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HEED-Bangladesh  
Kamalganj Project  
Sylhet

THIRTEENTH QUARTERLY REPORT

July-September 1979

Mr. Beni Chakraborty  
Sector Head  
HEED Handicrafts

Dr. Barry Evans  
Sector Head  
Health

Mr. Ken Turner  
Sector Head  
Agriculture

Mr. George Whetham  
Sector Head  
Community Organization

Mr. Noel Magor  
Acting Project Director  
HEED-Kamalganj

HEED Kamalganj Rural Development Project

13th Quarterly Report

July - September 1979

GENERAL

The prolonged drought and resulting high food prices led to the initiation of a small feeding program for malnourished children. Three centres were set up in Suncharra, Sreenathpur and Shamshernagar with about 150 children receiving food three times a week. Discussion was held with Union Chairmen about food for work programs but unfortunately no activities crystallised. Highlights of sector activities are mentioned in the following paragraphs.

HANDICRAFTS

The Manipuri weaving is being maintained at 94 weavers until adequate market testing has been completed. Stronger emphasis is being given to quality control in order to reduce the number of seconds. Various new designs are being tried including colour variations in two new designs for bedspreads, bags and napkins.

Three new block printing trainees were engaged with none of the new trainees being resident. Inadequate supply of cloth has resulted in some erratic production.

Cane and bamboo production has been continuing in the Tea Estate. At present we are pursuing a license for the holding of cane. The product has shown a good local demand.

COMMUNITY ORGANISATION

No new groups have been formed this quarter, as the emphasis is being directed towards tea gardens. Primary school work

## II

has been experiencing difficulty and only four of the previous eleven groups are running satisfactorily. Savings of the twenty one non-formal co-operatives are continuing well, despite the very hard year as a result of the drought. Four staff members attended a ten day co-operative management course run by BRAC with the intention of now conducting four day courses for the Chairmen and Secretaries of the 21 groups. No new ring wells have been constructed because of the very high price of cement and the busy monsoon time in the garden.

### HEALTH

This quarter has seen its frustrations as well as achievements. Teaching and training, our main input into the thana, takes time to have effect. We are also learning the whole time.

The report this quarter has a different format and closely follows the implementation schedule proposals for July - December period and tries to match actual with intended outcomes.

I want to highlight three areas for special mention but before I do so I want to say thank you to our hard working staff for all the effort they have put in over this quarter.

#### i) Village Health Workers:

- Problems with support have continued (a longer report on our experience with the V.H.W. programme is available on request).
- The decision has been taken to put our efforts into the government dai training programme (T.B.A. programme).
- Emphasis has been placed on health education to the village health committees.

#### ii) Family Welfare Visitor Training:

- Now three week trainee courses were commenced this quarter in response to a request from the F.W.V. training institute. The F.W.V. training continues

to take up quite a lot of time but we feel it is worthwhile.

- Difficulties with posting of FWV's have resulted in the dai training programme being slower to start than anticipated.

### iii) Training

Several training courses in addition to these for FWV's have been run:-

- 10 day community health assistants course.
- Monthly lectures to FWV's, FPA's, and FWA's on family planning subjects.
- One lecture given to family welfare workers.
- Some training/supervision of qualified FWV's.

### LEPROSY

Eight paramedical trainees have been receiving intensive training at the project by leprosy doctors and trainers from India. These workers will implement the leprosy control program for Kamalganj Thana. Eleven of the thirteen new patients identified were found during field work for the trainees.

A laboratory technician from Munshibazar has been selected and is now undergoing training.

### AGRICULTURE

All aus demonstrations were completed with the variety Pur-bachi giving an outstanding yield of 52 maunds per acre. Twenty two amon rice demonstrations were set up.

Over 7,000 carp fry were distributed to village ponds and stocking with Nilotica was completed.

1119 cattle were vaccinated against Haemaphragic Septicaemia and 1723 poultry against ranniket. Part of the vaccinating was carried out by 9 newly trained village persons.

#### IV

A four day irrigation planning workshop was conducted in the thana. It was attended by Soil Scientists from Dacca, local Government Officers and District Engineers. Irrigation priorities were set.

In response to the drought, 1899 corn kits were distributed.

HEED Bangladesh  
Kamalganj Project

SECTORAL REPORTS

HEED HANDICRAFTS

HEED Handicrafts Kamalganj Project has the aim to develop crafts activities among the people of this area and to increase their over all income through self employment. It has three sections, Manipuri weaving, bamboo and cane work and Block Printing. The Manipuri weaving is for Manipuri ladies who are poor and need a supplementary income. The Manipuri programme is developing the weaving tradition and improving or changing weaving techniques according to market needs. Block Printing is for the leprosy patients to facilitate them to rehabilitate in the society. Now some other Bengali people are being trained in this skill. Bamboo and cane work is for the unemployed tea estate man.

Block Printing

During this quarter production has continued to be somewhat erratic, partly due to the weather, but mainly due to inadequate supply of cloth. In September a large consignment was received, so figures should be better in the following quarter.

Three new block printing trainees were engaged. None of these are resident. In tailoring, the Manipuri products have continued to be stitched. Mira has made bags as well as childrens clothes and sari petticoats which have been sold in the weekly shop in the Manipuri programme office. Komode has continued to replace broken blocks and has also done some work on new designs.

## Production Figures for July, August, September

Table Cloths	60	x	60		112
Napkins	15	x	15		896
Napkins	13	x	12		18
Table Mats	21½	x	12½		18
Pillow Covers	-				39

Plus assorted small pieces for making small items for sale on the project.

Manipuri Weaving

Only one weeks production (in Sangaon) was lost through weather but there has been a drop generally due to weavers doing field work, illness, and lack of space at this season. Phingarok baskets have been produced by one man, a total of 14. There has been some difficulty in obtaining raw materials and dye for these. Bedspreads and table cloths are now joined by the block printing section's tailor.

A feature of the last quarters work has been various samples of new designs. These include colour variations in 2 new designs for bedspreads, plus bags and napkins.

These have all been given to weavers in Bhandarigaon. A little extra was paid for new samples. These will be sent to the shop in Dacca to test market reaction, before a decision is made on which designs will be put into production. Some new colours have been introduced in all current cloth. Shawls in traditional designs have continued to be produced.

New rates for 2nds have been introduced due to continuing poor quality. Some weavers have had warnings and others not received an order for one week in a further attempt to impress on them our need for good quality. A new venture is the sale of 2nds each week (Friday afternoons) from the Manipuri office.

Cotton prices have risen sharply in national markets. Enquiries are being made in Dacca to determine if it can be

bought more cheaply. There have been continuing attempts to get an evenly dyed dark brown cotton from Dacca.

Despite attempts, no weavers have yet been found willing and able to weave traditional design cushion covers, as these are time consuming and highly skilled.

Production Figures for July, August, September

Table Mats	12	x	19	3320
Napkins (Pattern)	13	x	13	1594
Napkins (Plain)	13	x	13	482
Table Cloth	60	x	60	61
Table Cloth	60	x	80	49
Table Cloth	60	x	90	16
Bed Spreads	54	x	108	37
Bed Spreads (sample)	51	x	108	8
Bed Spreads	74	x	108	20
Bed Spreads	90	x	108	15
Bag Pieces	10	x	27 & 10 x 30	198
Curtains	60	x	40½ & 27 x 80	3542
Shawls	36	x	82	19
Phingarok				14

Tea Estate Programme

This work started here in the first week of April '79. It is currently involved in cane and bamboo training. The aim is to set up self sufficient production unit in the estate where trainees live. Mira Mitra who was trained in tailoring to teach the tea estate ladies in the respective skill, is now working in a support role in the block printing centre.

The course period is for six months. But for various difficulties, only for the first batch it may be extended for two more months. Problems of having suitable canes and thorns has disturbed the rate of production. The quality of production was improved. But cane baskets which

are now highly needed for sales in Shetuli could not be supplies properly as Leo is not an expert in doing it. A training course in making baskets for him was proposed to HH in Dacca. It requires a license to have a stock of canes. Beni is in the process of obtaining the license. It was noticed that the product made by our trainees has good local demand.

Production Figures for July, August, September

Six inch basket	183
Cheese	4
Gumla Chair	1
Flower basket	5
Mora	2
Book shelf	2
Big hand basket	2
Bamboo basket	3
Waste paper basket	5

Trainees also repaired many chairs and such other things.

## COMMUNITY ORGANISATION

### Basic Objectives I

To provide village level training activities using BRAC materials. As Eid Festival and Durga Puja both fell within this period most of the Functional Education activities have been closed down. Also at the end of October there is a training period planned taking some of the previous teachers from Alinagar and Shamshernagar Tea Garden areas. Also expanding the offer of training to 5 teachers from Patrokhola Tea Garden which is situated in the south of the Thana and is central for expanding the work to other gardens in that area.

So in light of this the establishment of 12 new groups still pending, also only two meetings were held as refresher programmes for Functional Education Teachers.

The primary schools work has been grinding to a halt only four out of the previous eleven are running to any degree of satisfaction. We are again trying to find out the reason for this bad record. Some answers are coming to light. Which we will be dealing with in the established schools and any new ones which may be proposed.

### Problems

1. Unsatisfactory to have daily school in a private home.
2. Parents not motivated to save regularly towards up keep or school.
3. Teachers have tended to push themselves forward in the beginning but once established have become very lax.
4. The management committees of each school do not understand their role.
5. There is need to have at least two teachers to each centre for mutual encouragement.
6. The pay will have to be increased from Tk. 50 per month.

7. Rules will have to be enforced regarding school time, holidays. Exams, fees Ex.
8. Above all the people themselves have no clear aim of the purpose of education.

Also it has been suggested that any group of parents wanting primary school centre setting up should agree to do the Functional Education course first.

This and the other problems mean that there will be no schools set up until the new year.

### Basic Objectives II

The savings of the twenty one non-formal cooperatives are still going steady, but this season has been a particularly hard one for most poor people, so activities have shown a slow up in Alinagar U/P the problems have also been compounded by local power struggles especially around Salim Bazar. The four coops in that area now come to Shamsheernagar Office if they have any problems.

The Health Sector has reported very good reception from these non-formal groups when Health teaching subjects were offered them.

**NO** more economic activities were started in this quarter.

In the Shamsheernagar Tea Garden coops there was suggested setting up a federation pooling their resources and starting a fair price shop, or tea shop.

There was a good meeting and many were free in expressing themselves (unknown before amongst tea labourers). But as of this stage of the six coops involved, the proposal was a bit beyond their comprehension. But will again be tried in six months time.

No groups have been formed in this quarter.

Both the Agriculture and Health Sectors have had inputs into the groups. 'Why eat fish?', family planning and summer

vegetable production were some subjects covered.

It was during this quarter that four members of staff attended a ten day cooperative management course run by B.R.A.C. in Dacca. It is now planned to offer four days training course to the Chairman and Secretary of each of the twenty one groups beginning on October 4th.

The plan to move to a new union has been changed and as mentioned above, the work will expand to a new Tea Garden situated in the south of Thana.

### Basic Objectives III

To facilitate village level activities of other sectors.

It is planned that the work in the Tea Gardens will go through this channel whenever possible but until this sector finds its feet it is an unfulfilled planners dream.

### Basic Objectives IV

Provision of clean water:- In Shamshernagar we now have one man who is working about half-time going a round giving general maintenance to the tube-wells and ring well installations that HEED has been involved in. We have been amazed at the lack of care for good tube-wells on behalf of the public in Shamshernagar.

A survey was carried out on the 39 tubewells sunk in last quarter and another will be next quarter to see what happens to the wells.

The ring well protection programme has been halted this quarter because high price of cement, very busy time in Tea Garden and now the water-table is very high.

The previous ones fitted out are giving very good service.

Health

PROGRAMME	INTENDED OUTCOMES (Implementation schedule July-Dec'79)	ACTUAL OUTCOMES	COMMENTS
a. Village Health workers(V.P.W's)	Continuance of VHW programme. Health Education of Committees. More intensive follow up of VHW's.	Programme has continued. Continued in Shamshernagar & Ali-nagar plus Adampur. Has been achieved.	The decision has been taken to help on the Government dai training programmes and not to train any further VHW's solely on our programme.
	Financial Support	Further attempts at village support promises obtained but little outcome.	Many difficulties experienced because of the village's lack of support. A full report on our experience in this programme is available on request.
<u>In Shamsherragar</u>	Other interested villages start VHW training course.	Not done.	Now working with Government on their dai (TBA) training programme.
	Malnourished children's register.	- achieved. + Pregnant ladies registers. - in view of high prices commenced a small vulnerable group feeding programme over critical six week period Sept-Nov.	Number have been lower than expected. Those most at risk are not coming.
<u>In Minagar</u>	Seminars - hold 2 in each village before December 1979	To village Health Committees - 3 villages regular meetings - 1 group only one meeting. To womens groups in 5 villages.	3 villages not interested in Health education meetings.
	Register, + Pregnant ladies + Malnourished children. Further courses	Being kept. Not done.	Government programme for dai training needs FWV - none in this union as yet.

PROGRAMME	INTENDED OUTCOMES (Implementation schedule July-Dec'79)	ACTUAL OUTCOMES	COMMENTS
<u>In Adampur</u>	No plans made for VHW work	Govt. Dai training programme preparations going ahead village selected, committees motivated. health education talks commenced, survey commenced.	Difficulties with posting of FWV hence not commenced actual training of dais yet.
b. Family Welfare Visitors (FWV)	FWV established in regular clinic work in Shamshernagar and Adampur Unions.	Difficulties with posting of FWV's in Adampur and Shamshernagar.	As soon as posting is complete we will seek to establish these FWV's in their work.
	FWV in Kamalganj Union inservice training.	FWV now running the MCH clinic well	The next stage is to establish her in clinic work.
		FWV posted to Munshigazar (unexpected).	We will work with her to try to establish her in clinic, teaching and field work.
c. FWV Trainees	No plans made	3 courses of 3 weeks (5 students) completed in this quarter.	Requested by FWV training institute to do these 3 weeks introductory field work courses. Courses well received.
	Refresher Courses	Not done	above trainee courses carried out instead.
d. Clinics. i)M.C.H	Establish FWV in Shamshernagar, Thana Health Centre & Adampur. Negotiate with Government to take over Shamshernagar & Adampur clinic.	Sec FWV section HEED run clinics continue.	Govt. clinic still not complete at Adampur-Government have no immediate plans to take over Shamshernagar.
	ii)T.B.	Continue to run T.B. clinics.	254 patients currently under treatment.  - Default rate is still high. - Defaulter follow will be carried out in future.

PROGRAMME	INTENDED OUTCOMES (Implementation schedule July-Dec'79)	ACTUAL OUTCOMES	COMMENTS
iii) <u>Leprosy</u>	Give General paramedics training in leprosy.	Not done (rest of leprosy program see leprosy report)	Unipurpose leprosy workers trained instead of TB/Leprosy workers.
iv) <u>Thana Health Centre</u>	Encourage opening of maternity ward.	No further progress.	There is a genuine need for this in the thana.
e. <u>Family Planning</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establish Regular teaching sessions for FWV, FPA, &amp; FWA's.</li> <li>- Work with field staff and encourage co-operation between FWV's &amp; FWA's.</li> </ul>	<p>Monthly sessions held.</p> <p>Not achieved.</p>	Valuable - discussions as well as formal lectures hold. Difficulties with FWV posting.
f. <u>Other Training.</u> i) Family Welfare Worker(FWV).  ii) Community Health Assistant (C.H.A.)	<p>Encourage and support BCG and Vitamin A. programmes.</p> <p>Training courses in August.</p> <p>-2 new CHA's to be trained</p>	<p>BCG Programme-lecture given in technique, motivation etc. Vit. A programme-not yet taken place.</p> <p>10 days training course for 4 existing CHA's took place in September.</p> <p>- Not done.</p>	<p>- This needs to be expanded.</p> <p>- the opportunity for input is there but has not yet been taken up.</p> <p>CHA's are HEED workers for supervising village health workers.</p>
g. <u>Other teaching.</u>		<p>Health Education input in Functional Education Groups, and to some women's group taught by CHA's.</p> <p>Proposal submitted and agreed by Thana Education officer for some Health education in schools. Preliminary practise has taken place.</p>	This programme has yet to actually start.

## LEPROSY

### Control Programme

The emphasis in this quarter was the start of our first PMW training programme. In July we selected from more than 100 applicants, all from our own thana and SSC passed, 25 for further testing. Out of these we selected finally 8 young men for the actual training, which started on 7th of August. With the help of several Leprosy Specialists from India we gave them a 9½ weeks intensive theoretical course, which will be followed by 4 months field training/work.

On the 14th of August we also started to train a Laboratory technician, who will be mainly serving the Leprosy hospital and Control programme, but also make some tests for our general medical side.

We continued our clinics in the thana and found in the quarter 13 more patients, 11 of them were found during practical work of the new trainees. We changed our clinic time table and have now every week the clinic on our compound, and one day of clinic somewhere in the thana.

### Hospital

We continued to perform minor surgery and special surgical procedures for ulcer patients. In the quarter we admitted 19 patients and could discharge 18, so that we had 13 in-patients by the end of September. Most of them come for treatment of very infected ulcers, but we also admitted some patients for treatment of reactions and start of two drugs treatment.

We intensified our teaching for better care for insensitive hands and feet. A new efforts was made to produce more of the protective footwear for patients with sensory loss on

the sole of their feet.

Teaching about Leprosy was given to all the government trainees, who are taking three weeks training by our general medical staff.

AGRICULTURE

PLANNED ACTIVITY	ACHIEVEMENTS	COMMENTS
<p>1. <u>AGRONOMY</u></p> <p>1.1 <u>Extension and Training</u></p> <p>(a) Complete aus variety and fertilizer demonstrations 33 HEED and 18 Govt. plots.</p> <p>(b) Set up BR3 - BR4 demonstrations at 5 per union and fertilizer demonstrations at 3 per union.</p> <p>(c) Prepare 2,000 Winter Vegetable kits and commence training. Select 3 sites per union for demonstrations.</p> <p>(d) Prepare list of farmers interested in wheat cultivation and identify 2 - 3 block areas.</p> <p>(e) Train 10 people in power sprayer operation (see engineering).</p> <p>1.2 <u>Research</u></p> <p>(a) Continue Cropping Systems Research.</p> <p>(b) Set up 5 soybean observations in villages on appropriate soil-types and 2 on farm.</p> <p>2. <u>ENGINEERING</u></p> <p>2.1 <u>Extension and Training</u></p> <p>(a) Insecticide application - use, calibration, care and maintenance of hand and power sprayer training for 10 farmers.</p>	<p>18 variety and 7 fertilizer demonstrations completed. Govt received kits.</p> <p>13 variety and 9 fertilizer demonstrations</p> <p>Kits preparation in process. Program commenced (11 vegetables per kit)</p> <p>3 blocks selected (35 acres and 68 farmer) Awaiting seed.</p> <p>Not completed.</p> <p>125 crop cuts completed</p> <p>2 in villages planted, and 1 on farm. Aus variety trial completed 2 among variety trials planted.</p> <p>Not completed</p>	<p>Also 3 acres BR4 seed being multiplied in villages to be bought back.</p> <p>Deferred *</p> <p>Aus cuts made for 2 different cropping patterns. Another 3 to be planted.</p> <p>Deferred *</p>

PLANNED ACTIVITY	ACHIEVEMENTS	COMMENTS
<p>(b) Irrigation hand pumps - site select and install 5 - 10 MOSTI on selected fields in model villages.</p> <p>(c) Irrigation S.T.W. - complete test borings for 2 - 3 S.T.W. and begin procedures for installation. Finalize with IRDP loans procedures and target group.</p> <p>(d) Equipment - complete collection of farm equipment and implements manufactured in Bangladesh and appropriate to area.</p>	<p>Not completed</p> <p>Through BADC and local Govt. Officers, 2 deep tubewell test borings completed.</p> <p>Approx. 8 items of equipment manuf. in Bangladesh, or appropriate to area collected.</p>	<p>Defferred *</p> <p>During the coming winter season HEED plans to install 10 hand and 2 shallow tubewells, and sell water to farmer. Equipment will be evaluated in appropriate seasons.</p>
<p><u>2.2 Research</u></p> <p>(a) Storage of rice and wheat - construct simple solar and fuel-fired dryers and test.</p> <p>(b) Irrigation - investigate extension of present irrigation from rivers and canals, and the potential for canal improvement and development.</p>	<p>Jute reinforced plastic silos for rice or wheat purchased. A simple rice solar drying test performed</p> <p>Ten National and Expatriate Scientists and Engineers &amp; Agr. Officials met for several days to discuss &amp; plan irrigation development.</p>	<p>Combined solar and fuel dryer work deferred.*</p>
<p><u>3. FISHERIES</u></p> <p><u>3.1 Extension</u></p> <p>(a) 1979 pond developers - continue fertilization and stocking (23 ponds) - encouragement of pond bank cultivation.</p>	<p>Completed with rui, catla, mrigal and nilotica. About 30% of pond owners will cultivate pond banks.</p>	

PLANNED ACTIVITY	ACHIEVEMENTS	COMMENTS
<p>4. <u>LIVESTOCK</u></p> <p>4.1 <u>Extension and Training</u></p> <p>(a) Cockorel Exchange-complete 1 exchange</p> <p>(b) Grass Extension-promote cultivation of grass through sale of 10 mds of napier in each of Kamalganj, Alinagar &amp; Shamsheernagar Union. Sell 1,000 seedlings &amp; follow-up.</p> <p>(c) Vaccination -1,000 cattle for anthrax or HS in gardens or villages as part of promotion of health care.</p> <p>(d) Training -Provide grass, cattle, poultry training for 5 C.O. groups &amp; 3 Kss groups. Train in vaccination.</p> <p>4.2 <u>Project Farm</u></p> <p>(a) Poultry -order 500 chiks BIR from Dacca to build up flock. -establish functioning incubator.</p> <p>(b) Grass -multiply 1 acre of para grass</p> <p>(c) Goats -begin procedures for importing 12 good breeder goats from India.</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>34 mds Napier grass sold. 1200 seedlings sold, with follow-up.</p> <p>1119 HS vaccinations, plus 21 cattle treated.</p> <p>Training for 4 C.O. groups, 5 KSS groups, plus Livestock Training for 10 persons from 10 Co-operatives, with follow-up in practical work.</p> <p>Delayed</p> <p>Ordered from India.</p> <p>½ acre planted.</p> <p>This program is not being pursued.</p>	<p>Production at Government farm stopped in monsoon.</p> <p>Initially planned to pursue goats &amp; cattle but now will only proceed with cattle in conjunction with Govt. Savar Cattle Farm.</p>

Non-scheduled Activities

1. Due to drought situation HEED was requested to become involved in corn-seed distribution program. A total of 1899 kits distributed from 20.8.79 until 6.9.79.
2. 60 decimals (3/5 acre) of As 35/2 orange sweet potato is being multiplied to be distributed in October - November.
3. 1723 poultry vaccinated with RDB & BCRDV.
- Due to added responsibilities for the engineering section in the building and vehicle sectors, planned engineering activities have been deferred.

PLANNED ACTIVITY	ACHIEVEMENTS	COMMENTS
(b) 1978 pond developers - maintenance of fertility (17 ponds) - fish harvest and realization of loans.	Continuing  Delayed until December.	
<u>3.2 Training</u> (a) Training courses - completion of 5-6 basic fish culture classes in each model villages (7)	Training classes completed in 10 villages (achieved in Second Quarter).	
<u>3.3 Project Centre</u> (a) Mokantilla dighi - stocking with <u>T.nilotica</u> and rui/katla/mrigal fry. - maintenance of fertility using fertilizer and compost.	Delayed until November	Fish poison has been difficult to procure.
(b) Nursery ponds - multiplication of <u>T.nilotica</u> - growing of rui/katla/mrigal fry to 2-3" for distribution.	Deing multiplied in 2 ponds.  10,000 fry were received from Govt. farms & grown. 7,000 distributed.	High mortality occurred on several occasions in transit due to poor conditioning, and over stocking and hot days.