

**“The Impact of Rural Social Services of the Department of Social Services in
Socio-economic Development in Haluaghat of Mymensingh”**



Submitted To

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Research Proposal:

1. Research Title:

The impact of Rural Social Services programme of the department of Social Services in socio-economic development in Haluaghat of Mymensingh.

2. Background of the study:

Access to finance and financial inclusion are well known instrument for income generation and poverty eradication. Bangladesh has witnessed a phenomenal growth in microfinance over the past three decades and contributed to resolving the market failure of formal financial institutions by reaching out to the rural poor, especially women who are not covered by the commercial Banks. By easing liquidity constrains, microfinance helps to generate employment, income, as well as improve children's schooling (Khandker et al; 2016) Bangladesh has been leading the micro-finance movement around the world since the inception of the concept and remained a pioneer regarding formalizing this sector. Rural Social Services investment (RSS) of Department of Social Services was initiated by the Father of Nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1974. Now RSS has been conducting its activities in 492 Upazilas all over the Bangladesh. RSS is an instrument for poverty reduction and capital accumulation.

The previous research works done to investigate the RSS effect to reduce poverty in Bangladesh, and most of the research findings show that RSS has a significant role in developing socio-economic development of rural poor people. It also develops some immeasurable indicators of various social works and awareness.

Therefore, this research is attempting to know the socio-economic impact Rural Social Services (RSS) programme to rural marginalized people especially who are living below poverty line. The Department of Social Services of Bangladesh is one

of the change makers of Bangladesh. Because this department has extensive grass root level working experience all over Bangladesh. (BIDS2017). The RSS programme is particularly designed for the vast majority of by-passed groups to organize them and to build their capacity to fight against poverty, illiteracy, ill health, unemployment and population explosion. The direct target groups of the RSS are the children, the youth, the women, the landless families and other disadvantaged groups who do not directly get benefits from other development activities in the rural and remote area (DSS-2018).

Haluaghat Upazila consists of 12 unions and a Pourasova. It situated in the north area of Bangladesh beside Bay of Bengal. Geographically it is a disaster affected area. River erosion, flash flood are the common phenomena of this area. With a sort time somebody can be rootless or be an ultra-poor. No research projects have done in this area in diverse field and discipline.

3.Objective Of the study: The main objective of the study is to assess the socio-economic impact of rural social services (RSS) in life of poor and marginalized village people Bangladesh.

Specific Objectives:

- ** To find out the real scenario of socio-economic status of RSS programmes beneficiaries living in Haluaghat.
- ** To measure the success of RSS programme through a base line survey and supplemented by qualitative field data
- ** To identify the key challenges in implementing RSS programme

4.Statement of the Study:

The government of Bangladesh is very serious to do overall development of peoples of Bangladesh. RSS is one of the major reflections to uphold the spirit of the constitution to let no one below poverty line which also uphold one of the goals of SDG. The beauty of RSS glorifies the department of social services of Bangladesh. It is a responsibility for this department to continue the journey overcoming all kinds of challenges. It is very unfortunate that still there is no significant empirical research has been done by organization on RSS to access the impact of this programmes in elevating poverty and human development. This research is aiming to do pragmatic field-based research to assess and point out the developments and challenges. Due to limited time and funding I want to select a upazila based survey or focus group discussions or other tools. Therefore, I chose Haluaghat, the feasibility and diversity among profession, income and way of life. Though I would face difficulty in road communication. Geographically it is a backward and underdeveloped area.

6. Significance of the study:

RSS programme is contributing broader SDG (sustainable development goals) umbrella to reduce extreme poverty in Bangladesh. Development intervention in rural people assisting no one left behind theme. however, it is hard to say that RSS programme as a whole has no any drawback but it is comparatively very successful programme in rural people of Haluaghat. But no research has been conducted on this programme in Haluaghat yet. This research will help the social workers, trade instructors, field supervisors, officers to apply the effective steps to achieve the goals of RSS. Social services officers of different upazilas will be benefited by the findings of this research. This study will help the policy makers to take more fruitful instalment system.

7. Literature review:

The RSS programme was launched as a pilot project in 1974 in 19 selected thanas of 19 districts. In 1984, upazila social services offices were established in all upazilas. Later on, under these offices, the RSS programme was introduced all over the country (DSS, 2018).

The RSS programme is particularly designed for the vast majority of by-passed groups to organise them and to build their capacity to fight against poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition, unemployment and the population explosion. The direct target groups of the RSS are the children, the youths, the women, the landless families and other disadvantaged groups who do not get benefit from other development activities in the rural areas (ibid).

8. Scope of the research:

The scope of the research is extensive. Target groups of the research are poor vulnerable village people, farmers, day-laborers, government officials, ethnic and marginalized people, youth and overall, the stakeholders of the department of social services. The RSS programme has been started in Bangladesh since 1974 from the beginning of Bangladesh under the department of Bangladesh. Firstly, it has been started in 19 thanas. Under this Rural Services programme poor people has been given micro credit with zero interest. It is very fortunate that in the last 40 years implementation of this programme there is no significant research conducted by DSS in Haluaghat. Not even any third party such as academician, researcher and NGOs and so on. However, we found from our literature review BIDS done an evaluation of RSS in 2017 in 21 districts in Bangladesh. The uniqueness of this research is this research will be conducted in a marginalized upazila of Mymensingh district, Haluaghat.

The first goal of SDG is no poverty. The aim of the RSS programme by DSS is to reduce poverty and socio-economic development of poor village community. How this programme has been contributing in reducing poverty and in the overall economic development of Bangladesh which also will contribute in achieving SDG goals of no one left behind theme. Moreover, This is aligned with national rural development policy of Bangladesh. In future, the success of this research will be used in taking policy on RSS. Bangladesh is not the only country is wanting to implement SDGs all the countries of the keen to achieve SDGs. Besides Bangladesh is one of the vulnerable country due to climate change and natural disaster, it is high time for Bangladesh to make a concrete start towards achieving SDGs.

9. Research Methodology:

The type of the research is explorative. To explore about RSS program -the study has been carried out based on mixed methods research since quantitative method has been traingled with qualitative methods (key Informant Interviews and Focus Group Discussion) of data collection and field observations by the researchers. In addition, survey data have been backed up by qualitative data in generating findings of this research. It has also reviewed existing literatures for gathering and organizing secondary data which helped researchers to understand the phenomenon under the study, design survey structured questionnaire and semi-structured interview guide for KIIs and FGDs.

Study area and Population

I reveal this study will be carried out all across 12 unions of Haluaghat upazila of Mymensingh district intended to understand wide ranging perceptions of RSS beneficiaries from diverse socio-economic backgrounds. It is obvious that this study will cover Bildora ,Narail.koichapur,Vubonkura,Jugli,Haluaghat,Gazirvita,Sakuai,Dhara,Dhurail,Amtai I,Swadeshi union. The total respondents(10%) will come from Vubonkura,10% come from Jugli,8% from Koichapur,8% from Haluaghat,8%gazirvita,8% from bildora,8% Sakuai,40% from rest of the unions.

Methods of data analysis:

Quantitative survey data will be analysed through the use of IBM SPSS while qualitative data will be coded manually. Basically, thematic analysis method will be used in dealing with qualitative data that came from FGDs and KIIs.

10. Work Schedule:

This study may take 180 days to be done. Work schedule is given bellow:

serial	work	time
01	topic selection	15 days
02	literature review	30 days
03	data collection	60 days
04	data analysis	30 days
05	report writing	30 days
06	print and binding	15 days
		180 days

11. Budget:

This study may cost 200000tk to be done. Different phases of cost are:

serial	purposes	cost
01	books and journals	30000
02	instruments	20000
03	communication	25000
04	internet	50000

05	compose	20000
06	data collection	50000
07	communication	5000
	total	200000tk

12.References

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