

009 Reports on Swanirvar Work Camps
(Published in October, 1978)

a) Researcher's Identity

1. M. Nurul Haq, Director
M.A. (Economics), Dhaka University
M.S. (Development Administration), American University, Beirut

b) Objectives of the Karmasuchi

The objectives of the Karmasuchi are outlined below:

- i. To stand on their own logs without depending on others;
- ii. To utilise local resources;
- iii. To remove illiteracy;
- iv. To compel every one of the village to work;
- v. To allow none to remain hungry;
- vi. To keep the village neat and clean;
- vii. To sacrifice self-interest in the interest of the whole village;
- viii. To inculcate the principle of "Each for all and all for each" in the village.

The actual purpose of the Kormasuchi is to inculcate proper knowledge of using modern agricultural inputs such as pump water, improved seeds, fertilizers and insecticides, and thereby to attain self-reliance and self-sufficiency (in food) for the villagers.

c) Executive summary

Tarafsertaj is a developing village under Gabtali Thana of Bogra district. The two days Swanirvar Work-Camp held from February 28, 1976 was the second district level camp of its type. One Thana Swanirvar Committee was formed earlier for arranging the Swanirvar Work Camp there. In the inaugural session, the C.O. (Dev.) Gabtali Thana gave an account on Socio-Economic characteristics of the village. It mostly fulfilled the need of the participants there. Responsible personnel from the Swanirvar Central Committee and from various nation building departments and agencies participated in the work-camp. Among the public participants, social leaders,

fanners representatives and village youths were the main. Many of the local traditional farmers attended the work-camp in spite of their household affairs, out of curiosity. But, a very limited number of fanners were found to be purportedly participating in the work-camp. Youth groups of the village and from other neighboring villages participated in the works freely.

Programme of the two days work-camp was a quite oriented one. During visit to the village homesteads, the participants made several fruitful discussions on in traducing the HYV crops and the family planning measures, with the village people. Manay of the fanners have utilized it as an opportunity to get the answer of several scientific causes mainly related to improved agricultural practices. Motivational ground work was also done, that would help the villagers in developing self-awareness to come out of the prejudices about nature. It would elevate the mode of understanding of the rural poor to become tenacious for self-development through hard labour in future.

d) Conclusion

With 75 million people on 55 thousand square miles, Bangladesh is begotton with multifarious economic, social and political problems, of which food is pivotal. But the country has abundant untapped material and human resources. Ibrough the mobilisation and optimum utiligation of its existing researcher, and use of moderm technology, the country may get out of the domain of food deficiency within a short time. For this, it needs proper leadership, realistic planning and integration of efforts (between the government officials and the rural people) in the successful implementation of the plan. In this respect the Swanirvar movement is a timely drive. But the concept of Swanirvar is new and still remained abstract to the village people especially in a situation when their psychology has been polluted through relief operations of the last few years since independence. It requires vigorous campaigns to arouse consciousness among the rural people about their development possibilities and the real meaning, need and method of Swanirvar movement. Moreover, until and institutional net work be devised to support the villagers in development efforts the work-camp exercise would remain futile.