

Education For Youth Empowerment Program(EYE) Bangladesh



Save the Children in Bangladesh addresses problems faced by deprived youth in Bangladesh:

- A) Inflexible and low quality basic formal education, with high indirect basic education costs, and poor decision-making on the part of parents who prioritize their children's involvement in work over education; as a result, children often don't meet the requirements to enroll in TVET or higher education.



- B) Poor quality vocational skills training which rarely leads to employment opportunities due to the gaps between the training offered and the needs of the job sector.
- C) Limited opportunities for employability skills training as children and youth have limited access to established social networks or limited ability to develop themselves outside of the classroom and their families. Many technical vocational education and training institutions (TVET) prioritize vocational skills training, not employability skills, which professionals need for their career development.
- D) Lack of awareness among stakeholders as they don't understand the negative short-term impact of child labor and don't value the long term benefits of education.

Taking into account this context and situation, Save the Children developed the Education for Youth Empowerment (EYE) Program which aims to transform the outcomes for working children and vulnerable youth in urban and rural Bangladesh. EYE is a comprehensive education model for getting working children and vulnerable youth into education or decent employment, enabling them to influence decisions that affect their lives and advocate for their rights. The EYE Program is comprised of nine projects that provide basic education, vocational training, and life skills education to young people in distinct contexts across Bangladesh.

Goal: To empower and improve the economic, social, and political lives of vulnerable children and youth in urban and rural areas so they can build better futures in Bangladesh.

Objective 1: Improved access to decent employment opportunities for working children and vulnerable youth through quality basic education, market relevant vocational skills training, and employability skills training.

Objective 2: Children and youth are capable of becoming active citizens, and guardians are responsive to and respectful of the rights of working children and vulnerable youth.

Child Poverty:

Adolescent girls and boys who are deprived have the opportunity to build the skills, networks and self-esteem they need to make the transition to safe and decent livelihoods.

Duration

2012 – 2017

Location

Dhaka and Chittagong City Corporation and 17 districts

Budget

Total budget: USD 15 million

Target Groups

- 104,175 deprived children and youth
- 41,000 parents
- 10,000 employers
- 78,000 formal school students
- 192 SMCs and 960 teachers from formal schools
- 700 government officials

Implementing Partners

10 local NGOs

Our Donors

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Save the Children

Results we aim to achieve:

1. Child and youth laborers leave hazardous work and complete quality primary basic education (up to grade 8) relevant to their present and future life.
2. Increased age appropriate and decent employment opportunities for vulnerable youth aged 14-24 years through access to market responsive quality TVET and entrepreneurial education.
3. Reduced vulnerability of targeted children and youth through employability skills training to develop knowledge and skills for survival in their jobs and society.
4. A responsive private sector fulfilling the rights of working children and youth.
5. In civil society, vulnerable children and youth are recognized in national policy creation and implementation based on advocacy using research, documentation, and effective practices.

Achievements in 2015

- A total of 22,434 urban working children/slum children have been provided with basic education support through 329 learning centers from grade 1 to grade 8. A total of 4,593 working children took the Primary School Completion Examination (PECE) in 2015, out of which 93% passed.
- EYE program has provided technical support to the Bangladesh government's Reaching Out of School Children (ROSC) project on four pilots programs including the Urban Slum Children Education (USCE) and Pre vocational training.
- 1,037 youth received 6 months pre vocational training.
- 4,945 youth completed 6-12 months vocational training in 27 trades.
- Partnered with 109 private companies in the formal sector to promote apprenticeships and safe jobs for 1,262 youth workers.
- 100 youth clubs are functioning, where 64,473 children and youth enhanced their employability skills through training and youth led initiatives.
- Sensitized 11,272 children in formal schools on the rights of working children through school campaigns.
- Updated life skills training manual including personal and professional skills.
- 66,192 parents, employers and community members participated in parenting education sessions, which contributed to initiatives that promoted the rights of deprived children and youth.
- 7,428 employers received training to follow work place improvement plans.
- 39 Compound Management Committees (CMC) have been formed and 500 members were provided with capacity building support on the child rights business principles, participatory monitoring and supervision.
- The EYE program continues its work with the Ministry of Labour and Employment to finalize a National Corporate (CSR) Policy for Children through organizing national consultations, inter-ministerial meetings and a Tripartite Consultative meeting.
- A number of guidelines and manuals were finalized including the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) manual for the ready made garment (RMG) and electronics sector, syllabus and manual for pre technical education, learning materials for master trainers on English, Math and Science from grade 6 to 8, training manual and teachers' guide on literacy, financial management, and life skills.



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