

**Bangladesh Water Partnership**  
**Monthly Report**  
**April, 2014**

**1. Capacity building of youth brigade in rural based secondary and primary schools on water, sanitation and hygiene in southwestern region**

Bangladesh Folklore Research Institute (BFRI) and its component Gorai Area Water Partnership (GAWP) in collaboration with Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP) organized awareness campaign program among students of rural based secondary and primary schools regarding use of Water Sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

WASH program was undertaken by BFRI and GAWP at four secondary and four primary schools at each of the two Upozila, namely, Kushtia Sadar and Mirpur.

20 students from each of the four classes of beginning from Class VI to Class IX of Secondary schools numbering ( 80X4) 320 were trained in WASH program and they became part of the School Health Brigade. 20 students from four Primary Schools beginning from Class III to Class V numbering (60X4) 240 were also trained accordingly and formed part of the Health Brigade. The total number stands to 560. These brought about a remarkable change in their outlook or attitude in health and hygiene.

The methodology used :

- a) Brain storming b) Power point presentation c) Experience sharing d) Group discussion e) Questions and answer session.
- b) A team of experts from Public Health Engineering (PHE) from each Upozila together with Upozila Education Officer ( UEO), School Committee members formed in each school with the Head Masters as Chairman and 2 teachers one male and the other female, Program Coordinators of BFRI helped create an awareness among the students through in-depth training in the selected schools and brought in the desired change. The school committee regularly held meetings and got the feedback from the students. The students also practiced WASH in schools and in their houses. The

community leaders (Chairman and members of Union Parisad) who joined the workshop program also conveyed the message to the community. The Youth Brigade in Schools under the guidance of their teachers also changed the attitude of the students and their parents in the family.

Initially a meeting with the UNO and concerned officials together with the Chairman, Members of Union Parisad, Head Masters and selected teachers of schools along with the Chairman of the Governing Body of schools was very fruitful. The UNO asked all concerned to help materialize the program as this is a national problem concerning health and hygiene of the rural based people including students and youths. The Youth Brigade formed in each school and regular supervision by the committee members of the schools and BFRI contributed to the change. More over cultural, essay competitions and debating helped greatly in bringing about a change in the attitude of the students and other members of the society.

As the majority people living in rural based society are illiterate and not prone to development stood as barriers, particularly the mothers and women folk. They follow the conventional practices not using the sanitary latrine and health tips. Their children also follow their parents accordingly. Poverty is one of the factors in having toilets and soaps in the houses. Many of the families do not have tube-wells. Non formal education and supply of sanitary latrines and tube-wells by the Government and the NGO would go a long way in solving the problem. Necessary training of the community leaders together with youth brigade in the community might be helpful.

To add more : Our society is made corrupt by the so called community leaders and it is difficult to find volunteers without payment. National spirit is very much lacking. Irresponsible politics also added greatly and stand as barriers to development.

Reports of WASH programs ( workshops, meetings, etc came in the News Papers and these also caught the attention of the people.

We need to arrange a mass demonstration program in Upozila and district Headquarters initially then whole southwestern region may be involved. Students

of colleges and universities should also be involved in this program . Regular follow-up meetings are also very much needed. Otherwise the achievement made would be made lost.

## **2. Promoting Safe Water Management & Climate Change Adaptation through Secondary Schools in Chitra-Nabaganga Area Water Partnership**

Bangladesh is one of the most climate vulnerable countries of the world. Climate changes and its impacts have been showing alarming adverse affects on water resources, environment and its related activities, in addition to distorting and/or exposing the people to known and unknown complex challenges.

The objective of the project/present research is to build knowledge capacity of youths about climate change and its adaptation and mitigation in water resources and its use perspectives inside Chitra-Nabaganga AWP in Narail district.

The specific objectives are:

1. Educate youths about climate change and its impacts as well as its adaptation and mitigation. The youths (boys and girls) will be targeted from selected 4 secondary schools and additional girls from homes in village inside AWP.
2. Facilitate development of knowledge thru exchange of information in an essay competition or discussion workshop among the youths from 4 secondary schools and villages.
3. Review and document climate change related issues as included in the school books.

### Main activities done until April 2014

The following main activities were done:

1. Informed about the study activities to Area Water Partnership Committee Narail, LGED Narail, District & Thana education officers of Narail.

2. Four secondary schools have been selected for the study after consultation with Thana education officers and based on school's interest to active participation. Also schools have been selected on the basis of most climate change vulnerable areas within Chitra-Nabaganga river basin. Four selected schools are – i) Kashipur AC Secondary School, ii) KDARK Secondary School,iii) Lohagara Lakshipasa Pilot Girls High School, and iv) Mirapara Secondary School. Total number of the student of the schools is about 2176 including 867 boys (39.8%) and 1309 girls (60.2%);

1. Schools profile has been done in selected school on social, water access and use, sanitation.

2. Baseline surveys were done among 100 students in the selected four schools (25 from each school). The information was collected related on multi-disciplinary variables, such as knowledge on safe water, hygienic latrine, IWRM and climate change impacts.

3. Announcement and distribution of letters through Thana education officer among the local schools authority about essay competition. The theme of the essay competition "Climate change impacts in your area and its possible mitigation". The essay will consist of minimum 800 words. All head masters have been requested to collect the essay within 15<sup>th</sup> May'14. After receiving the essay best 05 essays will be selected and will be rewarded 1000 Tk each in the workshop of World Environmental Day on June 2014.

4. Developed training materials based on school text book for school students and the training has been started from 4<sup>th</sup> week of April 2014.