are estimated to be BDT 40,070 and 22, 552 respectively; and those per *kendra* member are estimated to be BDT 1,338, and BDT 751 respectively.

Involvement of Different Stakeholders

Among the PIU staffs not paid for the project , the amount of time spent in a year by the accountant, computer operator, MLSS, cleaner, and guard are 80 hours each while the time spent by the driver is 96 hours. Among the BRAC staffs who are not paid for the project but spend time, the amount of time spent per year is 1 hour each at Chairperson, Executive Director, and Deputy Executive Director level; 49 hours each at Director and Program Coordinator level and 97 hours at Program Head level. The mean number of sessions attended by mothers is 10.6 and that by fathers is 11.7. On average, a mother spends 17 hours and a father spends 9 hours in a year for attending the sessions. The amount of time spent by per member in the Local Support Committee/Local Support Group in a year is 19 hours.

Sustainability/Replicability and Other Issues

With regards to the Programmatic Sustainability of the project, almost all participants said that there is a great demand and need of this project and that every adolescent of the country should be given the opportunity of involvement in such types of projects. It has been viewed that the project involves parents and community, which create supportive and promotional environment for the adolescent. Based on the fact that community contribution per center is 1,051 hours annually and the proactive community participation associated with the project, it might be concluded that the project is programmatically sustainable. Regarding Financial

Sustainability, all respondents have agreed that the parents of adolescent are very poor; they do not have the financial ability to bear project cost; and without financial assistance from UNICEF or Government this project cannot run.

Out of the 30 peer leaders interviewed regarding the most successful intervention of the project, about 63% have viewed about the LSBE component of the project. Regarding the reasons for their perceptions for LSBE being successful about 60% of the peer leaders have mentioned about the increased awareness of the adolescents and their discussions with respective family members, peers and community members. Regarding the least successful intervention of the project, about 43% of the peer leaders have viewed about the “livelihood training”. About another 43% of the respondents have viewed the “awareness raising and social understanding of adolescent issues” as the least successful interventions. As opined by the respondents, less success of the livelihood training is due to its low coverage while the less success in the “awareness raising and social understanding of the adolescent issues” is due to not having expected successes in dowry and child marriage incidences.

Recommendations

The need for increasing the coverage and speed of the livelihood training has especially been stressed to reduce the rate of dropout. It has been recommended that peer leaders should be selected in terms of interest, merit and capability of managing the peers. The number of adolescent centers should be increased to derive optimum benefits from the project. Sufficient and qualified trainers should be ensured and the infrastructural facilities of the clubs need to be improved. In a few places, it has been very difficult to convince the community leaders on issues of dowry, child marriage and so on. There have been obstacles from the community people in introducing the outdoor sports for the adolescent girls. The sessions with mothers-fathers and workshops with community leaders should be given more importance. At the same time, local support committees/groups have to be more active and functional. Training on theatre and cultural activities should be promoted and sports tools along with availability of playgrounds for the outdoor sports should be ensured. Qualified trainers have to be employed to update the IPT activities accompanied by the increase of materials and investments for IPT and sports activities. Similarly more books and reading materials are to be supplied and incentives for the PNGO staffs and peer leaders are recommended to upgrade to the satisfactory level in the context of Bangladesh.