



HORIZON OF HOPE

A documentation
of MAAWS projects



MAAWS
for Global Welfare Inc.

A Non Profit Organization



A Govt. Approved and Registered Non profit organization with Administrative cost less then 7%

OUR MISSION

MAAWS exists to empower the socially, educationally and economically deprived communities through education, training and action programs in the formal and non-formal fields.

The founder, Munshi Ali, though himself a rich landlord, keenly understood the economic imbalance existing in the society in his time, resolutely stressed almost one century ago, on:

Women empowerment thru Education/

Training to alleviate Poverty & Hunger.

Rains, floods, recurrent in Common people For the rainy MAAWS. Not handling, but them to fish, not to give a days food but, teaching them to fish all their life.

cyclones are Bangladesh. suffer most. days stands p a n - teaching attempting

Bangladesh, slightly smaller than Wisconsin, is located in Southern Asia, bordering the Bay of Bengal, and also between Burma and India. The country is mostly a flat alluvial plain and hilly in southeastern part. The Geographic coordinates are 24 00 N, 90 00 E .Total Area is 144,000 sq km where the landmass is 133,910 sq km and water bodies are : 10,090 sq km

Despite sustained domestic and international efforts to improve economic and demographic prospects, Bangladesh remains one of the world's poorest, most densely populated, and least developed nations. Annual GDP growth has averaged over 4% in recent years from a low base. Its economy is largely agricultural, with the cultivation of rice the single most important activity in the economy.

Major impediments to growth include frequent cyclones and floods, the inefficiency of state-owned enterprises, frequent strikes, a rapidly growing labor force that cannot be absorbed by agriculture, delays in exploiting energy resources (natural gas), inadequate power supplies, and slow implementation of economic reforms

Natural hazards are continually affecting Bangladesh at regular intervals, they include droughts and cyclones. Additionally, much of Bangladesh is routinely flooded during the summer monsoon season.

Other issues affecting us include: many people are

landless and forced to live on and cultivate in flood-prone lands / areas. There is limited access to potable water; water-borne diseases is prevalent; water pollution especially in fishing areas results from the use of

commercial pesticides. Intermittent water shortages because of falling water tables, arsenic contaminated water degraded water bodies; deforestation and severe overpopulation are among the causes of impeded economic growth.



Uplifting Human Life in Nature's

Terror Belt
The Fault in Earth's crust causes a funnel effect and cyclonic winds rush thru this funnel causing devastation to life & property. Cyclones occur regularly in Bangladesh costal area.

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

The project area is situated in the interior village the target area is 12 Miles East of Noakhali Sadar HQ and one mile inside from Chittagong-Noakhali-Dhaka Highway Distance from Chittagong 80 Miles Distance from Dhaka 165 Miles.



Cycle of Operation



IDENTIFICATION OF AREAS & TARGET GROUPS

MAAWS has already --

- identified problems and constraints in achieving sustainable improvements and articulate to local needs;
- through information, training and support MAAWS is trying to bring into focus the improvement of traditionally underrepresented or disadvantaged working groups.
- MAAWS would like to bring in the lessons learned through worldwide experience to bear on local and ultimately national problems and provide guidelines on what is needed for technically sound and sustainable fisheries, agricultural production agrobiodiversity, arsenic and water resource management and development.



FUNCTIONAL SETUP



Additionally our unemployment rate is very high today it stands at : 39.5%

Bangladesh Age structure: will clearly indicate on the one hand the root of MAAWS success which is ingrained in the population factor and on the other MAAWS effort to improve the lot of the working people who are above 45 years of age.

0-14 years: 38% (male 24,339,519; female 23,377,955)
 15-64 years: 59% (male 38,897,130; female 36,818,818)
 65 years and over: 3% (male 2,239,638; female 1,893,942)

Sex ratio:

This will clearly demonstrate the importance of involving women in the MAAWS programs to a greater degree as well as training them more for continued performance and output.

At birth: 1.05 male(s) / female under 15 years:
 1.04 male(s) / female 15-64 years:
 1.06 male(s) / female 65 years and over:
 1.18 male(s) / female



Working procedures

Overseas Office

manages all Public relations, funding, linkages.

Overseas Office

- Reports to funding authorities
- gives all feed-back
- Negotiates new deals or new approaches
- Expands and builds on new alliances and ideas.

Local Office

- Takes up and executes programs.
- Feeds Overseas Office.



OUR PROJECTS

LITERACY PROGRAMS

THE PERCENTAGE OF LITERACY IN BANGLADESH IS ONLY 23%. INCLUDES BASIC LITERACY, NUMERACY, READING. THE CONCEPT IS TO SPREAD LITERACY.

AGRI FARMING

INCREASE PRODUCTION OF RICE, WHEAT, CORN & PRODUCE FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION

NEW LIFE FUND

COMMUNITY MARRIAGE

WATER RESOURCES & ARSENIC MANAGEMENT

ABATEMENT OF THE CURSE OF ARSENIC IN WELLS. SEARCH FOR ALTERNATIVE SOURCES FOR SAFE CONSUMABLE DRINKING WATER. ADVOCATE RESTRICTIONS ON USAGE OF WELL WATER, GROUND WATER LEVELS AND AWARENESS ON WATER TABLES.

COMPUTER LEARNING CENTER

JOB LEVEL BASIC TO ADVANCED TRAINING IN OFFICE 2000 & ADVANCE PROGRAMS.

THIS PROGRAM IS INTENDED FOR WOMEN SO THAT THEY CAN BE A CAPABLE WORK FORCE IN OUR DISTRICT AREA AS WELL AS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

SEWING PROJECT

MARKING, CUTTING, STITCHING, QUALITY CONTROL & PACKING

THIS IS A COMPOSITE PROJECT WHERE WE ARE TRAINING GROUPS WHO WILL BE CAPABLE TO ULTIMATELY HANDLE HIGH-END MARKET PRODUCTS. THEIR TRAINING INVOLVES FROM CUTTING AND MARKING TO STITCHING AND PRODUCTION AND ULTIMATELY PACKING. THEY ARE BEING TRAINED TO MEET DEMANDS FOR TODAY'S FASHION INDUSTRY. PRESENTLY THEY ARE A FULLY CAPABLE WORK FORCE TO PRODUCE ANY KIND OF GARMENT FOR LOW-END LOCAL MARKETS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. LAST YEAR THEY EARNED TK 20,000.

FISHING & AQUA CULTURE

WATER-BODIES RECLAMATION & ENVIRONMENT

THIS PROJECT INVOLVES IN COMPLETE RECLAMATION OF UNUSABLE WATER BODIES FOR SWEET WATER FISH FARMING AND SELLING THEM FOR LOCAL MARKETS

RICKSHAW PROGRAMS.

PAY-AS-YOU-EARN

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

SUPPORTING THE LESS FORTUNATE MECHANICAL, AUTOMOBILE, CARPENTRY, PLUMBING & ELECTRICITY

HAND LOOM

WEAVING CLOTH / MOSQUITO NETS / TOWELS FOR LOCAL MARKET

HEALTH

AIDS/HIV AWARENESS, BIRTH AND POPULATION CONTROL.

POULTRY & LIVESTOCK

GROWING, REARING AND MARKETING

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

FRIDAY SOUP KITCHEN

HOUSING

BUILDING FOR THE SENIORS & WIDOWS

FUNERALS

THIS PROJECT IS TO BURY THE LESS FORTUNATE WHO HAVE NO MEANS AND DEPEND ON THE COMMUNITY TO PERFORM THE FUNERAL RITES.





OPERATIONAL APPROACH



MAAWS is in providing welfare for the community through education, health, income generating, farm land utilization, vocational training to meet exigencies in the rural sector. We are trying our best to mobilize resources from donor, get the business communities, civil society involved to provide technical assistance for the disadvantaged. Access to newer farm lands and tapping natural or man made water bodies and proper management of water resources is crucial to agriculture, food security, water shortage and ultimately to income generation. Extensive and continued efforts would be possible only through funding and informative assistance of major agencies in respective fields.

SECTORAL INITIATIVES



MAAWS's initiative is to involve the private sector in poverty alleviation, which is probably the best way to address poverty, particularly when donor is dwindling into limited and regionalized support. Rural poverty in Bangladesh is a direct result of unequal and limited access to productive resources, including land, capital and trained human resources. The poor, if not landless, often till low-quality soils that make their agricultural income very often inadequate for maintaining a minimum respectable living. Many have no access to technical know-how, formal credit and are therefore burdened with rising debt at exorbitant rate of interest.

MANAGEMENT EXPERTISE



Managers at MAAWS understand how to conserve and manage their fishery and related resources. Within their area of work they are fully responsible for working out improved fishery management systems. The most successful manager's work becomes a model for others to follow. They do their best to utilize whatever bare support the government or other NGOs offer.

MAAWS IN SEARCH FOR



MAAWS is looking for a continuing constructive collaboration with donor agencies and / or NGOs who would take part in major MAAWS initiatives, by providing MAAWS with information, design and approach of similar ongoing inland fishery development projects and also how the harvest is traded for nationwide consumption. The support will help MAAWS to conduct well-informed campaigns to influence public opinion in newer areas for increased and efficient farming, fisheries and water resource management.

PROVIDING EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS : FISHERIES SECTOR

Today, MAAWS is directly presenting effective solutions through reclamation of small medium and large water bodies which otherwise would be seriously be detrimental to environmental concerns. MAAWS is trying its best to develop the inland sweet water fishery into an local industry whereby small-scale fisheries' and fish workers' may have active interests. The ultimate objectives are to bring



about food security and improve food quality, increase protein intake, and solve the nutritional needs locally in the working areas and ultimately the larger communities.

MAAWS's contribution to fisheries sector is through participation of indigenous fish workers and guiding them towards responsible fishing practices. Through this effort MAAWS is not only protecting their interests but also their livelihoods.

NEW LIFE PROGRAM



For self-preservation MAAWS, has a gender-responsive strategies, by building on local knowledge and systems we have devised a very effective program called NEW LIFE. Men and women who have very different skills and knowledge are joined together by marriage. The union creates a self-supporting environment meeting local conditions, practices, customs, needs and priorities. Their social bondage by matrimony is enhanced practically. As an example we would like to point out through this program man and woman plays a new role in consolidating their income, social position and earn the much-needed self-esteem. Under the new role and relationships the man gets a Rickshaw that he drives and the woman trained at MAAWS Garments Training Center used her skill to make garments for local consumption. Their everyday input experientially becomes a part of the collective knowledge base of the organization and this tested understanding put to practice through adaptation helps in the preservation of the working people in our operational vicinity. MAAWS is committed to work with donors, NGOs technical partners in following up existing programmes as well as expanding on the above activities to promote implementation of gender-responsive strategies and programmes.



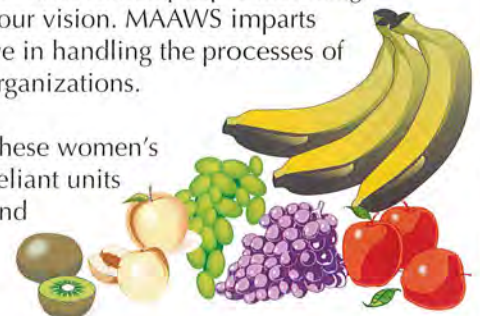
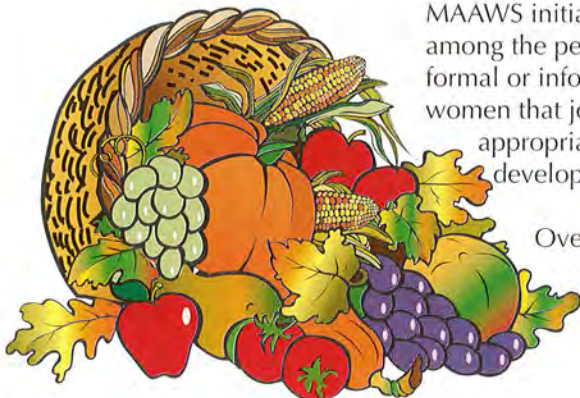
WOMEN & MAAWS

We are trying our best to increase awareness of the people at grass root level particularly women, to participate in solving their problem, larger participation of people and communities will lead to increased activity and ultimately aid local economic development. We expect soon MAAWS shall shortly be able to develop effective informative rural infrastructure that will contribute to the economic development of the community.

MAAWS has taken a practical process of community participation by using multi level forums and also utilizing small amount of available social capital from the community.

MAAWS initiates and fosters the evolution of community-based organizations from among the people. It also supports other local level institutions like schools and formal or informal groups of tradesman, teachers and other skilled people including women that join hands with us in the realization of our vision. MAAWS imparts appropriate skills to them to make them effective in handling the processes of development of their own communities and organizations.

Over a period of time we will coordinate these women's groups into institutionalized into self-reliant units with autonomy in decision-making, fund raising and administration.





Concern Action for Women



- Women empowerment
- Generate awareness through group discussions
- Organize and unite women
- Organize workshops (discuss problems, analyze problems and present posters/talks, present videos/plays)
- Organize women's meetings and conferences
- Predominantly impoverished agricultural laborers with no regular work, dependent on loans from landlords, and children who are forced into bonded labor
- Income generation
- Organize women
- Train in dairy management and savings and credit management
- Provide women with milk animals, fodder, animal medicines
- Prevent denudation of forests (by decreasing use of firewood as fuel) and improve health and hygiene (by water purification, etc.)
- Area is prone to flooding and low crop yield
- Due to food scarcity and a lack of health information, numerous children are born each year with mental retardation and many suffer other serious childhood illnesses
- Birth and population control awareness
- Health/Preventative care
- Provide prenatal and delivery services to indigent population
- Organization anticipates to run a small maternity hospital
- Run health camps, wherein many eminent obstetricians and neonatologists discuss pre-natal and post-natal care with expecting couples and provide polio drops, other immunizations, and pre-natal vitamins
- Redirect the abandoned women towards more environmentally-friendly opportunities
- AIDS/HIV Awareness





Arsenic Programs

One of the most noted experts on Arsenic contamination in Bangladesh has this to say about the problem:

Professor Alan Smith of UCAC Berkeley, California, says that, "arsenic in Bangladesh drinking water is the worst manmade chemical calamity in human history. It far exceeds any previous disasters such as the 1984 incident at a pesticide plant in Bhopal, India. Lives of millions of people are at stake... he continues by saying that arsenic poisoning is not new and contamination of drinking water had occurred elsewhere. In Bangladesh, a well-meaning program to provide safe drinking water had caused this huge tragedy. Previously, thousands of people were dying from drinking germ-laden surface water from ponds and rivers."

A 50 parts per billion (ppb) is the maximum permissible limit (MPL) of arsenic concentration in drinking water is allowed in many countries including Bangladesh but WHO recommends a 10 ppb. The US congress has asked the US government to come up with a new standard, which will probably be close to the WHO standard.

Presently the shallow tube wells (less than 100 meters deep) are affected, although in a few cases wells below 300 meters had arsenic above acceptable levels.

THE PROJECT APPROACH:

MAAWS has been actively advocating for expanding the coverage of safe water. Should it seal off the affected tube wells, create a water crisis and expose millions of people to the risks and hazards of diarrhea? Or should it attempt to manage the likely outcome of arsenic poisoning? Neither option offered a complete solution.

FINDING A SOLUTION:

MAAWS found a middle way to deal with the situation. MAAWS began spearheading testing and inspection of all its existing tube-wells. In addition, testing is also undertaken during the process of installation of new tube-wells and, where there is probable risk of arsenic contamination, the digging is abandoned and alternative low-arsenic sites are located instead.

Wherever arsenic levels exceed the Bangladesh standard of 0.05 mg/l, the targeted tube-wells are prominently marked. The local communities are informed and educated through regular campaigns to use the high-arsenic contaminated tube-well water only for general household use but not for drinking and cooking purposes. MAAWS began education campaigns to sensitize communities about the dangers of arsenic poisoning, the symptoms to look out for, some safeguards and how to build immunity to the susceptibility of arsenic-related diseases as well as how and where to seek a treatment.

THE OUTCOME:

Despite extensive public health education campaigns, some people continue to use contaminated water due to ignorance and disbelief. At other times, they remain complacent because they have no symptoms of arsenic poisoning despite having consumed contaminated water for many years. Often, the symptoms are confused with malnutrition and ignored till it is too late.

MAAWS is trying to provide alternative less-risky sources of water for drinking and cooking to the communities. The problem in almost all areas is that there is no substitute for the contaminated tube-wells. This

is a grim situation.

MAAWS tried to stop local people from dealing with the arsenic problem by using old techniques like boiling the water or by filtering it to remove impurities. The result is at best psychological satisfaction. Yet after these steps the arsenic content remains as high and hazardous as before despite these measures. And the family's susceptibility to arsenic diseases remains unchanged.

MAAWS is trying to provide new initiatives. By finding low-cost technology solution to the problem of arsenic in ground water. In the long term, we are trying to look towards pond sand filtration systems, rainwater harvesting and other solutions. Wherever such methods have so far been used, they have been found to be effective. People are being encouraged to store rainwater during the monsoons – on rooftops, in large earthen pots, in storage tanks. Other communities are getting together to set up rainwater harvesting plants with large capacities to serve the needs of several families.

Regardless of the measures used our experience has demonstrated the power of creating alliances between NGOs, with the participation of local communities and government bodies.

We have to find solution to Arsenic in Ground water by searching for alternatives to Rural Water Needs which must be in line with the global methods. At the moment all we could do is provide methods for arsenic free safe water such as Rain-Water Harvesting, Pond Sand Filter, three pitcher filters, alum coagulation method and others. MAAWS is trying to focus on issues like:

- What is the extent and severity of the problem in Earpur, Senbagh & Noakhali?
- Why this happened?
- How can this be addressed?
- How can non-resident Bangladeshi's (NRB's) help?



SEWING & COMPUTER PROJECT



PERSPECTIVE

We are working to improve training, so that it will run more smoothly. Some of the alumni have started to work for local NGOs, and advise local people on poultry raising, vegetable cultivation, sewing and garments production for local consumption, low-end markets as well as computer to develop the poor among other things.

In Bangladesh, it seems that social environment for woman has been gradually changing. Increasingly, women choose their own directions for the future. MAAWS intends to principally train instructors in specialized fields, who are eager to improve their lives, knowledge and skills. We also support their active participation in the local communities.



BACKGROUND

We firmly believe that women's participation is indispensable for the keeping out hunger and poverty. Therefore comes our program on training for women. Situation in Earpur in Noakhali is the same as elsewhere in Bangladesh consequently, we need to empower the poor and the disadvantaged, and help them to consolidate economic freedom and relieve themselves from the culture of the dominance-dependence syndrome: the poor, the weak and the vulnerable continue to depend on the rich and elite and are subjected to their domination. Similarly, we notice that the market listens to those with purchasing power; the poor are excluded from the market. "Trickle down" has little effect on poverty in our region. Therefore, we have taken up the task of organizing the poor through self-development marketable skills that will produce economic returns.

MAAWS's self help sewing training groups are gaining force. We train the women provide them material and encourage them to produce low-end market garments for local market consumption during the holiday seasons. Results have been spectacular.

Whether through micro credits, adult and non-formal education, health, small-scale irrigation, or non-formal indigenous employment, we have demonstrated our strength. We are emphasizing on empowering the poor and marginalized, "the poorest of the poor", and mobilizing the poor through their work, exerting pressure on local businesses, wealthy individuals, government bodies to respond to issues of the poor majority.

On poverty alleviation, MAAWS is working side by side with government efforts. Our principal contribution lies in being able to demonstrate participatory approaches and models that can be replicated for others to follow. Our self-help groups have enhanced effectiveness, improved efficiency and have better outreach capabilities to address poverty alleviation and localized development. We are ensuring responsible, transparent, efficient and good governance mechanisms.

The worst manifestations of poverty - squalor, illiteracy, ignorance and hunger persist. There is a growing realization that both 'State' and

'Market' have failed to protect the interests of the poor and vulnerable. The silver lining in these dark clouds is the presence of organizations like MAAWS hence we are applying this practiced participatory approach to development of women.

Our experience has amply demonstrated that decentralized rural development is essential for our progress and the well-being of the poor people. Our approach is therefore under four broad areas: economic empowerment, social empowerment, participation and gender-related development programs. Our working methods have shown that our process has direct impact which our groups have shown already. We need help to further enhance the effectiveness and allowing us to improve the efficiency and outreach of poverty alleviation and rural development programmes. Well-informed citizenry can ensure responsible, transparent, efficient and good governance precisely this is what MAAWS is inculcating and doing.





Continuation from Page 7

Arsenic-caused diseases in many parts of the world including Argentina, Chile, and West Bengal. By drinking arsenic-contaminated water there has been incidence of lung, liver and bladder cancers. Females exposed to arsenic for long time are exhibiting 60 times higher mortality from respiratory diseases than normal. Skin cancers also appear later in life. In Bangladesh affected people show ghastly crusts on their palms and feet, skin lesions, and cancers.

MAAWS would like a rapid implementation of a reasonably appropriate water treatment technology in the short-term even if it is not the most sophisticated one. Over longer term one can switch to more advanced technologies. She contended that the alternative of boiling arsenic-free surface water, proposed often, at present seems to be the most feasible alternative.

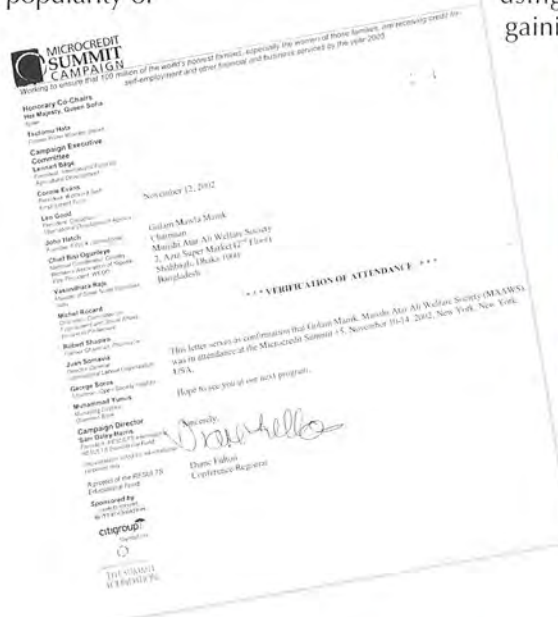
We are using two main approaches to address the problem. One is tapping sources of arsenic-free water. Nearly 60% of the shallow tube wells were arsenic free. Also, the water in upper part of the contaminated shallow aquifer was relatively arsenic-free. Using of arsenic-free surface water is another option. However, this water contains pathogens and must be treated. Rainwater harvesting has been done in our area but is not as simple and easy process. The second approach to address the problem is using Alum with bleaching powder. This is very effective in removing both major types of arsenic that arises. MAAWS is making a strong plea to the experts and the expatriates to help Bangladesh, a poor country with limited resources, with ideas and technical know-how in solving this problem.



MAAWS AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Localized Intervention: Global Participation

This concept of using micro-funds for poverty alleviation has proved miracles in economic development and emancipation worldwide. Increasingly the LLDC countries including the developed and underdeveloped ones are accepting the concept and using micro-credit is gaining worldwide



CEO Mr. Manik with Dr. Yunus During a Break

The CEO Golam Mawla Manik, attending the Micro Credit Summit in New York, October 2002.

TABLE 1:
SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF BANGLADESH
– SOME SELECT INDICATORS

Items	Year	Bangladesh
Population below 'poverty line'		
Number (millions)	1995	55
National poverty line (%)	1989-94	48.0
GNP per capita (US\$)	1995	240
Life expectancy at birth (years)	1960	40.0
	1995	56.9
Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	1960	151
	1996	83
Gross enrollment ratio for all levels (%)	1980	30
	1994	39
Adult literacy rate(%)	1970	24.0
	1995	38.1

Note:

- Sources: 1) UNDP human development report 1997, 1998.
- 2) World development report 1997
- 3) Human development in South Asia 1997, 1998.



TYPES OF MAAWS MEMBERS

MAAWS has three types of members: petty vendors and hawkers, home-based producers and casual laborers and other service providers. Its objectives are to increase women's earning opportunities, improve working environment and enhance the status of women. It organizes women into self help groups and producer cooperatives, forms them into savings and credit cooperatives, provides seed money and trained to upgrade skills in bamboo craft, block printing, plumbing, carpentry and accounting and management. MAAWS extends rural development through women's leadership; helps organize women's groups in the central government

NGO COLLABORATION

Synergy between MAAWS and other NGOs, CBOs & CSOs is being tapped for the benefit of the poor. This can mutually strengthen our capacities to help alleviate poverty. We have the human resources and material as well as the participatory approaches. Our self help groups, have demonstrated the ability to reach the poor and to empower marginal groups by challenging gender-stereotype for participatory development. A convergence between the two can produce significant results this is what MAAWS has demonstrated. Such collaboration is more urgent than ever before in view of the structural adjustment programmes that are in place in most South Asian countries around Bangladesh

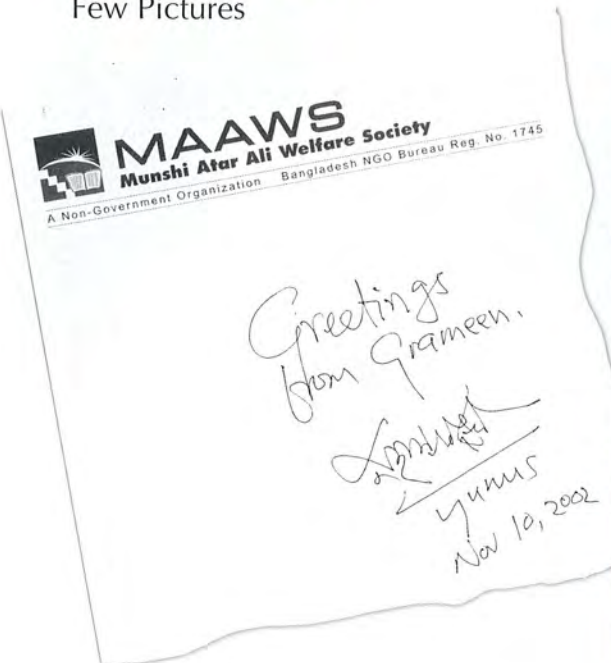
RECENT ACTIVITIES

The MAAWS puts women into priority on women's social roles and aims at administering education and vocational training for women. MAAWS provides training and an instruction to improve their lives. This center especially focuses on: 1) teaching skills that will enable the women to earn cash incomes, 2) education geared toward improving health and building a sanitary environment, and 3) teaching high-yielding agricultural techniques. Long and short-term training courses were offered at the beginning. Approximately 30 trainees were accepted for the six-month long-term course, and 20 trainees accepted for each one-month short-term course. In particular, our aim has been to foster female leaders in rural areas through the long-term course, and diffuse an awareness of improving life through simple techniques.





Reminiscences of the 2002
World Micro Credit
Summit New York -
Few Pictures



Greetings from
Dr. Yunus
Inventor of Grameen Bank

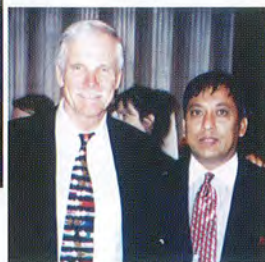
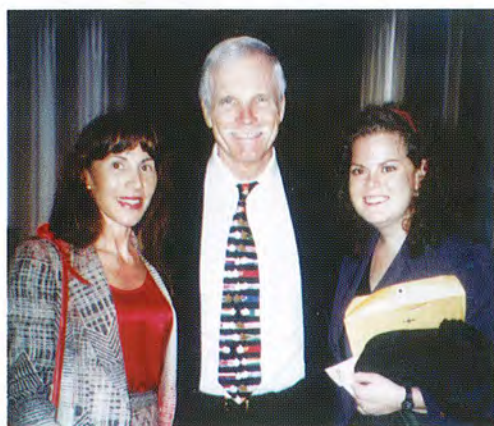


Meeting Dr. Yunus
the inventor and
implementer of the
Micro Credit
system.
Dr. Yunus
complementing
Mr. Manik on the
developments of
MAAWS in Senbag
area in Noakhali.

Signing on MAAWS
Pad the Greetings
from Grameen.



Shaking of Hands CEO
Mr. Manik,
While autographing
"Bankers to the Poor"-
Mohammed Yunus.



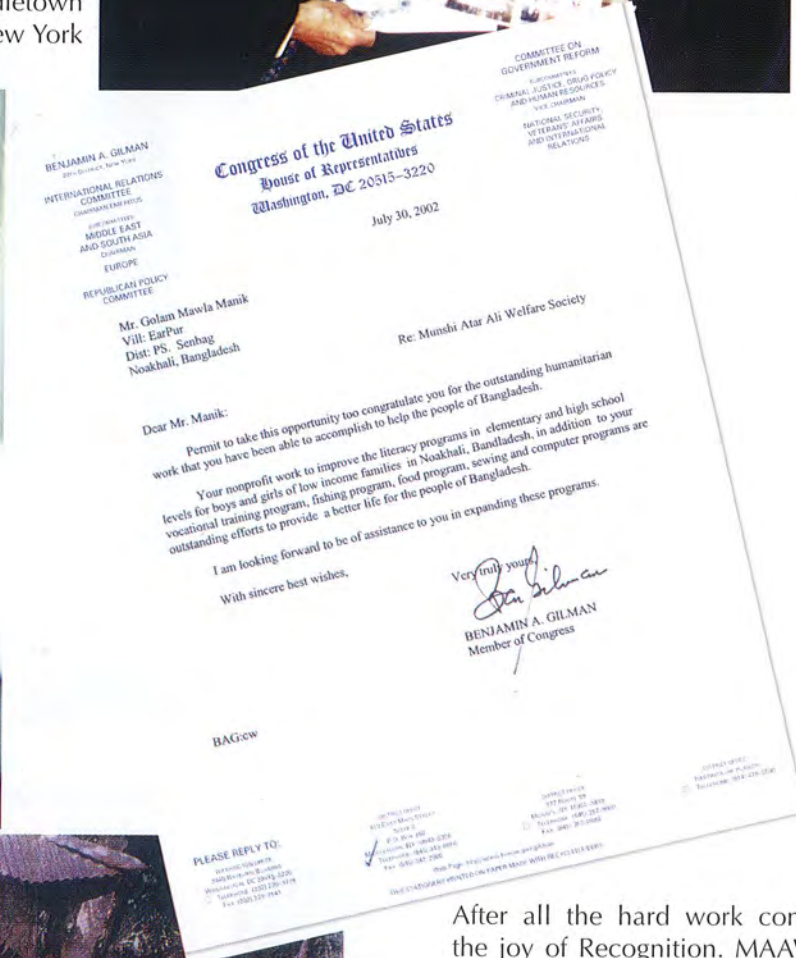
CEO Mr. Manik with the Media Mogul
and Philanthropist Ted Turner

*"You give a
person a Fish,
You feed him for
a day.
You teach him to
fish You feed him
for life."*





CEO Mr. Manik with Congressman Gilman in his Office at Middletown New York



To GOLAM MANIK,
CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES
FOR SUCCESS IN YOUR HUMANITARIAN
ENDAVORS,
Ben Gilman, H.C.
7/02

DESTITUTE CHILDREN UNCERTAIN ABOUT TOMORROW

After all the hard work comes the joy of Recognition. MAAWS is recognized and help is assured - Congressman Benjamin Gilman

"Will of the people backed by Opinionated forces can save a lot of time and efforts in real-help reaching the real destitute--"

Dr. Iqbal





MAAWS Vocational Center

The Maaws Vocational Center (MVC) was established in 1995 to provide functional instruction for men and women with the knowledge, work ethic and skills they need to improve their lives.

The center was initially formed to assist rural women by promoting income-generating skills through handicrafts. Men were later given vocational assistance in computers and jobs related to the apparel industry.



MVC conducts training programs for rural women on Health and Hygiene, Literacy, Environmental Education and Gardening.

Sewing Program

This program trains young women in tailoring, the use and maintenance of sewing machines, preserving and reviving crafts, especially traditional arts such as jute-dye, jute goods, prepared and ready to cook snacks, clothes man, women and children, embroidery and bead work. They also learn some marketing skills and simple accounting.



Computer Training

Our program develops computer skills such as data entry, printing and layout, simple composition. Our participants learn basic computer literacy and , programming so as to be competitive in the growing job market in the computer industry.

Rickshaw Program

In Bangladesh, three wheeler carts are a very popular form of transportation. Men drive these "rickshaws" and take passengers throughout the city or town. The project trains young men to operate and manage a rickshaw business. A young man is given an opportunity to earn some money for the purpose of marriage. The young man works until he can afford to marry.

New Life Fund

This revolving fund provides assistance for eligible girls whose parents cannot afford the expenses of marriage. Loan is given based on marketable skills gained in MVC and ability to repay loan.

Funeral Fund

If a death is reported and the family lacks the wherewithal to bury their loved one or the deceased is unknown, the organization will provide a set of items needed for burial at no cost.



Munshi's legacy lives on-----

History

The Munshi Atar Ali Welfare Society (MAAWS) was founded during British colonial rule. The late Munshi Atar Ali realized the importance of education and community activism. Ali was successful in gathering a small group to meet monthly to promote formal education, religious instruction and create a spirit of community. Inspired by Ali's efforts, the community built a Daftar (Community Office) that became the focal point for the organization. The Earpur Primary School and Preschool were founded by Ali in early twenties at Earpur in Noakhali.

Since then, the society has expanded to include a vocational school, a high school and other programs to uplift participants. The organization he founded still thrives and reaches more families through financial assistance from people the organization has helped and international donations.

Vision & Commitment

Ali was focused in approach, he invited the downtrodden to train themselves with him and seek employment elsewhere. To the people he said: " *You are weak and poor, power cliches will not help you to sustain, they will keep you dependent in them, so, for your own good come and train and get employed* ". Today we are continuing the same legacy with modernized approaches and know-how.



www.maaws.org

Dhaka Office: 2, Aziz Super Market (2nd Fl.) Shahbagh, Dhaka 1000 Bangladesh Tel: 966-2804 Ext. 104 Fax: 861-3958

Project Location: Earpur, P.O. Somir Munshir Hat, Senbagh, Noakhali, Bangladesh E-mail: maawsforglobal@aol.com

USA Office: P.O. Box - 2279 Newburgh, NY 12550 Tel: 845-569-2219 Fax: 845-569-1965 E-mail: maawsforglobal@aol.com