

**A STUDY ON IMPACT OF CONTRACTUAL DAIRY FARMING BY KAZI  
SHAHID FOUNDATION, PANCHAGARH, BANGLADESH**



**CONDUCTED BY**



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In Panchagarh, the North-western tip of Bangladesh, nearly 80 percent of the population is considered poor. They are mostly smallholder farmers and landless day laborer. The poverty incidence in Panchagarh is one of the highest in the country. The other human indicators such as literacy, nutrition, education, health care, etc., are all below the national average. The incidences of child-marriage, dowry, polygamy, etc., are also higher in Panchagarh compared to national average. Women in Panchagarh, as in many parts of the country, are particularly vulnerable due to limited access to alternative economic opportunities, access to capital, land and skills. With this backdrop, Kazi Shahid Foundation (KSF) emerged as an independent Socio-economic venture promoting a dairy cow rearing model that linked with commercial organic tea farming and livelihood improvement of the poor women and their family.

KSF has been implementing a contractual milk and dung buy-back dairy farming with an aim to contribute in increasing incomes and more sustainable livelihoods of the targeted landless and smallholding households. This is achieved through providing training on cow management, small business management and profitable dairy cows.

KSF's direct participation and service provision through its staffs in the total management of the system is the mainstay of this model. The frequent training, refresher and close supervision enables the small holders to become skilled in scientific dairy farm management moreover also versatile in income generation and finance management. It is expected that the success cases in the community would influence other community people to adapt to a profitable and sustainable cow rearing in the area.

The program evaluation focused primarily on the core level of current status relating to dairy cow rearing, sale of milk, dung as well as knowledge management.

Therefore, the following five key areas constitute the scope of the program evaluation:

- Community's readiness to embrace cow rearing
- Status of women and children before and after cow taking cow rearing as an occupation.
- Health, nutrition, hygiene and sanitation practices in the community
- Knowledge of organic farming
- Environmental issues

A purposeful sampling technique was used for the program evaluation where the respondents were selected in a randomized way. The community people and the members of the target groups were selected based on a criterion of engagement with KSF in the selected areas of KSF working areas.

A total number of 144 people were covered under the FGDs and KII. All the cow rearing members are female. The program evaluation included eleven KIIs with Each FGD consisted of 10-12 participants.

KSF develop groups (cooperatives) based on their organizational policy targeting the community's poor women. These groups are formed surrounding the KKTE's organic tea gardens in Tetulia and Panchagarh. Poverty in the project's context is defined as the landless population having one income source and housed in own or leased land. The respondents in the study varied in their length of association with KSF from 5-7 years to 6 months. Majority of the respondents (61%) do not have any "schooling". Majority of the respondents (92%) belongs to the age group of 34 and above followed by respondents within age group of 18-33 (8%). The occupation of the respondents before joining KSF was primarily homemakers (64%). A few were working as agricultural day-laborer (18%), stone mining worker (14%), and small business (4%). The occupation of the respondents has dramatically changed after joining KSF. They all have become entrepreneurs and started dairy cow rearing and selling milk and dung upon enrollment to KSF member coops. Majority of the respondents (particularly female) did not have any income sources before joining KSF. This has been dramatically changed after the respondents joined KSF. The income level of the respondents have significantly increased to Tk 5,000 to Tk10,000 per month.

All the respondents unanimously believe that the primary service of KSF is to provide dairy cow for rearing. They also believe that it is one of the unique methods of repayment through milk and dung rather than the conventional repayment methods used by others service providers such as microlenders. Some of the respondents have also mentioned that KSF is an organization that believes in "environment and nature friendly" approach to almost everything. Here KSF thus stands out among other service providers by promoting "responsible and sustainable lifestyle" also.

Total 1,936 cows were distributed during 2010-2011. KSF is collecting on an average 214.7 liters milk and 11,606.1 kgs of cow-dung every day (Source).

KSF generally provides various types of trainings to the beneficiaries, such as:

- Dairy Cow Rearing
- Basics of business model
- Vermin Compost preparation and application
- Tree plantation
- Impact on Organic farming
- Tea plantation and management
- Vegetable cultivation
- Learning from Best Practices
- Leadership development

During the year 2010-2011, KSF provided Dairy Cow Rearing, Basic Business Model and Leadership development training and Best practice sharing events.

The respondents are of the opinion that they all have different degree of knowledge about cow rearing, however, a scientific way of rearing cow such as feeding, health- care, etc. have been learnt from KSF



through various formal training, orientation and informal methods (experience sharing, exchange visit, etc.) These knowledge and awareness have significantly helped redefine cow rearing as a significant income generation activity.

In terms of evaluating their services and areas to improvement : 61% respondents believe that the services received are “somewhat relevant”,57% feel that it is timely and 36% mentioned “getting not in time “ as minor challenge.

KSF provides all veterinary care services to its dairy cooperative members. Although the members have knowledge about availability of such services from government very few of them have the experience of availing them.

Most significant finding of this study is the strategy by which KSF has maintained an efficient up-scaling of its knowledge namely by “Knowledge Networking”. This has the potential to effectively contribute in the overall improvement of the local community as a whole. The evaluation team was particularly fascinated to the concept, because “Knowledge Networking” has been recognized as a valuable method for capacity development. If applied well it can have advantages of cost, scale and speed over more conventional methods such as training and expert advice.

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