



AHSANIA MISSION CHILDREN CITY

Newsletter



Achievements

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Six children from AMCC attended the Primary School Certificate (PSC) exam. Out of them four children (Sohan, Nayeem, Robin and Sumon) received GPA 5 and two other children (Sharif and Mamun) received GPA 4



Two children (Sohan and Nayeem) from Ahsania Mission Children City has achieved primary board scholarship (Britti)

Editorial Notes

Key focus of AMCC is to rehabilitate 1000 children, in phases, in the Children village of Panchagarh by 2019 and we are on way of steady progress in achieving the target. We have completed a number of diverse activities as per work plan and time frame. Our project staff, government, local NGOs, civil society people have worked hard to implement the project successfully. AMCC has been a great dream of our honorable president Kazi Rafiqul Alam to rehabilitate and mainstream the street children in the society to become and contribute as good citizens. The target number of children has been set 10,000 over a period of 10 years. We are working bit by bit to materialize the dream of our president. We are always grateful to KNH-Germany and their Bangladesh country coordinator for standing beside the vulnerable children of Bangladesh and promoting AMCC activities with keen interest and necessary supports whatever and whenever necessary.

I am very delighted that E-Newsletter will be regularly issued and available on the website which will also a great source of updated information on children city activities and initiatives for GO-NGO, key actors, researchers, readers and rights activists. We hope the current versions of the e-bulletin will be continued to be in place.

I personally thank the AMCC team who worked hard for the E-newsletter.

Editor

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Introduction

Children below 18 who live, work, play and sleep on the city streets of Bangladesh are the most vulnerable children and are exposed to all forms of abuse and exploitation. Because of the combination of push and pull factors many of the families and their children end up at street. Children also run away from their families to escape from poverty, violence, and physical abuse and work alone on the streets. Their needs are neglected and their rights are violated at all levels. Street children not only face denial of basic rights viz. safe shelter, food, health care, safe drinking water and sanitation, education, information, guidance, security, recreation, but also subject to many risks and different forms of exploitation i.e. child labour, physical torture, sexual abuse, HIV/AIDS, and trafficking. Dhaka Ahsania Mission is committed to improving the situation of street children through implementing IDP-MVDSC project.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission with its long experience and expertise in working with street children, has conceived the idea of developing a “Children City” with the objective of rehabilitating these children and allowing them to grow within an enabling environment where they can unlock their potentials. Ahsania Mission Children City (AMCC) is implemented under the project entitled “Integrated Development Program for Most Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Street Children (IDP-MVDSC)”, started its operation at Panchagarh district with the support of Kindernothilfe (KNH) Germany. Under this project children are provided with basic education which will continue up to secondary level and concurrently they will be provided with trade-based skill training followed by job placement, self-employment support, rehabilitation and social integration.

AMCC’s philosophy is to provide support to homeless, deserted children for their holistic development through education and vocational skills training within a residential campus ensuring community participation. AMCC believes that each child is unique and each child should be given the opportunity to fulfill his dream. AMCC intends to provide protection, participation, development and rehabilitation support based on child rights, because every child deserves a childhood.

Day observance and festivals

CELEBRATION OF CHILDREN'S DAY:

Children's day is a special day for the children which is usually held once in a month preferably on the 29th of each month. AMCC celebrates the Children's Day in a befitting manner. Role play is one of the key activities done by children. Usually children play the roles of a teacher or a mother or social worker or a cook of AMCC. Through role play children become aware of the responsibilities of different staff. The purpose of the day is to create the sense of responsibility and compathy among the children.



At the end of the day kids share their views and opinion and learning from the role play. They sit together and share their feelings and experience while playing the roles/duties of different staff. Children's days are celebrated amid enthusiasm and lots of amusement. The purpose of this occasion is to create the sense of responsibility while playing the roles and a realization among the children about the effort that the staffs put in order to take best care of them.

INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY OBSERVED ON 21 FEBRUARY 2016



In order to commemorate the sacrifice of the language movement heroes of 1952 every year. AMCC children pay due tributes to the martyrs of language movement in a befitting style. As part of observance of the day a rally was brought out and went past Panchagarh city to the central Shahid Minar to place flower bouquet. Another rally was brought out which returned to AMCC via Amkathal Bazar. Then a drawing competition was organized among children. At the end a discussion was held highlighting the significance of the day followed by a vivid cultural show.

INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY

On 8th September 2016 AMCC observed International Literacy Day amid befitting manner. AMCC staff including counselors of Student Council took part in the rally and discussion meeting organized by District Administration of Panchagarh. Besides that AMCC in its own style organized different sessions and arrangements to mark the day in festive mood. Essay writing, drawing, music competitions were also held and following the contests the winners were awarded prizes. Alongside different aspects of international literacy day was discussed by speakers.



INDEPENDENCE DAY

In an attempt to arouse sense of nationality and feelings for great freedom fighting in the minds of children Independence Day was befittingly observed on 26 March 2016. As part of the observation of the day a well-trained scout team participated in the district level march-past with band party in presence of DC of Panchagarh district. A rally walked through Amkathal bazar and returned to AMCC. Then age group specific based essay and drawing competition was held followed by a cultural program.

WORLD WOMEN DAY OBSERVATION

World Women Day 2016 was observed on 8th March in appropriate manner. On this very day DAM president Kazi Rafiqul Alam was present at Panchagarh. Honorable President felicitated all the female staffs of AMCC with flowers and best female employee Lebuna Begum was awarded with a crest while key CVAC members were present.



NATIONAL MOURNING DAY

AMCC with due respect and honor observed 41st National Mourning Day on 15 August 2016 this year. They have undertaken a series of activities. As part of the program at 6 a.m national flag was hoisted and kept half-mast. A team led by Program Manager M. Jahangir Hossain participated in the district level rally. Later children and staffs attended the discussion session. In the afternoon AMCC arranged a Milad Mahfil and vdo clips on the historical speech of 7th March 1971 by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. In a discussion meeting PM-AMCC highlighted the significance of the day and called for firm determination to become good citizen of the country and serve the country as well.



FESTIVALS

EID UL FITR



On 6th July 2016 together with Muslim brothers across the globe AMCC children celebrated Eidul Fitr with religious fervor. They started the day with a very festive tone by putting on new clothes and having sweets and vermicelli. Then they all together headed toward the Eidgah and offered the Eid prayer. After the prayer they embraced each other and went to visit local Eid fair. They purchased toys made of bamboo, cane and clay. They played games, ate delicious feast and enjoyed the day very much

EID UL ADHA

On 13 September 2016 Muslim community of Bangladesh celebrated the Eid ul Adha with due religious fervor across the country. Like rest of the country children of AMCC also spent the day with happiness and pleasure. This year community people donated a cow to the children in order to sacrifice it on the day of Eidul Adha. After Eidul Adha prayer the cow was sacrificed. Children amusedly took part in cutting the meat in pieces. On this day especial diet was served for the kids with beef and traditional sweet dishes. Children enjoyed the Eid day in huge amusement, enthusiasm and unlimited fun.



BENGALI NEW YEAR 1423

This year on 14 April 2016 Bangla New Year was celebrated all over the country in festive mood with traditional food panta and hilsha fish. This day is popularly known as 'Pahela Baisakh' among people of Bangala culture and heritage across the globe. Kids of children city celebrated the day with AMCC staffs with deep enthusiasm and funs. Children put on new dresses on the occasion of New Year and spent the day with amusement, games and taking part in the cultural events. They enjoyed Bangla New Year special food menu like panta, hilsha fish and delicious vorta sitting together with AMCC staffs in the open field. AMCC main building and adjacent arena was decorated with colorful poster paper and balloons. In 2016 UNESCO declared the festivity of Bangla New Year as part of world cultural heritage.



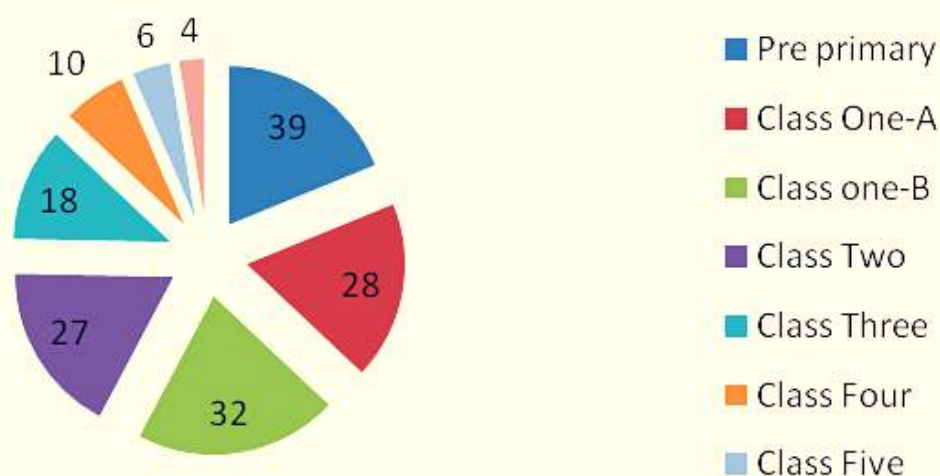
Education

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AMCC has created a learning environment in the center. Children are attending appropriate classes at AMCC School according to their age and levels. Students are taught Bengali, English, math, moral studies, social science, geography, general science, agricultural, environment and health studies, computer science along with music & drawing. In order to assess their progress in education monthly, 1st term, 2nd term and final exams are being held regularly. There are full time teachers, para-teachers, part-time teachers and education coordinator responsible to provide supports to the students in their study. Children were encouraged and motivated to perform well in the academic and in the extra-curricular activities. Number of students in different classes is shown in the following table.

Class Wise Students



Extra Curricula Activities

BOOK DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY

Book distribution ceremony - 2016 was held by AMCC in cooperation with Thana Education office. On this day all students of AMCC from class one to class five received a set of new books of NCTB together with new bags from KNH Germany. Hafijabad union honorable chairman was present as chief guest of the occasion, while AMCC program Manager, UP members of the ward and project staff were also present. Children's were very happy to get new books and school bags.



EXCURSION (PICNIC)- 18 FEB 2016 (VENUE: VINNO JOGOT, RANGPUR)



On 18th February 2016 children of AMCC went to VinnoJogot at Rangpur as part of exposure visit. The children left the center for Rangpur in four buses. Children had lots of fun and moved around the park and enjoyed different rides. A cultural program followed by lucky coupon draw was held. Children and teacher together made the exposure visit successful.

WALL MAGAZINE

Two wall magazines were produced by AMCC children. In the magazine outstanding hand sketch, poems, rhymes and drawings with pastel colors were drawn. It has been an effective tool to create innovative ideas from kids. Children developed writing and editing skills as well.



Staff Capacity Building Trainings

REFRESHERS TRAINING:



A 3-day long psychosocial training was held at Panchagarh. Renowned trainer Selim Chowdhury conducted the training. Participants from both AMCC and KACACDW project staffs attended the training. Children were key focus of the training towards mind change, controlling aggressive behavior and openness of mind to counselors etc. On the final day a big Christmas cake was cut and celebrated the Merry Christmas on 25 December 2016. Final day of the training followed by a cultural fiesta.

A 5-day long training was held from 30th January to 3rd February 2016 at AMCC. The training was conducted by a master trainer. In the training key focus was given on conduction of lesson as per ability, use of learning materials, create homely atmosphere, help weak students, good presentation skills etc.

BASIC TRAINING FOR TEACHERS



WORKSHOP ON SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW AND PREPARATION OF ANNUAL PLAN 2016

An annual workshop in 2016 was held for review of school development plan and prepare a new plan of action for coming year. In the workshop UP chairman, head teachers of local school, CVAC members, Madrasha teachers, Imam, UP members, children representatives and AMCC staff were present.



Advocacy

STUDENT FAIR & LEGAL GUARDIAN REUNION



A student fair and reunion was held on 25/3/16 at Panchagarh AMCC. In the reunion Deputy Commissioner of Panchagarh Amal Krishana Mondal was present as chief guest. KNH country coordinator Maruf Momtaj Rumi, local elites, advisory committee members and legal guardians of 80 kids were present among other guests. Speakers and guardians of the children appreciated the effective measures undertaken by DAM for long term support for the children to mainstream them in the society.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT FORUM

Program Manager M. Jahangir Hossain of AMCC delivered a lively, interesting and thematically resourceful presentation on the topic “Current Activities of AMCC and Future Plan” in the monthly Knowledge Management Forum (KMF) session held on 1st September 2016 at DAM conference room on the 4th floor. The session was presided over by TMD Director Kazi Mohammad Abu Hasem. AMCC Program Manager made a vivid presentation with 23 slides highlighting key aspects of the project. Two VDOs were also displayed focusing various activities of children city. In his brief but lively presentation child policy, number of street children in the country, definition of street children by UNICEF, declaration of the Prime Minister about street children, specific goals of AMCC, challenges and future plan of AMCC were included. There was huge audience to attend the presentation. Beyond DAM there were participants representing different organizations such as PARI, LEEDO, AB and others.



ANNUAL SPORTS AND CULTURAL PROGRAM



Two day long Annual sports competition was held from 9-10 February 2016. According to rule children were clustered into three groups: small, middle and large. Through flying balloons in the sky the competition was opened by Union council chairman. The annual sport covered a number of events such as run, high jump, long jump, biscuit race, math race, pillow passing, cock fight, race with spoon (held in mouth) and marble, balanced run, pulling of rope and dress as you like etc. The sports event followed by cultural competition which was enjoyed by children and local audience. In the competitions recitation of poems, religious songs, folk songs, country music, individual role play and jokes were included. In the prize distribution ceremony vice president of Panchagarh Zila krira sangstha Mirja Nazmul Hossain Kajal was present as special guest. He assured AMCC to give necessary supports.

COMPUTER LAB

Children City has a computer lab of 6 computers. A teacher is responsible for training up children about the basic concept on a computer. Kids spend a happy time in the computer lab playing games and seeing videos of their interest. The plan is to expand the lab with more computers up to 20 at least. Ahsanullah University of Science & Technology (AUST) donated 5 computers to AMCC computer lab. University authority has also ensured to provide more computers to the computer lab.



FRIENDLY MATCHES

AMCC kids played 6 cricket matches and 3 football matches with local teams. Out of those matches AMCC kids won 4 football and 2 cricket matches. AMCC has a large play ground suitable for holding any tournament. External teams are invited to play matches with host teams. In future plan, football tournaments inviting local schools and football clubs is to be arranged.



STUDENT COUNCIL



In addition to ensuring quality education for all the children of the center, AMCC is giving emphasis to develop qualities like respect to democratic practices, social values and norms, tolerance to different opinions, help teachers in taking classes and take part in every development activity of AMCC. In order to make sure participation of the children in development activity and building a sense of responsibility and leadership among children, student council election is held every year. This year election was held in March 2016 with huge zeal and enthusiasm among children. Election schedule was declared a month's ahead for 7 posts of student council. To conduct the election one election commissioner, one presiding officer and two polling officers were assigned from students. Many nomination papers were submitted and finally the election commissioner accepted the nomination papers of 13 candidates. There were rallies, campaigns, sticking of posters in favor of the candidates. On 15/03/2016 the polling started on schedule in a festive mood. Out of 148 votes 13 votes were rejected. Each voter could cast 7 votes. Calculation of the total casting votes reflects the most popular boys in the center bagged majority of the votes to win the election. The winners are as follows 1. Biblob Babu- class IV (98 votes), 2. Imran - class IV (98 votes), 3. Mohammad Safar - class III (94 votes), 4. Mohammad Arif- class IV (86 votes), 5. Mohammad Arif (2) class V (86 votes), 6. Mohammad Rony , Class V (71 votes) and 7. Akash of class II received 70 votes.

Social Work



Collection of criteria based children is a regular task of social workers with reintegration to family being another key thrust of AMCC. 15 children have been collected so far. The major activities done by social workers are : opening of 25 new children's profiles , General Diary Entry (GDE), arranging 2 children meetings, birth registration of 20 children done and another 10 are in progress, 105 children were taken to the community as part of socialization and mainstreaming with society and finally a number of police stations and government offices were communicated including Joypurhat and Panchagarh Social Work offices and Rangpur Sadar police station to trace the families of the missing children.

Four children were reintegrated to the family. Among them Alamin, several ten year old boy, was rehabilitated to the family after he had been in this center for 3 years. Through attempts and hard works by social workers and counselors finally the family was tracked down and Alamin was handed over to family. Members of family were deeply impressed and happy to find lost child. Subsequently as per family decision his uncle arrived AMCC Panchagarh and requested management to keep the child. Now Alamin is growing up happily in the center.

Visitors

MEDIA TEAM



A five members Media Team led by Christina Grawe visited Panchagarh from 17-22 January 2016. The Bangkok based Media Team shot the activities of AMCC for 5 days in order to prepare a VDO documentary. The other members of the team were Stephen Kugler (Photographer), Christian Hermann (KNH Rep), Francisco Martin Lopez (VDO crew), Anuscha Joahannes Engchuan (Audio crew). The media team was guided by Maruf Momotaj Rumi and supported by AMCC staff.



VISITS OF DAM PRESIDENT KAZI RAFIQU ALAM

DAM president Kazi Rafiqul Alam visited Panchagarh for 3 days from 6th to 8th March 2016. He was accompanied by AMCC Vice President Shahnewaz Khan and PRD Director M. Ali Reza during the visit. He visited the construction site of 2nd five story building of Panchagarh and expressed his satisfaction over the progress of work. He had series of meetings with children, staff and community people. Children were highly delighted to find DAM President amid them so closely ever. A grand reception was given to DAM President on his arrival to children city by the elected student counselors. Children presented their hand sketched drawings to the President and honorable guests of DAM. The President of Dhaka Ahsania Mission and president of AMCC , Kazi Rafiqul Alam, and AMCC vice president Shahnewaz Khan visited Panchagarh AMCC center on 28th July 2015 and stayed there till 30th July 2015. During their visit they monitor all activities especially education programmes of the children. They observed the on-going educational activities, health care services, psychosocial care and all other activities. They sat with the children and discussed various issues with them. The president and vice president of AMCC also had discussion meetings with all the staffs and share findings of their visit. Kazi Rafiqul Alam requested all staff to maintain quality and targets in all areas to make this center a unique center in Bangladesh to serve more distress children. President and Vice president of AMCC also attended meeting of the advisory committee and thanked them for their continuous support. In the meeting Shahnewaz Khan shared the idea of possible extension of the AMCC project with P&G funding.

Other Initiatives

LIBRARY

This quarter children regularly visited library for reading books. 263 books were issued in the names of children of mixed age group. By reading interesting and amusing books, reading habits and skill are growing increasingly amid children. SCAN president donated 200 copies of different colorful books for children of AMCC. He formally handed over the books to program Manager in an informal ceremony at DAM head office. SCAN president handing over a set of colourful books to PM-AMCC for the library of AMCC.



EDUCATION FAIR



AMCC organized an education fair on 23/03/2016. The fair was formally opened by Panchagarh DC Mr. Amalkrisna Mondol who was also the chief guest of the opening ceremony. Among others KNH- Germany Bangladesh representative Maruf Momotaj Rumi, AMCC Program Manager M. Jahangir Hossain, advisors of CVAC, teachers of participating schools & colleges, legal guardians, community people and students were present. Deputy Commissioner, Panchagarh visited all the stalls of the fair. Then in his speech as chief guest he thanked Dhaka Ahsania Mission for taking such initiative for rehabilitation of street children and assured all supports to AMCC on behalf of DC office. M. Jahangir Hossain in his welcome speech highlighted the objectives of AMCC and called for supports from all quarters for successful implementation of the project. KNH- Germany Bangladesh representative Maruf Momotaj Rumi, Hafizabad Union chairman, legal guardians and school teachers also spoke on the occasion. Then the education fair was ended with a cultural show followed by handing over crests to the representatives of participating schools and colleges.

Agriculture



Skill development of the children has been central with key thrust on agriculture within the aspect of program. Participation in agricultural works by children is regular in AMCC. Agriculture expert provide orientation and trainings to the children in small groups. AMCC received assistance from government office about sesame cultivation. Officers from agriculture department visited AMCC 8 times. Last year children grew mustard seed and wheat in the agriculture field and produced mustard oil and wheat flour and sold them to the DAM head office employees. There are so many trees planted by children such as lychee, mahogany, guava, mango, bay leaves etc. They also cultivated different vegetables, such as radish, red spinach, pumpkin and gourd. Children have set up cow shed for cattle farming. A small poultry farm of 20 chickens is existing in the backyard of AMCC building.

Health Care

A fulltime experienced paramedic is available for 24/7, responsible for ensuring regular health check-up, necessary treatment and a healthy and clean environment in the center. Children's individual height, weight, eyesight power are examined and records kept in the child profiles. Children found with assorted diseases at the time of enrolment which are treated carefully. During the reporting period many children were treated for psora (36), scabbies (97), chicken pox (32) etc. Four children were referred to ENT experts. 79 sick children were taken to Sadar Hospital. 36 children were circumcised from local hospital free of cost.

Following health care services given

- Regular health check-up: Children's health status is done twice a month.
- Total 6 times health check-up was done.
- Medicines provide to 132 children
- 36 children were circumcised in the Sadar Hospital.
- 155 kids were given health related education in the classes
- Local Fire Service was communicated to facilitate a realistic training on earthquake
- No blood grouping done during the quarter
- De-worming pills given to 155 kids and 20 staffs of AMCC
- 4 hands on theoretical and practical training provided to 18 tiny doctors
- Health tips given to 15 AMCC staff
- Keeping in touch with local government health offices
- Received 30 pairs of socks from Civil Surgeon office
- Application submitted to Civil Surgeon office for essential drugs, saline and related stuff

Counseling

FOSTERING: Last year 150 children were taken to the nearby community as part of fostering. Children were also taken to Tetulia, Rangpur, Panchagarh, Sitmahal, Katabon and sightseeing places like Maharajar dighi etc. Through fostering mental as well as attitudinal changes noticed in the children who were mostly disturbed.

COUNSELING: In total 305 individual counseling sessions and 105 group counseling sessions were held during this reporting period. The counseling sessions made some major changes in the attitudes of children. Tension among the children has reduced and intensity of desperate behaviors was minimized. As a result positive and clear impression about the center is created. Individual counseling sessions developed children's disciplinary attitudes, cleanliness and helped them to overcome various negative behavioral problems. On the other hand, the group counseling sessions helped them to adapt and cope up with different situations.



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AMCC

Making difference in a child's life