

annual report

2012-2013



"...creating work opportunities, promotes, encourages and assists
handicraft producers in Bangladesh"



B a S E

Bangladesh Hoshto Shilpo Ekota Sheba Shongshtha
বাংলাদেশ হস্তশিল্প একতা সেবা সংস্থা

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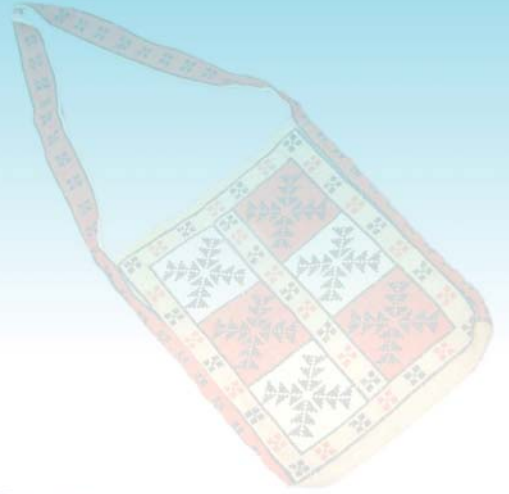
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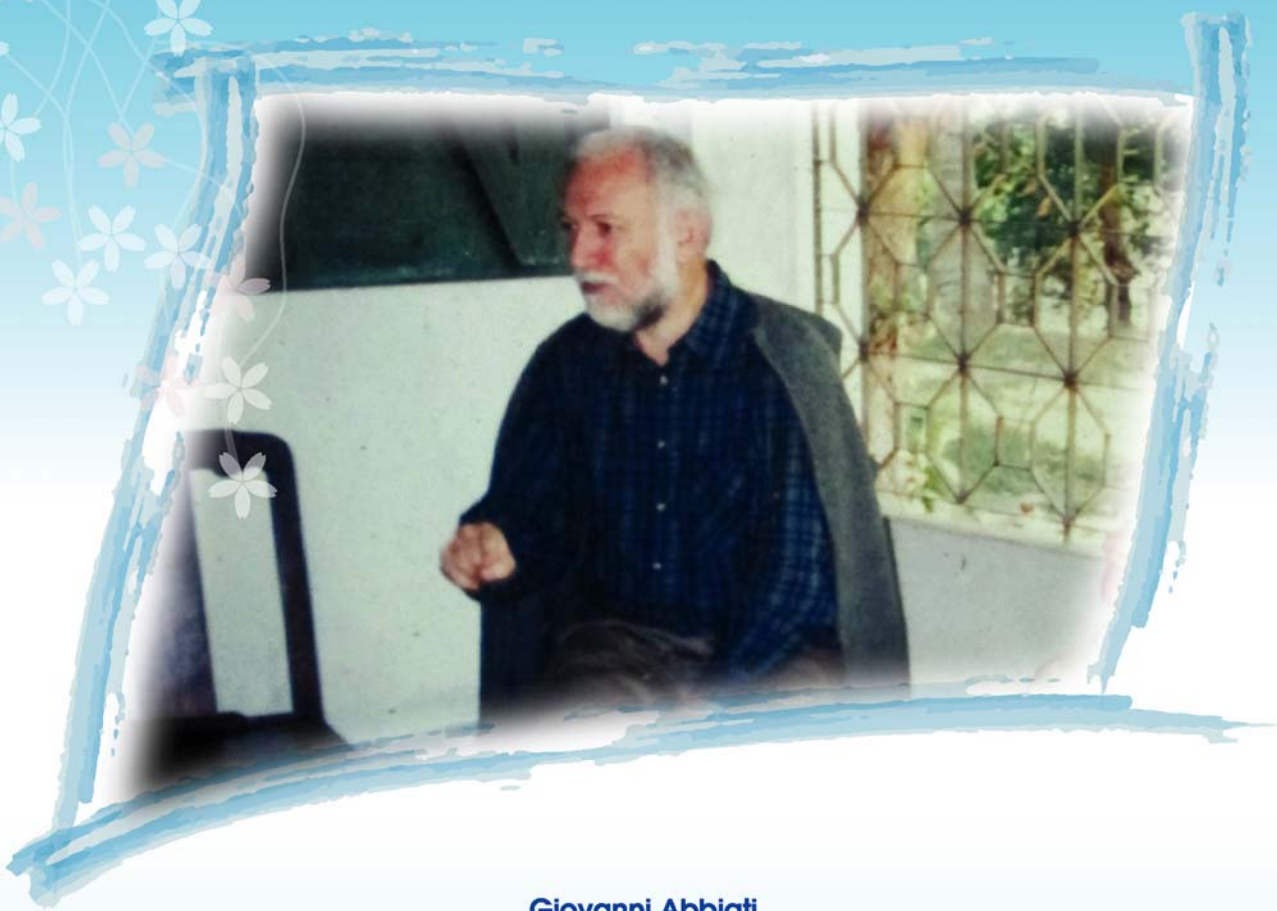


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In Memory of Fr. John



Giovanni Abbiati
(30 April 1948 - 5 October 2009)

"Always on our mind; forever in our heart....."

Message from Advisor



Fr. John died four years ago, but his presence is still among you, through the work of BaSE, the organization that Fr. John built to allow you to sell the beautiful products made with your own hands.

Fr. John understood how important it was for the poor women in Bangladesh to discover and support, in their families and in society, their dignity as humans through their handicraft work; this is why he created BaSE.

When Fr. John suddenly died in October 5, 2009, Lidia, Nica, Marianna, my brothers, myself and all your friends that have been selling your goods for many years decided to not let this project stop, but to let it live as a sign of Fr. John's presence among you.

For this reason, despite the economic crisis, we continued to visit you, we asked the experts (Rossana and Bettina) to come to Bangladesh to help you in your work and to develop new items, we gave you funds to buy machinery and equipment, we funded the new warehouse in Maniktola, and, above all, we continue sending orders, even if at this time it is not easy to sell your products in western countries.

But nothing is useful if you do not understand that you need to stay together, to cooperate with each other and with BaSE's staff, and, first of all, to act according to the inspiration of Father John; he dedicated all his life to helping the poorest and weakest people, in the same way you have to make sure that BaSE focuses its activities in helping needy people. You should think about BaSE's interest before your own direct interest; only in this way can Fr. John's dream continues and he will continue help poor people through BaSE.

We are committed to supporting you, but our commitment will not help if you do not stay together for the interest of all and especially for those most in need.

I wish you a good 2014!

Benedetto Abbiati

Advisor

BaSE Executive Committee

Message from Advisor

First, I feel very glad when I think about the present position of the BaSE. For the reason that after the death of Father John the condition of Base was not so good. Now, BaSE has spent three years successfully.

I want to give thanks from the depths of my heart to all of the members of BaSE, without whose hard work and proper management it was quite impossible.

The soul of Father John would be very happy because we keep his dream alive through BaSE. If BaSE runs this way, I wish we could keep Father John's dream alive.

Fr. Lorenzo Valoti

Advisor

BaSE Executive Committee



Message from Advisor



Here comes another year. Every year, BaSE women move forward with dignity and prosperity.

I remember Father John and I went to Dhaka Government Export Registration Office to register exports. We thought how much we could do for the Bangladeshi poor and financially powerless women.

We were very shocked when unfortunately Fr John left us through an accident. Now our hearts still cry for Fr John. On behalf of the all members of BaSE I pray that God keeps him in Heaven. Victims, poor, helpless women bear their children's education cost and family cost thanks to the income from their handicrafts. Before this, their husbands tortured them physically and mentally for dowry. For the family and for themselves they could not take any decision. Now they are able to achieve their rights and power. I believe you never keep away your kind sympathy from them. On behalf of the poor, victims and helpless women I want to say Merry Christmas to all our friends.

Angela Gomes

Advisor

BaSE Executive Committee



Message from Chairman's Desk

I would like to thank of all the members and producers of BaSE. After father John's death, BaSE spent four years. It has only become possible through hard work. If they work like this way in the future, we can make Fr. John's dream come true.

This year BaSE developed a lot of new samples. I hope it will work in future. Now we have also our own warehouse so that we can store all products there. Therefore, I want to say how BaSE will work in this way for the development of poor handicraft producers in future. With the blessing of God, BaSE is continuing all its activities successfully and day by day, the organization is developing incredibly. Big thanks to Sondrio all friends to having our own Warehouse.

We, all the committee members, are always with BaSE, and with all its activities.

Ashok Sarker

Chairperson
BaSE Executive Committee



Message from

Coordinator Desk



Warm greetings and welcome to BaSE Annual Report 2012-2013.

We are again back and pleased to tell you about all the BaSE activities that have been happening over the past year.

We continue to grow although global recession slows our progress. We take new initiatives throughout the year and achieve many goals during our development journey.

We have finally moved to our very own location! This is a great achievement for BaSE to have its own place to run and store the goods. This dream of our own place has come true, thanks to the land donation by the Xaverian Family and financial support from the 'Associazione Solidarietà Terzo Mondo'. Many thanks to our supporters who provided the valuable efforts to achieve this dream.

We have created the Fr. John memorial fund and through this fund we will continue development support for the producers. This fund will enable producers to receive medical support for emergency needs, support for children's education, interest-free housing loans, equipment & machinery for capacity building. This fund also helps to improve the productivity of the group's performance through the Performance Bonuses for the best producers. The fund will help more to change the lives of producers.

During the period BaSE receives product quality recognition from our trusted and long time partners. We believe that the quality trainings and continues production follow-up effort help us to improve the quality. We developed many beautiful samples during the period and we thank Rossana Vittani for providing technical support.

To increase the producers' work opportunities, this year we will focus on promoting our products for new markets. Through the international Fairtrade fairs, exhibitions and meetings with new buyers we hope to successfully enter new markets.

We very much hope that the new financial year 2013/14 will change and improve the situation. Our producers will have a flood of work!

We will continue our development journey for the social-economic development of disadvantage producers through skill, transparency and professionalism. We are following the foot-print that our icon and pioneer, Fr. John, showed to us.

We express heartfelt thanks to all the friends, partners and well-wishers of BaSE for the great support in our development progress during the year. We at BaSE family would especially like to give thanks to all members of Fr. John's family, the Xaverian Community, Associazione Solidarieta Terzo Mondo and all our friends.

We are also thankful to the members of the BaSE committee for giving assistance to the growth of the BaSE. We want to congratulate and send warm greetings to all producers and leaders for their tremendous collaboration during the journey of development

May the New Year bring peace and love and may we all live a joyful and happy life.....For this expectation.....

Shourove Ansari

Coordinating Director



BaSE Mission, Vision and Principles....

In the Beginning....

BaSE was founded by an Italian Xaverian missionary, Fr. Giovanni Abbiati, known as Fr. John.

He observed the poverty and life of the poor villagers, especially the underprivileged women. He wanted to change the situation but without providing direct financial support so as to avoid economic dependency.

Knowing that village women use jute to craft their household decorative items, he decided to give them the opportunity to uphold their traditional skills and prepare these products for the market. For this purpose he started a specific group in Bhoberpara village and began to export these goods, devoting his life to the development of the livelihood of the poor disadvantaged handicraft producers.

BaSE concept was born in 1977 and was officially formed in 1999 to co-ordinate the handicraft activities of various producer groups working in the South-West part of Bangladesh. United in BaSE, these groups which were out of the main stream got the chance to promote their products.

BaSE stands for Bangladesh Shilpo Ekota, which means United Artisans of Bangladesh.

Brief in BaSE

BaSE is a non-profit Fairtrade organisation of Bangladesh set up to co-ordinate and promote the handicraft products of various female manufacturing groups out of the mainstream, especially those working in the South-West.

United in BaSE, these groups produce various types of handmade items, such as Palm Leaf Basketry, Jute Macramé, Nakshi Embroidery, Women's Clothing and Accessories. Totalling over 10,000 producers (99% are women) organised in 18 producer groups and having over 3,000 products, BaSE producer groups have excellent capacity & skills to prepare custom-made products also according to buyer/partner requirements.

Since 1999 BaSE is member of the World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO).

Vision Statements

We envision economically self-sufficient, socially recognised, culturally-empowered and morally-aware, dignified women in Bangladesh.

Mission Statements

BaSE's mission is to allow the women of Bangladesh themselves to weave their dignity, self-consciousness and self-sufficiency with their own hands and craftsmanship, inspired by their traditions and handicraft legacy.

Values & Ethical Guidelines

Without discrimination of gender, colour, caste and creed, the society is completely charitable, beneficial, educational, non-political, non-communal and non-profitable. It intends to be a non-discriminating society with regard to nation, colour, creed and gender.

Current Social Objectives

We focus on producer development through work opportunities, education and health support for the families, capacity building of human resources.

Goals & Objectives

In order to pursue its endeavour, BaSE identifies three (3) Broad Operational Objectives, together with more specific Concrete Operational Objectives:

- I. To promote, encourage and assist the constitution of handicraft producers into economically viable Fair Producer Groups (hereafter FPGs):**
 - a. Coordinating FPGs activities, promoting thrift, self-help and democratic practices.
 - b. Enhancing the skills of handicraft producers through the organization of workshops, capacity-building training seminars and education-related classes.
 - c. Providing new-design, new-material, new-technique and sample-development trainings and facilities by coordinating with other institutions, agencies and organizations both at home and abroad in the interest of BaSE and its handicraft producers.
 - d. Supporting FPGs by granting Advance Payments to purchase the raw materials needed for production.
 - e. Supporting FPGs in the selection, purchasing strategy and logistics of raw materials and equipment.

- II. To establish valuable, trustful and durable relationships with international Fair Trading Buyers (hereafter FTBs) all over the world:**
 - a. Constantly searching for new market opportunities for handicrafts.
 - b. Interpreting the ever-moving market trends.
 - c. Developing, together with FPGs, effective answers to the changing market demands and needs.
 - d. Fulfilling FTBs' requests and desires, especially striving for the excellence of its services such as by ensuring prompt, requests-matching delivery, reliable, transparent and fair prices, supreme product quality and innovativeness.
 - e. Promoting and ensuring the respect of the WFTO's Fair Trade Standards (World Fair Trade Organization) by all BaSE's FPGs.
 - f. Participating in national and international fairs, workshops and seminars on handicraft and Fair Trade.

- III. To animate welfare activities and projects for producers, such as housing, educational, recreational and health-care facilities for better-living conditions:**
 - a. Establishing charitable and development funds for the well-being of poor artisans irrespective of caste, creed and race.
 - b. Preventing early marriages of artisans' daughters.
 - c. Ensuring that artisans' children reach a basic minimum level of education.
 - d. Scanning and identifying young meritorious students among handicraft producers' daughters and sons.
 - e. Distributing warm clothes among the elderly poor people during winter season. Increasing literacy rate by arranging adult education.
 - f. Encouraging the adoption and maintenance of Saving Funds within the FPGs.

Producer Groups

BaSE consists of different types of members - Direct Groups, Associates Groups and Occasional. The specifications are:

i) Direct Groups: The groups receive direct support in legal issues; follow the fair-trade principles, production management, packaging and shipments. The direct groups are Bhoberpara Pat Kutirshilpo (BH), Banchte Shekha Handicrafts (BSH), Ekota Mohila Shomity (EMS), Bonochaya (BC), Muzgunni (MUZ), Khalishpur (KHC), Baniarchor (BA), Baradal (BLH), Shelabunia (SHE).

ii) Associate Groups: These groups have own management structures and reflect in them a commitment to justice, fair employment, public accountability, progressive working practices, equal gender balance and abolition of child labour. The associates groups are Valerian Handicrafts (SH), Rishilpi Handicrafts (SAT), Blue Sisters (BLU), Charka Handicrafts (CH), DPDE, Hand Touch (HT), Jagoroni (JAG), Women Training Center (CHA), YWCA.

iii) Occasional Groups/Members: This category provides export facilities to mutual organisations. The occasional groups are Alex; Bonpara PIME Sisters (BAM); Arshi-Salesian (SS) etc.

BaSE producer groups have over 3,000 own design products and have excellent capacity & skill to prepare custom-made products according to buyer/partners requirements.

The BaSE Groups (Direct & Associates) information details are as follows;

Group Name	Product Category	Production Specialisation	Materials	Location	Number of Producer
Bhoberpara Pat Kutirshilpo (BH)	Home Deco	Weaving	Jute Fibre	Meherpur	143
Banchte Shekha Handicrafts (BSH)	Textile, Accessories, Home Deco	Nakshi Embroidery	Cotton-Silk Fabric	Jessore	206
Ekota Mohila Shomity (EMS)	Garments, Home Deco, Wedding & Greetings	Tailoring	Cotton-Silk Fabric	Khulna	90
Bonochaya (BC)	Basketry	Weaving	Palm Leaf	Khulna	350
Muzgunni (MUZ)	Home Deco	Macramé	Jute Fibre	Khulna	19
Baniarchor (BA)	Home Deco	Weaving	Jute Fibre	Khulna	18
Khalishpur (KHC)	Accessories, Wedding & Greetings	Nakshi-Embroidery	Paper, Cotton Fabric	Khulna	27
Baradal (BLH)	Textile, Home Deco	Nakshi-Embroidery	Cotton-Jute Fabric	Satkhira	76
Shelabunia (SHE)	Home Deco	Tapestry-Nakshi Embroidery	Cotton-Silk Fabric	Bagerhat	30
Valerian Handicrafts (SH)	Basketry	Weaving	Palm Leaf	Jessore	357

Producer Groups

Group Name	Product Category	Production Specialisation	Materials	Location	Number of Producer
Rishilpi Handicrafts (SAT)	Basketry	Weaving	Palm Leaf	Satkhira	916
Blue Sisters (BLU)	Home Deco	Macramé	Jute Fibre	Khulna	400
Charka Handicrafts (CH)	Textile, Accessories, Home Deco	Nakshi-Embroidery, Appliqué	Cotton-Silk Fabric	Jessore	750
Dhaka Producers Direct Export (DPDE)	Home Deco	Pottery	Clay	Dhaka	150
Hand Touch (HT)	Accessories	Weaving	Cotton-Silk Fabric	Dhaka	300
Jagoroni (JAG)	Home Deco	Weaving	Jute-Fibre, Fabric	Dhaka	3,500
Women Training Centre (CHA)	Textile, Home Deco	Nakshi Embroidery	Cotton-Fabric	Khulna	175
YWCA	Toys & Kids	Tailoring	Jute-Fabric	Dhaka	2,500

At present BaSE is working in the following areas as follows:

- * **Division:** BaSE is working in 2 Divisions in Bangladesh Khulna and Dhaka.
- * **District:** BaSE covers 7 districts - Khulna, Jessore, Meherpur, Satkhira, Faridpur, Bagerhat and Dhaka.
- * **Villages:** BaSE producers are located in over hundred villages in 7 districts of 2 divisions.
- * **Producers:** In total, about 10,007 producers are working under 18 producer groups (Direct and Associates).
- * The producer numbers increase/decrease according to the annual production volume.

BaSE Function for Groups



BaSE and Fair Trade Principles

Creating Opportunities for Economically Disadvantaged Producers

All BaSE producers are from economically disadvantaged positions and remote areas of the country. Ninety-nine percent of producers are women and as with most societies in the world today, women in Bangladesh face huge discrimination in all aspects of life. BaSE's main idea is to provide working opportunities for women, especially marginalised producer groups, in order to improve their socio-economic status.

Transparency and Accountability

Every unit has an elected representative who keeps account of the production and savings of the members of the unit. The body formed by the unit representatives is the decision-making body of the producers' group. This body elects among the representatives a person as Chairman, one as Secretary, one as accountant. In addition, this body chooses the persons in charge of Quality Control.

Each group follows their own system to maintain the transparency and accountability. BaSE's management team regularly follows-up the groups to ensure transparency and accountability.

Fair Trading Practices

BaSE evaluates the orders and plans the production, preparing a tentative schedule of the shipments. Any producers' group can place in the twice-yearly meeting agenda a point of discussion, as BaSE itself utilises the same meetings to clarify any problematic issues.

BaSE creates an Advance Payment fund to provide 50% advance payment to the producers groups against the production work order.

Payment of a Fair Price

BaSE groups maintain a fair wages policy. We are ensuring minimum 10tk per-hour working wages. Each producer maintains wages books to keep record of payments. Every single producer group has to prepare and evaluate the pricing of its items. BaSE follows and checks this process, although the criteria vary from group to group.

Ensuring no Child Labour nor Forced Labour

In BaSE, child labour or forced labour does not exist. Our producers work mainly at home, besides taking care of family works; sometimes the producers' children help mothers. However, this is just a way to help in the family and to contribute for their schooling expenses.

Commitment to Non-Discrimination, Gender Equity and Freedom of Association

In BaSE women and men have equal advantages and enjoy the same rights. Producers are free to quit and organise on their own. We have many examples of producers who trained & worked in BaSE and later started to work independently.

Ensuring Good Working Conditions

Most of BaSE producers work at home. Beside household activities they produce the item. With joy and enthusiasm, BaSE producers regularly visit the centre to collect and submit the work order.

Providing Capacity Building

BaSE regularly conducts training and workshops in deferent issues such as Information Technology, Sample Development, Production Management, Quality Control, Product Costing, Accounts & Financial aspects etc.

Promoting Fair Trade

Through works BaSE promotes Fair Trade to the various levels of people in Bangladesh. BaSE producers raise awareness of Fair Trade in their community too.

Respect for the Environment

BaSE producers use natural and local raw materials. The raw materials are recyclable and biodegradable. 100% environment friendly.

As well as the production and activities during the year BaSE takes many other initiatives. You can see the story of its progress in the photos;

BaSE House

BaSE has been working since 1977 and we haven't any facilities of our own to store the goods. Until the present day BaSE used 4 different places as a warehouse, some places without paying rent and some places with rent.

In the places we faced many difficulties to keep the goods properly. Finally, BaSE now has its own place to run the activities. Now we can keep the goods properly before the shipment. The total space of the Warehouse about 2,700sq.ft. Last 22 January 2013 in the presence of the Bishop Khulna Dioceas, BaSE Executive Committee Members, Advisors, Associazione Solidarietà Terzo Mondo representatives, Producers, Well-wishers, inaugurated the BaSE House.





Ms. Teja's Visit

CTM design Intern student Ms. Tejashwini Yalawar visited BaSE from the 3rd to 7th July 2012. During the visiting period Ms. Teja checked the CTM sample development and production process with EMS group. She also conducted in-service training during the visit. Our producers and Group Coordinator had a good time with Teja's workshop.



100 Embroidered Histories Project

With the Rossana Vittani initiative and Sondrio friends' cooperation we conducted "100 Embroidered Histories" Project. The project aim is to raise funds through selling Embroidered Table Runners. Over 100 ethnic minority community children from Fr. Luigi Paggi, Fr. Rento Rosso and Banchte Shekha Fisherman Village project participated in drawing their life histories in paper & crayons. Now BaSE producers are converting the drawings into Embroidery. We hope for the best outcome from these initiatives.





Design Development Workshop

From 29th to 8th April 2013, we conducted the Design Development workshop with BANCHTE SHEKHA HANDICRAFTS and CHARKA HANDICRAFTS. The workshop was conducted by Ms. Emanuela Leombruni and Ms. Carolina Manclossi from Milan, Italy. Mainly Home Décor and Accessories item have been developed, in total 31 new concept products.

The recycle Shari and Cement Bags idea especially is very interesting. Our producers and leaders put their 100% effort into the sample development process and for that reason in such a short time many samples have been made. Even in Hartals (Political Strikes) they were active. We express our thanks to Emanuela and Leombruni for their excellent cooperation. Big thanks to Rossana for her idea and technical support. Our producers are very much looking forward to work opportunities with these new samples.



BaSE of base

Bhoberpara (BH) Group is one of the first group of BaSE and during the year had an exceptional opportunity to manufacture one of their carpet items. Fr. Benjamin Gomez, Noluakuri Mission ordered carpets for the Church. Big thanks to Marianna and Elena for introducing us to Fr. Benjamin.

BH producers were very moved and happy to get this working opportunity. After completing the item, 5-producer member team visited the Mymensingh to fit the carpet accordingly. As usual for Jute Producers, BaSE provided subsidies in this order to reduce the price.

The five-member producer team visited the mission for delivery and fitting the carpet. The distance from Meherpur (Mujibnagar) to Mymensingh is about 500km. and take about 10-12 hours. The team stayed there 6 days to complete the fitting.

Fr. Benjamin was highly pleased to see the carpet and he assured to convince other Parishes to provide us more work opportunities. The girls were also very happy to visit there; it was like a 'picnic' trip for them. BaSE bears all the transportation and logistic costs of this programme.



Producer Development Stories

We have many success stories to tell.

In our first report we introduced our Group's history to you. In the second report - through case histories - we showed you how our producers change their lives through the work opportunities.

In this report we described the success stories of the producer children. Among the various stories you will find some stories of producer's family members, who, through the work with BaSE who struggle to achieve dignity, prosperity and empowerment in their lives. BaSE is changing lives and some stories are for you.....



Sahina Begum's life story is full of tragedy. She bears a lot of pain in her life. She is working in Blue sisters group from 35 years. She got married at the age of fifteen. Her husband, Sobhan Sordor was a van puller. However, he was not satisfied with his income and he was a lazy man that is why he always tortured her for dowry. However, her father was unable to help because his economical condition was also not so good. So most of the time they spent their day hand to mouth. She has four daughters. Like another uneducated people, her

husband also expected a son from his wife. He also bit Sahina for their four daughters. In addition, one day her husband left away and got married with another woman. Then Sahina went her father's house with her four daughters. She joined Blue sisters group and learnt jute works from them. She bought a piece of land from her income and made a little home for her family. Now she is living happily with her daughters. Her economical conditions were not so good that time that is why she was unable to give her first two daughter's education facilities. She gave them married. However, her younger two daughters were reading in school. Her daughter Samia Afroz reads in class nine in Rupsha Bohumukhi School and another one read in class eight in Khan- E- Sobur mohila madrasa. Now Sahina wants to give her daughters higher education.





I can do anything for my son- Momotaz told us that. Momotaz, 38 years old, is now living happily with her husband.

However, 23 years ago her position was not like that. Her father's family lived in poverty so it was impossible to run her family very well. She read till class five at local primary school. For this reason, she involved herself in work from her childhood. At the age of fifteen, she married a day labourer. Her husband Rofiq Moholdar was not a hard worker, so her married life was not peaceful. He beat her often for money. She felt helpless and one day she went to BaSE to get an opportunity. Then she learned the jute work and joined the Bhoberpara group.

With the help of BaSE she learned that work properly. Slowly she developed her position through this work. She maintained her family with her income. After some time she saved some money and then her husband told her to buy him a rickshaw-van, to contribute family income. She bought a van for husband.

Her husband now works properly for his son's future. Now she has only one son, named Shofiqul. He is a H.S.C (Higher Secondary Certificate) candidate and he wants to be an important officer.

In her family this son is the first person to reach this level of education. Momotaz saved money through work for her son's education.

She wants her son's dreams to come true. Now her husband's income is used to maintain the family and she spends her money on her son's education. She is changing her entire family through her work....





All my dreams have come true thanks to BaSE...When we asked about her life, Kulsum told us.

Kulsum is one of the oldest members of BSH Group. She learns needlework from her mother. After her marriage, when she saw the condition of her family and husband she joined the BSH group. She has three daughters and one son. Her husband is a day labourer and a lazy man.

However, Kulsum manages her family by adding to her husband's income. Her married life was not peaceful because of her three daughters. Her husband and his family expected a son.

She told them girls can do everything like boys and she proved that. She wanted to educate her children and she has done it.

Now, her elder daughter, Shila reads Kamil (Masters). The next one, Pya, reads B.Com. And her younger daughter, Kamrunnahar is in class seven. Her younger son also is in class seven. Beyond her husband's income she bears the family expenses and children's education through her income. She shows that girls can do...





Meri Baroi is one of the oldest producers of BaSE. She lives in Baniarchor, village. This group mainly produces jute items. She is a skilled producer because she can develop new samples properly.

She learned this work 34 years ago. She joined the Baniarchor group in 1984.

She bare so much pain in her life. Her husband's name is Sochindronath Baroi. She has three daughters and two sons. She works hard and earns money to continue her children's studies.

Her husband was a fisherman. Her husband's low income was not sufficient to manage her family properly and it was quite impossible to run her children's education well.

Therefore, at night she harvested other peoples' land and in the day, she worked for BaSE. Because her husband was, sick that time and cannot work at all.

Now, her eldest two daughters are married and youngest daughter is studying in Masters in Dhaka.

Elder son is married and lives in Dhaka with his family. He has a job and the youngest son is studying honours in Institute of Management and Technology. Now her dreams have come true because her children are well educated.



The days of poverty for Jahanara are now over. She had to struggle hard for this. Her husband's name is Nasir Khan, they has two sons and a daughter.

She is one of the oldest producers in the Bonochaya Group. Before joining in BaSE they lived in Jessore and her husband worked there. However, he was suddenly sacked from his job after that he was mentally shocked. At that moment, Jahanara felt completely helpless with her two little children. There was no work and so to search for a job she came to Khulna with her husband and children for new hope.

Because of her husband's sickness Jahanara tried to search for a job everywhere. Later she started work in a home as a housemaid with low wages.



However, with her poor income it was too difficult to maintain her family. One day her neighbour told her about a BaSE who trained in handicrafts for women. She went there and learned how to make items from palm leaves.

After training for two months, she joined BC Group. From 1988, she worked with BaSE.

Now she is not in distress. She just wants nothing more than to lead a peaceful life. And Her elder son lives in another place with his own family and her daughter is also married and lives with her husband.

Now she has only one dream: she wants her younger son to be educated. Her younger son, Mohidul Khan reads B.Com in BL College Khulna. Mohidul studies hard and he told that he wants to cancel all the sorrows of his parents.



Aklima Begum works in the Khalishpur Group. She has been working with BaSE since 1988. She is one of the most skilled and oldest producers of BaSE.

Her husband, Md. Chan Mia worked in Eastern Jute Mill. He earns wages from jute mills on a daily basis. With his poor income, he could not afford his family expenses. At that time Aklima and her family ate only once a day. They lived in a rented house.

Because of the continuous poverty, her husband quarrelled with her. He always gave pressure for her dowry. However, Aklima's father was also very

poor. Her father was unable to help her.

Then she thought that she could work otherwise her husband will ask for a divorce. Then she collected information about needlework. She learnt to sew and embroider and joined KHC group. Later after more training she learnt how to make greeting cards and bookmarks. She is very intelligent and she learnt in a very short time.

After some time, her husband got a permanent job in a mill and they got one piece of land from the mill. However, they had not enough money to build a house. From then on Aklima saved money from her income and built a house to live in. She said that, only thanks to BaSE without the work opportunity never possible to live in own house.

She has three sons. Her elder son is a H.S.C (Higher Secondary Certificate) candidate in Khanjahan Ali College and her younger son is a S.S.C (Secondary School Certificate) candidate in Alim School.

She wants to give them higher education. She is determined to give a prosperous life to her sons.





Lucia Mondol is a very simple woman. When she shared her life story, she shared that her life is mixed of sorrows and happiness. Her husband's name is Somor Mondol and he is a very lazy man. He was a day labour but not regular. Therefore, Lucia passed her everyday full of poverty and sorrows. She has four daughters and a son. Like common South Asian man, her husband wants a son in his family. When her one girl baby came, he beat Lucia and told repeatedly it is her fault. Later after boy born her husband beats was less.

However, she bears all the sorrows her self. When her children's grew up her husband did not have any money for their education. Then she went to Sister Pierangela's handicraft centre with her neighbour. She learned jute work from the centre and joined BaSE. She is working with BaSE from twenty-five years. When she start work she had took a lot of loan from many people. However, slowly she paid all the money after working with BaSE.

In addition, she educated her children's. Now her elder daughter Shipra Mondol reads B.COM in B.L College in third year and she is a teacher. Shipra contribute her income in her family. Another daughter also Lipika Mondol reads B.COM second year in same college. She also gives tuitions. Another daughter Mukti Mondol is H.S.C candidate in Moshin College. In addition, her only one son Shopno Mondol reads in class one in ST. Mari's School. Now she is very happy women. She told that BaSE changed her life totally.





Anjaly Mondol, 28 years old, is a very simple woman. She learnt embroidery from her mother during her childhood, when she was eight years old.

Her father's house was in Baradal village remote district of Satkhira. Her father was not able to lead a normal everyday life because he was ill.

Therefore, she got married early. However, the same problem occurred in her husband's family. Her husband, Ronojit Mondol is a small businessperson and lazy. In the name of business, he always tortured Anjaly. He always wanted money from Anjaly.

After some time Anjali receive embroidery training course with the help of Father Lorenzo. Some times later when she starts earn for the family and then her husband felt shame & start to work hard to earn money.

She has been working in Baradal Group for fifteen years. She has only one dream. She wants

to educate her children because she is uneducated and she believes that illiteracy is only one curse of her fate.

She has two children, one son, and one daughter. Her son, Sujon Mondol reads in class five in Mission Govt. Primary High School and her daughter reads in class one in Caritas Shishu Kollan School. Now she is saving money for her children's education.



Shumala Biswash lives in Shimulia and works in Valerian Handicrafts. This group mainly produces palm leaf items. She has a pathetic life story. She is a 48 year-old woman. Her husband's name was Augustine Biswash. Her husband always asks dowry after marriage. She could not tell anyone about her sorrow because of her little child. She cries in secret under her pillow at night. After 21 years of marriage her husband got married for the second time. So she left her husband to go back to her parent's house with her two sons. This situation created much sorrow for her poor father. She has been living in her parent's house for 13 years now. Fate was cruel to her and she became a victim of destiny. It was an indescribable situation which Shumala overcame with the help of BaSE. Within a short time of taking training, she improved herself. Her dedication to work changed her life. Shumala's days of sorrow are now over, she is no longer in distress. This day has not come automatically as she has had to struggle hard. She did not want to depend on her father, that is why she joined Valerian Group and is working with BaSE even now. She has had



her two sons educated through working with BaSE. Her elder son Kajol Biswash is mental handicapped but he reached class eight. Now he learns to make palm leaf items from his mother and so he helps her. Her younger son Somrat is reading for a Bachelor of Arts at Moshir Rahman Degree College, Jhikorgaca. Now she has bought own land to build own house beside her parent's house because she also wants to help and take care of her poor old father.



'Life is not a bed of roses, it's a bed of thorns'- when I talked with her that's what she said to me. She realized that when her husband died. Kobita lives in Satkhira with her five daughters. When she was 16 years old, she got married. Her husband was a day labourer. With his small income, he could not afford all the needs of his family. Then Kobita went to Rishilpi with her neighbours for training. She learnt to make palm leaf items. Slowly she changed her economic condition. With the help of BaSE work she bought her

own land for harvesting and also built her own house. Her husband harvested their land. However, suddenly her husband died from a heart attack. After that, her life changed completely. Kobita has five daughters and they are all quite mature. She married off her elder two daughters by selling some land and using some of her savings. Other three daughters are study in college. Sopna reads in 3rd year (Hons) on Social Science in Satkhira Govt. College and another daughter Monica reads in 1st year on Social Science in the same college and younger daughter reads in class eight. They want to be educated and they told that when they have completed their studies they will work for their mother and they will remove all tensions and sorrows. Kobita earning now use to spent it on family food and for her daughters' education costs. She told us that she was thankful to BaSE. Because, through BaSE her daughters are receiving the light of education.





Mukta Khan is a quality producer of Charka. She has worked with BaSE for 14 years. Her husband, Masud Khan, is a farmer. He has not his own land so he works on the land of others. With his poor income, he can only afford his family food costs.

Mukta has two daughters. When she got married, they lived in a rented house. Mukta learnt embroidery from her neighbour Shelly who worked in Charka that time.

She was always anxious about her children's future. To remove her anxiety she joined the Charka group. Day by day, she improved her family condition. At first, she bought her own land and built a house to live in with her income.

Her elder daughter reads B.Com in Muktizodhdha Degree College and younger daughter reads in class seven in Puller Hat High School. She is fighting to prevent her family from poverty through her magical hands and educating her children for better future.



Suraya Begum is one of the hardworking producers of BaSE. She faces a lot of problem in her life. She works in our YWCA group from 1996. Her life story is so much painful. She told that she passed her every moment with sorrows and anxiety. Her husband's name is Md. Ajhar.

Suraya got married in 1988. Then her husband worked in a shop as a sales representative. However, with his poor income she could not afford her family well. Her husband is not very family oriented person. He misuses his income in betting and gambling. Therefore, Suraya father helped her lot that time. Her father also gave her some gold ornaments but her husband stole them and sold for betting. However, when her father died that was very impossible to her to maintain her family.



To survive and run the family she plans to learn the handicrafts work from YWCA. Through her neighbour help she learns the toys and puppet making work and enrolled in to the centre.

She has two sons. When she started work, that time her elder son was only six and younger son was 2 years old. She was very worried for her children future.

Once for her elder son irresponsibility her whole house was burnt in fire. It was very pathetic moment for her.

Now her husband is unemployed but she has no problem with that, she is happy for her both son. She makes them educated with her income. Her elder son Md. Russel study in B.B.A in Atish Diponkor University and her younger son just passed H.S.C (Higher Secondary Certificate) exam.

They feel very proud for their mother cause for mother dedication they have education and looking for brighter future.

Dhaka Producers Direct Export

DPDE



Geeta Gomez is one of the successful producers of BaSE. Her husband name is Andrew Gomez. He worked in an organization named by HEED Bangladesh.

Geeta worked with BaSE from the year 2000. Her husband says that she is a wonderful woman. They lives in Capital City Dhaka and in Dhaka, living is so expensive.

Therefore, with her husband's income it is very difficult to carry all the expenses of family. Therefore, she starts working on handicrafts products. She made a group

and trained them on those products. First she sold products in many shops but when she met with Fr. John she start work with BaSE.

In addition, later Fr. John gives a name of this group DPDE. When her husband leaves his job, he also involved in this group.

She feels very proud for his husband cause in every spare of her life he always besides on her and always helped her. She has two children. They are very brilliant students.

Her elder son Anthony Gomez reads in Green Herald International School. This year, he got highest score and completed his school. Now he got scholarship from Canada and from America for higher study.

Her younger daughter Ontora Gomez also reads in class 10 in South Herald International School. She is also a bright student.

Geeta told that for BaSE she make herself self-sufficient and self-independent. Without BaSE, it is impossible to give their children a better future.



Financial Summary

BaSE continued to grow despite a severe global economic downturn and debt crisis. BaSE earned from sales $\text{৳ } 11,846,903.85$ (€ 112,146 \$ 150,136) in gross revenue in the fiscal year 2012/13.

BaSE projected cash-flow is carefully planned and safe. Book-keeping is reliable and we ensure timely financial reporting and strict budget/expense control.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2013

PROPERTY AND ASSETS	NOTES	AMOUNT IN TAKA
Fixed - Assets	3.00	4,721,522.04
Current Assets	4.00	
Cash in Hand		262.00
Cash at Bank		1,967,495.36
FDR		1,486,598.00
Closing Stock		305,975.00
TOTAL		8,481,852.40
FUND AND LIABILITIES		
Capital Fund	5.00	8,481,852.40
Fr. Jhon Memorial Fund	6.00	
TOTAL		8,481,852.40

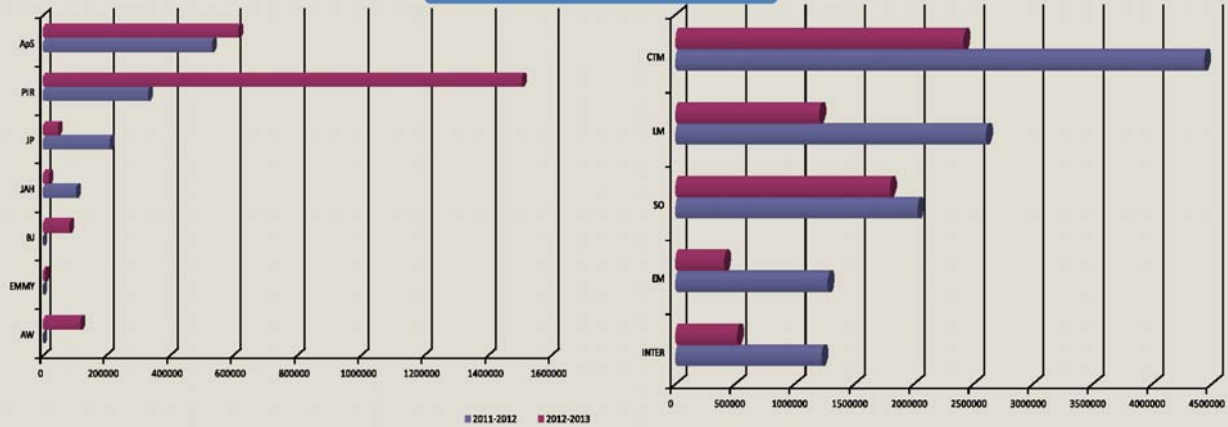
Dated, Dhaka
20 August 2013

(A. K. DEB & CO.)
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

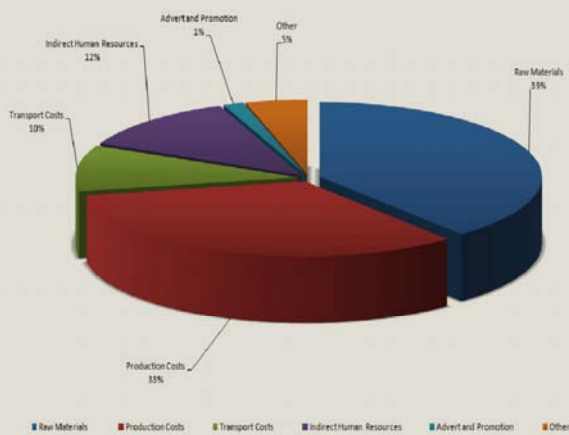


Base Finance in Graphs and Charts

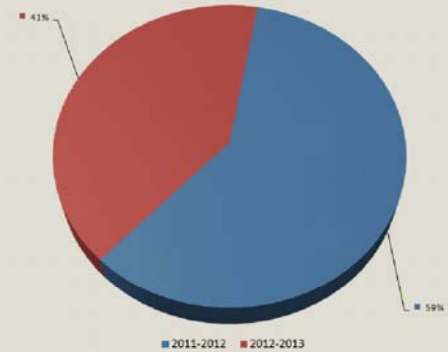
Purchase Order Comparison



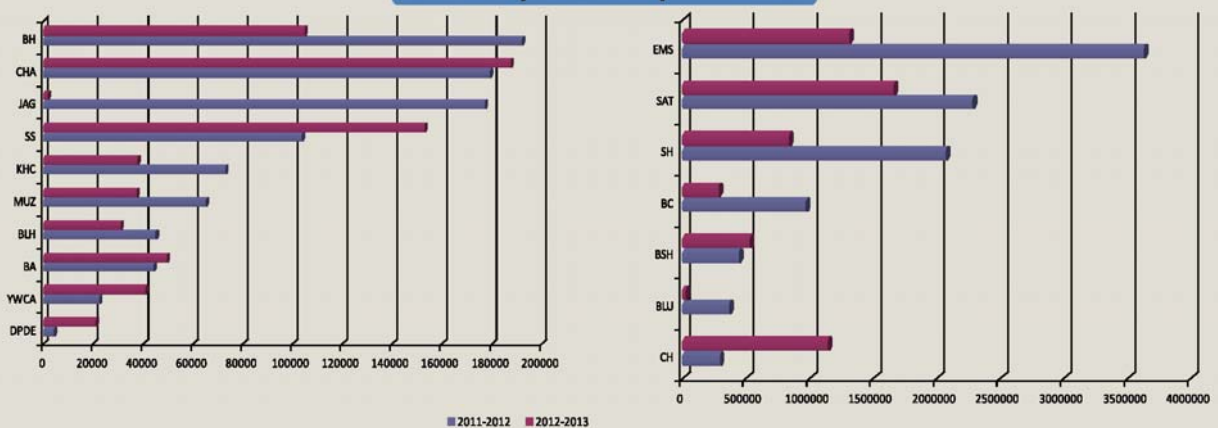
Average Product Costing System



Sells Comparison



Group Sells Comparison



BaSE Partners & Producers

Photo Glimpses

Partners & Producers...walking together towards prosperity....



Base Producers

Photo Glimpses

Moving ahead with dignity....



Base Producers

Photo Glimpses

Joy of life....



Base Producers

Photo Glimpses

Fairness in work....



Base Management Teams

Photo Glimpses

Work in dedication....



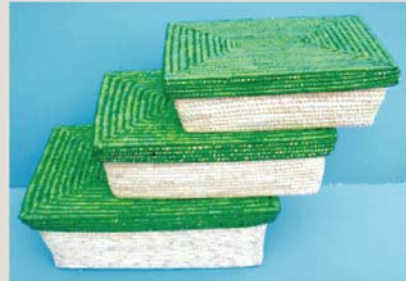
New Arrival



Palm Leaf Star Table Mat



Palm Leaf Star Tray



Natural-Colour Palm Leaf Basket



Jute Table Mat



Jute Table Mat (Natural Colour)



Jute Table Fish Mat



Jute Embroidery Kitchen Napkin



Jute Macrame Curtain



Jute Made Family



Jute & Applique Mat



Hand Embroidery Table Runner



Jute & Embroidery Round Mat



Macrame & Leather Hand Bag



Hand Embroidery Sandal



Jute Tie-dye Fish Table Mat

New Arrival



Palm Leaf Shoe Box



Hand Embroidery Greetings Card



Embroidered Book Mark



Hand Embroidery Coin Pouch



Cotton Fabric Curtain



Bomboniere



Applique Table Cloth



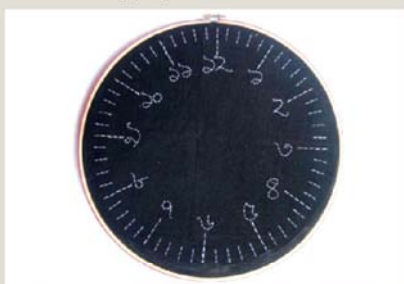
Applique Meter Fabric



Silk Kurta



Jute Fabric with Leather Handle



Cotton Hand Embroidered Clock Frame



Recycled Sari Laptop Bag



Recycled Sari Bed Cover



Jute Necklace



Brass Made Rickshaw

BaSE Constitutional Organogram



Management Organogram



Producer Group Organogram



BaSE Committee:

Chairperson: Mr. Ashok Sarker, Social Worker
 Vice-chairperson: Mr. Andrew Gomes, Representative DPDE Group
 Secretary: Ms. Jacinta Mollik, Representative EMS Group
 Office Secretary: Mrs. Dulali Biswas, Representative KHC Group
 Treasurer: Ms. Roza Biswas, Representative SH Group
 Member: Ms. Rita Bolraghi, Representative BLU Group
 Member: Mrs. Anna Gain, Representative MUZ Group

BaSE Advisors:

Fr. Valoti Lorenzo, Representative Xaverian Missionary
 Ms. Angela Gomes, Representative National NGO
 Mr. Benedetto Abbiati, Representative Buyer/Partner

BaSE Management Team:

Coordinating Director: Mr. Shourove Ansari
 Group Coordinator: Ms. Asfiya Akther Eila
 Accountant: Mr. Theophil Sardar

BaSE Consultants:

Producer Welfare Consultant: Mr. Stephan Biswas
 Shipping Consultant: Mr. Nazmul Hossain

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COX'SBAZAR



B a S E

Bangladesh Hoshto Shilpo Ekota Sheba Shongshitha
বাংলাদেশ হস্তশিল্প একতা সেবা সংস্থা