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Thematic Study to Assess and Understand the Positive Changes of the Sex Workers through SEEMA Project

CARE Bangladesh

Prepared by:

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REPORT

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**Thematic Study to Assess and Understand the Positive Changes
of the Sex Workers through SEEMA Project**

Acknowledgement

Solidarity and Empowerment through Education, Motivation and Awareness (SEEMA) is a project of CARE Bangladesh, which has been designed upon CARE's previous experience from working with garment workers and sex workers. The overall objective of the action is to contribute to urban poverty reduction in Bangladesh through reducing the social and economic exclusion of the most marginalized women in urban communities and fostering their empowerment. The specific objective of SEEMA is to protect and promote the rights of female garment workers and sex workers through improving their human condition and social position. CARE is interested to know how SEEMA approaches and strategies worked to strengthen the organizational development of sex workers or work for rights based approach. For this, CARE Bangladesh commissioned this report to Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK). CARE Bangladesh and Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) both organizations have a strong mandate for empowerment of women. ASK has been actively engaged in legal advocacy, law and policy reform initiatives, litigation and legal research to achieve its goals. Amongst other marginalized groups and communities of Bangladesh, ASK has been working on sex workers' rights for a long time and maintained network with different organizations that work for sex workers' rights. This report has been prepared by ASK on the basis of thematic study to assess and understand the positive changes of the sex workers' through SEEMA project.

ASK would like to express its sincere gratitude to the members of CARE Bangladesh who have been involved with this work. ASK is thankful to the sex workers who participated in the FGD and interviews. ASK highly appreciates the members of DNS, Mirpur for their generous support in arranging the FGD and Interview within a very short time. ASK appreciates the effort of the ASK team comprising Abu Obaidur Rahman, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh and Senior Deputy Director of ASK, who supervised the entire work on behalf of ASK, Mahzabeen Rabbani Deepa, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh and Senior Staff Lawyer, Advocacy Unit, who worked as a team member and Tapos Bandhu Das, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, who conducted the study as an independent researcher and prepared the report on behalf of ASK.

Executive Summary

This report is based on the ‘thematic study to assess and understand the positive changes of the sex workers through SEEMA project’. Sex workers are one of the most marginalized sections among the urban communities. CARE’s programming framework is explicitly oriented at the needs of marginalized women and girls in urban areas. SEEMA targets most marginalized two impact groups (IGs) in the urban context of Bangladesh- women working in garment factories and sex workers. Both groups face the same underlying causes of poverty lacking social capital stemming from illiteracy, and a lack of education and skills. Both garment and sex workers are in a poor bargaining situation and don’t have the necessary negotiation skills to demand better wages/income and access to social services. They also lack business and income generating skills and opportunities. Both the Impact group of SEEMA Project identified as have structural constraints of social, political and economic marginalization and stigma associated to poverty and deprivation. The specific objective of SEEMA is to promote and protect the rights of female garment workers and sex workers through improving their human condition and social position. It is believed that this objective will be achieved through a process of change that leads to empowerment and social capital building of the impact groups (IGs). Therefore, the project aims to ensure their active participation in decision-making and to facilitate changes in social and institutional norms and practices that reduce violence against women (VAW), improves social safety and promotes decent working environments. The SEEMA Project ends on July 31, 2014. At this point it is necessary to evaluate the outcome of the project; and more specifically, whether or to what extent it has contributed to positive changes of the sex workers. With this aim and objective CARE felt the necessity of a thematic study to assess the positive changes of the sex workers through SEEMA Project and requested Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) to conduct the thematic study and prepare a report with further recommendations based on the findings of the study.

This thematic study aims at evaluating of the achievements and shortcomings of SEEMA Project in its Sex Workers’ component from a rights based approach. As CARE Bangladesh changes its approaches and strategies based on learning

from previous project, therefore, CARE is interested to know how these approaches and strategies worked to strengthen the organizational development of sex workers, as well as satisfied the expectations of right based approach. This study attempts to assess and understand how effectively SEEMA approaches and strategies are contributing to positive changes of the IGs i.e. sex workers in particular and CARE's women empowerment approach in general.

The key activities of the SEEMA Project has been observed and studied. The literature review includes a thorough review of the periodic reports of SEEMA Project as well as other reports, documents and publications developed during the project. The reports of learning reflections workshops on Functional Literacy, Leadership Training and Psychosocial Issues of the sex workers have been thoroughly examined. Analysis of these workshop reports offer a concrete understanding of the achievements and shortcomings of SEEMA Project, which is reflected in the experience of the impact groups and retrieved through a systematic process in those workshops. In order to ascertain the actual areas of changes, to verify the reflections found in the learning reflection workshops as well as to compare the socio-economic and human rights situation of the sex workers prior to and after their involvement with SEEMA in the light of their own experience, a questionnaire has been developed. Based on the questionnaire the sex workers have been interviewed and a focus group discussion was also conducted among the sex workers of SEEMA project at Mirpur office of DNS. The interviews and FGD categorically focused on what changes they have experienced after their involvement with SEEMA in terms of safe working environment, financial safety, social condition and dignity as well as personal and interpersonal behavioral changes. The findings of the interviews and FGD have also been compared to that of the reports of the learning reflections workshops. The findings from the interviews and FGD have been critically analyzed along with other material information gathered from the literature review. The positive changes of the sex workers through SEEMA Project and approaches and strategies that influenced those changes have been identified. Finally, the observations of this thematic study have been summarized in a set of recommendations for future programming.

SEEMA Project has been focused on three expected results. The expected results emphasized on the improved self-agency and greater solidarity of the IGs, building their own network and capacity to influence adoption and enforcement of HR legislation and policies as well as promoting a better institutional environment that is responsive and accountable in terms of effective service delivery. The results are-

Result 1: The IGs (female garment and sex workers) has acquired improved self-agency and built greater solidarity to demand rights and entitlements in improving the quality of their life and living standards.

Result 2: The IGs have improved relations, created space and voice to influence adoption and enforcement of HR legislation and policies (focus on labor rights, women's rights, and VAW) for a dignified life.

Result 3: Capacities and knowledge of the duty bearers are enhanced towards promotion of a better institutional environment that is responsive and accountable in terms of effective service delivery.

SEEMA has undertaken numerous activities to realize its expected results. The activities conducted have been discussed and analyzed in this report.

SEEMA has adopted a rights based approach for empowerment and overall development of the sex workers. The situation of sex workers in Bangladesh is really very pathetic. They are devoid of minimum social dignity. Sex workers remain in the realm of extreme distress where torture, degrading treatment and exploitation has been a part of their everyday life. Their working environment is full of risks and hazards. Sex work itself is not expressly declared to be illegal under any law of Bangladesh. But there are certain provisions in several existing laws which are used against sex workers or responsible for violation of their rights (for details see Review of Existing Laws and Policies relating to Sex

Workers in Bangladesh, CARE-ASK, 2014). The law and the society always play an ambiguous role regarding legality of sex work. The common social perception, deeply influenced by religious dogma and orthodox social values, always portrays sex work as a sinful and disgraceful act. Therefore, in the present socio-legal context of Bangladesh, mere survival is indeed very difficult for the sex workers; and for the same reason, it is all the more difficult to work for empowerment of the sex workers. That is why it was obvious for SEEMA project to face a great deal of obstacles and challenges in implementation of its sex workers' component.

In the Learning Reflections Workshop on functional literacy the functional literacy of the sex workers was evaluated. In the workshop the sex workers expressed that now they can open account on bank as they have learned to do signature now and also they have learnt the procedure of opening a bank account their Math curriculum. That they do not need others to read their letters so they can maintain confidentiality; that they can write application in Bengali and by this, they can find jobs, they can correctly count money and no one can cheat with them anymore, they can sign their names, by learning the alphabets they can now teach their children, they can now read the addresses after going somewhere, they do not take drugs as they have learnt the consequences from the Bengali books, and that their behavior has changed; they can talk in a polite manner after getting education. In the learning reflections workshop on Leadership Training the participants told that now they find people who can lead them as it is a prestigious position and everyone is eager to have this position. If a member dies, DNS members collect money and send the dead body to the family which was previously very rare. Solidarity has increased among the members as they know they can be secured by achieving solidarity. Now they can go to different organizations where they get respect. They have the freedom to move around with family in the locality. The members help others who are facing problems. For example- medical support, supporting family etc. Members do not fight with others or harm themselves (cutting body) and they do not show inappropriate behavior. The members have got the ability to take right decisions. In the learning reflection workshop on psychosocial issues the participants expressed their experience of change. The participants mentioned that the

psychosocial interventions of the SEEMA have changed their attitude and behaviour. Such as, those who used to cheat others stopped cheating, or those who were violent towards other girls stopped violent behaviour.

In the interviews and FGD the sex workers told that they have attended the schools run by SEEMA project, where they received basic education and training on leadership skill and psychosocial issues. They got active assistance and support from the project and it made their lives easier. The participants were asked as to whether they have experienced any change in terms of safety at work. The participants replied that now they can feel safer at work as compared to the condition prior to their involvement with the project. It appears that this change has been a result of both direct and indirect interventions of SEEMA. Some respondents told that previously their clients used to torture them. But after their involvement with SEEMA the project members and the DNS members responded to situations whenever they were tortured by their clients. On the other hand, due to the education and training they received from SEEMA, they are now in a better position to protect themselves.

The financial condition of the sex workers also seems to have improved because of SEEMA project. Although the respondents did not get any direct financial benefit from SEEMA, but the education and training they received from SEEMA, helped them to improve their financial condition. Previously most of them could not count. But after attending mathematics classes in the SEEMA project, they can count. So, none can cheat on them anymore. Besides, due to the overall impact of the project their working environment has been improved. The sex workers involved with the SEEMA project feel that their social condition has been improved due to the project. The respondents told that they had to face many difficulties in their social lives. They could not even freely move in the locality as people used to tease and harass them. But the members of the SEEMA project have taken several initiatives to redress that. As a result, the attitude of the people towards sex workers has been changed. They do not humiliate them anymore. They can freely move outside and feel that their social dignity has been upheld. The sex workers interviewed can also identify the positive changes in their personal behaviours. They have started to live a hygienic and healthy life.

Their attitude to life has totally been changed. Previously, they felt insecure and scattered, but now they are confident and organized as their communication and networking have been improved.

The approaches and strategies adopted by SEEMA have been proved very effective in bringing positive changes for the sex workers. From the findings of this study it is quite visible that this project has successfully led to empowerment and solidarity of one of its two impact groups i.e. the sex workers. The sex workers have found a new hope in their lives only because of this project and it was just like a mentor for them. They have been able to change themselves and also went through the experience of changing their surroundings. Such a holistic change is possible when all the initiatives undertaken by the project render effective outcome. Based on the observations and findings of this study some recommendations have been made for further programming. The SEEMA approaches and strategies have shown positive results in changing the overall condition of the sex workers. Therefore, the existing approaches and strategies should continue. The existing legal framework including laws, policies and practices involving the sex work and sex workers should be made clear to the sex workers and more importantly to the project officials who will work with the sex workers. SEEMA has already conducted a study to review the existing laws and policies relating to sex workers in Bangladesh. SEEMA can now develop a scheme to train the sex workers extensively on their human rights and legal issues so that they can understand and interact with legal procedure more confidently. The legal provisions are very often misconceived by the police and other concerned persons. A significant portion of the abuses of process results from such misconceived notions of law. Therefore, more emphasis should be given to clarify the legal provisions to the law enforcing agencies and other concerned persons. Rights based awareness campaign in the society should also incorporate these issues. The effective strategies developed by SEEMA can be shared with other organizations working on the same field, and SEEMA approaches and methods can be replicated in other areas of Bangladesh. SEEMA can network with the like-minded organizations who are working on the same issue. As a result, the overall situation of the sex workers' rights will be

improved and more effective strategies and techniques can be developed to ensure protection of human rights and dignity of the sex workers.

The human rights situation of any segment of the society is not totally independent of the overall situation of the country or society. Therefore, protection of rights of the sex workers is not an isolated task from protection and promotion of human rights in general. Along with specific schemes to address the rights of the sex workers, it should also merge with the holistic effort to improve the human rights situation of the country. SEEMA has done a commendable job for empowerment of female sex workers and it has the potential to go a long way for promotion of human rights and empowerment of marginalized women like sex workers.

Part I

Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

This report is based on the thematic study to assess and understand the positive changes of the sex workers through Solidarity and Empowerment through Education, Motivation and Awareness (SEEMA) Project. SEEMA is a project of CARE Bangladesh, which had been designed on CARE's previous experience from working with garment workers and sex workers impact groups (IGs). CARE's programming framework is explicitly oriented at the needs of marginalized women and girls in urban areas. SEEMA targets most marginalized two impact groups (IGs) in the urban context of Bangladesh- women working in garment factories and sex workers. Both groups face the same underlying causes of poverty lacking social capital stemming from illiteracy, and a lack of education and skills. Both garment and sex workers are in a poor bargaining situation and don't have the necessary negotiation skills to demand better wages/income and access to social services. They also lack business and income generating skills and opportunities. Both the Impact group of SEEMA Project identified as have structural constraints of social, political and economic marginalization and stigma associated to poverty and deprivation.

The overall objective of the action is to contribute to urban poverty reduction in Bangladesh through reducing the social and economic exclusion of the most marginalized women in urban communities and fostering their empowerment (contributing to MDG1 and MDG3). The specific objective of SEEMA is to promote and protect the rights of female garment workers and sex workers through improving their human condition and social position. It is believed that this objective will be achieved

through a process of change that leads to empowerment and social capital building of the impact groups (IGs). Therefore, the project aims to ensure their active participation in decision-making and to facilitate changes in social and institutional norms and practices that reduce violence against women (VAW), improves social safety and promotes decent working environments.

The SEEMA Project ends on July 31, 2014. At this point it is necessary to evaluate the outcome of the project; and more specifically, whether or to what extent it has contributed to positive changes of the sex workers. With this aim and objective CARE felt the necessity of a thematic study to assess the positive changes of the sex workers through SEEMA Project and requested Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) to conduct the thematic study and prepare a report with further recommendations based on the findings of the study. ASK have engaged a team who performed the task of literature review, collected data, conducted FGDs and interviews of the sex workers involved with the project in cooperation of the SEEMA Project members and prepared this report on completion of the study.

1.2 Situation of Sex Workers: Bangladesh Perspective

Sex workers remain in an extreme vulnerable situation in Bangladesh. They have very little access to the justice system and also lack adequate social protection. The society in general, maintains a sinful view towards sex work. Therefore, the sex workers are often seen as wrongdoers or criminals by the society. As a result sex workers do not even get the minimum dignity as human beings. Even the children of the sex workers suffer from social stigma and discrimination. So far as their work is concerned they are exploited at every stage.

Sex Workers' rights have been a delicate issue triggering multi-facade debate among the social workers, feminists and human rights defenders. Some sections consider that

protection or promotion of sex workers' rights promotes prostitution in the alternative. On the other hand, some argue in the extreme opposite line that everyone has the right to be protected during the work/profession/business he/she undertakes. This group does not at all consider prostitution or sex work as immoral or derogating. On the other hand there is another section which tries to bring a balance between these two extreme stand points. Regardless of the morality or public policy debate, they argue for protecting the basic human rights of the persons who are engaged in sex work.

Bangladesh is a densely populated country of South Asia, where conservative social and religious values and prostitution have been in coexistence for centuries. Like many other States, Bangladesh resorted to a dubious stand regarding sex work. Although the Constitution of Bangladesh entitles all citizens to all fundamental rights but marginalized people of society, particularly the sex workers are always deprived of their rights. The dichotomy of the State's position regarding sex work stems from the Constitution itself. The Constitution, while assuring supremacy of fundamental rights (Art. 26) and equality before law (Art. 27), directs the State to adopt effective measures to prevent prostitution (Art. 18(2)). Till date, there is no statute in Bangladesh that declares sex work as illegal. But in reality, the sex workers always complain of being harassed by the law enforcement agencies. Besides, they do not get any legal protection in case of violation of their fundamental rights.

The society also plays a deceitful role regarding prostitution/sex work. Sex profession has been in visible existence in Bangladesh for times immemorial. Without relying on any specific source, it can be easily understood that a large number of women are involved in sex work. But they always remain marginalized and isolated from the mainstream and they are living under the poverty line because of social discrimination. Bangladesh does not legalize sex work as a profession. As a result, the sex workers and their children do not get the minimum social or legal protection. Such a

discriminatory situation has multiple contributors. But the problem becomes more difficult to address due to the ambiguous position of law and policy regarding sex work.

1.3 SEEMA Project: At a Glance

SEEMA Project has targeted two impact groups i.e. women working in garment factories and sex workers. The present study examines the positive changes of the sex workers due to this project. The project covered Dhaka, Tongi and Tangail area of Bangladesh. Around 100,000 sex workers are expected to get finally benefited from this project, whereas 600 sex workers and stakeholders relevant to the realization of their rights (community organizations, local government, factories and brothels, etc.) had been the target group of the project.¹ “Target groups” refers to the groups/entities who will be directly positively affected by the project at the Project Purpose level and “final beneficiaries” are those who will benefit from the project in the long term at the level of the society or sector at large. SEEMA is working to make the impact groups active in decision-making and to facilitate changes in social and institutional norms and practices that reduce violence against women, improve social safety and promote decent working environments. The duration of this European Union funded² project is from August 01, 2011 to July 31, 2014.

1.4 Aim and Ambit of the Study

This thematic study aims at evaluating of the achievements and shortcomings of SEEMA Project in its Sex Workers’ component from a rights based approach. As CARE Bangladesh changes its approaches and strategies based on learning from previous project, therefore, CARE is interested to know how these approaches and strategies worked to strengthen the organizational development of sex workers, as well as satisfied the expectations of right based approach. This study attempts to assess and

¹ SEEMA Interim Report May-December 2013

² www.carebangladesh.org

understand how effectively SEEMA approaches and strategies are contributing to positive changes of the IGs i.e. sex workers in particular and CARE's women empowerment approach in general. SEEMA Project has been engaged with improving the condition of both street and brothel based sex workers. The impact of SEEMA approaches in individual lives of sex workers and organizational leadership dynamics of DNS has been assessed. Along with diversified training and support services for the sex workers CARE also facilitated formation of some self help group of the sex workers.

The specific objectives of this study are:

- To find out the present challenges/obstacles of sex workers themselves and their organization in the context of fast urbanization;
- To ascertain how SEEMA approaches/strategies has worked in contributing to positive changes of sex workers;
- To find out significant and standard changes through SEEMA;
- To recommend for future programming.

1.5 Methodology

This study has been conducted by ASK in cooperation and assistance of the SEEMA Project members and the DNS. The key activities of the SEEMA Project has been observed and studied. The literature review includes a thorough review of the periodic reports of SEEMA Project as well as other reports, documents and publications developed during the project. SEEMA conducted several learning reflections workshops in which the sex workers involved with the project participated and their experience of changes have been worked out in those workshops in an interactive method. The reports of learning reflections workshops on Functional Literacy, Leadership Training

and Psychosocial Issues of the sex workers have been thoroughly examined. Analysis of these workshop reports offer a concrete understanding of the achievements and shortcomings of SEEMA Project, which is reflected in the experience of the impact groups and retrieved through a systematic process in those workshops.

In order to ascertain the actual areas of changes, to verify the reflections found in the learning reflection workshops as well as to compare the socio-economic and human rights situation of the sex workers prior to and after their involvement with SEEMA in the light of their own experience, a questionnaire has been developed. Based on the questionnaire the sex workers have been interviewed and a focus group discussion was also conducted among the sex workers of SEEMA project at Mirpur office of DNS. The interviews and FGD categorically focused on what changes they have experienced after their involvement with SEEMA in terms of safe working environment, financial safety, social condition and dignity as well as personal and interpersonal behavioral changes. The findings of the interviews and FGD have also been compared to that of the reports of the learning reflections workshops.

The findings from the interviews and FGD have been critically analyzed along with other material information gathered from the literature review. The positive changes of the sex workers through SEEMA Project and approaches and strategies that influenced those changes have been identified. Finally, the observations of this thematic study have been summarized in a set of recommendations for future programming.

Part II

Expected Results and Key Activities of SEEMA Project

2.1 Expected Results of SEEMA Project

SEEMA Project has been focused on three expected results. The expected results emphasized on the improved self-agency and greater solidarity of the IGs, building their own network and capacity to influence adoption and enforcement of HR legislation and policies as well as promoting a better institutional environment that is responsive and accountable in terms of effective service delivery. The results are-

Result 1: *The IGs (female garment and sex workers) has acquired improved self-agency and built greater solidarity to demand rights and entitlements in improving the quality of their life and living standards.*

Result 2: *The IGs have improved relations, created space and voice to influence adoption and enforcement of HR legislation and policies (focus on labor rights, women's rights, and VAW) for a dignified life.*

Result 3: *Capacities and knowledge of the duty bearers are enhanced towards promotion of a better institutional environment that is responsive and accountable in terms of effective service delivery.*

SEEMA has undertaken numerous activities to realize its expected results. The activities conducted are discussed in detail in the next segment.

2.2 Key Activities Performed to Achieve the Results

SEEMA has adopted a pragmatic approach to reach the expected results. Several activities have been designed and performed under the head of every result. From the periodic reports of SEEMA, it appears that the activities conducted under the project demonstrate an exhaustive effort to realize the desired goal of the project.

2.2.1 Activities under Result-1

Activity: Develop institutional capacities of IGs platforms (EKATA and self-help solidarity groups)

SEEMA formed EKATA groups with a view to create a platform of the sex workers. The Interim Report of May-December, 2013 refers that from April, 2013 to January, 2014, 25 EKATA groups in Dhaka and 15 EKATA groups in Tangail have received 96 awareness sessions during that period. In the previous period 25 EKATA groups finished their literacy and numeracy literacy curriculum. During the aforesaid period, 15 EKATA groups of Tangail have received literacy and numeracy session and they have finished their course. EKATA groups of Tangail have got extra 2 months of literacy and numeracy sessions during the no cost extension period. SEEMA project tried to motivate the group members to attend the regular awareness sessions.

Activity: Build capacities of impact group leaders and members on leadership development and linkages with various service providing institutions through meeting and dialogues

Sex workers received intensive leadership training with external consultants. These trainings helped them to develop their leadership skills. They were also very useful to improve their capacity to communicate with different service providing institutions.

Activity: Develop understanding amongst IGs on basic HR, women's rights, rights to freedom of choice and freedom from violence, child rights, labor rights, reproductive health, gender, masculinity, sexuality, and STD/HIV prevention in improving health seeking behavior, etc;

SEEMA has given special emphasis on basic human rights awareness of the sex workers. An assessment was done in order to find out the potential of EKATA groups and identify which of them were fulfilled and on which the project should focus more. It served as internal project assessment. On the basis of the assessment from June, 2013 to January, 2014, 20 EKATA centers in Dhaka received awareness sessions from respective peer facilitators (108 EKATA awareness sessions each). In Tangail, 15 EKATA groups also received 24 EKATA awareness sessions on various awareness issues in the month of December, 2013 to January, 2014. 3 EKATA teachers of Tangail received a Training of Trainers on EKATA awareness and literacy sessions in the month of January, 2014. SEEMA Project hired a consultant for developing participatory tool for identifying the sex workers' vision and aspiration towards empowerment. As per the feedback of sex workers, many feel they have already achieved a lot but also that they discovered their wish to learn more.

Activity: Provide psychosocial support through case management and emotional support to IGs and target group (Co-worker, partner) to improve their psychosocial wellbeing.

Psychosocial support is very crucial for the overall mental and emotional wellbeing of the sex workers. Sex workers indeed require intensive psychosocial support as they randomly face degrading situations in the course of their occupation and constantly live in a condition of social stigma. From April, 2013 to January, 2014 each of the 25 EKATA centres in Dhaka has participated in 8 psychosocial awareness sessions and each of

the 15 centres in Tangail in 3 such sessions. In addition, 5 psychosocial group sessions have been conducted with a total 41 EKATA members. The sessions were conducted by Psychosocial Technical Officer of SEEMA project. 13 individual psychosocial counseling sessions were conducted as they were identified as needed. 7 Peer Facilitators of DNS also participated in 4 refresher trainings with the Psychosocial Technical Officer and received supervision from her. They were trained on the use of psychosocial tools and how to deal with cases that need referral. During the said period SEEMA Project has provided emergency medical supports in 30 violence cases as part of the case management structure.

Activity: Develop education, literacy, and life skills of IG as well as alternative livelihoods skill and engage them in alternative livelihood.

This activity was aimed at developing basic life skills and alternative livelihood skills of the sex workers. About 100 sex workers have received skills training in the previous reporting period. It appears from the interim reports that the impact of the skills training for sex workers is lower as compared to other activities as many find it hard to actually move to other kind of work. The project team found that a more intensive engagement on just income generation would be needed for the sex workers to really benefit substantially from income generation. The traditional approach for income generation does not work in this social context as well as in others. It would need a longer process around expectations of different kinds of work, building up confidence and aspirations and designing trainings in very different methods.

Activity: Facilitate development of self-help savings groups among garments and sex workers

This activity has been dropped as members were found not interested in establishing savings groups. However, the project previously conducted awareness sessions for those members interested on how to access existing savings groups and open bank accounts.

Activity: Learning and reflection regarding shared life experiences and aspirations of the impact groups and dealing with the problems they face;

During the project sharing of life experiences took place as part of the EKATA groups as learning methods were designed in a way that supports reflection on the individual and social situation of group members. That was ongoing during the project period. Now an additional layer of reflection is planned through a structured process of reflecting on what the activities have achieved /changed for the impact groups.

Three themes have been identified for learning-reflection and ToRs have been developed for learning-reflection. The themes are:

- Skill Training
- Leadership Building
- Solidarity Building

Activity: Assessment of psychosocial coping strategies and resources

In the year one, internally an assessment has been done to understand the context. In the next year a complete assessment has been carried out by an external researcher.

2.2.2 Activities under Result-2

Activity: Facilitate social capital building of IGs to influence and lobby with factory management, power elites, law enforcing agencies

Watch committees have been formed in order to enhance security and safety of sex workers and facilitate their access to services. In total, 38 watch committee meetings were held in different areas of Dhaka and Tangail; through these meetings watch committee members shared their challenges in supporting sex worker's issues. They discussed and learned from each other to deal with contextual situation in the street and in the brothel. 4 support group meetings were held from April, 2013 to January, 2014. A total of 80 representatives in Dhaka and Tangail have participated in these service provider's workshops. Along with service provider's workshops SEEMA project also arranged workshops with respective service providers' organization for linking them with EKATA members for making EKATA member more accessible for seeking and getting services from service providers organizations.

The project's approach towards enabling access to services is two-fold: through the impact groups' enhanced capacity to demand and use services (confidence) as well as through sensitization of service providers to respect the impact group and adapt their services to their needs. Sex workers reported increased access through their own changed behaviour and communication, which they say makes them feel very positive.

Activity: Engage men and different CSOs to undertake social campaigns in support of the recognition and respect of rights of garment and sex workers, their opinions and participation in formal and informal spaces, and advocate for behavioural changes of men towards women

This activity was implemented through forum theatre shows at area level. During this reporting period, a consultant was hired for redefining the forum theatre show activity of SEEMA Project. He conducted a training for forum theatre volunteers for both GW and SW component. As an outcome of the training, they developed a plan of forum theatre shows with detailing of show frequency, criteria of show venue selection, selection of number of theme for both components respectively. In the process the Project has

included number of new forum theatre show themes for both components with giving special emphasis on men and boys engagement for women's empowerment.

During April, 2013 to January, 2014 the sex workers' component performed one forum theatre show in their working spot location. The show was organized in an event for observing the day of international human rights day in Dhaka on December, 2013. About 150 people were present there as audience and significant number of audience both men and women participated in an interactive reflection session in the end of the show. Many more shows had been organised in the previous reporting period and more are planned for the next period. In addition to the forum theatre, the team has conducted 5 Men and Boys engagement workshops in Dhaka with the male community members. Participants were family members of sex workers, husbands, lovers or partners. One workshop was conducted in Tangail with guards of brothel, husbands or lover of sex workers. All the participants of men and boys engagement workshop was selected from the existing watch committee members. The Men and boys engagement work was enhanced a lot during the reporting period: changing from simply having men present in discussions to really engaging them on questioning male gender roles and how they influence their attitudes towards the impact group. A lot more work has been done in this reporting period on influencing male behaviour change as the project team has increased its capacity to work on this. The impact group has reported changed attitudes during the progress of the project.

Activity: Link IG women with community institutions such as School Management

Workshops were organized by SEEMA Project with community people for making them sensitive on women's rights, human rights and sex worker's rights related issues. From April, 2013 to January, 2014 9 workshops were arranged. Total numbers of participants were 180; among them 96 were female and rest 84 were male participants. They included landowners, religious leaders, teachers— whomever the sex workers

considered important in the context they live. Through the meetings, they explained their struggles, the facilitators presented the work done in the EKATA centers and the discussion focused on sex workers' rights and the support that was needed from them to realise these.

Activity: Establish alliances with women and human rights organizations (such as BLAST, ASK, Naripokhya) to undertake policy analysis and policy advocacy on legislation and enforcement of women's rights with a particular focus on VAW.

During the project training on solidarity and workers' rights was provided to the impact groups.

Activity: Influence policies and practices at national and in Europe (Austria) in promotion social safety, social protection and better wages and work place environment for IGs through organising and observing different events

This activity was mainly targeted on the garments workers. However, the theme of this activity is relevant for the sex workers also as it focuses on social safety and social security. A documentary on the SEEMA project was made by the CARE Austria communications director in cooperation with an Austrian filmmaker. The documentary aimed at raising awareness on the situation of garment workers in Bangladesh among the Austrian, European and Bangladeshi public in order to invite consumers to ask questions regarding the clothes they buy and demand implementation of labour rights and safety standards in Bangladesh of authorities within their country. The film was screened first in June 2013 in Austria and then toured the Austrian cinemas during autumn. It was showed in all major Austrian cities (only production covered by the project budget, the rest was covered through CARE Austria funds). Expert discussions were held with the visitors after the screenings with participation of different civil society groups in Austria, such as the Clean Clothes Campaign. The film was also presented in

Dhaka in October 2013 to garment workers and invited stakeholders. It will be screened at the European Parliament in Brussels in early 2014.

The project was also represented (through CARE Austria) at the annual fair for “fair trade” clothes in Linz, Austria, where participants could see the film and participated in discussions on possible supportive action in Europe on garments workers’ rights in Bangladesh and elsewhere.

2.2.3 Activities under Result-3

Activity: Build capacities and knowledge of community institutions for attitudinal and behavioral change to support greater inclusion of impact groups and their children into wider societal processes.

The project developed a guideline on Men and Boys engagement for structuring engagement with Men and boys. This has served as a basic module used during the workshops with men and boys at community level community– with the aim of gaining their support for the empowerment of impact groups. Other than these workshops, the project engages men and boys in discussions around gender equality through the forum theatre shows (see activity description above).

Activity: Facilitate linkages with local government bodies, local law enforcing authorities, media forums and individuals, relevant NGOs, human rights organizations, to provide access to legal and other appropriate services for women of the impact groups and their children.

The 16 days of VAW activism program was observed through a human chain on 10 December, 2013 at Mohammedpur area in Dhaka. EKATA members have organized a

forum theater show in two spots in Dhaka and in both of the two shows about 100 people actively participated (it is an interactive form of theatre).

Activity: Influence service providers and duty bearers to develop community support systems for improved and dignified livelihoods of the impact groups.

The project organized ABC Committees and Watch Committee meetings. In addition to these, separate meetings with service providers were organized. SEEMA Project has conducted coordination meetings with Police and Law enforcing authorities. In every coordination meeting about 15 police from respective police station have participated in discussion and identified probable problem solving procedure.

Part III

Assessment of Changes Experienced by the Sex Workers

3.1 The SEEMA Approaches and Strategies

SEEMA has adopted a rights based approach for empowerment and overall development of the sex workers. The situation of sex workers in Bangladesh is really very pathetic. They are devoid of minimum social dignity. Sex workers remain in the realm of extreme distress where torture, degrading treatment and exploitation has been a part of their everyday life. Their working environment is full of risks and hazards. Sex work itself is not expressly declared to be illegal under any law of Bangladesh. But there are certain provisions in several existing laws which are used against sex workers or responsible for violation of their rights (for details see Review of Existing Laws and Policies relating to Sex Workers in Bangladesh, CARE-ASK, 2014). The law and the society always play an ambiguous role regarding legality of sex work. The common social perception, deeply influenced by religious dogma and orthodox social values, always portrays sex work as a sinful and disgraceful act. Therefore, in the present socio-legal context of Bangladesh, mere survival is indeed very difficult for the sex workers; and for the same reason, it is all the more difficult to work for empowerment of the sex workers. That is why it was obvious for SEEMA project to face a great deal of obstacles and challenges in implementation of its sex workers' component.

The approaches and strategies adopted by SEEMA were a mixture of rights based and need based approach. The extreme vulnerable situation of the sex workers coupled with the adverse conditions imposed by religious extremism, ambiguous legal policy and radical factors in the society and politics may be a justification for this mixture. In such a situation, relying solely on rights based approach from the very beginning of the project

might not be a sustainable idea. From this point of view, it was indeed a pragmatic attitude to incorporate some need based approaches and strategies with the rights based approaches. SEEMA observed that most of the sex workers are illiterate and deprived of education and other learning facilities. Due to their illiteracy, it becomes more difficult to properly communicate with them for the purpose of raising their awareness about their rights. SEEMA project introduced schooling programme for the sex workers with a view to provide them functional literacy training. These schools also helped SEEMA to establish a consistent communication with the sex workers. SEEMA also took initiatives to bring a change in the typical social perception about the sex workers. The localities surrounding the project areas were made aware about the human rights of the sex workers. It also helped to fight social stigmatization of the sex workers and uphold their human dignity.

The name of the project, SEEMA, itself bears a clear statement regarding its mission. SEEMA has focused on three means to achieve solidarity and empowerment of the sex workers. These three focus areas are education, motivation and awareness. While education opens the doors of emancipation, motivation is essential to maintain persistence and boost up for a sustained positive change. The sex workers have been motivated in many ways to bring significant positive changes in their attitude, behaviour and life style. Awareness of the impact groups as well as the society at large is also equally important. To remove the social barrier of orthodoxy and typical degrading attitude towards the sex worker, sensitization of the society is must. SEEMA covered all these areas with diversified strategies and techniques.

By the end of the project duration, SEEMA has organized 3 (three) learning reflections workshops on functional literacy, leadership training and psychosocial development. Sex workers involved in the project have participated in these workshops. The experience of the sex workers was shared and their learning from the project has been evaluated in these workshops through an interactive method.

3.2 Findings from the Learning Reflections Workshop on Functional Literacy

In the Learning Reflections Workshop on functional literacy organized on 5th April, 2014 at the CARE Staff House at Gulshan-1, Dhaka the functional literacy of the sex workers was evaluated. In the workshop the sex workers expressed that now they can open account on bank as they have learned to do signature now and also they have learnt the procedure of opening a bank account their Math curriculum. That they do not need others to read their letters so they can maintain confidentiality; that they can write application in Bengali and by this, they can find jobs, they can correctly count money and no one can cheat with them anymore, they can sign their names, by learning the alphabets they can now teach their children, they can now read the addresses after going somewhere, they do not take drugs as they have learnt the consequences from the Bengali books, and that their behavior has changed; they can talk in a polite manner after getting education. Now, they can read prescriptions and get proper treatment. It appears that the sex workers have been really benefited from the functional literacy trainings of SEEMA. The basic education provided by SEEMA brought a significant change in their lives. They have are simply transformed to literate persons who can read and write and confidently face the situations in their day to day life where they actually felt helpless before receiving the basic education. They have learnt mathematics and now they can count. So, no one can cheat them and they can effectively address any situation with full understanding of what is happening.

3.3 Findings from the Learning Reflections Workshop on Leadership Training

The learning reflections workshop on Leadership Training was organized on 4th April 2014 at CARE Staff House, Gulshan-1, Dhaka. The objectives of the workshop include identifying the impact of Leadership Training among the sex workers, recognizing positive and negative changes within Individual, community and organization after having leadership training. Development of leadership qualities of the members is essential for building solidarity. In this workshop the participants were divided into

groups and they performed group works to figure out the changes they have experienced after receiving leadership training.

The participants told that now they find people who can lead them as it is a prestigious position and everyone is eager to have this position. If a member dies, DNS members collect money and send the dead body to the family which was previously very rare. Solidarity has increased among the members as they know they can be secured by achieving solidarity. Now they can go to different organizations where they get respect. By gaining ability to understand diverse issues, no one can cheat on them. Now they can listen to others patiently as their knowledge and skill developed. They have the freedom to move around with family in the locality. The members help others who are facing problems .For example-medical support, supporting family etc. Members do not fight with others or harm themselves (cutting body) and they do not show inappropriate behavior. The members have got the ability to take right decisions. They have achieved the patience to listen to different options in groups. It is a significant change due to the leadership training that the awareness regarding their rights has increased. Now they are more able to help each other and maintain solidarity. Their ability to communicate with different groups of different locality has increased. The members have learnt to protest against injustice; such as injustice regarding job, house rent, medical support etc. Because of leadership training, now they can maintain confidentiality and as a result conflict has been decreased. Communication between DNS committee members and general members as well as among the members themselves has increased. The member now can better understand group discussions and decisions.

3.4 Findings from the Learning Reflections Workshop on Psychosocial Issues

Psychosocial support has been provided for the mental wellbeing along with the happiness for both groups of garment workers as well as sex workers. To assess the mental wellbeing along with the impact of psychosocial initiatives among the IGs project has arranged a one day learning reflection workshop among sex workers on 3 April

2014 at Staff House, CARE Bangladesh. The objectives of the workshop were to assess the impact of psychosocial support of sex workers, to identify the challenges and what went well, to recognize what more could have been done in SEEMA and to understand whether there is any plan to sustain these initiatives after completion of the project period.

To describe positive changes among the community one of the workshop participants has explained her experience this way:

"I used to take drug a lot before. So, all of my friends were also drug addicted. I snatched money, mobile and valuable things from the customer and did not serve them. For that reason, the client came back another day and bit whoever he got from us in the spot on that day. Most of the cases, the girl who did not do anything, became victim for us. But now I have changed myself. I do not take drug and also do not snatch from client. Also I insist my friends not to do it. That is why; violence among sex worker is reducing in my area." (Workshop Report, 2014:5)

In the workshop the participants expressed their experience of change after an interactive session. The participants mentioned that the psychosocial interventions of the SEEMA have changed their attitude and behaviour. Such as, those who used to cheat others stopped cheating, or those who were violent towards other girls stopped violent behaviour. The participants expressed that the EKATA centre's environment has changed due to positive change of the members. The participants told that they have some savings now and they also motivated other girls for savings. Now they know their rights and other relevant information necessary for their protection and they share it with other sex workers. Many of them were addicted to drugs, but now they are free from drugs. They also observed that people show respect to them due to their changed behavior. Now, they have the confidence to bargain with the customers and can collect money from them. They can make people understand when they are in any trouble. It

clearly indicates that their confidence and capacity to deal with adverse situation have been improved to a significant level. The psychosocial training also helped them in anger management. The participants said that they can control their anger now and due to this reason their family members provide more support. Now, their family members listen to them and they can make some decisions in family matters. Police also respect them now, as they can speak well and behave well with them.

3.5 Findings from the Interviews and FGD

Sex workers involved with SEEMA Project have been interviewed for this thematic study. Prior to interview a questionnaire was developed addressing the specific areas of development. Sex workers were interviewed based on the questionnaire and their answers were recorded in writing. Later on, a focus group discussion (FGD) was organized where the sex workers and EKATA members participated. The interviews and the FGD were conducted at DNS Office, Mirpur-1, Dhaka.

Most of the sex workers interviewed were introduced to SEEMA through DNS, whereas some of them got involved with the project through other sex workers. Almost all of them have been involved with the project activities for more than two years. They have attended the schools run by SEEMA project, where they received basic education and training on leadership skill and psychosocial issues. They got active assistance and support from the project and it made their lives easier. The participants were asked as to whether they have experienced any change in terms of safety at work. The participants replied that now they can feel safer at work as compared to the condition prior to their involvement with the project. It appears that this change has been a result of both direct and indirect interventions of SEEMA. Some respondents told that previously their clients used to torture them. But after their involvement with SEEMA the project members and the DNS members responded to situations whenever they were tortured by their clients. On the other hand, due to the education and training they

received from SEEMA, they are now in a better position to protect themselves. There is yet another aspect of improvement of their working environment. Due to the education and training they received from SEEMA, their communication skills have been developed. Some of the participants put it this way that as they can now talk to their clients politely and can patiently deal with any situation, the attitude of their clients has also changed gradually. According to many respondents, this behavioral change has contributed to reduced violence at work, or conflict with the clients. As a result, their work became safer than before. Some sex workers told that when they were tortured by their clients, the members of SEEMA stood beside them and also arranged for their treatment.

Rozina, aged about 34 years, has been involved with the SEEMA project from the very beginning. She regularly attended the school. She recognizes literacy as her greatest benefit from the SEEMA project. She can relate its impact to her safety at work. She told that none can take her to any unknown place other than the agreed location. As she received basic education from SEEMA project, now she can read and find addresses on her own. Therefore, no client can deceive her or take her to an unknown place. If anyone intends to do so, she can instantly understand and challenge him as she can read addresses. Thus, she feels more confident and safe at work.

The financial condition of the sex workers also seems to have improved because of SEEMA project. Although the respondents did not get any direct financial benefit from SEEMA, but the education and training they received from SEEMA, helped them to improve their financial condition. Previously most of them could not count. But after attending mathematics classes in the SEEMA project, they can count. So, none can cheat on them anymore. Besides, due to the overall impact of the project their working environment has been improved. They rarely face any harassment from the local people or the law enforcement agencies. They can freely do their work. As a result their earnings have increased. After attending the trainings of SEEMA, they have learnt many things and developed their skills. So, many of them can look for alternative job

opportunities. Most of the participants told that previously they could not save money, nor could they open any bank account. But now they can save money and some of them also operate bank accounts.

The sex workers involved with the SEEMA project feel that their social condition has been improved due to the project. The respondents told that they had to face many difficulties in their social lives. They could not even freely move in the locality as people used to tease and harass them. But the members of the SEEMA project have taken several initiatives to redress that. They talked with the local people, arranged several programmes and sensitized the people about the human rights and dignity of the sex workers. As a result, the attitude of the people towards sex workers has been changed. They do not humiliate them anymore. They can freely move outside and feel that their social dignity has been upheld. The sex workers realize that after their involvement with the project their relationship with other sex workers have been improved. Now, they are more cooperating to each other and help each other when necessity arises. Their families also give importance to their opinion, which was previously very rare.

The sex workers interviewed can also identify the positive changes in their personal behaviours. They have started to live a hygienic and healthy life. Their attitude to life has totally been changed. Now, they do not engage in unnecessary wrangling. They can understand what will be good for them in the long run and can take the right decision. Previously, they felt insecure and scattered, but now they are confident and organized as their communication and networking have been improved. They now discuss the matters affecting their lives with the other girls and take collective decision. Their ability to effectively communicate with different organizations and agencies has also been improved. They know in which case and how to seek help from which organization. All these things indicate to an overall positive change in their lives.

In the interviews and FGD the sex workers expressed their concern as the project is going to end. All the sex workers interviewed said that it is very necessary for them that the project continues. They have learnt many things from SEEMA and also expect to learn more from here. SEEMA was a light of hope in their lives and it guided them towards a positive, meaningful life. They still need the support from SEEMA to continue their development. There are many others who could not receive the trainings provided by SEEMA. If the project continues, these girls will be able to change their conditions. The SEEMA worked as a nucleus in their socio-economic development and improved solidarity. In absence of SEEMA it would be very difficult to sustain the solidarity and achieve further development as the entire work is still in a delicate condition. Their progress is quite visible, but the support and guidance provided by SEEMA is still required to continue with the progress.

Part IV

Recommendations and Conclusion

4.1 Recommendations

The approaches and strategies adopted by SEEMA have been proved very effective in bringing positive changes for the sex workers. From the findings of this study it is quite visible that this project has successfully led to empowerment and solidarity of one of its two impact groups i.e. the sex workers. The sex workers have found a new hope in their lives only because of this project and it was just like a mentor for them. They have been able to change themselves and also went through the experience of changing their surroundings. Such a holistic change is possible when all the initiatives undertaken by the project render effective outcome. Based on the observations and findings of this study the following recommendations are made for further programming:

4.1.1 Recommendations on Existing Approaches and Strategies

The SEEMA approaches and strategies have shown positive results in changing the overall condition of the sex workers. Therefore, the existing approaches and strategies should continue. It appears from the study findings that the functional literacy training of the sex workers have played a crucial role in their development. Therefore, it can be suggested that this activity should be carried on with more emphasis. In addition to functional literacy training, the trainings on leadership skills and psychosocial issues were also very helpful for the sex workers. In fact, these three trainings worked together to bring a meaningful change in the lives of the sex workers. Therefore, it is recommended that all these activities should continue and be more accommodating to cover a larger portion of the impact group.

The approaches and strategies adopted by SEEMA led to empowerment and solidarity of the sex workers. But this achievement needs to be nurtured to sustain. SEEMA should continue with these strategies so that the impact of its initiatives are carried forward and constantly monitored. The society has its own dynamics. The fact that the sex workers are experiencing changes and now they are more empowered is because of the existence and continuous activities of SEEMA and the DNS. In absence of SEEMA or those activities it would be very difficult to continue with the progress that they have achieved so far. Besides, the radical elements in the society are very strong in Bangladesh. In absence of a support like SEEMA the extremist elements will utterly destroy the progressive changes attained by the project.

4.1.2 Recommendations as to Strengthening Rights Based Approach

SEEMA has developed its strategies to address the prevailing situation of sex workers in Bangladesh. The strategies have been devised to achieve empowerment and solidarity of the sex workers so that they are in a better position to assert their rights. These approaches and strategies have contributed to overall development of the sex workers as well as to rights based approach. But, at this stage, more emphasis on rights based approach is necessary. SEEMA provided different trainings and orientation from which sex workers could know about their rights. Awareness of rights is no doubt a positive development, but mere knowledge about rights is not sufficient. They are supposed to know the practical implications of those rights and also how to realize and protect those rights. They are expected to have a clear and complete idea about the rights protection mechanism so that they can aptly apply those knowledge and skills at the time of their need.

The existing legal framework including laws, policies and practices involving the sex work and sex workers should be made clear to the sex workers and more importantly to the project officials who will work with the sex workers. SEEMA has already conducted

a study to review the existing laws and policies relating to sex workers in Bangladesh. SEEMA can now develop a scheme to train the sex workers extensively on their human rights and legal issues so that they can understand and interact with legal procedure more confidently. The legal provisions are very often misconceived by the police and other concerned persons. A significant portion of the abuses of process results from such misconceived notions of law. Therefore, more emphasis should be given to clarify the legal provisions to the law enforcing agencies and other concerned persons. Rights based awareness campaign in the society should also incorporate these issues.

4.1.3 Recommendations as to Advocacy Initiatives

SEEMA has gathered valuable experience on protecting and promoting the human rights of the sex workers. The effective strategies developed by SEEMA can be shared with other organizations working on the same field, and SEEMA approaches and methods can be replicated in other areas of Bangladesh. SEEMA has the ground experience of working with sex workers and also achieved positive results in improving overall condition of the sex workers. Therefore, considering the organizational strength of CARE; SEEMA stands in an advantageous position to lead the advocacy initiatives for protection of sex workers and their empowerment. SEEMA may consider advocacy initiatives to protect and promote the rights of the sex workers under a specific scheme. For this purpose, SEEMA can also network with the like-minded organizations who are working on the same issue. As a result, the overall situation of the sex workers' rights will be improved and more effective strategies and techniques can be developed to ensure protection of human rights and dignity of the sex workers.

4.2 Conclusion

The vulnerability of sex workers in Bangladesh has multiple aspects. Individually, the sex workers frequently face torture, humiliation and exploitation. But apart from that the State and the political system also poses repeated threats to the sex workers. This

trend requires persistent support from the civil society and organizations engaged in protection of rights of the sex workers. Despite many achievements in development of women the general condition of women in the society is still far away from true empowerment. The condition of female sex workers in a male dominated orthodox society like Bangladesh does not require much description. In this context, SEEMA boldly came forward with the mission of empowerment of the female sex workers. Considering the intricacies involved with the issue, three years i.e. the duration of the project is not enough to make any conclusive remark. But, so far SEEMA has demonstrated appreciable spirit in its efforts towards empowerment and solidarity of the sex workers.

The approaches and strategies developed by SEEMA have been proved very efficient in improving the condition of the sex workers. But, this is only the beginning of a promising venture. It still has a long way to go. In order to sustain the positive changes of the sex workers and the achievements of the project it should continue with the learning from its previous experience and develop further strategies and programmes for future interventions. The recommendations made in this thematic study can be some aid to that end.

The human rights situation of any segment of the society is not totally independent of the overall situation of the country or society. Therefore, protection of rights of the sex workers is not an isolated task from protection and promotion of human rights in general. Along with specific schemes to address the rights of the sex workers, it should also merge with the holistic effort to improve the human rights situation of the country. SEEMA has done a commendable job for empowerment of female sex workers and it has the potential to go a long way for promotion of human rights and empowerment of marginalized women like sex workers.

Questionnaire for Interview of Sex Workers
for
Thematic Study to Assess and Understand the Positive Changes
of the Sex Workers through SEEMA Project

স্থান: ; তারিখ:

নাম (ঐচ্ছিক): । বয়স: বছর

কর্মস্থল: । বিবাহিত/অবিবাহিত । সন্তান: জন; ছেলে, মেয়ে

১। আপনি 'সীমা প্রকল্পের' সাথে কীভাবে যুক্ত/পরিচিত হয়েছেন? এই প্রকল্পের কাজে আপনার কোন দায়িত্ব বা ভূমিকা আছে/ছিল কি না?

২। আপনি কত দিন যাবৎ এই প্রকল্পের কাজের সাথে জড়িত?

৩। এই প্রকল্পের ফলে আপনি কোনভাবে উপকৃত হয়েছেন কি?

৪। এই প্রকল্পের ফলে নিরাপদে কাজ করার ক্ষেত্রে কোন সুফল পেয়েছেন কি? কখনো অত্যাচার বা নির্যাতনের শিকার হলে এই প্রকল্পের মাধ্যমে কখনো প্রতিকার পেয়েছেন কি? পেয়ে থাকলে, কীভাবে?

৫। এই প্রকল্পের ফলে আপনার আর্থিক অবস্থার কোন পরিবর্তন হয়েছে কি?

৬। এই প্রকল্পের ফলে আপনার সামাজিক মর্যাদার ক্ষেত্রে কোন পরিবর্তন লক্ষ্য করেছেন কিনা?

৭। আপনি আপনার জীবনে এবং নিজের আচরণে কোন পরিবর্তন লক্ষ্য করেছেন কি? উল্লেখ করুন।

৮। এই প্রকল্প চালু থাকলে আপনি কি ভবিষ্যতে উপকৃত হবেন বলে আশা করেন?