

MSS

Working for the People



Background

Manabik Shahajya Sangstha (MSS) is Bangladesh’s one of the oldest non-governmental organizations. The formation of this voluntary, charitable, relief and development organization had its root in Dhaka when the country was hit by the massive flood in recent history and a group of students of the then Dhaka Residential Model School started a movement with humanitarian aid in 1974. In January, 1977 the movement was given an organizational shape in Dhaka under the name of Shahajya Sangstha (SAS) which was subsequently renamed Manabik Shahajya Sangstha (MSS). After the task is over and having an organizational shape in 1977, MSS redirected its focus to poverty alleviation and empowerment of the poor especially the urban and rural women of Bangladesh.

Alongside working for poverty alleviation of the marginalized people, MSS is also promoting human rights focusing the rights of the women and children, civic rights, good governance, democracy, food security, health services, education, early childhood care and development, waste management etc.

Registration details

Registration Authority	Registration #	Registration Date
Registrar of Joint Stock Companies	S-657/33	April 17, 1979
Bureau of NGO Affairs	130	November 23, 1982
Microcredit Regulatory Authority	00165-01033-00233	May 14, 2008
Directorate of Family Planning	130/82	November 23, 1982

Vision

Establish a society free from poverty where there is equality among citizens, citizen’s rights are respected and they actively participated in the democratic process for establishing those rights.

Mission

Empower disadvantaged people by developing their institution building and leadership capabilities, enhance their awareness on rights and provide access to resources for their socio-economic upliftment.



Objectives:

- Initiate welfare projects for the underprivileged segments of the society
- Promote democracy, good governance and rights focusing women and children
- Promote savings and extend credit to underprivileged urban and rural women
- Provide healthcare services, family planning and child immunization and clinical back up
- Provide relief to calamity stricken people

Target Groups: Most disadvantaged segments of the society especially women, children and calamity stricken people.

Activities

Initially the emphasis of MSS was on relief and rehabilitation activities. In course of time, the focus of MSS activities shifted from disaster relief and rehabilitation to various long term development and income generating activities of the target people. Since 1991 MSS undertook some innovative projects to consolidate and strengthen rights, democracy, good governance and electoral process.

Past Key Projects

- Legislative Support Service
- Electoral Assistance Project
- Election Watch Program
- Study Circle Resource Center
- Civic Voter Education Project
- Human Rights Education Project
- Collective Advocacy to Criminalize Domestic Violence (CACDV)
- Strengthening Household Ability to Respond to Development Opportunity (SHOUHARDO)
- MSS-Foundation for the Justice Project (Spain)
- Rehabilitation of Non-motorized Transport Pullers and Poor Owners (RNPPPO)
- Preparedness for Effective Emergency Response Project
- Voter Registration Campaign and Preparation of National ID Cards
- Vulnerable Group Development (VGD)
- Water and Sanitation Rehabilitation Activities
- Strengthening Civic Engagement in Elections and Political Processes for Enhanced Transparency and Democratic Accountability



Major ongoing Activities:

Women's Credit Program (WCP): The Women's Credit Program - the first urban replication of the Grameen Bank model in Bangladesh- commenced in 1989 as an integrated income generation project for slum dwellers and urban poor particularly women of Dhaka City, to bring the poor especially the women in the mainstream of the development providing credit and encouraging savings. Based on the satisfactory performances, WCP extended its activities to rural and other urban areas of Bangladesh.

Loan Products of Women's Credit Program (WCP):

• General loan • Micro Enterprise (ME) Loan • Agricultural Loan • Ultra poor Loan • Housing Loan • Disaster Management Loan (DML) • Grihayan Tahabil (Housing Fund) Management

Other Projects of WCP:

Project Dignity: Brings the ultra poor people in the mainstream of development involving them in income generating activities providing interest free loan with the objective of improving their livelihoods.

ENRICH Project: Launched in July 2013, MSS is implementing PKSF funded ENRICH (Enhancing Resources and Increasing Capacities of Poor Households Towards Elimination of their Poverty) project in Nilphamari district. The project covers 4571 households.

Purpose: To empower and enhance the human dignity of the target groups through holistic approach.

Major interventions: Health service, non-formal primary education, promotion of bandhu chula (environment friendly mud stove), installation of solar panel system, medicinal plants cultivation, income generating activities, savings mobilization, vegetable seed distribution, earthworm composting, promoting safe sanitation, tubewell installation, culvert construction etc.

SU-CHALA Project: With the support from ANUKUL Foundation, this project is being implemented in Keraniganj upazilla (sub-district) of Dhaka district.



Purpose: Support to continue education of the poor working children of poor women headed families providing scholarship.

Disaster Response: MSS provides financial and material assistances to its members during disaster period.

Purpose: To mitigate the sufferings and recover the loss of assets of the members.

Grihayan Tahabil: MSS joined the government's initiative (Grihayan Tahabil) in 2010 to mitigate the acute housing problem of the poor targeting the homeless and low income earners especially the women workers.

SMAP: Under Small and Marginal Sized Farmers Agricultural Productivity Improvement and Diversification Financing Project (SMAP) of Bangladesh Bank MSS provides loan and technical support service towards enhancing agricultural output, promote agro-business, facilitate agro-based services and create sustained employment opportunities of the target groups.

Project duration: September 2014 to September 2021

Eligible sectors: • Agriculture • Agro-machinery and • Livestock

Self-Sustainable Social Services Program (4SP): The Self-Sustainable Social Services program of MSS has been running in a sustainable way after it was incorporated with its Women's Credit Program in 2003.

Activities of 4SP: • Maternal Child Health and Family Planning • General treatment and satellite clinic • Awareness raising on HIV/AIDS prevention, human rights and other civic issues.

Other Programs of 4SP:

- Non Formal Primary Education (NFPE) • Daycare Center • Merit Nurture Initiative • Eye Vision Center • Eye Camp.

Non Formal Primary Education (NFPE):

The NFPE schools were launched in 2006 with the objective to keep children away from child labor and to help them grow up as a healthy citizen.



Daycare Center: MSS is running Daycare Center for the kids aged 3-5 to grow up in a secured and homely atmosphere providing basic education, healthcare, fooding, clothing and recreation as well.

Merit Nurture Initiative: A scholarship program to support education of poor but meritorious children of the members of MSS's Women's Credit Program.

Eye Vision Center: In order to provide primary eye care services to the distressed people at a nominal cost, MSS has set up an Eye Vision center in Kalabagan, Dhaka with the technical assistance of Sightsavers International in 2011.



Eye Camp: MSS conducts eye camp in its program areas in and outside Dhaka City Corporation to help tackle avoidable blindness of the target people who are poor.

Eye Care Project-MSS: MSS equipped with its experience in providing eye care services in Bangladesh is implementing its Eye Care Project (ECP-MSS) with the aim to identify and treat preventable blindness among the underprivileged; to promote community awareness and education on eye health; and to increase capacity and access to eye care services, among others.

Project activities: • Organizing eye camp • School eye screening • Identify patients for cataract and other eye surgeries • Provide eye glasses and medicines.

Rights, Governance and Democracy:

MSS Promotes women and child rights, good governance and democracy in cooperation with the development partners, the concerned government authorities and the members of the civil society.

Funded by The Asia Foundation and under the network of Election Working Group (EWG) Trust, MSS works to supplement the efforts of Election Commission Bangladesh towards holding a free, fair and impartial election in the country.



Integrated Child Development Program (ICDP):

Launched in October 2014, this sponsorship funded Shishuder Jonno (SJ) program of Save the Children in Bangladesh is being implemented by MSS through holistic development of 0-19 years children who are living in slums.

Program location: • Rayerbazar (Ward No. 34) • Town Hall Camp (Ward No. 31) • Chand Udyan (Ward No. 33) of Mohammadpur Thana under Dhaka North City Corporation.

Program goal: Children learn and develop to their full potential.

Major interventions area: • Sponsorship operations • Early child care and development • Basic education • Maternal Newborn and Child Health Nutrition

• Adolescent development • Child Protection and Policy Rights Governance
• ICT in education • Water and sanitation • Waste management

Euglena Genki Program for Reducing Child Malnutrition:

In order to reduce the prevalence of malnutrition of the children in Bangladesh, Euglena Company Limited of Japan in collaboration with MSS has been implementing the “Euglena Genki” program in Dhaka City since September 2014. Under the program, each Non-Formal Primary Education student of MSS receives everyday a packet of high potency Euglena biscuit containing 59 vitamins which they consume during school hour.

Community Based Resource Center (CBRC):

MSS in collaboration with the embassy of Japan in Bangladesh and with its own contribution has built a Community Based Resource Center in Saidpur upazilla of Nilphamari district and has given the opportunity to carry out training on various development issues. Equipped with state of the art facilities the training center which has a residential facility can accommodate 30 trainees at a time. Commissioned in March 2011, the resource center has been playing an effective role in developing human resources for internal and external stakeholders as well.



Networking and Advocacy

MSS is continuing its networking or membership with the following national and international networks:

National	International
Coalition for the Urban Poor (CUP)	Micro-credit Summit Campaign
Credit and Development Forum (CDF)	Banking With The Poor (BWTP)
Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF)	International Housing Coalition (IHC)
Election Working Group (EWG) Trust	International Network of Alternative Financial Institutions (INAFI)
Bangladesh Urban Forum (BUF)	South Asia Microfinance Network (SAMN)

Our Honor

- 9th Citi Foundation best MFI award 2013
- Prime Minister's Population Award in 1991 for rendering outstanding services in Family Planning program
- Dhaka City Corporation Mayor's Award for EPI program in 1992.



For further information:



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