



Your dream, our responsibility....

AMCC opens its own centre

Ahsania Mission Children City (AMCC) was officially inaugurated at its own campus on 7 June 2013. Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) president Kazi Rafiqul Alam inaugurated the campus by cutting ribbon while Additional District Commissioner (ADC) Shamsul Azam and Superintendent of Police (SP) of Panchagarh district spoke as guests on inaugural ceremony. Moreover, Country Coordinator of KNH Germany Maruf Momtaz Rumi, Programme

Manager (PM) AMCC Jahangir Hossain was present at that time. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Centre for International Education and Development (CINED) Shahnewaz Khan presented two documentary films on Dhaka Ahsania Mission and Ahsania Mission Children City respectively in the opening ceremony.



Function of temporary shelter

Alongside the permanent centre in Panchagarh, a temporary shelter has been founded in Savar. Students, collected from different places of the country first enrolled in this centre with a view to observing them with proper counseling and case management. After scrutiny of every child, the selected children are sent to Panchagarh. Moreover a provision has been kept in there for those women who unwontedly become pregnant. They will be kept there under close supervision whilst deliver and proper placement. During the stay at this temporary shelter, different types of training including sewing, boutique etc provided among them to become self-dependent.





Background of AMCC

Bangladesh is one of the densely populated countries in the world. Cities in Bangladesh are overcrowded with dense slums, squatter settlements and pavement dwellings. Increasing rural poverty and corresponding urban migration continue to swell the numbers of people living in urban slums and on the streets. Among others problems of rural unemployment, landlessness, river erosion, climate change impacts, natural disasters, family conflict, causes rural families to leave their homes in search of better prospects in the urban centres. This movement contributes to the disintegration of traditional family and community structures and results in an increasing number of children being exposed to deprivation and abuse in urban areas.

In Bangladesh about 3.18 million children age-range 5-7 years are involved in works for their survival. They haven't two meals in a day and involved into odd jobs like garbage collector, street vendor, porter, begging and other hazardous works for their survival as a result they become victims for trafficking and child pornography; victims for social crimes and illegal activities such as stealing and theft, hijacking, smuggling of narcotic drugs, drug peddling- become drug addicts and terrorists, Victims of HIV AIDS and STD as well as used as agents of unlawful political activities.

Street children have to make money for their survival through moving goods, shining shoes, collecting garbage, and in many cases they become victim of child trafficking and in many cases child prostitution. They have to live in hazardous situations which is incessantly exposed to insecure life, physical and sexual abuse by adults of the immediate community, harassment by law enforcing agencies, no, or inadequate, access to educational institutions and healthcare facilities, and lack of decent employment opportunity.

The existing governmental and non-governmental interventions for street children are not adequate to meet their diverse needs to bring them back in the mainstream. Some NGOs and organizations are working for street children, but its learning demonstrated that, for various reasons, the project activities did not reach many and didn't produce significant impact on the lives of children. To bring meaningful and long lasting changes in the lives of street children, a holistic programme approach is needed. Ahsania Mission Children City (AMCC) aims to improve the quality of life and mainstreaming of these most vulnerable and disadvantaged street children through integrated interventions by the MVDSC project initiated for the street children. Eventually, a model for serving this vulnerable population will be developed and demonstrated for wider replication.

President's note

More than 50 years ago, Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) had started its journey with a far-reaching vision. During this set-out, it has come close to the laks of unprivileged people with a view to promoting their livelihood, education and protecting human rights. As part of its extensive interventions in various fields of welfare, DAM gave a special attention to the unprivileged and street children to normalize their natural growth.

Ahsania Mission Children City (AMCC) in Panchagarh is the first Endeavour to rehabilitate 10,000 street and unprivileged children where they would be upgraded from various sides to reintegrate in mainstream. They would stay there up to 18 years of age. During their stay, schooling facilities would be provided alongside different types of IGA (Income Generated Activities) trainings so that they could be self-dependent after freeing from the centre.

Moreover, a temporary centre has been set up in Savar. Street children, collected from the different places of the country first are enrolled in this centre with a view to observing them with proper counseling and case management. After selection, the children are sent to Panchagarh.

A plan is underway to set up such village in every district where almost 1000 street and underprivileged children would be rehabilitated. The first issue of AMCC's quarterly newsletter reflects the evaluation of last year's activities.

Kazi Rafiqul Alam
President

Dhaka Ahsania Mission

Objectives of Ahsania Mission Children City (AMCC)

The major objectives of AMCC are:

- ✧ To support and rehabilitate the Most Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Children of urban city centers helping them to grow with their full potentials up to 18 years of age through education and specialized hands-on training on different trades of employable skills and child development services.
- ✧ Interim arrangement to move them from street to world of work / decent citizenship.
- ✧ To materialize the objectives, AMCC will provide three-fold strategic support and services to 1000 children sequentially for (i) enrollment and survival; (ii) capacity development and empowerment; and (iii) rehabilitation/mainstreaming through job placement support and services for wage-employment and self-employment by providing them with seed money.

Legal Guardians meeting held

According to the AMCC's policy, a legal guardians gathering was organized on 29 June 2013. All guardians witnessed the facilities including food catering, clothing and education. Expressing satisfaction over the overall AMCC's activities, they opined on the different issues for more progresses.

Cultural, sports competition at AMCC

AMCC organized cultural and annual sports competition at its own campus in Panchagarh on 29 June 2013. The children competed in various events like drawing, rendering song and dance, poem recitation, Quran Telwat (recitation of Holy Quran) and Hamd-Nath. The participants wished that if they would be able to continue their regular practices and management's support, they would be capable to participate at National level competition and win the prizes.



Roundtable Confce held

A roundtable conference on AMCC street children intervention titled 'Street Children and their Rehabilitation in Bangladesh' was held at the conference room of Daily Alokito Bangladesh (a popular daily Bangla newspaper) in Dhaka on 6 July 2013. Dignitaries and national level persons participated in the conference. During spontaneous interactions in the conference, many recommendations were proposed some of which is as follows:

- ✧ A separate policy and budget are particularly needed for the street children.
- ✧ The government should prepare specific guideline for protection of street children in addition to registered child birth within 44 days after taking birth as because they are deprived of Voter ID Card and opening of Bank Account.
- ✧ They estimated the number of street children would be six million in 2025 if measures are not taken in due time.
- ✧ Need to develop the street children for tomorrow's potential citizen of the country.
- ✧ The conference highly praised the great initiative that has taken by the DAM/AMCC.

AMCC Management has felt the need to establish a strong network with the GoB, INGO, GO and relevant institutes to formulate a separate policy on street children in Bangladesh. Soon a national advocacy workshop will be organized with the Government policy maker and civil society regarding this policy issue.

Teachers appointed to promote spiritual, agri edn

Some teachers have been appointed at Ahsania Mission Children City recently.

A religious teacher has been appointed at AMCC to teach its children about discipline, morality and norms-values so that the children could find the way of future in a time-befitting manner and spirit. Another teacher has been appointed with a view to making the children skilled on the basic learning of agriculture poultry and livestock.



AMCC authority has appointed another education coordinator to oversee the overall education, given to children. It is mentionable that AMCC's vision is to send out crops by the children at its own ground in Panchagarh to meet their yearlong required food. Another aim is to become self-dependent in farming after leaving from AMCC.

AMCC providing fundamental services to its children

Ahsania Mission Children City (AMCC) has been providing all the fundamental services among its children to make them fit and healthy since its inception. Age specific regular nutritious food is being provided as per recommendation of different recognized organizations and persons including Department of Social Welfare, UNICEF and nutrition expert of Dhaka University. Age specific clothes, shoes and daily necessities are being provided to all children. Full residential accommodation with modern living standard and appropriate security has been being ensured. Maximum cleanliness and hygiene practices are being executed. Moreover, AMCC is ensuring all children's health check up by MBBS doctors on a regular basis. Routine health check up is compulsory in every week for all children and a provision has been created for emergency call and admission in Panchagarh, Sadar Hospital if needed.



Eid-ul-Fitr celebrated at AMCC

With the slogan 'Let's make their Eid special', AMCC celebrated the Eid-ul Fitr 2013 through religious fervent and festive mood. At the very beginning of the morning, children went to Eid ground wearing new outfits-Panjabi and Payjama and offered their prayer. After completing the prayer, they embraced and exchanged greetings with each-other. After jutting out from the Eid ground, they visited Eid fair which was held to mark the day and they purchased various game tools and food from there. They were served delicious food at noon as well as at night.



Staff training conducted

A four-day staff training on child rights, child protection and national children policy was conducted at AMCC of Panchagarh on 8-12 October 2013. In line with



international child policy, the training course was arranged to acknowledge the staff about overall consciousness on child right, child protection and awareness build up. The staff exchanged their practical experiences so that the trainers could point out their errors and rectified them. Two representatives from UNICEF- Khalilur Rahman and facilitated the training session. A total of 18 employees including Programme Manager participated in the training. It is mentionable that AMCC has been conducting such training courses continuously.



T-shirt donated to AMCC

Owner of 'Knitex Innovative Limited' Rafiqur Rahman Kazal donated 200 T-shirts to the AMCC's unprivileged and street children. He handed over the T-shirts from his factory in capital's Uttara area recently. Programme Manager of AMCC M Jahangir Hossain received the costumes. Later these were distributed among the AMCC's children who became overjoyed after getting the high standard and colourful shirts. It is mentionable that Deputy Director General of Uttara Bank Ltd Khairul Alam assisted to link up between AMCC and 'Knitex Innovative Limited'. Both, Khairul Alam and Rafiqur Rahman Kazal aspired to visit the AMCC centre of Panchagarh and committed to continue their supports for these unprivileged and street children in future.

Child Rights Week observation AMCC kid wins award

One of AMCC's child, Azmayen won the 3rd prize by rendering country song in a music competition organized by Shishu Academy, Panchagarh. The competition was held on the occasion of "Child Rights Week and World Children Day" on 29 September 2013. On the same day, AMCC arranged an art competition and rally among AMCC's children were also held in Panchagarh.



Activities sharing meeting held

A program activities sharing meeting held on Saturday noon, 9 November, 2013 at AMCC's campus at Jalpara, Panchagarh. AMCC's Program Manager Jahangir Hossain described the background, objectives and recent programmes' activities. He displayed a documentary titled

'Alor Pothe' through projector. Chairman of Hafizabad Union Parishad Shahdat Hossain, Environment specialist Touhidul Bari Babu, Advocate Ershad Hossain, NGO activist MA Prodhan and teachers, journalist, Government and NGO's representatives were present in the meeting and kept their valuable opinion on the occasion.



Workshop held to share project concept

Most Vulnerable Disadvantaged Street Children (MVDSC), a project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission organized a workshop as part of a regular issue to share the project concept with community people, local government, NGO's representatives and journalists. Around 80 stakeholders participated at the workshop. All participants appreciated the event and expressed their commitment to cooperate all the AMCC's activities.

Legal Guardians meeting held

According to the AMCC's policy, a legal guardians gathering was organized on 29 June 2013. All guardians witnessed the facilities including food catering, clothing and education. Expressing satisfaction over the overall AMCC's activities, they opined on the different issues for more progresses.

Enrollment and Survival

The Most Vulnerable Disadvantaged Street Children (MVDSC), a project of Ahsania Mission Children City (AMCC) of DAM started to select most vulnerable & disadvantaged street children to enroll in AMCC from July 2012. Initially AMCC team has completed a survey in prospective locations of Rangpur, Rajshahi, Chittagong and Dhaka division. AMCC selected 60 children and finally 55 children were enrolled. Now total number of children is 100 which were targeted earlier. All existing enrolled children are boys.

Opportunities

Outreach activities, full residential accommodation, socio-legal protective environment, nutritious food, clothes, safe water and sanitation, health care, electricity, etc facilities are available here.

Capacity Development and Empowerment Activities

Quality basic education particularly in primary and secondary school certificate (SSC), vocational training, life-skills and child rights training, cultural events, sports competitions, picnic, observance of national days, and socialization with neighboring communities until the children reach at 18 years.

Rehabilitation/Mainstreaming through Job Placement

Job placement support, counseling and guidance, wage-employment, self-employment, seed money for starting of small business. During the period (when.....) MDSC project have started its activities in the village of Jalapara, Sadar Thana, Hafizabad Union in the Panchagarh district in its new building.

Sponsorship Program

Sponsorship is open to all, any person or organization can sponsor for a residential building construction or academic building construction 'either wholly or partly' and 'either a student (street children) or a group of student (street children)' for single year or multiple years. Any person or organization can sponsor one of the options (at least) listed below:

A. Options of Building Sponsorship:

Description	Number of Children	Each Floor (sq. feet)	Number of Floor	Total Space (sq. feet)	Construction Expenses in (lac)	Total Amount in (lac)
For 6-10 yrs children Residential Block-1	300	4,140	5	20,700	58.00	290.00
For 11-14 yrs children Residential Block-2	360	5,425	5	27,125	75.00	375.00
For 15-18 yrs children Residential Block-3	340	5,375	5	26,875	75.00	375.00
School Building		5,121	5	25,606	70.00	350.00
Per Room	10			750	10.00	10.00

B. Options of Child Sponsorship:

Children's Age Group	Expenses per Month in (taka)	Expenses per Year in (taka)
For 6-8 yrs children	3,500	42,000
For 9-12 yrs children	4,000	48,000
For 13-15 yrs children	5,000	60,000
For 16-18 yrs children	6,000	72,000

AMCC-the Glowing Earth

Nur Hossain

ID No. 00

Nur Hossain, a 8 years old boy is hailed from Swandeeep upazila of Chittagong district. His father Mizanur Rahman remained untraced when he used to live his mother. After awaiting his father long time, Nasrin finding no other alternative way to meet hunger, came in Dhaka along with him and four of his sisters and brothers and used to live in a shanty.

Nur Hossain's mother took a job as home servant. Nasrin was unable to run the family. On this kind of situation Nur Hossain's mother involved him to beg at train, bus, station, etc by a false treatment paper. Their poverty was so pathetic that one day his mother sold his youngest sister by BDT- 10000 only and this fact shocked him so very much!

While begging, Nur Hossain was introduced with a hawker who also lived in the same station and Nur



Hossain started to live with that hawker. At one night, Nur Hossain was sexual harassed during sleeping period by the hawker. After that night it was continuing and it makes a negative impact to his life.

At this situation Nur Hossain came to Ahsania Mission Children City. First he was scared, especially at sleeping period. He did not talk to others and spent his time alone and he tried to escape with others. But after some days, all his mental problems were almost annihilated by spending time and days here at AMCC having good food, clean cloths, sleeping at secured place and through counseling provided by the counselor of Children City. He gradually came back in normal life.

At present Nur Hossain is reading in class two at Ahsania Mission Children City in Panchagar. Gradually he is doing good at study as well as other activities. He practices drawing and music regularly. After completion his study he wants to be a painter and he will live with his family happily.

Ahsania Mission Children City has taken all the responsibilities of Nur Hossain to provide education, secured living place and to deliver good health care till his 18 years.

Heavenly Journey with AMCC

Mohammad Sohan

ID No. 0016

Sohan's age is 7. His father's name is Mohammad Zahid and his mother is late Shahinur. Sohan's parents always remain in altercation due to his father's second marriage. One day Sohan's ill fated mother committed suicide. His father got second marriage. But Sohan's step mother was very unkind; cruel and merciless to him. His father did not protest from her. So one day Sohan left his house with emotion choked. A new and an uncertain life were unveiled before him. Sohan began to collect waste things from garbage and started to beg. He sometimes worked in hotel to clean the dishes. But no works gave him peace. He wanted to study.

Sohan was living in Tongi rail station with an old man. One night sohan was harassed sexually by that person. Sohan left him from that day. One day a drug addicted people used to beat him and snatched his money and so on.

His life was very dull and disappointing. So one day he jumped from the Tongi bridge to commit suicide. His head were stuck on rock of the river. He got severe



injury in his head. However, he had been saved with the help of his friends who has admitted him to hospital and from there he come to Ahsania Mission Children City in Panchagar.

At present Sohan is reading in class two in . He is very fond of doing Art and Music. He practices drawing and music regularly. After completion his study he wants to do a good job and he wants to find out his younger sister Sinthia and will live happily.

Ahsania Mission Children City has taken all the responsibilities of Sohan to provide education, secured living place and to deliver good health care till his 18 years.

Victory Day-2013 observed

Ahsania Mission Children City (AMCC) and Maghi Panimach Pukuri High School in Panchagarh jointly observed Victory Day-2013 through different types of daylong programmes on 16 December.

The children of AMCC, tying red and green ribbon on their wrist and wearing school uniform went to Maghi Panimach Pukuri High School. AMCC superintendent Gaurab Kumar, all teachers and some supporting staff accompanied the children at that time. AMCC children jointly with the students of Maghi Panimach Pukuri High School placed floral wreaths at the Shaheed Minar of the school commemorating the martyred who fought valiantly in the liberation war of 1971 and they also remained one minute of standing silence.

Later a victory rally was taken out where staff, teachers and children of both organizations participated. The rally paraded Talma bazaar and some roads of the area.

Followed by the rally, the president of Maghi Panimach Pukuri High School hoisted the National Flag with the National Anthem which jointly rendered by AMCC children and the school's student. AMCC children participated in an attractive parade with the School student in front of all honorable guests. After the parade, AMCC children and the school students took part in different type's competitions including art, song and recitation. AMCC child Md. Shanur Islam won the 1st prize in art



competition. Moreover Md. Shiam and Md. Shahin (1) became 2nd on country song and recitation respectively. Then the president and AMCC superintendent gave short brief on the history of the day to make the children realize about the importance of the day. They returned from the school to AMCC centre after completing the day long programmes. They were catered special food on the occasion.

AMCC's children observed all the significant days in last year. They observed The Victory Day, The Independent Day, The International Mother Language Day, The Pahela Boishakh, etc.



Children's day out!

AMCC arranged the Yearly Picnic- 2013

Ahsania Mission Children City (AMCC) arranged its Annual Picnic at Tetulia District Duk-banglow and Picnic spot on December 27, 2013. From the children, AMCC Project Manager (PM) and Superintendent jointly selected six members as team leader to supervise the

whole day-long arrangement like maintaining children discipline. From the AMCC centre, two buses and a micro bus along with all the staff and children departed to the destination at 7.30 am.

They reached at the spot by 10 am. Having breakfast, all of the children danced with music. From 11.30 am the quiz competition, raffle-draw and various sports events were begun. PM and Superintendent hosted the various performances including song, poem, jokes and individual and group performance.

Later children were served delicious food with various menus like-polao, mixed vegetable, chicken roast, mutton rezala, salad and pulses. Local band party "Sparsho" performed band music from 2.45 pm and it continued up to 3.45 pm. They performed various famous band songs and the children became overjoyed by their performance.

The children visited the tea garden. Agriculture supervisor described various characteristics about tea and tea garden to the children. After visiting tea garden, all the children came back to AMCC at 7.00 pm.



Ahsania Mission Children City
A program of **Dhaka Ahsania Mission**
House # 19, Road # 12, Dhanmondi, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Hot line : 01758-555777, 01758-666888

