

***Final Evaluation Report***

**Protection & Rehabilitation of Street Children in  
Bangladesh**

**(SANJOG II, Bangladesh)**

Implemented by

**ACD & Aparajeyo Bangladesh**

Supported by

**European Commission, ECPAT Luxemburg, OAK Foundation  
& Groupe Developpement**

Report prepared by

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## Acknowledgement

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I sincerely wish them a safe future where an environment will prevail in the society for child rights establishment and full blooming of their huge potentials.

Abdulla Al Mamun

Consultant

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## The Project Component, Study Background and Methodology

### *Introduction*

Bangladesh has made considerable socioeconomic progress in the recent decades despite adverse circumstances and its vulnerability to disasters, some caused by nature and some men have created. Despite significant achievements, Bangladesh is yet to overcome many challenges. It is still one of the poorest country in the world with aggregate poverty rate remain dauntingly high, some 40 percent of the population living below poverty line and 20 percent in extreme poverty; absolute number of poor people (less than \$1/day) has remained constant since 1970s. Though overall poverty impacts on the population in general, poverty is said to affect women more and children the most, particularly in a male-dominated patriarchal with weak democratic society like Bangladesh. Poverty is the most vital determining factor behind all violations and denial rights of children in Bangladesh. Traditional family values and political culture in Bangladesh prevent children from being heard in decision making process in most matters including as regards those of their own lives.

Children suffer most because they are still growing and dependent on adults; their voices are not heard usually, and they cannot exercise their rights outlined in the law of the land and UNCRC. While the poor in general are denied of basic rights, there are certain services poor adult can still access to since he/she can dispose their income according their needs and wants. In case of children, even those who work are usually not allowed to exercise their purchasing power since their income goes directly to their parents/father. Children in poverty, from the very beginning of their lives, are denied from parental care, required nutrition and quality education. Poverty in most cases transformed from one generation to another, mainly through children.

Of the total population of Bangladesh, more than 50 million, which constitutes about 36%, are children below the age of fifteen. Given that about 40% of the total population lives below poverty line, it can be safely stated that 50% of the total children are living under or just above the poverty line.

Cities in Bangladesh are overcrowded with dense slums, squatter settlements and pavement dwellings, each home to thousands of children. Increasing rural poverty and corresponding urban migration continue to swell the numbers of people living in urban slums and on the streets. Problems of rural unemployment, landlessness, river erosion, natural disaster, family conflict and weak law and order cause rural families to leave their homes in search of better prospects in the urban centres.

This movement contributes to the disintegration of traditional family and community structures and results in an increasing number of children being exposed to deprivation and abuse in urban areas. Children living on the streets fall into several categories, often related to the socio-economic conditions that led to their situation. Many children live with their families, either on the streets or in slum houses. Other children live on their own because they have been orphaned or abandoned by their parents. Children also run away from their families or caregivers, fleeing poverty and physical abuse, and end up

living and working alone on the streets. Although no comprehensive and reliable statistics are available on the actual numbers, living conditions, needs and interests of children living on the streets, estimates predict a continuing increase in the number of these children.

Location of Children	Number of Children
Dhaka	249,200
Chittagong	55,856
Rajshahi	20,426
Khulna	41,774
Barisal	9,771
Sylhet	13,165
Bangladesh (Total)	679,728
Bangladesh (Total projected for 2014)	1,144,754
Bangladesh (Total projected for 2024)	1,615,330

*Source: 'Estimation of the Size of Street Children and their Projection for Major Urban Areas of Bangladesh 2005' commissioned to BIDS by ARISE*

Thousands of children on the streets of Bangladesh are being denied their rights according to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which recognises that every child is entitled to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.

### ***The Project and Component on Street Children***

Against this backdrop, Association for Community Development (ACD) and Aparajeyo Bangladesh, with the technical and financial support of European Commission, ECPAT Luxemburg, OAK Foundation and Groupe Developpement, have taken up the project SANJOG II in response to the problems of children in Khulna, Barisal and Rajshahi. The overall objective of the component implemented by Aparajeyo Bangladesh was to have a positive, empowering psycho-social impact on children in a street situation by developing their active participation, learning and advocacy in combating social exclusion and stigmatization.

The major objectives of this components were:

1. Preventing and protecting 500 children in difficult circumstances against violence, abuses, exploitation and trafficking through an embryonic social setting appropriate for their physical, mental and social development.

2. Develop Media & Advocacy and Peer Support skills amongst young people, thereby enabling them to offer peer support to child victims of violence, sexual abuse and trafficking and also influence local and national policy-makers in terms of prevention, protection and rehabilitation of children.
3. Instigate City Corporations and mass community mobilization to create safety nets to prevent trafficking, abuse and exploitation of children in difficult circumstances to promote and uphold child rights among communities and other stakeholders as well as foster coordination and cooperation among partners.

According to the project proposal 1,500 CSS will be contacted directly through AB's Centre-based programmes will be the direct beneficiaries over the duration of the project. Also 1,500 children in difficult circumstances at the outreach who are not enrolled in AB's programme will benefit from the project. Over 300,000 adults (communities, leaders, employers, local government, NGOs, law enforcing agencies etc) will be the secondary stakeholders of the project. The primary and secondary stakeholders were involved in designing the project. Males and females (children and adults) will have equal representation and participation in the project.

On the other hand the overall objective of the project component implemented by Association for Community Development (ACD) was to Accomplish social recognition of vulnerable children changed (increased) in the family, community and society level through empowering 5,000 children (6-18 years age limit socially, culturally and economically) within 2010.

The specific objectives were:

1. To activate the LEB and LEA, through building commitment at the purposes of proper implementation of NCDP and Child Protection Laws at 10 unions & 4 PS (in RCC) in 5 Upzila under Rajshahi, Chapai Nawabgonj and Noagoan districts by 2010 for prevention CSEAT.
2. To enhance the capacity of 2400 rural vulnerable children (RVC) by ensuring confidence and security among them, to address social exploitation by executing their rights at 5 Upazilla of Rajshahi, Chapai Nawabgonj and Noagoan District within 2010 .
3. To enhance the skilled of 1500 street children by life skills education, skill development training and psychosocial support for their economic self reliance (under the 3 DIC based programming) for prevent exploitative situation at Rajshahi city of Rajshahi District with in 2010.
4. To institutionalize the in-country and inter-country network for facilitate quick information flow on the issues of cross border trafficking and repatriation of the rescued traffic victims among the SANJOG partners.

### ***The Evaluation (Objectives and Methodology)***

**Background and Objectives:** As part of the impact assessment and learning procedures Groupe Developpement has hired an external consultant team of two members to carry out the Final Evaluation



(FE) during August 2011 following specific Terms of Reference (ToR). The objective of the evaluation is to assess impact of these programmes to direct beneficiaries and the overall context of street children in project locations. Observations of the evaluations and the inferences drawn from it are to be presented to the stakeholders. Recommendations must be drawn from project beneficiaries, stakeholders and project partners and evaluators are to present their opinions and suggestions to the project partners, particularly implementing organisations and to Groupe Developpement. The evaluation must also assess scope for sustainability of the action, synergy and convergence of the action with other initiatives in the project location and with developments in relevant policies and laws on juvenile justice and child protection. Specific evaluation objectives are:

1. Assess the efficiency of programme design, delivery and quality of services to beneficiaries and its impact on them. Suggest concrete and viable options to improve programme design and quality of services.
2. The evaluation must assess impact of engagement with stakeholders in the community and State agencies, its impact, challenges and limitations and offer suggestions to implementing organisations to build sustainability of impact.
3. The evaluation must, as a special focus, learn effect of rehabilitation strategies – family reunification and community based rehabilitation as well as alternative ways of rehabilitation of children that the programme may have implemented. The evaluation must try to elicit practices and strategies which seem to be more effective and the ones which are not effective in the process.
4. Also, the programme must assess, as a special focus, the impact of outreach and street based programming in protection of children from abuse, violence and exploitation. The evaluators may, while dissemination findings and offering recommendations share good practices on the same from other contexts that they may know of.
5. The evaluation must assess scope and optimisation of networking with other resource agencies and services that has been tried and deduce inferences and reflections from those experiences.
6. Participation of children who are direct beneficiaries, staff and management who have been involved in planning and implementation of the programme and other stakeholders who may have been target groups for sensitisation, motivation and training is to be ensured.

**Methodology:** The consultant applied a combination of method and approach in accomplishing the study such as Desk Study (Literature Review); Focus Group and Group Discussions; Individual Interview including Case Studies, cross checking of the data **and** Direct Visit/Observations. Necessary checklists were prepared and used in collecting information from the informants. The consultant covered all three cities under the study.

**Desk Review:** The consultant collected all necessary and relevant documents/reports such as project proposal, progress reports and other documents including NFE curriculum, training materials and modules, and review those thoroughly in all stages of the assignment, with concentration at the initial phases. The main purposes of the desk review are to understand/comprehend the project, assess progress in reference to planned targets and development of field survey instruments.

**Focus Group Discussions (FGD):** Group/Focus Group Discussion, key method of the study, was conducted with the stakeholders, the target children Groups/Forums, the Local Gov. body, service providers, NGO and civil society representatives, community people, the Trade/Business Associations, the Employers, care givers (parents/guardians) and project personnel, using semi-structured checklist.

**Individual Interview and Case Study:** The consultant also carried out individual one-to-one interviews, numbering around 19 from different categories of target groups and stakeholders, especially with some important ones with whom it was difficult in arranging group interview because of some reasons, the consultant has personally visited and talked to them; and if found very interesting, conducted in-depth interviews for Case Studies. All these were conducted based on some checklist/semi structured outline.

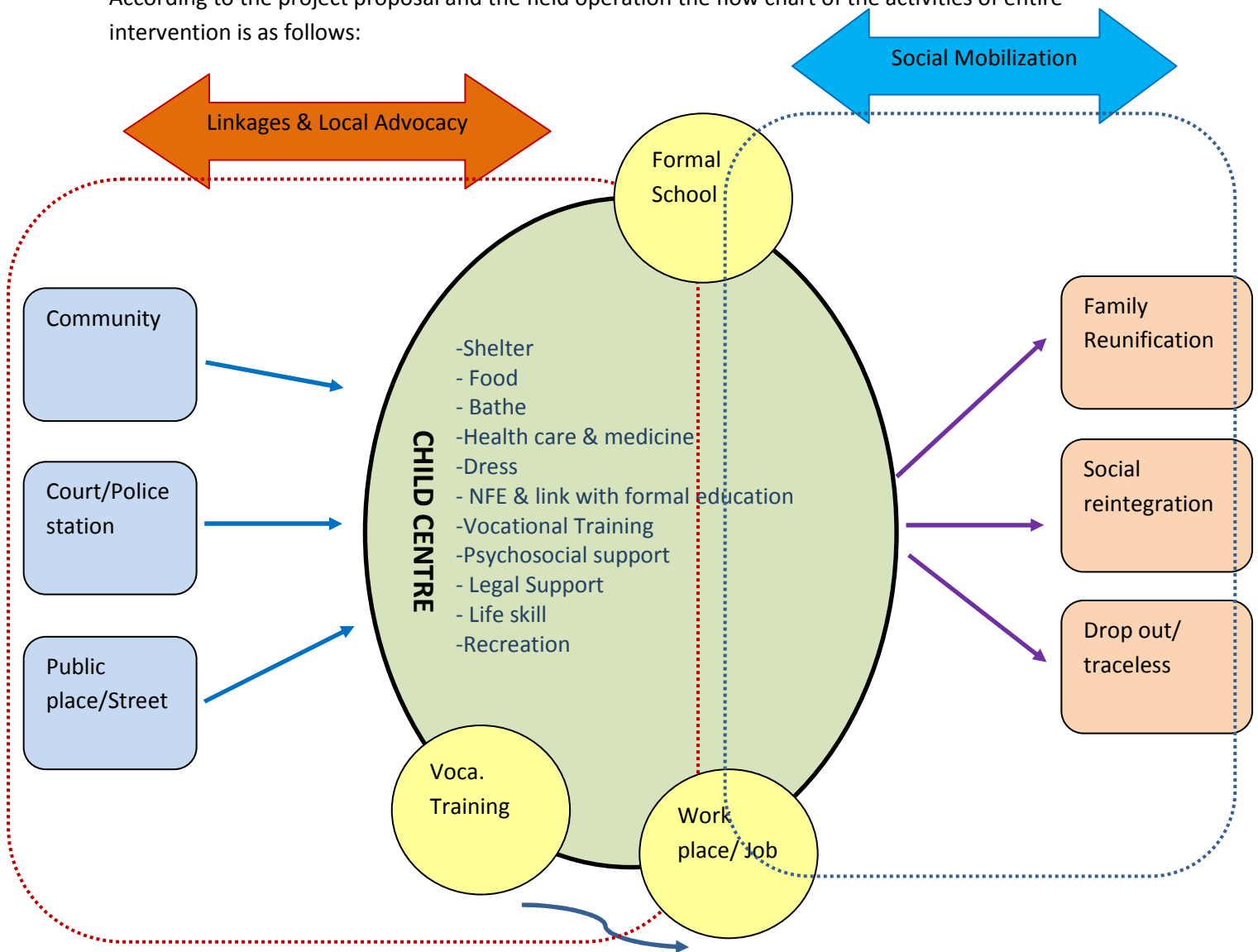
**Field observation:** The consultant visited in person to some work places, both project supported/covered work sites and control work sites where children are working, and saw the existence and changes or differences in terms of physical infrastructures, registers/records, its maintenance, practices of children and employers, etc that were targeted to develop and maintain as per project document.

**Information collection and validation:** In the entire evaluation process the data and information have been cross checked with different parallel and alternative sources. In many cases physical visit and interview took place on sample basis to validate the information found in the office file or told by the project staff.

**Data Analysis and Report Writing:** The consultant processed and analyzed all the findings/results obtained through various methods. Synthesizing the findings of all methods under the survey, the consultant prepared the draft report including conclusions and recommendations of the study (FE), and *incorporating the feedbacks on the draft, finalized the report.*

## Project Flow Chart

According to the project proposal and the field operation the flow chart of the activities of entire intervention is as follows:



## Evaluation Findings in Khulna and Barisal

This part of the report tends to draw the findings, conclusions and recommendations of each component of the street children interventions implemented by Aparajeyo Bangladesh.

***Children Identification & Enrollment:*** The initial stage of the project is to identify the targeted children and enroll them into the centre. It is found that from three major sources children do come to the centre a) Collected by the staff or peer from the street b)referred by the parents/community c) referred by the court/police.

### Findings:

- Total enrollment 1046 (Khulna 420 & Barisal 626) against the target of 1500 children.
- Real vulnerable children are hugely collected by peer or staff from the railway station, launch station and other public places.
- Referral system from court and police station is well organized and very effective.
- Referral by parents and community is also very common but in most cases the children do not belong to the criteria of the implementing project. Many such children found in the centre whose family treat it as a cheaper option for food and education.
- Barisal has targeted the children more properly than the Khulna.

### Comments:

- In most cases enrollment process found subjective such as a particular staff used to visit the potential areas regularly to collect the children, but when s/he left the organization the new staff prefers to use the community as referral source. It is hugely found in Khulna only.

### Recommendations:

- There should have a check list and specific sources to bring the children to the centre.
- As peer group and collection through staff found the most effective way for proper enrollment, this strategy should be extended expanded.
- In the case of community referral the project team should be more thorough to check the background and vulnerability of the children.

**Center Based Services:** Centre based services are the heart of the interventions. Both the centres in Khulna and Barisal have the capacity of 50 children. Besides, shelter and food a number of activities are conducted in these centres. Following are major findings about the services and activities of the centre, many of this findings are echoed by the children in FGDs with them.

#### Findings:

- Shelter facilities are found very useful to the children.
- Most of the time the internal environment of the centre remains healthy in manner.
- Most of the children like the food served by the centres. But they want more variety in the menu.
- The meal menu was prepared at the very inception of the project and never reviewed.
- Children get soap and detergent powder twice and shampoo once a week.
- More than 35 boys have to use the only towel after their bath while on average 15 girls share a towel among themselves.
- In Khulna boys' toilet lock found broken and they cannot shut the door during their usage.
- Improved diet is found during lunch time comparing with dinner and breakfast.
- NFE follows innovative methods, but educators do not have enough skill to use these methods.
- Some children can match the parts of sentences in NFE method but cannot read it out.
- Initiative for mainstreaming to formal school is comparatively weak in Barisal.
- No regular health check up provision is found in the centre. Children can only visit the doctor when they feel sick. Health profile is also maintained for every child patient.
- Part time doctor only for the need based treatment is not the cost effective options for the treatment of the children.
- Medicine supply is adequate in the centre.
- Mainstreaming to formal school is one of the strongest parts of the centre based activities.
- Psychosocial counseling lacks it quality effectiveness due to the capacity of the staff.

#### Cost Benefit Analysis of Part time Doctor

Monthly Remuneration: Tk. 5500  
 As per register in Barisal:  
 11 Patients treated in Sep' 10  
 08 Patients treated in Oct' 10  
 10 Patients treated in Nov' 10  
 16 Patients treated in Dec' 10  
 12 Patients treated in Jan' 11

- Children enjoy some indoor games and watching TV in the centres.
- Many children raised the issue of irregularities in unlimited TV watching.
- Centre is structurally run by a daylong routine.
- The daily routine does not include the NFE students to study in the evening, as a result when mainstreamed children study in the evening the NFE students have nothing to do.
- Issues related to life skill are discussed informally in the morning session, but no scope of formal training is found for the centre based children

**Comments:**

- Through children have admitted the centres as their homes, but there are room to improve the quality of services and redesign some activities like NFE, evening study, morning session and life skill education, treatment and medicine etc.

**Recommendations:**

- Children should be given the 5 issue based life skill training like the outreach program.
- Centre must be run by the skilled professionals, especially the counselor and the educator should be properly equipped.
- Address the problems mentioned in the findings part, especially which are related to the quality of the services.

***Legal Support to Children:*** The project tends to provide legal support to the children in contact with law.

**Findings:**

- This component is being run very effectively. A very fruitful working relation has been developed by Aparajeyo Bangladesh with the courts, police and other relevant department.
- 34 cases running in Khulna and other 24 in Barisal . Total 175 children were supported through legal services during the project period.
- Documentation of all cases is well maintained and this part is found better in Khulna.
- There were working relations with another project implemented by AB focusing on the children contact with law. Some cases have been referred from that project.

**Comments:**

- This legal support creates a huge visibility of the organization and the project as well.

**Recommendations:**

- Maximum utilization of legal aid fund of Government can be an advocacy issue to provide more services to the such vulnerable children.

***Children's Group and Participation:*** JMC ( 2 staff and 6 children) , Peer Group, Media and Advocacy groups are the children groups to foster their leadership and skill for the betterment of the street children.

**Findings:**

- Peer arevery effective to attract the children to the centre.
- Peer provided 5 issue based training to the children where 621 children attended in Khulna.
- JMC is a good initiative for the leadership development among the children.
- No clear selection criteria for the JMC members, they are subjectively selected by the staff.
- Media and Advocacy group are successful in media communication but less progress in advocacy issue.
- Radio program, wall magazine publish, newsletter, visit newspaper office are some successes of the M&A group
- M&A group has action plan which is not found in other two groups.

**Comments:**

- Graduation process and targeted time for that is missing in this component.

**Recommendations:**

- JMC can be elected through the children themselves.
- The entire selection/election process and the validity period of a JMC should be democratically defined.
- There can be a gradual development steps like JMC  $\implies$  Peer Group  $\implies$  Media & Advocacy Group.

**Mainstreaming to Formal School:** After the NFE AB try to admit the children to the formal schools(usually primary) to give sustainable education life to the children.

**Findings:**

- During the project children 88 children have been successfully admitted to the formal school.
- Some mis-conception about formal school is found among the staff members, such as most of the staff consider UCEP school as a formal. But, in reality the education that is being provided by UCEP is also one type of non formal education.

**Comments:**

- No specific data found about their enrollment and education when the children who enrolled in formal school re-unified with their families.

**Recommendations:**

- In case of re-unification of mainstreamed children Aparajeyo Bangladesh should ensure the continuation of his/her education in the schools of native locality.

**Vocational Training:** Vocational skill training is the integral part of the street children project. Both internally and externally children are being trained on different vocational trades.

**Findings:**

- There is huge demand of different vocational training among the children
- UCEP covers a number of children to provide skill training
- Other arrangement for vocational training are ad-hoc basis.
- Lack of market survey and need assessment found in the planning stage of vocational training
- Number of trade for vocational training is very limited.
- Market survey No formal arrangement is found between AB and UCEP

**Comments:**

- Vocational training is the most potential area where planned actions can stop the children drop out from the centre and build a safe career for them.

**Recommendations:**

- This component should plan with proper field survey and market assessment.



- New trades and technology based skill training should be incorporated in future training courses to meet the latest market demand.
- Skill development training and job placement should be ensured by the same trainer/institutes.
- Formal MoU can be signed with UCEP and other GO-NGO vocational training providing institutes.

**Job Placement:** Usually after the skill training children and Aparajeyo Bangladesh try to assign them in different workplaces, preferably in the same job on which they were trained.

**Findings:**

- Proper job placement after vocational training is very few (less than 10 children)
- There are some successful cases of job placement without the vocational training, where children start their works as apprentice.
- No planned and formal mechanism found for the job placement of the eligible children.
- Children who have been linked with UCEP has more potentials for future job placements, as the organization bears that responsibility.

**Comments:**

- The project activity, staffing, resources and inputs are not properly planned in the project proposal to make this activities success. It seems that the job placement issue had been assumed as an automated forward step of the vocational training.

**Recommendations:**

- The component of job placement should be comprehensive design in consistence with the vocational training trades and the need of employers.
- Need assessment of potential trades and positions can be done periodically, so that vocational training and other preparation can be done accordingly. Moreover, eligible children can choose their job from diversified fields.
- Local level negotiation and formal lobbying can be done with the business community and business association to create job for the skilled and semi-skilled children. (for children aged 14+)

**Project Management:** The entire project management part includes the project proposal designing, project implementation, documentation, monitoring, staff capacity development etc.

**Findings:**

- The design of the project and keeping the child centre in the focus of all the activities shows the effectiveness of the planning.
- The organization provided all its non-financial supported to the project to make it a successful one.
- Few gaps have been identified in Work plan preparation. Quarterly work plan and of each area has not been found in organized shape.
- Work plan is developed based on the quarterly allocation of the budget, as a result many of the project activities seem budget driven and sometimes these activities do not meet the need of that particular period. the
- Huge number of registers and documents are maintained at staff level. But no consolidate data is available in the centers in every specific output and outcomes. The staff always provide this data through instant calculation of their detailed records.
- Mid level and frontline staff are not properly aware of the objectives and expected outcomes of the project. As a result though the staff work a lot but that does not contribute appropriately to meet the objectives.
- Logical framework was not properly developed, as a result progress monitoring system has not found in structured way.
- Though a huge data input need to be done for the MIS, but implementing organization cannot use the MIS thorough taking any output from it. Some fields in MIS are close ended so chances of miscoding is very high. For example: Under the field “Abuse” there is no sub category as a result after input, categorically children cannot be identified easily.
- Staff drop out is a major concern for the project.
- Internal coordination and sharing among Khulna and Barisal team is weak.

**Comments:**

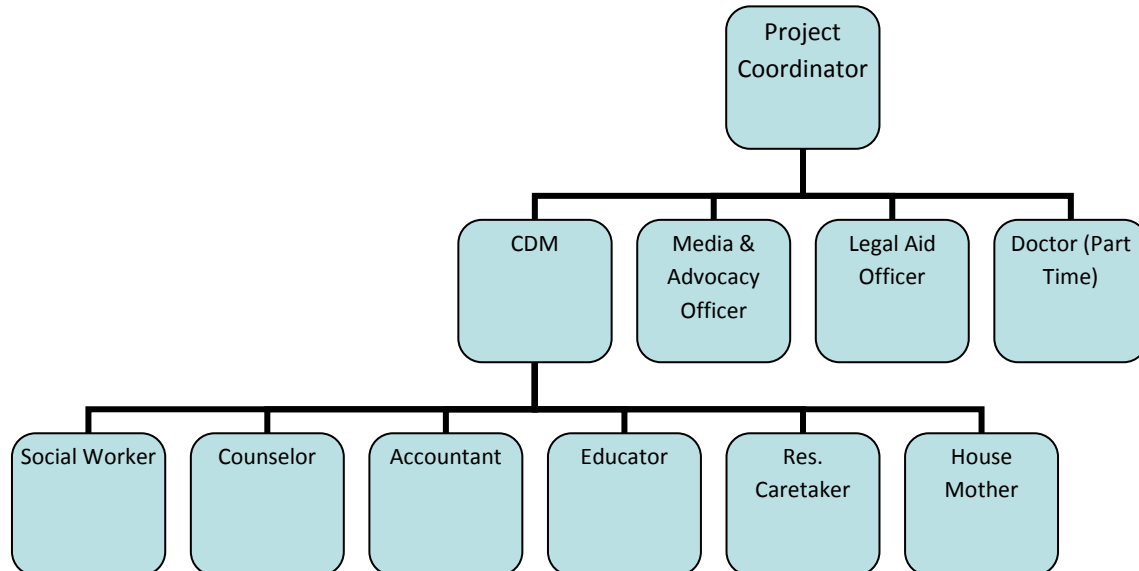
- More or less all the activities run on time but in most cases all these activities do not create a greater picture altogether, rather scattered islands of success is commonly found.

- **Recommendations:**

- All the staff should properly be briefed about the project details in Bangla.
- Concrete work plan need to developed on annual and quarterly basis at the inception of the project, which can be adjusted in every quarter according to the need and scope of specific quarter.
- Formal and effective progress monitoring system must be introduced to assess month to month progress and trends.
- MIS should be redesigned so that it ensures the both way uses of encoding and decoding.

**Staff Management:** The issues related to the internal management of the project staff is discussed in this part.

**Supervisory Organogram of AB project**



**Findings:**

- Most of the staffs are highly dedicated to their works.
- Scope of Staff capacity development was inadequate during the project period.

- Due to drop out and internal promotion few positions are occupied by less skilled persons.
- As no national level advocacy or networking initiative is found in the project interventions, so no rationale is found to make the station of PC in head office.
- Counselor is involved in providing skill training and other office work. S/he does not have full time plan of work.
- Staffs are more interested in service delivery approach rather to understand the sustainability and Rights based issues.

**Comments:**

- Proper staff development plan is missing in the project. The dedication that the staff bear can be transformed into more effective force through proper planning and initiatives.

“...Safety net group is to bring the children to our shelter home...”

--- Social Worker  
Barisal

**Recommendations:**

- Issue based training need to be arranged for all the staffs considering their job responsibilities.
- Counselors need in depth training on psycho-social counseling.
- Staff drop out issues must be addressed to hold the momentum of the project.
- Station of PC should be in Khulna and Barisal. S/he can visit to head office in necessary cases.

**Project Support Group:** According to the plan mentioned in the project proposal some professional groups have been mobilized to support the specific needs of the project. The Lawyers’ Panel, Journalist Panel are such support groups that play contributory role to the SANJOG II project.

**Findings:**

- Lawyers panel play a very effective role in providing legal support to the victim children.
- Journalist panel play a vital role to ensure space for children in local newspaper. As result two local newspaper in Barisal and Khulna monthly spare half page and full page for the children.
- Advisory group are the most effective component of the entire project. The composition of the group and their role in local resource mobilization is really remarkable.
- No differences found between action committee and advisory committee. The member of these committee also do not want this multi tier interventions.

**Comments:**

- The involvement between the project and the journalist panel is always maintained by the Media & Advocacy officer, in the situation of his it may not work effectively.

**Recommendations:**

- Children and other project staff should also be involved in the activities related to the Journalist Panel.
- Regular interventions need to create scope for the children groups so that they can build rapport with journalists and share their issues directly.
- Advisory committee and action committee can merged together and specific criteria can be developed for the membership of the committee.

***Social Support Group:*** 10-15 members are organized under the umbrella of Safety net Committee in each community. In most cases this groups is led by the local elected representatives of local government institute. The major objective of this group is to create a social protection mechanism for the vulnerable children in their own community. CRC mobilization group and Volunteer Groups are other two social groups mentioned in the project proposal.

**Findings:**

- The target for formation of Safety net Committee was 10 but formed 17 due to the need of the community.
- These committees meet quarterly, project staff prepare and keep record of those meetings.
- No CRC mobilization group found.
- Volunteer Group is not found in organized form as mentioned in the project proposal. But the consultant met few volunteers individually who are interested to do something for these children.
- The Councilor of 17 no. ward, Barisal City Corporation who is leading a safety net group knows very little about the interventions of Aparajeyo Bangladesh.
- The major concern regarding the Safety net Committee is political biasness. The evaluation team visited the committee formed in 31 no ward of Khulna City corporation and found most of the

“...I am impressed by the activities done by Aparajeyo Bangladesh, but my concern is about the future of these children. How far will they be able to go....”

--- Ward Councilor  
17 no. Barisal City Corporation

committee members are of same political parties. This was also found that the most of the committee members were chosen by the ward councilor.

- Women participation is very limited within the committee.

**Comments:**

- Though all the committees are not properly functional yet but Safety net committee has huge potentials to develop a preventive safe net for the vulnerable children.

**Recommendations:**

- Safety net committee should include members of different background, different political ideology through developing a structured criteria for its membership.
- Every committee should develop a regular action plan after attending a workshop which is to make clear understanding about the role of the committee.

***Local Linkage and Advocacy:*** In this part the relation between project and other stakeholders and local advocacy issues are discussed from the field findings.

**Findings:**

- The organization/project has developed a very good working relation with local administration, local elites and other stakeholders.
- A good working relation has been developed with UCEP through linkage program.
- The organization has also joined with UNICEF and other organizations as local supporting force to declare the Barisal City Corporation as children friendly city through local level advocacy initiative.
- Effective linkages found with the educational institutes, especially the primary schools.

**Comments:**

- As per Project Proposal P 03 issues - Birth registration, Children Act 1974 and Legal Aid Fund would be the advocacy issue. But no such concrete initiative found for advocacy.

**Recommendations:**

- The organization should formally initiate advocacy with the Launch owner and operator association in Barisal to make the launch stations safe and secured for the children.
- There is huge potential to build city based working relation with World Vision, AVAS, Save the Children and other local NGOs.

***Policy Advocacy & Networking :*** The project proposal mentioned some policy advocacy issues to be taken from grassroots to national level and expanded network will be build to strengthen the advocacy.

**Findings:**

- No mentionable policy advocacy initiative found during the project period.
- The organization has a wide range of networking both at national and international level. But no evidence was found to utilize this comparative advantage in project interventions.

“...Internal communication and interaction should be increased for the effectiveness of the group....”

--- Md. Tuhin Sheikh  
Safety Net Group

**Comments:**

- The organization has full capacity to pick and move with any policy advocacy issue and mobilize others through networking.

**Recommendations:**

- Current Vagrant policy, Child Labour Elimination policy are some latest policies from which the organization can initiate advocacy campaign.

***Family Reunification :*** Family re-unification is the most important component of the project through which children are given back to their family through due process.

**Findings:**

- 288 number of children (160 in Khulna & 128 in Barisal) have been re-unified during the project period.
- This is the unique approach and success of the project.

- Due to lack of proper networking in every area sometimes re-unification process took longer time.
- Many cases found where re-unified children again left the house.
- When mainstreamed children are given back to their family, no initiative is visible to ensure their enrollment in their local schools.
- No formal follow up mechanism is found after the family re-unification of a child

**Comments:**

- This component has a huge demand and this is the heart of the all intervention of the project.

**Recommendations:**

- During the re-unification both source and destination police station can be involved through GD.
- During the re-unification not only the family but also the neighbours and community members need to be involve to make the re-unification sustainable.
- Necessary initiatives should be ensured by the project to continue the formal education of the mainstreamed children after his/her family re-unification.
- Formal periodic follow up need to be introduced after the family re-unification.

***Social Re-integration:*** This is the process by which a child is rehabilitated in the society beyond one's family. In most cases this social re-integration took place through involvement in IGA .

**Findings:**

- Total 04 cases of such social re-integration are found during the project period.
- Though it is called social re-integration but in reality society do not involve to bear any responsibility in this process. As a result children are actually become self-dependant through such initiatives. For this reason minor children could not be socially re-integrated.

**Comments:**

- Hypothetically the social re-integration mechanism sounds very effective but necessary ground works and supports are missing in the project planning.

**Recommendations:**

- The social re-integration mechanism should be practiced in pilot basis with the comprehensive plan and maximum involvement of the social duty bearers.



**Linkages with GoB & National program:** This part tends to link the project activities with the interventions of the Government and other national program.

**Findings:**

- 05 girls successfully transferred to the government shelter home in Barisal.
- There is much room to link the children with the GoB interventions like Protection of Children At Risk (PCAR) project, Day Care centre, orphanage, Vagrant Home, Kishor Unnoyon Kendro etc.

**Comments:**

- Both the Ministry of Social welfare and Ministry of Labour and Employment took some project initiatives and data systems for the targeted children. Aparajeyo Bangladesh can easily be linked with these initiatives.

**Recommendations:**

- From district level to national level the project interventions should regularly be shared with the respective government officials.
- Publications and report can be sent to the local and national administration.

## Overall Comments:

Considering the activities and output assessment the project almost completed all its activities. Following table shows a snapshot of the outputs:

**Achievement against Target for the period from June 2008 to February 2011**

Sl.	Activities	Target	Completed
1.	Children enrolled, sheltered and protected from violence abuse and exploitation	1500	997
2.	Children completed Grade III education	500	104
3.	Children offered skills/vocational training and placed on apprenticeships	100	152
4.	Children accessed to first aid, treatment or hospitalization	1500	1300
5.	Children and staff selected and represent Joint Management Committee	14 children and 4 staff	14 children and 4 staff
6.	Young people selected on peer support techniques	12	12
7.	Peer supporters communicated with children at the outreach and centre to provide support to victims/at risk children	500	1096

Sl.	Activities	Target	Completed
8.	Advisory Committee selected and TORs developed	2	2
9.	Action group selected and TORs developed	2	2
10.	Stakeholders trained on selected issues		446
11.	Community volunteers identified and selected to form safety nets in cities	200	
12.	Lawyer's panel selected and TORs developed	2	2

### *Strengths:*

- There is huge demand of such project in the project areas, different stakeholders are aware of the project intervention.
- Centre based shelter services is very unique type of interventions for the vulnerable children.
- Local community are involved with the project interventions.
- Family re-unification and legal aid support program creates a significant effect and visibility of the project.
- Good working relation with District administration and Local Government Institutes.

### *Concerns:*

- More than 50% enrolled children become drop out and traceless. No legal steps are taken of these missing cases.
- Both in Barisal and Khulna many children are wrongly targeted. Many of them have family and due to poverty they just come to centre to get free food and education.
- Staff at different level are not properly capacitated by the project to run it effectively
- No progress found with any advocacy issue
- Number of re-integrated children is few, re-integration could not make success as expected.
- Family reunification programs is not fully comprehensive, specially follow up mechanism is missing.
- Local and national networks are not properly utilized by the project.

#### ***An Analysis of Children Enrollment***

**Total Enrollment Target – 1500**

**Enrolled in Khulna 420 & in Barisal 626**

Among this 420 children 160 re-unified to their families, 3 reintegrated socially, 48 children got formal schooling and vocational training, 28 placed in workplaces and 16 still reside in the centre.

**Rest 165 children have no trace in Khulna and in Barisal 417 children have same status.**

- Liaison with government initiatives is very limited.
- The project seem very much budget driven as a result staff were more keen about output rather than the outcomes.
- Project documentation process is not adequate and well organized.

### *Recommendations:*

- Besides providing services from the centre, project should create access for the children to the public services.
- Vocational training component should strengthened as per the need of contemporary markets.
- Staff should be oriented and monitored so that they can work for the entire project neither for the compartmental part.
- Local community must be involved in family re-unification and formal follo up should be introduced.
- Proper graduation plan should be followed for every single children
- Improve the quality of centre based services.

Rests of the recommendation are made in earlier part with every components of the project.

### *Conclusion:*

The initiation of the street children project and selecting the working areas are very much justified to its nature. In spite of different shortcomings in some components the project, the entire project has a huge need and potentials to work for the street children. The momentum that has been created by the project should be continued through addressing the concerns mentioned in the evaluation part.

“...There should have some education facilities in the evening for the children who do not attend formal school....”

--- Educator  
Barisal

## Evaluation Findings in Rajshahi

ACD is the responsible implementing organization for SANJOG II in Rajshahi. In that part street children is a major focus of the program.

ACD runs 03 DICs(Drop In Centre) in the Rajshahi city. Among those one is for girls and other two are for boys. The major activities and services run from the DICs are:

- Provide food
- Provide dress
- Need based counseling
- Recreation facilities
- Education (Formal & non formal)
- Night Shelter
- Rehabilitation & follow up
- Safe shelter
- Facilities to take rest
- Day care service
- Life skill
- Savings
- Credit
- Treatment
- Self employment
- Job placement
- Locker service
- Legal support
- Children meeting
- Motivation session

*The major outputs and outcomes of the interventions are as follows:*

ACD Activities from June'2008 to February'2011

Activities	Target	Completed
Staff Recruitment/ Re-appointment/ Re-contract	57	57
Arrange local level advocacy meetings with BDR on Trafficking, National Plan of Action for Children	12	12
Arrange local level advocacy meetings with LEA on Trafficking, National Plan of Action for Children.	9	9
Arrange local level advocacy meetings with District Administration on Trafficking, National Plan of Action for Children.	3	3
Conduct advocacy meeting with LEB on child trafficking, minor migration and violence against children as well as proper implementation of law.	30	30
Legal Aid support for 45 violence victim children	45	47
Formation SHG and Child Rights Forum involving 5 (five) SHG in a forum support to promote cultural intervention	12	12
Strengthen the capacity through training on leadership, management, and life Skills of the SHG	9	9
Provide educational support for 150 school going girls children who are from underprivileged family	150	214
Arrange skills development training for 120 rural adolescents on poultry, cow and goat rearing, nursery development, marketing and management.	9(Three types of trainings)	9
Building economic capacity of adolescent children (12-18) through micro credit to 100 rural adolescent	100	2279
Formal education	Need base	77
Job placement	Need base	342
Vocational training	Need base	74
Monthly cultural programme for DIC children	33	28
Case management	Need base	522
follow up	Need base	140
Reintegration	Need base	137
Promote livelihood opportunities with credit support to 150 street working children after the vocational training for their reintegration.	150	43
Arrange workshop for sharing child rights, CSEC and trafficking issue with the local networking	4	4

NGOs of ACD.		
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### *Fact Sheet on the achievements of the project in Rajshahi*

Activities	DIC-1	DIC-2	DIC-3
Children enrolled	Category 1=135 (Night shelter 84 & day care 51) Category 2=242 (Night shelter 161 & day care 81) Category 3=122 (Night shelter 108 & day care 14)	Category 1=12 (Night shelter 12 & day care 10) Category 2=181 (Night shelter 49 & day care 132) Category 3=244 (Night shelter 82 & day care 162)	Category 1=5 (Night shelter 5) Category 2=20 (Night shelter 10 & day care 10) Category 3=136 (Night shelter 35 & day care 101)
Children reunified with family	16	10	5
Reintegration	69	25	12
Formal education (UCEP & others school)	UCEP school= 6 Others school=25	UCEP school=15 Others school=15	UCEP school=4 Others school=12
Vocational training	ACD=23, Other=13	ACD=45, Other=4	ACD=6
Job placement	218	105	19
Return back	32	18	2

Category 1= no parents, Category 2= father/mother (one of them) Category 3= father and mother

### *Children Identification & Enrollment:*

#### **Findings:**

- The major source of children enrollment is referral by different people and stakeholders.
- A good number of children enrolled in the project (details in fact sheet)
- Majority of the children are of working class who are employed in different shops and workplaces.
- Some children are referred by the police and transport leaders of bus stations.
- As far as the project proposal is concerned many of the children do not belong to the criteria that project intended to address.

**Comments:**

- To many of the children DIC is the cheaper option for food and shelter to the working class who are not street children. As a result there is a growing trend among the DIC children to bring fellow children to the DIC from their workplaces.

**Recommendations:**

- Staff should go out for more field work to collect the children who are facing the real vulnerability.
- Before selecting any child for the night shelter one's vulnerability and need should be properly assessed.
- Discourage to enroll the working children in DIC who can effort their shelter and food through other means.

***DIC Based Services:***

**Findings:**

- The most positive thing about the DIC is its environment. The DICs are found very cheerful and homely to the children.
- Children consider the DICs as the safest shelter for them.
- The major focus of the DIC has been found on education and income generating activities. As a result most of the children are continuing their education.
- DIC does not follow any structured daily routine. Most of the time ad-hoc basis activities go on in the DICs.



- Day care service is less focused and less organized. Children mostly can only wash their body and play some indoors games as a part of the day care services.

**Comments:**

- The internal environment of the DICs found child friendly and children like the overall performance of the DICs.

**Recommendations:**

- DIC should run in structured and routine based activities.
- Proper plan and activities should be introduced for the day care services in DICs.

“... we found the environment of our home in this DIC. Staff are also caring like our family members...”

--- Nadim (12)  
DIC, Rajshahi

***Legal Support to Children:*** The project tends to provide legal support to the children in contact with law.

**Findings:**

- Though the number children is 47 who got the legal services from the project, but all the cases were handled professionally.
- Documentation of all cases is well maintained and this part is found better in Khulna.

**Comments:**

- This is a area where ACD can expand their interventions as no other major player are involved in this field of Rajshahi.

**Recommendations:**

- Maximum utilization of legal aid fund of Government can be an advocacy issue to provide more services to the such vulnerable children.

***Mainstreaming to Formal School:***

**Findings:**

- 52 children have been enrolled in formal school and almost everyone is continuing their education.
- Special attention and emphasis in interventions have been found regarding the issue to enroll children in the formal education institutes.
- Some of the mainstreamed children attended to private tutor/coaching to get help of their daily classes.

**Comments:**

- No specific data found about their enrollment and education when the children who enrolled in formal school re-unified with their families.

**Recommendations:**

- In case of re-unification of mainstreamed children ACD should ensure the continuation of his/her education in the schools of native locality.
- Special type of coaching or helping sessions need to be introduced for this type of children to help them to prepare their homework and daily lessons for schools.

## ***Vocational Training:***

**Findings:**

- There is huge demand of different vocational training among the children
- Most of the children who took vocational training are now involved with income generating activities.
- Some girls have developed their own enterprises after receiving vocational training from the project.
- ACD has developed a small vocational training center which successfully provided training to the children and also work as production centre involving skilled children in different works.

**Comments:**

- Vocational training is the key area of children interest, so this should always be updated considering the contemporary demand of the market and children.

**Recommendations:**

- New trades and technology based skill training should be incorporated in future training courses to meet the latest market demand.
- Skill development training and job placement should be ensured by the same trainer/institutes.
- Ownership of the children should make explicitly visible when children are involved with any ACD based enterprise like “Sui Suta”. The capital and profit management should also be transparent and participatory so that other children get motivation for further development of other enterprises.

***Job Placement:***

**Findings:**

- Internal job placement rate for girls through involving them in production house is satisfactory.
- Though many of the boys work in different market/shop/workplaces but most of these jobs were hunted by the children themselves. ACD could create few cases of job placement where the project directly took the initiatives.
- No planned and formal mechanism found for the job placement of the eligible children.
- Out of 342 children who are involved with works a few only got job after their vocational training, the major portion joined their works as unskilled or apprentices.

**Comments:**

- The strategy and the capacity for the interventions like job placement is not adequately present in the project design.

**Recommendations:**

- Need assessment of potential trades and positions can be done periodically, so that vocational training and other preparation can be done accordingly. Moreover, eligible children can choose their job from diversified fields.
- ACD should pro actively identify and lobby with the employers to ensure job placement for the interested and skilled children who belong to the age group of 14+.

## *Project Management:*

### **Findings:**

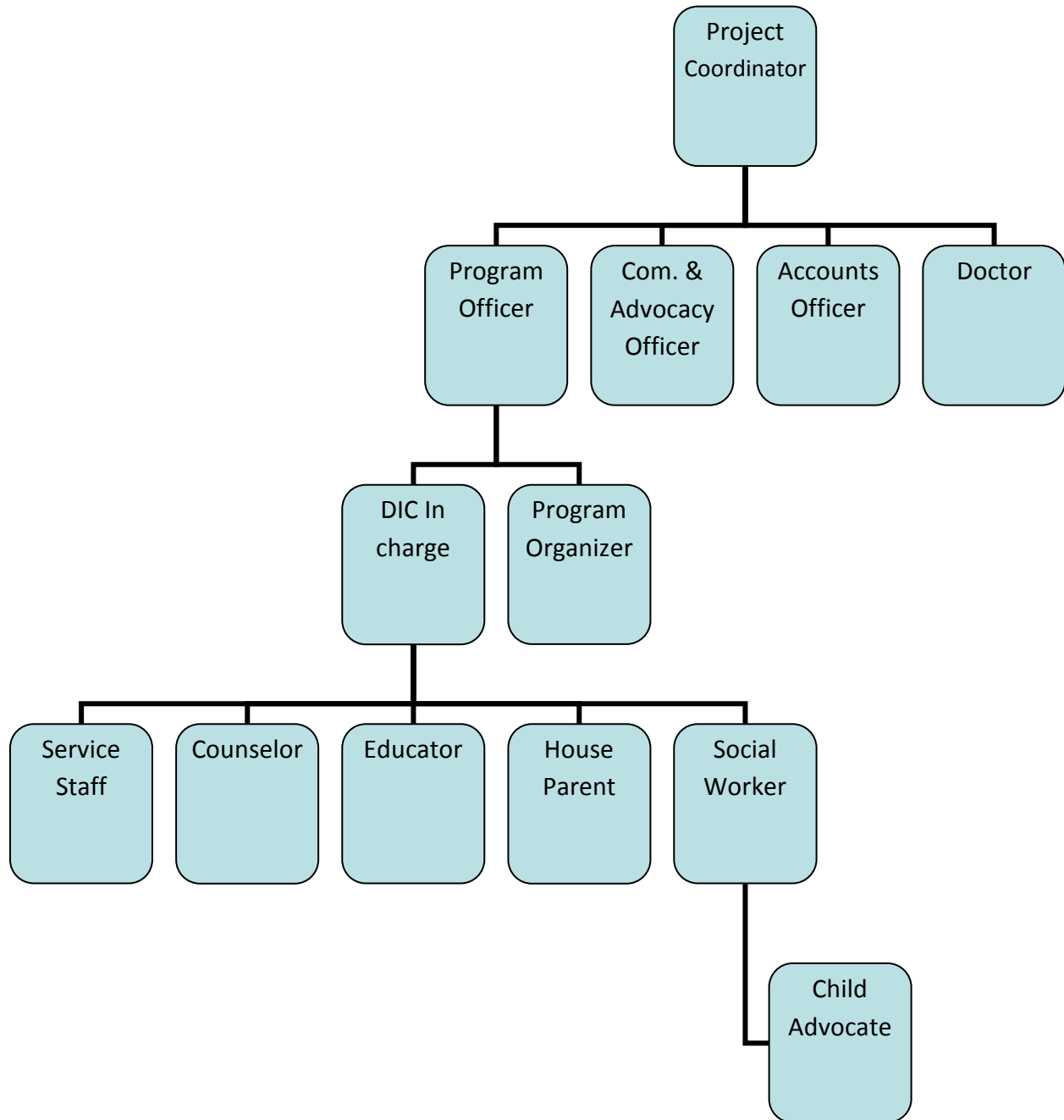
- The design of the project and keeping the DIC in the focus of all the activities shows the effectiveness of the planning.
- The organization and its top management has a close contact with the project implementation team.
- Few gaps have been identified in Work plan preparation.
- Work plan is developed based on the quarterly allocation of the budget, as a result many of the project activities seem budget driven and sometimes these activities do not meet the need of that particular period.
- Mid level and frontline staff are not properly aware of the objectives and expected outcomes of the project. As a result though the staff work a lot but that does not contribute appropriately to meet the objectives.
- Logical framework was not properly developed, as a result progress monitoring system has not found in structured way.
- Though a huge data input need to be done for the MIS, but implementing organization cannot use the MIS thorough taking any output from it. Some fields in MIS are close ended so chances of miscoding is very high. For example: Under the field “Abuse” there is no sub category as a result after input, categorically children cannot be identified easily.
- No child protection policy is found for the staff and other stakeholders.

### **Comments:**

- More or less all the activities run on time but in most cases all these activities do not create a greater picture altogether, rather scattered islands of success is commonly found.

### **Recommendations:**

- All the staff should properly be briefed about the project details in Bangla.
- Concrete work plan need to developed on annual and quarterly basis at the inception of the project, which can be adjusted in every quarter according to the need and scope of specific quarter.
- Formal and effective progress monitoring system must be introduced to assess month to month progress and trends.
- MIS should be redesigned so that it ensures the both way uses of encoding and decoding.

*Staff Management:***Supervisory Organogram of ACD project**

**Findings:**

- Staffs are found dedicated to their works.
- Scope of Staff capacity development was inadequate during the project period.
- Interpersonal relation among the staff found healthy which created the scopes for a good team work.

**Comments:**

- Proper staff development plan is missing in the project. The dedication that the staff bear can be transformed into more effective force through proper planning and initiatives.

**Recommendations:**

- Issue based training need to be arranged for all the staffs considering their job responsibilities.
- Periodic staff meeting should discuss the detail challenges and opportunities currently faced by the project and it should be recorded for the learning.

***Local Linkage and Advocacy:*** In this part the relation between project and other stakeholders and local advocacy issues are discussed from the field findings.

**Findings:**

- The organization/project has developed a very good working relation with local administration, local elites and other stakeholders.
- A good working relation has been developed with UCEP through linkage program.
- Effective linkages found with the educational institutes including the night schools.

**Comments:**

- No local level or national level advocacy component found which is launched by the project.

**Recommendations:**

- The organization should formally initiate advocacy with the Rajshahi City Corporation to ensure some social safety measures for the street children in the city.
- ACD should also join and initiate some formal networking with the organizations that work on child rights issues.

- Child Labour Elimination policy 2010, Current Vagrant policy etcare some latest policies from which the organization can initiate advocacy campaign.

### *Family Reunification :*

#### **Findings:**

- 31 number of children have been re-unified during the project period.
- This component found weak both in operation and planning level.

#### **Comments:**

- This component has a huge demand and should be strengthen to make sustaianable changes ot the targeted children.

#### **Recommendations:**

- During the re-unification both source and destination police station can be involved.
- During the re-unification not only the family but also the neighbours and community members need to be involve to make the re-unification sustainable.
- Necessary initiatives should be ensured by the project to continue the formal education of the mainstreamed children after his/her family re-unification.
- Formal periodic follow up need to be introduced after the family re-unification.

### *Social Re-integration:*

#### **Findings:**

- Total 106 cases of such social re-integration are found during the project period.
- Strong follow up activities have been found in some successful cases of social-reintegration.
- This process found effective for elderly children for minor it does not work.

#### **Comments:**

- Hypothetically the social re-integration mechanism sounds very effective but necessary ground works and supports are missing in the project planning.

**Recommendations:**

- The social re-integration mechanism should be practiced in pilot basis with the comprehensive plan and maximum involvement of the social duty bearers.

***Children's Participants and Children Meeting:***

**Findings:**

- Children participation in day to day work of the DICs has been found very effective.
- Fortnightly children's meeting is really a meaningful activity of child participation where children bring their every issues and collectively make plan to address those.

**Comments:**

- This component is one of the major pillar to attract the DIC children to be involve with project interventions.

**Recommendations:**

- ACD should properly documented the process and outputs of children's meetings as a good example of child participation.

**Overall Comments:**

Reviewing all the components of the project has created scope for the evaluator to draw some assessment comments and recommendations precisely for further consideration.

***Strengths:***

- Social credibility and acceptance of the DICs are the major strength of the project in Rajshahi.
- The emphasis of the interventions on education and creation of livelihoods options have created the momentum to the entire project to achieve its objective. Children and all other stakeholders are very appreciative to these special endeavors which are really helpful for the children even after the graduation from the project.



- The child participation in DICs and other project interventions is really remarkable. Children can share their views and needs to the project staff and other children. There is also a good room for the leadership development among the children.
- The chosen trades for the vocational training are very much realistic and market oriented, as a result none of the vocational trainee found unemployed. The practicality of the vocational trainings also has made a visible result for the project.
- Savings mechanism which is being practiced for the working children in DICs is also a good initiative. Many of the children used their savings in their crisis period.
- Child referral system with the police stations is found very effective, working relation with the local elected bodies specially the women councilor is found very purposive and fruitful of the project.
- Planned follow up mechanism in child re-integration cases is also a good practice to build a sustainable change. It also create some learning opportunities for the project staff to refine their strategy to make sustainable re-integration.

### *Concerns:*

- DIC activities are not well planned, without daily routine the DIC run in informal way through ad-hoc activities.
- Non Formal Education does not follow any national standard. Non structured Non Formal Education may fulfill the basic literacy but it would not help the student that much to enroll in formal schools.
- Though day care services are available in DICs but it is weak and no specific plan has been found for the children who come only for the day care services.
- Lack of capacity among few staffs found specially on the technical issues like family re-unification, child psychology, UNCRC, Rights based approach, child programme etc.
- In many cases it is found that the enrolled children are not of the same criteria as mentioned in the project areas. Some working children enrolled to take cheaper shelter and food facilities as like commercial hostels.
- Child collection mechanism through staff is less functional.

We have less scope to share the regular challenges of the project through reporting mechanism...

- ACD Staff

- Family re-unification is rate is very poor, it is also because of the wrong targeted enrollment of the children.
- Many of the stakeholders do not know properly about the activities of the DIC and project as well.
- The ratio of the graduated children and enrollment does not show satisfactory indication.
- The use of MIS for the project tracking found complicated and mis-leading.

### *Recommendations:*

- Local resource mobilization strategies for the DICs should be adopted for the sustainability of the interventions.
- Local level advocacy should be initiated to create access to public services for the children.
- Staff capacity building plan should be developed and tailor made training need to be delivered for the staff.
- Project should focus on maximum number children graduation instead of maximum number of enrollment. Drop out children should be properly recorded and the causes also need need to be addressed to reduce the drop out cases.
- Through proper visibility and networking the project activity should involve more political leaders, media, civil society members, professional groups as its social support partners.
- Proper graduation plan should be introduced for every single children who enrolled in the project
- DIC based activities should be delivered in more organized and planned way. DIC should be established in the area where targeted children can easily get access.
- Effective linkages should be developed with national and divisional program on street children, so that the entire effort can visibly contribute to the national plan of action for children.

Besides component wise recommendations will help each of the components to be more effective and complimentary to the greater canvas of the project.

### *Conclusion:*

The interventions run by ACD in Rajshahi are unique for the city and as a divisional city Rajshahi also has huge need of such interventions. There are potentials to develop a comprehensive program for the street children gradually. ACD has some very unique points as mentioned in the strength part, proper planning and strategic guidance through capacity development will be needed to continue these interventions more successfully. Local level advocacy and linkages with the government program may give all the ACD efforts a sustainable destination. The project should be continued with a time bound plan and targeted number of children, so that proper graduation cycle can be completed for the children who are recently enrolled in the project.

## Best Practices:

- *The Role of Advisory Committee in Khulna*

The advisory committee and the action committee are the inspiring endeavors of the project SANJOG II, implemented by Aparajeyo Bangladesh in Khulna. Formulation of these committees not only ensured the representation of people from different backgrounds and professions but also successfully created a mutual ownership of the project among every member.

All the committee members are well aware of the every single issue related to the child centre. They also take part in the decision making process regarding the management of the centre. Besides, the committee members have taken some initiatives to ensure the local resource mobilization. For instance, the committee has motivated the local businessmen to provide vegetables for the children, the committee ensured new dresses for children during Eid Festival, provided computer to the centre, helped to set up the centre in suitable building, involved political leaders to help the initiative.

The advisory committee regularly monitors the project activity and follow up the cases of family re-unification in nearby areas. Now the committee has started lobbying with government and Khulna Development Authority (KDA) to get a permanent land for the child centre. The activities of the committee are now treated as an unique example of community involvement in the project areas. Aparajeyo Bangladesh had chosen the appropriate and potential persons for the committee, and then made them interested through sparing proper space of authority to exercise their thoughts into action.

- *Children Meeting: True example of Child Participation*

“Child Participation” is one of the basic but rare principles of the United Nations Convention on the Right of the Children (UNCRC). Very unique type of “Child Participation” is being practiced by the SANJOG II project implemented by ACD in its child centre at Rajshahi. The disadvantaged children who reside in the centre took most of the internal decisions in a very innovative and participatory way.

Children regularly sit in a meeting, where they democratically select a mentor leader to monitor the centre related activities for next one week. S/he will regularly share the opinion of the children and their needs to the ACD staff. Children raise their day to day issues in the meeting like the use of toilet, any unexpected behavior by the any child, how to plan an event etc. All these discussion are properly recorded in their monthly meeting books.

In every week children’s meeting the mentor leader of last week describes his/her roles during the period, all children ask him/her regarding the critical issues they faced by that time. This is a very participatory accountability system practiced by the children which make every children aware of own responsibility and accountability, on the other hand how the query should be placed and how this should be addressed, all these gradually help the leadership development process of the children, make them vocal and use to with the participatory decision making process. The mentoring system helps the junior children to learn the process from the seniors. The entire process of this “Child Participation” is being practiced on the principle of children take decisions in the issues that matters to them. Such practical experiences of children participation is not very common in development arena. This practice can be replicated to other projects of any other organization.

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