

UKBET 



UKBET

EDUCATION FOR CHANGE

IMPACT REPORT
2019



An estimated
1.7 million
children in
Bangladesh are employed in
hazardous
work.

(Child Labour Survey,
2015)

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR



UKBET has been running programmes that confront the illegal employment of children in hazardous jobs in Sylhet, Bangladesh for the past 7 years. Poverty drives families to send their children to work denying them access to school, education and their childhood. Working children are exposed to long hours of high risk physical work, poor food, low or no wages and are vulnerable to abuse.

UKBET aims to improve the lives of working children through our Centres for Working Children where children learn basic education and survival skills, are given nutritious food, medical care and rare opportunities to relish their childhood. Simultaneously we involve their employers, family members, government agencies and local influencers in a range of strategies that attack the root causes of poverty and lead towards the end of child labour.

2019 has been an important year for UKBET with the piloting of 'Doorstep Learning'. This programme mirrors aspects of the work with boys in hazardous employment but is customised to address the needs of young girls engaged in domestic labour. The pilot has been sponsored by the British Foreign Schools Society and early indications are that it is highly effective. We hope to raise additional funds to continue this programme into the future. It has to be said that intervening in the complex world of child labour is a challenge, and one taken up by very few NGOs in Bangladesh. However, as this report demonstrates, it is possible for a small team of people with local knowledge, appropriate expertise and huge commitment to improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable children in the world.



Annette Zera
Chair of Trustees
June 2020

ABOUT UKBET

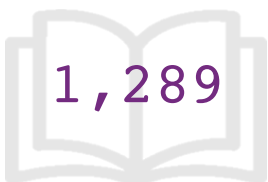


Founded in 1993 by the Chair of Trustees, the UK Bangladesh Education Trust [UKBET] is a UK registered charity and international NGO registered in Bangladesh.

For the first 20 years, UKBET focused exclusively on improving teaching and learning through a programme of training for teachers in government schools. Then in 2013, when exploring how a small charity might have maximum impact, the Trustees found that none of the local agencies or NGOs in Sylhet were working directly with, or on behalf of, working children. Since then, UKBET have also

been working to improve the lives of child labourers in Bangladesh, who have been forced into hazardous working conditions due to extreme poverty. In addition to providing children with direct education, UKBET helps parents find alternative sources of income, therefore removing the need to send their children to work. We also raise awareness locally and nationally of the hidden plight of this group of vulnerable and excluded children through training and advocacy work, and we campaign at every level to end child labour.

SINCE 2013:



Children engaged in education



Children left hazardous work



Employers engaged in awareness programmes



Children began vocational training



WHY ARE WE NEEDED?

Whilst it is against the law in Bangladesh to employ children aged under-14, the practice is widespread. Every year, 3.45 million children are sent to work by desperately poor families who need their contribution to the household income. They have little hope for a future other than of hardship, harsh and demanding conditions, abuse and exploitation, and they are also denied their right to an education.

Our aim is to transform child labourers' opportunities in life by unlocking access to learning and empowering them to attend state school or pursue vocational training and future employment that will provide them with economic and social security.

CURRENTLY IN BANGLADESH;



Children unable to attend school



Children working in hazardous conditions





Children employed as domestic workers



OUR
PROJECTS


WORKING CHILDREN'S PROJECT

 Sylhet, Bangladesh

 Established in 2013

 1,225 direct beneficiaries

 4 education centres

 Literacy, numeracy, life skills and health care

We encourage parents and employers to release the children for three 1½ hour learning periods each week at one of our four education centres local to their workplace where we welcome 300 working children each week. We teach literacy, numeracy and

life skills, provide food and healthcare, and include fun activities to motivate and encourage their learning. We launched the Working Children's Project following a carefully staged programme of employer engagement, consultation with working children and their parents and guardians, and close liaison with Ward-based councillors who supported the identification of suitable settings for our education centres near to the children's workplaces. Despite the project's beneficiaries being an illegal workforce, the project has received widespread support from Sylhet City Corporation, Local Councillors and other NGOs, giving it leverage and credibility in the local community and opening the doors of employers allowing us access to their child workers.



THE IMPACT

Now in its seventh year, 2019 has seen incredible results from our Working Children's Project.

81 siblings of the working children enrolled in school instead of sent to work.

121 children left hazardous work, compared to 81 in 2018.

514 children per week provided with nutritional snacks.

35% decrease in children employed in areas where UKBET has a presence.



Children began vocational training



Children passed their Primary School Certificate Exam



Children left hazardous work and progressed to formal education

We work closely with the parents and employers of the working children, as they play a critical role in the success of the Working Children's Project.

In order to tackle the root cause of child labour, we collaborate with the parents and employers to help educate them on the importance of education and vaccinations, the negative impact of child marriage, and the importance of financial planning for the whole family.



Parents given grants to support their families



Health and safety workshops run for employers



Awareness events held for families



MEET THE CHILDREN

**Saadi Ahmad, Aged 15**


Sadly, Saadi's father died when he was very young. His mother took care of Saadi and his brother, and she earned what she could through sewing. As the oldest child in a fatherless family, Saadi felt responsible for the family and, on the advice of an uncle, left school aged 11 to work in a car workshop. When we met him he had been working there for 3 years from early morning to late at night, for 45p a day. His employer allowed him attend the Working Children's Project centre three times a week and he told us that this glimpse of education has lit up his life.


**Tuhin, Aged 15**


"I have 8 siblings and I must work to support my big family. I work in a welding workshop. I really enjoy coming to the UKBET centre, now I can go to school alongside working. I dream of being an engineer and my teacher says I can do this!"


DOORSTEP LEARNING PROJECT


In January 2019, we piloted the Doorstep Learning Project which provides a foundation in education to 64 child domestic workers at their employer's home with the aim of offering a stepping-stone out of work and into school or vocational training. Conscious that only boys participated in our Working Children's Project, we designed the Doorstep Learning Project to target child domestic workers, the majority of whom are girls. Despite warnings from specialists in this field that they are a community of child labourers who are impossible to access, UKBET's field workers gained the confidence of employers and parents who agreed to allow us to teach these most vulnerable of child workers.

 Sylhet, Bangladesh

 100 children engaged

 Established in 2019

 Literacy, numeracy and life skills

 Supported by the British & Foreign School Society



THE IMPACT

Initial evaluations of the Doorstep Learning Project are extremely promising. We have successfully reached 100 children in Sylhet, and trained 10 part time teachers to effectively run the project. The Doorstep Learning Project will be formally evaluated in 2020, however, these early results are encouraging. UKBET's intention is to seek further funding to develop and deliver this replicable model in other parts of Bangladesh, and beyond if appropriate.



children continued with education or training



Children left full time domestic work



Children began vocational training



Siblings enrolled in formal education



MEET THE CHILDREN

**Sharmin Aktar, Aged 16**

Left as a single parent to look after five children, Sharmin's mother works long hours as a domestic worker to provide for Sharmin and her four brothers. In order to help contribute to the household income, Sharmin also began working as a domestic worker, and left school at the age of 10. However, through UKBET's support Sharmin now has the opportunity to continue with her studies through lessons at her employer's home, and she has also begun sewing lessons.

Once she has completed her sewing course, Sharmin hopes to make a career as a seamstress in order to help to support her family.

**Tania Akhter, Aged 11**

As one of six children, Tania's limited family income is spread very thinly. With the dowry to pay for the wedding of Tania's eldest sister, her families already unstable financial situation took a huge hit. In order to make ends meet, Tania's mother secured employment as a domestic worker and Tania also began working at a house, leaving school at just 9 years old.

However, through a survey conducted by UKBET, Tania's dire situation was highlighted and she has been able to continue with her studies through education provided at her employer's home.

TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMME



Teachers participated in training courses



Different course options were delivered

In Bangladesh, it is believed that being fluent in English is crucial to enhancing the nation's ability to play a key role in the global economy. The government's inclusion of 'English for Today' on the national curriculum stresses the importance of the use of English and aims to enhance children's verbal and written understanding of the language. However, without adequate teacher training it is difficult for this policy to be effectively implemented and the majority of pupils are still leaving school unable to use English with confidence.

UKBET has been running training courses in English language teaching and development since 1993, and have trained over 2,500 school teachers. Our programmes have been organised in partnership with Learning Unlimited, St' Giles Educational Trust and the British Council, and we look forward to future partnerships working with other international partners. The programme includes; access to accredited teacher training programmes, bespoke intensive courses, access to a teachers' resource centre, workshops on areas for development and free English language lessons on Friday.

MEET THE TEACHERS

**Farhana Naz Tinni, Junior Teacher**

“As a teacher, I always looked forward to enrolling myself onto the Teaching Knowledge Test (TKT) course offered by UKBET. It is well known as a prestigious and effective course for teachers, aimed at developing professional and personal teaching skills. In 2018, I started the TKT course which opened my eyes as to how classes are taught effectively. The most important part about this course is that it provides teachers with practical experiences and develops his/her own skills. In addition, we learnt new techniques to deal with pupils who have different learning style, and how to plan a creative and engaging lessons. Those who are passionate about teaching should attend the TKT course without a second thought”.


**Khukon Mahmood, RISE International School**


“The real beauty of learning, and the art of teaching, I explored when I completed the Teaching Knowledge Test (TKT) course at UKBET in 2016. The course taught me numerous techniques and opened my eyes to teach more confidently. After that, I unlocked my teaching career”.


LOOKING FORWARD





Looking forward to 2020 – 2023, UKBET plans to maximise and build on our learning from our recent work and seek further funding to:

-  Extend our work with child domestic workers and their families

-  Pilot a new model of engagement for children doing hazardous work with smaller, levelled groups leading to improved achievement and outcomes

-  Provide small grants to more families to reduce their dependence on income from child labour and enable more working children and their siblings to begin/return to school

-  Further develop our teacher training programmes and use revenue from these to directly support our work with working children

-  Disseminate our work more widely in order for other organisations to benefit from our experience, increase engagement and support for working children and their families, keep child labour as a high profile issue which needs challenging, and actively work towards the elimination of child labour.


THANK YOU


We want to express our sincere gratitude to FCI Ltd, the Haider family and the many individuals who have donated to UKBET’s work through Just Giving and Global Giving. Their combined philanthropy ensured that the Working Children Project could continue and develop throughout the year. In addition, UKBET is grateful to the British and Foreign Schools Society (BFSS) which enabled us to pilot our innovative programme for children undertaking domestic work. Furthermore, UKBET would like to thank the Pacific Solar and Renewable Energy Limited who sponsored our Beanibazar Centre. Lastly, UKBET Trustees are grateful to Charlotte Taylor for her work in researching, designing and writing this report.




KEEPING IN TOUCH

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