

Report on Quarterly Dialogue Meeting

Date : 25 May 2021

Place : Public Health Engineering department , Pirganj, Thakurgaon

Participants : Staff of Upazila Public Health Engineering department, CSO members

No. of Participants: Female-13 (Minority-03), Male- 17 (Minority-01), Total- 30 (Minority-04)

Introduction:

Manab Kallyan Prished has been implementing “Promotion of social partnership for empowerment of marginalised communities in 6 districts and at national level in Bangladesh - PROSPECT” project with the financial assistance of BMZ and technical collaboration of NETZ-Bangladesh in Thakurgaon and Panchagarh district. As part of its efforts, a dialogue meeting between members of the Naghorick Somaj Songgathon (NSS) and officials/representatives of pirganj upazila Public Health Engineering Department was held at the MKP project office, Pirganj on 25 May 2021, 11.00 am. The dialogue session was prominently focused on accessibility and availability of services from various entities towards targeted people through fostering a good and synergic relation.

Description:

The event was presided over by Ms. Sonia Akther, President of Upazila CSO while Md. Mehedi Hasan, Deputy-Assistant engineer of Public Health Engineering Department, Pirganj was present as chief guest. At the beginning of the session, Ms. Rowshan Ara, Area Coordinator of PROSPECT project explicitly narrated the goal, objectives, activities, expected outcomes and operational mechanism of the project coupled with the objectives of today’s quarterly meeting. Then Project Manager Mr. Rashedul Alam delivered his welcome address. In his speech he said

water is one of the most important elements for human to live on. Thus it is the responsibility of the Public Health Engineering Department for supplying safe and clean water. He hoped that it would expedite more through this quarterly meeting amid the spontaneous participation of service recipients and deliverers. Later the chief guest presented various ongoing services of his department. He said the people usually suffering from various water born diseases but we do not pay much attention to it. Thus, we need to drink safe drinking water to keep ourselves free from being infested with diseases. He further added



that due to lack of awareness people suffer from preventable water born diseases. He added we need to be more aware of cleanliness during this ongoing epidemic. He also said that his department provides sanitation and tube-well related services to the people. Every year government allocates tube-wells to the Union Parishads to distribute among the poor household members. During an open question-answer session Ms. Suniti Rani a member of COS wanted to know the distribution process of the tube-wells of the Public Health Engineering Department. In reply to her question, the chief guest said that the tube-wells are usually distributed among the genuine recipients based on the list provided by respective Union Parishads. Later, Mr. Akhtarul Islam wanted to know safe ground water level in this area. Replying this, the chief guest said 160/166 feet ground water is safe in this area. CSO member Mr. Wazkuruni wanted to know as to whether there is any measure to test arsenic and iron in water in this region. In reply the chief guest said test for arsenic and iron in water is not possible locally but it can be tested in Rangpur region. Mr. Hakim wanted to know What activities are you conducting to prevent corona? In reply, the official said, "We are setting up basins for hand washing in different schools and also making arrangements for hand washing in different hat-bazaars." The chief guest further urged all to install latrine and tube-well keeping the standard distance from 20 foot from each other. So that water of those tube-wells will be safe to drink. He finally, requested all to come to his department to solve their relevant problems. Finally, the president thanked all for their active participation in the dialogue session.

Achievement:

- Government officials were very enthusiastic to take part in the event
- Development of mutual understanding

Challenge:

- Adverse weather