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Computer Literacy Program

Volunteers Association for Bangladesh - New Jersey Chapter (VAB-NJ)



VAB-NJ launched the Computer Literacy Program (CLP) in 2004 to promote the knowledge and usage of computers among the underprivileged youths in Bangladesh. The rationale was to bridge the 'digital divide' between disadvantaged students in rural Bangladesh and their counterparts from developed nations, and well-to-do families in Bangladesh. We are pleased to report back to our donors, supporters and patrons, that within two years of its inception we have established 36 fully operational computer literacy centers in Bangladesh. Seven additional centers are expected to be in operation by end of summer 2006.

All centers have been provided with a minimum of four computers, one printer, necessary supplies, and a structured curriculum. Two teachers from every center received hands-on training so that they could in turn teach the students. Under this program, we provide incentive pay to the dedicated teachers who spend their own time to train the CLP students. We also provide necessary technical support to all the centers to ensure that the computers and their accessories remain in operating condition. Our partner in Bangladesh, D.Net is instrumental in the implementation of the program. D.Net's trained professionals set up the computer labs in every center, provide technical support, monitor progress and maintain liaison with the centers to ensure smooth operation.

We are pleased to announce that with your help we have already trained eighty-eight teachers (20% female) and graduated Over 2,400 students. We believe that the training these students received will encourage them to pursue careers in information technology related areas and open up new opportunities for them.

We have recently introduced some useful modifications of the program. Recognizing that keeping the computers operational is a real challenge in rural Bangladesh and the centers were established with pre-owned computers, CLP has launched a new initiative in 2006 to provide one new computer to each center after completion of two years of operation. To this end, we are seeking Sponsor-a-Computer patrons to commit \$300 to purchase a new computer for a center. We have also modified the Sponsor-a-Center program that enables patrons to establish new centers with 4 new computers with a donation of \$2600.

Another encouraging development is the crystallization of CLP initiatives at several other locations outside New Jersey, such as, Atlanta, Boston, Houston, and Raleigh in USA and Oxford in UK, CLP's success thus far helps the goal to alleviate computer illiteracy in two ways—directly by bringing the computers to the children around the centers, and, indirectly by encouraging other organizations to emulate the program and establish other programs with similar goals. We could not thank all of our patrons more for their support, time, and effort towards this cause. When we started in 2004, it was easy to feel discouraged when one compared the number of centers we hoped to establish against the backdrop of 64,000 villages in Bangladesh. Today, we are encouraged by what we have already accomplished, by the enthusiasm of the students who benefited from the program, and by the positive feedback that we received from parents, teachers, and intellectuals in Bangladesh. We are now more committed than ever to continue our efforts. We urge you to visit the centers you helped establish to fully appreciate the returns on your investments and to tell us how you think we could do better.

We thank you sincerely for your generous donations. Your continued support is essential to keep the effort alive.

From virtual to real, through computers to prosperity, we will empower the underprivileged youths of Bangladesh to enter the realm of hope by crossing the digital divide

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In Memory of Dr. Imdad Khan

In all earnest efforts, Divine help comes from unexpected sources. For CLP, such help came from Dr. Imdadul Haque Khan, a renowned scientist and philanthropist. Dr. Khan's magnanimous support gave the fledgling Computer Literacy Program a boost without which perhaps, the program would not be where it is to-day. Dr. Khan provided support for ten of the first 20 CLP centers, the Program's goal for 2004. In addition, he provided funds for teacher incentive pay to the CLCs he sponsored. But, CLP is not the only noble endeavor that Dr. Khan supported, but it was one of many.



Dr. Imdad Khan, as he was commonly known, comes from the village of Amla, Kushtia, Bangladesh. He matriculated with distinction in 1945. With brilliant results in I.Sc., he secured admission to both Medical College and Engineering College in Kolkata (Calcutta). However, fate had different plans. Fearing for his life from the violence at the time of the partition of British India, he was forced to start in Rajshahi Government College wherefrom he completed his B. Sc. (Honors) in Physics. (His wife Sitara Khan was also a student of the Rajshahi Government College). He then completed M. Sc. in Physics from Dhaka University and his Ph. D in Physics from Imperial

College, London. His Ph.D. dissertation on the design of electron diffraction camera earned him the Ph.D. degree and fame. At Imperial College, he was honored to use the same table and chair to conduct his research which used before him by the famous Nobel Laureate Advisor Sir George Paget Thomson. He moved to Canada in 1959 as a Post Doctoral Fellow at the National Research Council.

Dr. Khan pursued his scientific career at General Dynamics, Ford, and General Telephones and Electronics. He then joined the NASA Electronics Research Center in Cambridge, Massachusetts. t. He retired from NASA's Moffet Field Laboratories. Dr. Khan's research centered on thin film materials and technology. His contribution in the *Handbook of Thin Film Technology*, edited by Dr. Andrew Mossel of IBM, is a testimony to his stature in the field. After retiring from NASA, he built a successful business in real estate properties.

Dr, Khan's accomplishments in the sciences is dwarfed by his philanthropic accomplishments. It is in this sphere that his partner in life Mrs. Sitara Khan, became partner in the plight of the deprived in Bangladesh. Mrs. Khan a philanthropist in her own rights and a devoted teacher, joined Dr. Khan in establishing the *Imdad-Sitara Khan Foundation* to provide financial assistance to the meritorious but economically disadvantaged students in Bangladesh to pursue higher studies in science, engineering and medicine. In 2005, the Foundation awarded 120 scholarships to students in Bangladesh, and that number would double in the subsequent years. Dr. and Mrs. Khan considered it important that, "we provide the right resources, guidance, education, and above all support for our children so that they can catch up with the fast moving trends." To that end they sponsored the Joint Research Center for Advanced System Engineering at East West University in Dhaka and a very Large Scale Integration (VLSI) Research and Development Center at Jahangirabad Science and Technology Institute in India. The Foundation plans to establish four kidney dialysis centers in Rajshahi, Kushtia, Bogra and Rangpur.

With all his accomplishments, Dr. Khan was also a quiet, forgiving and humble individual with deep religious convictions. He always helped the needy even when his resources were limited. While the Imdad and Sitara Foundation was generously helping CLP, his health deteriorated and on May 7, 2006, his soul left this mortal world at Santa Clara, CA. His wife, two daughters, many relatives, friends, and admirers survive Dr. Khan. VAB-NJ solemnly remember and celebrate the life Dr. Khan on this fundraising event.

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Volunteers Association for Bangladesh - New Jersey Fund-raising Dinner Event, June 17, 2006



Arrival, Snacks, Social 5:30 - 6:00

Introduction and Guest Speeches [M.C. Subarna Khan]

National Anthems, USA and Bangladesh

Welcome and Introduction [Subarna Khan]

6.05 - 6.15

6:15 - 6:20

6:00 - 7:05 6:01 - 6:05 Formal Reading of Proclamations [Mushfique N./Saira S.]

Guest Speakers

6:25 - 6:55

Presentations [M.C. Farrukh Mohsen]

7:00 - 8:10

7.00 - 7.157:15 - 7:307:30 - 7:40

Interactive CLP Video [Farrukh Mohsen]

Your Generosity at Work [Mosleh-Uddin Ahmed]

A sponsor's Viewpoint [Ziauddin Ahmed]

VAB's Overall Mission [A.T.R. Rahman]

7:40 - 7:507:50 - 8:10

Youth Presentations [Adhunika and Metronap]

Dinner 8:10 - 9-10 Cultural Program [M.C.Ajanta]

9:10 - 10:45

Shompa Haque - Modern Songs

Nandonik of NJ - Comic Play

Rafigul Islam - Nazrul Songs

10:10 - 10:2510:30 - 11:05

9:50 - 10:059:10 - 9:45

Rathindra Nath Roy - Folk Songs

Concluding Comments [Mahmud Hassan]

11:05 - 11:10

NATIONAL FOLK-SINGER OF BANGLADESH RATHINDRA NATH ROY

Rathindra Nath Roy is a legendary folk-singer of Bangladesh. Whilst his repertoire includes the entire range of folk music of Bengal, he is by birth particularly attached to Bhawaiya, the northern regional stream that highlights the laments of womenfolk separated from their loved ones.



Rathin was born in 1949. His father, Haralal Roy was a renowned folk-singer and understandably became his first teacher. He was also taught by Ustad P.C. Gomez. He went to Dhaka University and took a MA degree in Bangla literature. At the age of eight Rathin began singing on the radio and by the time he was thirteen, he was giving performances on the TV as well. In 1971, Rathin fought in the war of Independence and inspired thousands of his fellow-fighters thru Swadhin Bangla Betar (Free Bengal Radio). After the liberation he traveled to East Germany at the invitation of the Government. In 1973 and joined the 10th World Youth Festival where he was awarded its first prize for folk songs. The following year, he went to the Soviet Union and received universal applause. He continued to travel as a member of the Cultural Delegation of Bangladesh to India, Pakistan, Burma, Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, North Korea, France, Australia, Sweden, Gt. Britain, Federal republic of Germany, USA, USSR, Canada, Japan. He was twice voted by the Film Journalists Association as the best Playback Singer in 1979 and in 1981. He was awarded double Platinum Disc by HMV as Playback Singer. In 1995 he was

awarded the highly coveted 'Ekushey Padak' by the Bangladesh Government.

Rathin has been acclaimed by some critics as the 'King of Folk Songs'. His voice is power-packed to reach thousands without the aid of any PA system. Discs and Cassettes of his songs have been produced both in Dhaka and Kolkata and are much sought after.

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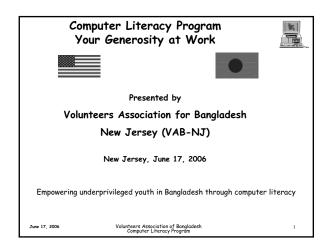
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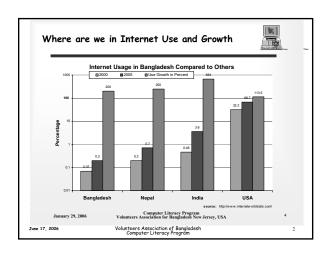
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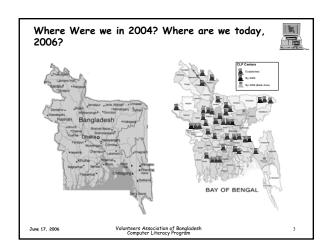
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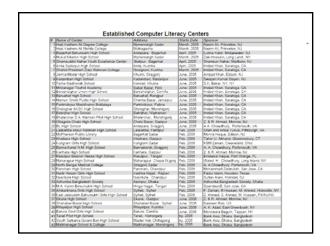
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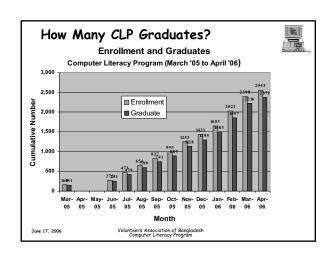
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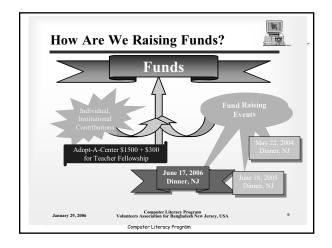












Our Focus



- Our initial focus was to establish the Computer Learning Centers and introduce a curricula to implement the basic "Computer Literacy."
- · Now we are shifting the focus towards
 - Maintaining the operations of the existing centers, and
 - Increasing the service values.
- · Increased service values will include
 - Internet connection,
 - Adding advanced training

June 17, 200

Volunteers Association of Bangladesh

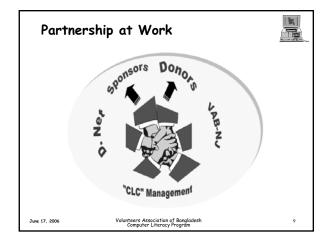
What is a Computer Literacy Center (CLC)?

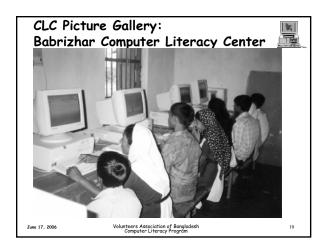


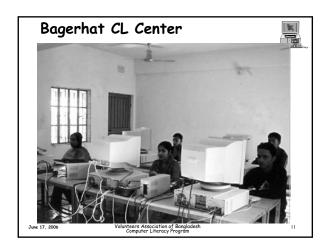
- A CLC is located at an existing learning center in Bangladesh (e.g., a High School).
- A CLC is furnished with 4 working PCs, has two teachers, and has about 8-10 trainees per batch of students.
- Some center augments our computers by local donations or from Government grants.
- We have a CLP training manual jointly developed by CLP and our partner in Bangladesh, D.Net.
- We (VAB-CLP) in the USA provide the funding and guidelines, and D.Net is responsible for implementing the project.

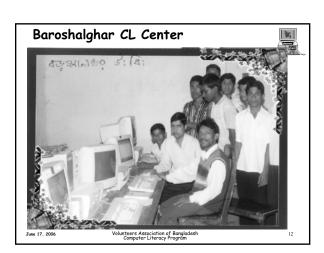
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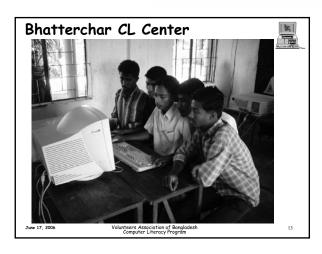
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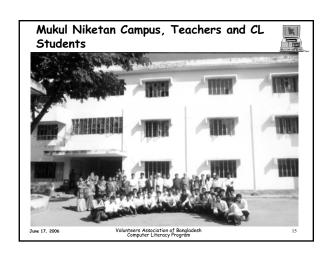


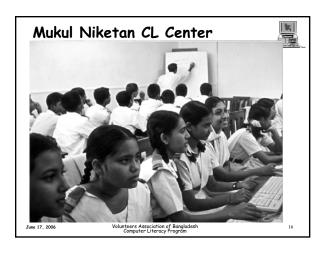


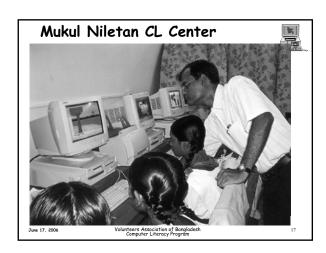




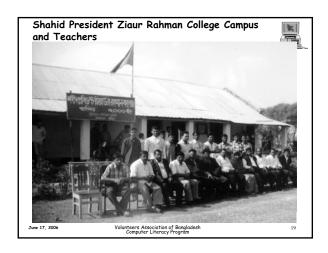


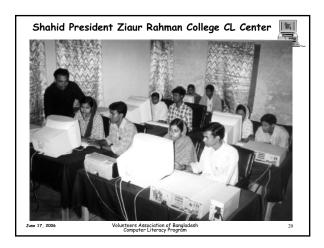


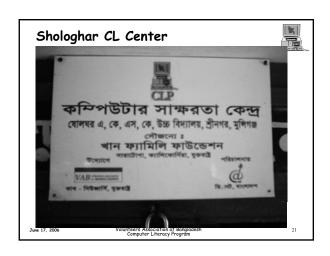




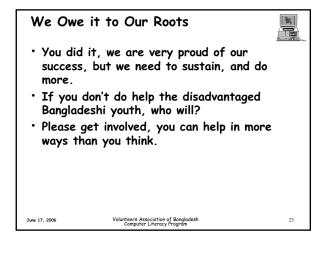
















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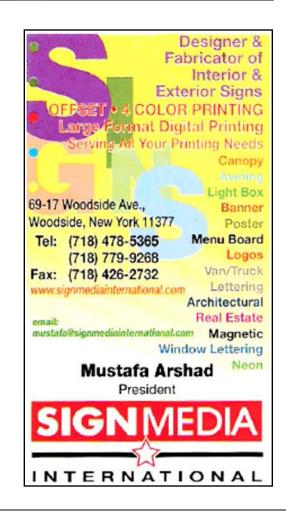
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Computer Learning Centers: Today and Tomorrow

Anir Chowdhury Member of Executive Committee, D.Net, Bangladesh

Glimpses from the Computer Literacy Centers (CLCs)

An unremarkable high school in a nondescript backwater village of our country just became equipped with a Computer Learning Center sponsored by the Volunteers Association for Bangladesh, New Jersey (VAB-NJ). The students in the high school had never seen a real computer in their life; most people in the village had never heard of such a thing, and if they had, they could not care less: what can a computer do for them? Students were used to slogging through their SSC "Computer Science" syllabus by memorizing concepts and definitions from the boring, black-and-white, blurred images of CPUs and monitors on newsprint. These were the digital-have-nots in the increasingly digital, but as quickly digitally divided, world. Chances that these students would grow the right skills to compete in the globalized world were remote. Now, the newly established CLC is offering them a ray of hope. Even the villagers are coming by to see the lab and finding out how a computer can impact their lives. This is the story of 36 CLCs (soon to be 43) conceived and funded by VAB-NJ and implemented by D.Net in high

schools and colleges of disadvantaged areas of Bangladesh over the last year and a half.

Walk with me to some of these CLCs and see the buzz of activities in an otherwise unexciting establishment of learning, and hear the stories of lives being transformed.

Students' Lives Being Transformed

Md. Nasir Uddin is a student of Class X in one of these high schools where a CLC has taken shape. Whereas previously he despised his Computer Science subject material which he



needed to ingest directly from newsprint, now he could not be more eager to learn the material taught at the Center as he dreams of being a computer scientist one day. Many graduates of the program have found the motivation and courage to pursue advanced studies in computer science.

A poor girl at a Feni CLC was so inspired from her interaction with the computer that she convinced her brother and another relative to buy a computer at home for further learning.

Before the Computer Learning Center was started, students would not get more than 70% in SSC Computer Practical tests. After the establishment of the Center, some students are scoring as high as 100%.

Many graduates of the Computer Literacy Program have been gainfully employed because of the skills they acquired at the CLC. A heartening story is that of Rubel Islam and Alamgir Hossain from Doulatpur who have been employed as computer operators at the Bangladesh Army.

Teachers Becoming Agents of Change

Md. Farid Uddin is the teacher of a high school boasting a CLC. He is leveraging his personal interest in computers to build awareness within the community on how the computer has become the new *pen* in the age old maxim 'The pen is mightier than the sword'. A large number of unemployed youth are coming to him for computer literacy.

Teacher Farhana Akhtar in Bagerhat inspired and guided students Ziaur Rahman and Zahidur Rahman to start their own small 'computer shop'. This is an example of where the CLC gave these two students an *axe* with which to earn a livelihood.

A teacher writes from a CLC in Munshiganj, "The most important effect of CLP is that it has created and is creating computer awareness among the students of the school, now students realize the importance of computer for their present and coming life."

Schools Going through Paradigm Shift

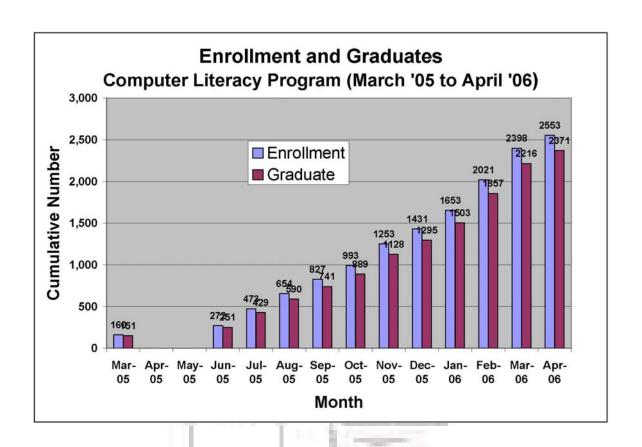
One newly founded college which used to have about 100-120 students has successfully leveraged the CLC started less than a year ago to market itself very prominently. Its 2006 enrollment has jumped to 250.

Every year, this one high school used to spend several days processing the admission test results of a few thousand prospective students. With the computer processing power, and the heightened sense of urgency among the staff, the efficiency gain has cut down this effort to almost a third of what it used to be. Students get their test results within a day.

In a CLC that was established within a youth development center, the graduates are using the center to draft letters, certificates, program schedules among many other things. The CLC has made the center a lot more vibrant and useful to its members, their friends and relatives.

Invariably at all CLCs, group activities on a computer are essential to getting the lessons completed because 1) it is encouraged, and 2) the shortage of computers does not allow one-to-one ratio most of the time. The upside of this arrangement is that the seeds for positive collaboration are sown. Where else in Bangladesh do you see such collaboration at the school level other than students plagiarizing from one another?

Humorous anecdotes of students being petrified of computers and overcoming their fears to become proficient operators of the mystical machine abound. One of our 2,300 graduates fell off her chair while holding the mouse because she was trying to move her body with the movement of the mouse. Another graduate escaped the CLC after closing off the Toolbox in a paint program was terrified because he thought that had 'broken' the computer. Hundreds of these 'frightened' individuals are now operating the computer very successfully and fighting with the new 'pen'.



The Partnership Made It Work

All of this has been possible because of the dedication of a few devoted volunteers in NJ who conceived of the idea two years ago, a good number of donors and sponsors from our non-resident Bangladeshi (NRB) community, and the sustained commitment of VAB-NJ's Bangladeshi partner Development Research Network (D.Net) to make this project successful against all odds in all remote areas of Bangladesh. Take one look at the distribution map (back cover of this booklet) of the centers opened in 2005 and scheduled for 2006, and



you will know that the organizers have not just tip-toed around Dhaka or only the big cities. 22 districts are represented with the current 36 centers. Schools miles away from the main road are among the locations selected.

It is important to note that the Computer Literacy Program is not purely charity – the schools have to provide the space and furniture for the lab, mobilize the teachers, students and the community, and manage the program themselves. Thus, it's a true partnership among the VAB-NJ, NRB donors and sponsors, D.Net and school management.

Curuiosly, through this program the NRBs have motivated capable individuals and organizations in Bangladesh to come forward and sponsor CLCs. During the fund-raising dinner for the program in January 2006 in Dhaka, D.Net was able to raise about US \$1,500 from individuals. Several banks and other organizations pledged setting up multiple CLCs around the country.

I assume most of you reading the article have not made the trek to visit one of these CLCs. It is indeed a rewarding and inspiring experience to talk to the students, teachers, headmasters and the parents. They feel grateful and encouraged that the more fortunate sons and daughters of their soil are finally looking back and 'giving back'.

Computer Literacy Program: Planning the Next Steps

In the last year and a half since inception, the CLP has gone through a maturation process primarily in program management and strengthening of operations on the ground. A strong basic curriculum has been designed and proven. The labs are functioning like clockwork (true, there are occasional hiccups with old computer parts needing urgent replacement, but D.Net has perfected a system to address that in an efficient manner for the current centers). Teachers are being trained effectively. They are delivering training to the students according to the agreed upon schedule. Over 92% of the enrolled students are successfully graduating from the program.

Time has come to evaluate the impact of the program on the target audience objectively, and augment the program with value-added components. The CLP was originally designed to introduce these components at the appropriate time. Now that the foundation of the set of labs has been established around the country, VAB-NJ and D.Net have started planning the next generation activities for the CLCs. The notable planned activities are:

- Impact Assessment Research
- Advanced training
- Internet access
- Computer for general education
- Income generation and sustenance

Impact Assessment Research

D.Net is a research organization. Its strength lies in its ability to objectively assess the impact of a program that it implements and then apply corrective measures to make the intervention more effective and efficient. In general, the CLCs seem to have great positive impact on not only the students and teachers but also on the parents and the community as a whole. However, questions such as the following are crucial to evaluate the impact of this program on the entire educational ecosystem comprising of students, teachers, parents and the extended community:

- How has this program affected the students' grades in non-computer subjects, especially in subjects needing analytical thinking and problem solving such as Mathematics and the Sciences?
- How effective is the program in providing its graduate competitive skills for the job market?
- Has this program had any impact on the community leadership of the students and teachers?
- Is the exercise of group activities for the CLP course spilling over into group activities for students in other areas? Are the teachers prompting and guiding these group activities?
- How can the CLCs go beyond just teaching computer operations and facilitate use of computers for learning subjects such as English and Math, the two most failed subjects in Bangladeshi high schools? Can multimedia CDs offer an answer? (See more plans on this particular question below.)
- How has the school or college hosting a CLC been able to differentiate itself from its pre-CLC image, and also compared to other schools and colleges in the area?
- Can the CLCs be leveraged for income-generating activities? (See more plans on this particular question below.)

Beyond the simple statistics and the anecdotal evidence of a rosy picture, these are among the hard questions that need to be answered through a thorough Impact Assessment Research.

Advanced Training

CLP so far has limited itself to a 32-hour basic training that teaches the students the basics of computer hardware operations, Microsoft Windows fundamentals, word processing, spreadsheets, drawing, and some hardware and software troubleshooting. Advanced courses are being planned which will allow the students more sophisticated use of the computers such as desktop publishing, email and internet, presentations, animation, and even simple programming. D.Net has identified eight schools and conducted a day-long workshop with the teachers to assess demand in these different CLC locations to design the right mix of educational content.

D.Net is also exploring international standard certification programs such as Microsoft's Unlimited Potential, International Computer Driving License among others to offer through the CLCs. This can potentially become an income-generating activity for the CLCs.

Internet Access

None of the CLCs have internet connectivity currently. Internet access can open doors for unprecedented knowledge and creativity for the students. This is directly evidenced in Bangladesh in another program run by an international donor agency Relief International Schools Online that has set up Internet Learning Centers (ILC) in a few underprivileged schools. The schools students are communicating and working on joint projects with students from India, Tajikistan and USA. The joy and resourcefulness unleashed by the ILCs are a sight to behold.

D.Net is in active negotiation with several leading telecom providers in the country to offer internet connectivity in some of the CLCs on an experimental basis in 2006.

Computers for General Education

The power of computers as a tool of general education is established all over the world including developing countries. It is indeed the new 'pen'. D.Net is collaborating with Bangladeshi organizations such as Foundation for Education Research and Innovation (FERI) and Bangladesh Mathematics Olympiad (BdMO) to bring to the CLCs Math and Science Camps where multimedia educational CDs will be demonstrated through the CLC computers and students will engage in various activities on selected topics. BdMO in the last three years has popularized Mathematics all over Bangladesh to the point that all self-respecting schools would want to get involved in the Math competition. The CLCs could provide a very effective avenue for these competitions coupled with multimedia CDs on Math.

Another innovation D.Net is planning to launch around the CLCs is 'Education on Wheels'. The concept has its roots to a visit by a few D.Net members to underprivileged schools in Egypt. There, computers are placed on movable trolleys and taken to classrooms to demonstrate educational concepts thereby making the teaching-learning environment a lot more enjoyable and effective. In the context of CLCs, all D.Net needs is a trolley where one of the center's computers will be fitted and loaded with multimedia educational CDs for their trip through classrooms. Ten CLCs are going to start the 'Education on Wheels' program this year from August, 2006. The schools will bear the cost of trolleys while D.net provides training and relevant CDs for display in the classrooms.

Income Generation and Sustenance

An idea is only as good as its staying power. The Computer Literacy Program has been very successful in its current context. However, the program needs to be sustained. The funds for it must be maintained either through the donors and the sponsors or by some other means. Or, perhaps more realistically, through a combination of donors/sponsors and income-generating activities managed by the CLCs directly. D.Net and VAB are designing

several such components to sustain the remarkable achievement the CLCs have been able to make in a very short time. Some of these activities are:

- Offering advanced courses suitable to local demand
- Leveraging the CLCs as part-time *Pallitathya Kendras*. These are D.Net designed telecenters hosting a unique combination of livelihood digital content needed by the rural communities. Through several years of effort, D.Net has studied the demand for livelihood information such as agriculture, health, legal and human rights, education, appropriate technology, etc. and transformed the necessary information into multimedia digital content. Four areas of the country are already hosting such telecenters, and a growing number of NGOs are licensing D.Net's livelihood content to offer services to their rural clients. Under this plan, the CLCs will double up as Pallitathya Kendras after school hours.

There are many other income generation activities that are on the drawing board, but the program needs to move slowly so as not to upset the integrity that it has been able to build with the school communities hosting the CLCs.

Sustaining the NRB Commitment and Energy

Dr. Raihan, the Executive Director of D.Net, when describing his first contact with VAB-NJ, wrote in his article that appeared in the 2005 fund-raising booklet for the Computer Literacy Program, "I was a bit apprehensive initially. The NRBs started many initiatives before that faltered in the middle of the process due to lack of comprehensive planning and clarity about the ultimate objective, prevalence of 'charity' mentality, inadequacy of back-up plans, and a lack of understanding of the realities in the field." The particular NRBs driving the Computer Literacy Program have proven Dr. Raihan wrong so far — he was indeed quite happy to be proven wrong! Recently, on hearing about CLP, Mark Surman, the Managing Director of telecentre.org, a Canada-based global initiative for IT for development, remarked to Dr. Raihan that it is the only program in the world where countrymen (NRB and residents) successfully pushed such an initiative a long way without any 'foreign donation'.

The almost unnoticeable event of the poor Feni girl figuring out a way to get a computer in her house is by no means ordinary. It is indeed symptomatic of the profound cultural and social revolution that computers can catalyze for our deprived society. Rubel and Alamgir's employment as computer operators in the Army is also part of the equation of paving the road for our countrymen to become able soldiers of the increasingly globalized and digital world. CLP is providing the initial sparks of this revolution and transformation. However, it is important for all of us to realize one thing: if CLP is the only program of its kind and its current pace of progress is sustained, it will take about 900 years to cover all the post-primary educational institutions of Bangladesh. The obvious answer lies in speeding up of the CLP and launching of many other similar programs.

The D.Net CLP team and VAB-NJ volunteers are ever relentless in their pursuit for growing the program and adding new components to it. It is up to us – the larger community of NRBs – to support them in every way possible. It is not just their pursuit. It is every NRB's pursuit: to give every children of our beloved motherland the same opportunities that our children get in the western schools. While this pursuit may have milestones, it must have no end dates.



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3. Donor Information

Name:

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Phone number:

E-mail:

4. Sponsored Site Information Name of the Learning Institution:

Location: Vill: PO:

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Mailing Address: Site Contact Person (provide telephone number):

Alternate Contact: If available

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I have seen the CLP operation in Bangladesh

Mohammad Farooque

During my visit to Bangladesh last winter I had an opportunity to observe how the Computer Literacy Program (CLP) is taking shape. I attended the fundraising event organized by D. Net in Dhaka on January 29. I then visited two computer literacy centers (CLC) and participated in their graduation ceremonies.

Dr. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, presided over the fundraising event held at the BRAC Center Inn. A major attraction of the function was the showing of a documentary on CLP produced by D.Net. The documentary introduces the scope of the program, presents typical activities of some CLCs, and shows how it is helping the underprivileged students. It was a pleasure to see the enthusiasm of the students in using computers, and gratifying to hear the adoring remarks about the program from the elites in Bangladesh. I also made a presentation in which I focused on our mission and roadmap, and emphasized the close tie the non-resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) feel with the land of their birth, and their commitment to support this worthy cause. Dr. Chowdhury praised the Volunteers Association for Bangladesh, New Jersey (VABNJ) for developing the program. He thanked NRBs for supporting the program that helps the youth who, otherwise, might not have the opportunity to get hands-on training on computers, the 'modern wheel'.



The D.Net function received attention from local donors. Bank Asia has since sponsored three CLCs in underprivileged areas of Chittagong, Kishoreganj, and Munshiganj (See Photo above).

Other potential donors are also discussing possible cooperation with D.Net to further the CLP activities.

My subsequent visit of the CLCs at Bagerhat Bahumukhi High School and Shamsuddin-Nahar Youth Excellence Center even more rewarding. I participated in the CLP graduation ceremonies at these centers. Mr. M. Abdul Malek, Commissioner of the Khulna Division, distributed the certificates. This public event and Commissioner Malek's highlighting on the need to learn computer, generated avid interest among local students. I was later told that there was a long line of students eager to enroll in the CLP after this event!

My conversation with CLC participants and graduates at these centers was refreshing. I found them eager to show what they have learned. Most of them were very enthusiastic about the Paint



Graduates of Boitpur, Bagherhat CLC Eeager to Tell What They Have Learned

program. They probably felt a great sense of satisfaction by being able to create colorful drawings with the help of a machine.

I discussed the center operation and management issues with the teachers and administrators at the two centers. They mentioned that D.Net was paying close attention to their needs. Everyone I spoke with seemed to be pleased with the services that D.Net is providing, as well as the impact that the program is making. D.Net is keeping in contact with all centers and redressing all beakdown reports promptly. D.Net pointed out to me that dust and high humidity in Bangladesh are responsible for a higher level of hardware troubles.

In one of the centers I found the teacher using a CLP computer to create a flier for the school annual event. I also noticed her tracking and analyzing students' grades on the computer. Seeing first hand the progresses made by underprivileged children far away from Dhaka, I returned with a renewed commitment to the program.

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Ullah	Saadi		Randolph	2
Unique	Dental Care		Brooklyn	ž
Warsi	Ghulam		Randolph	3
Wells Fargo	Home	Mortgage	Jackson Heights	≽≥
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Innovative	Technology	Solution, INC.	South Plainfield	3	Zaman	Mohammad
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Islam	Faizul		Houston	ĭ		

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Established Computer Literacy Centers

	-		
# Name of Center	Address	Starts Date	Sponsor
1 Hazi Kashem Ali Degree College	Mymensingh Sadar	March, 2005	Nasim Ali, Princeton, NJ
2 Hazi Kashem Ali Mohila College	Mutkagacha	March, 2005	Nasim Ali, Princeton, NJ
3 Bagerhat Bahumukhi High School	Amlapara, Bagerhat	April, 2005	Lubna Kabir, Bridgewater, NJ
4 Mukul Niketon High School	Mymensingh Sadar	March, 2005	Zaki Hossain, Long Land, NY
5 Shamsuddin Nahar Youth Excellence Center	Baitpur, Bagerhat	April, 2005	Shamsun Nahar, Marlboro, NJ
6 Amla Sadarpur High School	Amla, Kushtia	April, 2005	Imdad Khan, Saratoga, CA
7 Shahid President Ziaur Rahman College	Goalgram, Kushtia	March, 2005	Imdad Khan, Saratoga, CA
8 Jamila Model High School	Khukni, Sirajgonj	June, 2005	Amzad Khan, Edison, NJ
9 Kadambari High School	Kadambari, Madaripur	June, 2005	Swapan Kumar Gayen, NJ
10 Farha Madhomik School	Komrail, Khulna	June, 2005	
11 Mirzanagar Touhid Academy	Subar Bazar, Feni	June, 2005	Imdad Khan, Saratoga, CA
12 Barashalghar Union High School	Baroshalghar, Comilla	June, 2005	Imdad Khan, Saratoga, CA
13 Baruahat High School	Baruahat, Rangpur	June, 2005	Imdad Khan, Saratoga, CA
14 Mamun Smriti Public High School	Chantia Bazar, Jamalpur	June, 2005	Imdad Khan, Saratoga, CA
15 Parkhidirpur Maddhomic Biddalaya	Parkhidirpur, Pabna	June, 2005	Imdad Khan, Saratoga, CA
16 Shologhar AKSK High School	Shologhar, Munshigonj	June, 2005	Imdad Khan, Saratoga, CA
17 Babrijhar High School	Babrijhar, Nilphamari	June, 2005	Imdad Khan, Saratoga, CA
18 Bhaterchar D.A. Mannan Pilot High School	Bhaterchar, Munshigonj	June, 2005	Imdad Khan, Saratoga, CA
19 Ghagotia Chala High School	Chala Bazar, Gazipur	June, 2005	Z. & R. Ahmad, Monroe, NJ
20 BL High School	Amlapara, Sirajgonj	June, 2005	A.A. Chowdhury, Portsmouth, VA
21 Laskardia Atikur Rahman High School	Laskardia, Faridpur	Feb, 2006	Shah and Anisa Yunus, Pittsburgh, VA
22 McPherson Public Library	Bagerhat Sadar	Feb, 2006	Monira Haque, Edison, NJ
23 Khaikara High School	Khaikara, Gazipur	Feb, 2006	Taher U. Akhand, Glastonebury, CT
24 Kurigram Girls High School	Kurigram Sadar	Feb, 2006	KBM Zaman, Cleaveland, Ohio
25 Banna Kandi N.M. High School	Bannakandi, Sirajgonj	Feb, 2006	A. A. Chowdhury, Portsmouth, VA
26 Karihata High School	Karihata, Gazipur	Feb, 2006	Z. & R. Ahmad, Monroe, NJ
27 Rasulpur Basirun Nessa High School	Rasulpur, Tangail	Feb, 2006	Emdadul Haque, Port Orange, FL
28 Maharajpur High School	Maharajpur, Chapai N.gonj	Feb, 2006	Waled H. Chowdhury, Long Island, NY
29 North Bengal Medical College	Sirajgonj Sadar	Feb, 2006	
30 Panchani High School	Panchani, Chandpur	Feb, 2006	Mohammad Zafarullah, San Jose, CA
31 Nadir Hossin Girls High School	Kashba Najail, Rajbari	Feb, 2006	Faizul Islam, Houston, Texas
32 Nasirkote High School	Nasirkote, Chandpur	Feb, 2006	Sultan Alam, Holmdel, NJ
33 Adhunika Bangladesh Society	Azimpur, Dhaka	Feb, 2006	Adhunika Bangladesh Society, Dhaka
34 M.A. Karim Bahumukhi High School	Hinga Nagar, Tangail	Feb, 2006	SpandaanB, San Jose, CA
35 Ambarkhana Girls High School	Sylhet, Sylhet	Feb, 2006	Z. Ahmed, S. Ahmed, M. Hussain, PA/NJ/NJ
36 Kazi Jalaluddin Bahumukhi Girls High School	Sylhet, Sylhet	Feb, 2006	Nasreen Rab, US
37 Ekuria High School		June, 2006	Z. & R. Ahmad, Monroe, NJ
38 Shahaber Bazar High School	Shahaber Bazar, Sylhei	June, 2006	F. Zaman, R.Hossain, M. Ahmed, Hicksville, NY
39 Rifayetpur High School	Rifayetpur, Kushtia	June, 2006	A. K. Azad, East Greenbush, NY
40 Barura Govt Girls High School		June, 2006	Monowara Begum, Tappan, NY
		by, 2006	Bank Asia, Dhaka, Bangladesh
42 South Satkania Golam Bari High School	Master Hat, Chittagong	by, 2006	Bank Asia, Dhaka, Bangladesh
43 Malkhanagar School & Collage	Malkhanagar, Munshigonj	by, 2006	Bank Asia, Dhaka, Bangladesh

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