

## **Village Knowledge and Information Center (VKIC):**

### **An Innovative approach to connect donors with local community.**

The Atulia Union is located at the north eastern part of the Shyamanagar thana under Satkhira district with the total area of 41.01 sq. km. Total population of Atulia union is 30152 in which male are 15190 and female are 14962. In the union, there are thirty one educational institutions in which primary school 21, secondary school 8, and college 2. According to population census, 2001 the literacy rate (7years and over) for the union is 44.59% for both sexes, 54.20% for male and 34.93% for female. The contextual setting of the union like location in the southern part of Bangladesh made it deprived area from the other region of the Bangladesh. Again, disaster like flood and cyclone is very common in this region. Thousands of people remain water clogged in Shyamnagar Upazilla of Satkhira in the aftermath of Cyclone Aila's rampage through Bangladesh. Several thousand homes were washed away while numerous agricultural lands and crops were damaged by the tidal surges in low-lying coastal areas and on offshore islands in the Bay of Bengal. Many donor organizations and local NGOs are working for disaster by providing shelters, relief etc but none of them are working for education.

### **Need for the library:**

Within the Shyamnagar upazila (1968.24 sq km) with a population of 313781, there is neither a public library nor a private one. The nearest library is in Satkhira town which is about 65 km far from the union (please see appendix v). If it were possible to establish a library in this union, students would be encouraged to read more which could meet their educational demand. Again, it will be ensured that there will be all books for all the classes from class one to class twelve so that no student should stop their education because of books. On the other hand, to encourage student to come in to the library, there is also need of an Internet connection. If it were possible to make this facility available then students would have access to unlimited reading materials which would help them to know more. Again, in the library, there would be a librarian with computer skills, who will help the farmers, whenever they need, by providing information related to agricultural production. Also in the library, there will be agricultural related books from which, by reading them, farmers will learn about the farming technology. This library will be a place of social gathering where people can share and discuss their experience and knowledge. The librarian will also be

responsible to help the students from the primary school; those are not capable to learn to a private tutor because of economic problems. In this way, the library will be a place for knowledge and an informative center for the students as well as for the villagers. During the flood or natural disaster, this library can be a shelter for the poor villagers if it can be established as two storied building.

**Beneficiaries of the library:**

In the atulia union, there are 5621 households with 30152 population. Among them there are 13335 people those age ranges are from 5 to 24 years. Within this aged population, 5789 are attending school and college education and rest 7556 are not attending school or college. If it be possible to establish a library in this union, 5789 school and college going students will be benefited directly. Others are not attending school or college, and, even unemployed people and older people from the villages, will also be benefited by reading newspapers, agricultural related books, magazines, novels and using internet in the library. On the other side, the whole population (30152) within the union boundary, if they want to use the library, can also be benefited.

**Mechanism for operating the library:**

There will be an executive committee headed by the headmaster of Henchi Bongobondhu high school. The headmaster of Choto kupot primary school will be the secretary for this committee to operate the library. This committee will have 9 members including the president and secretary. Assistant headmaster form Henchi Bongobondhu high school and second master from chotokupot primary school will be in the committee as member. Rest of the members will be from the each class (from class vi to class x) of Henchi Bongobondhu high school. These members will be selected form each class according to their merit. Each year, the first boy/girl will hold the membership to this committee. Therefore, no position is permanent for one person. The headmaster can be changed because of his transfer to other school. The first student may not be the first for next class. So, every year, the committee can be changed. The main responsibilities of this committee will be to take any kind of decision and also to implement decisions regarding the library. The involvement of teachers and meritorious students can encourage other general students to come to the library. When other students (week student) will see that the first boy/girl uses the

library or involve with this library, then he/she might get interest to use the library as well. On the other side, to become an executive member of the library, competitions will be there among the students to be first in the class. Again, being an executive member of the library, leadership capabilities will grow in to them. This way, the library can become a successful library as a knowledge and information center in the village.

**Budget:**

To establish the library, it is needed approximately 9208 euros. From the local people and with the help of friends it is assumed that about 2050 euro is possible to collect. For rest of the money (euro 7158), we need help from donor agencies, institutions, organizations and individuals those are interested for the development of human capital or for the betterment of the people.

**Mechanism for sustaining the library:**

Without financial support from the donor organizations, it is impossible to establish such a library in a village. Later, to pay the librarian, to buy additional books, to pay for other expenses such as the Internet bill, electricity bill, maintenance cost etc. which indicates a continuous financial support from the local people or organizations or individual donors. In this proposal, it has been assumed that donors will provide support for the one year from the established of the library. The land owner will donate a land of 2 *bigha* (28800 sq ft). This land will be leased to other people which can be a continuous source of money for the library. Again, the executive committee will arrange some events, for example making T-Shirt to sell etc, for fund raising. By this time, the executive committee will open an account for the library. Local representatives like councilor, chairman, Member of Parliament will be asked to help the library by donating money to continue its operation. The account will be operated by the joint signature of the president/head master of Bongobondhu high school and the secretary/headmaster of Chotokupot primary school. But every decision will be made with the majority's vote of the executive committee of 9 members. The donation from the individual donor or donor organizations will go directly to the account of the library operated by the executive committee. And the executive committee will present all the incomes and expenses in annual meeting. In this way, this library will create a direct connection with the donors and the local community.

## Appendix

### i. Budget to establish the library

Necessities	Materials	Quantity	Amount of money		Source of money
			in taka	In euro*	
Place	Land	360 sq. ft. (a room only)			Land Donor <sup>1</sup>
Building	Construction materials and cost		500000	5000	Donors, me and my friends <sup>2</sup>
Furniture	Table	Table-4	30000	300	Donor
	Chair	Chair- 20	20000	200	Donor
	Self	Self- 6	30000	300	Donor
Books	All books for Class I to XII.		150000	1500	Donor
	Others books		50000	500	Donor
Electrical	Ceiling fan	Fan -3	15000	150	Donor
	Light	Light- 4	400	4	Donor
	Electric cables and fitting		10000	100	Donor
Newspaper	Newspaper bill	Annual	4380	43.8	Donor
Internet	Internet bill	Annual	6000	60	Donor
	Internet modem	1	5000	50	Donor <sup>3</sup>
Librarian	Salary	Annual	60000	600	Donor
Computer	Computer	1	35000	350	Donor
Others expenses	Papers, Pens, etc	Annual	5000	50	Donor
Total			920780	9207.8	

Foot note:

\* say, 1 Euro= 100 Taka

<sup>1</sup> a villager wants to donate the land with one condition if the name of the library is Masud Parves Library.

<sup>2</sup> I want to donate taka 100000 or euro 1000

Expected donation from my friends is 1000 euro.

<sup>3</sup> Expected local people's participation is 50 euro



**iii. Some pictures of the proposed location for the library**



Village road near to proposed library



Proposed location for the library

**iv. Some pictures of cyclone AILA, 2009**



Road under water



Shelter on the road



A home less family



Discontinuation of road

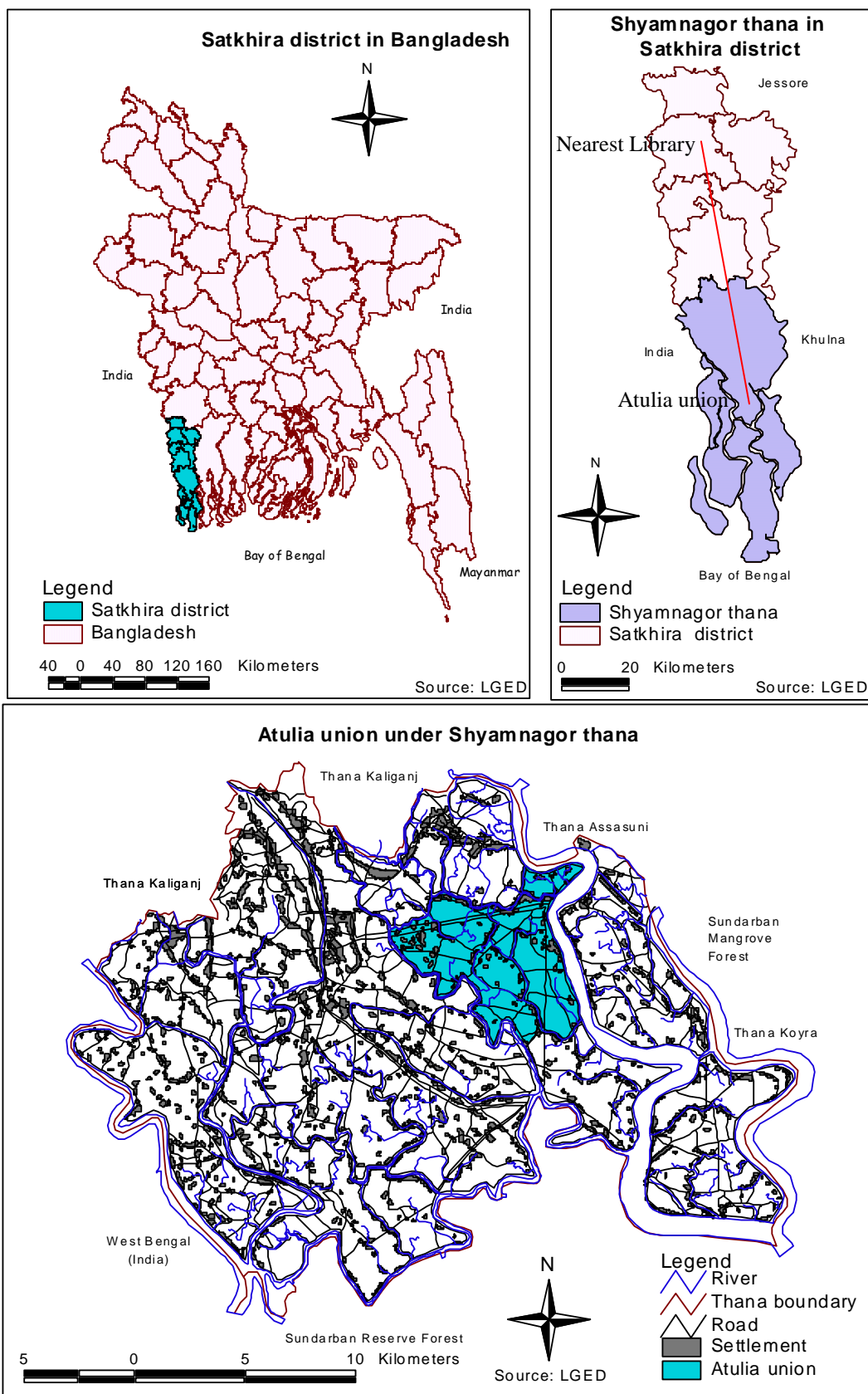


A village shop is under water

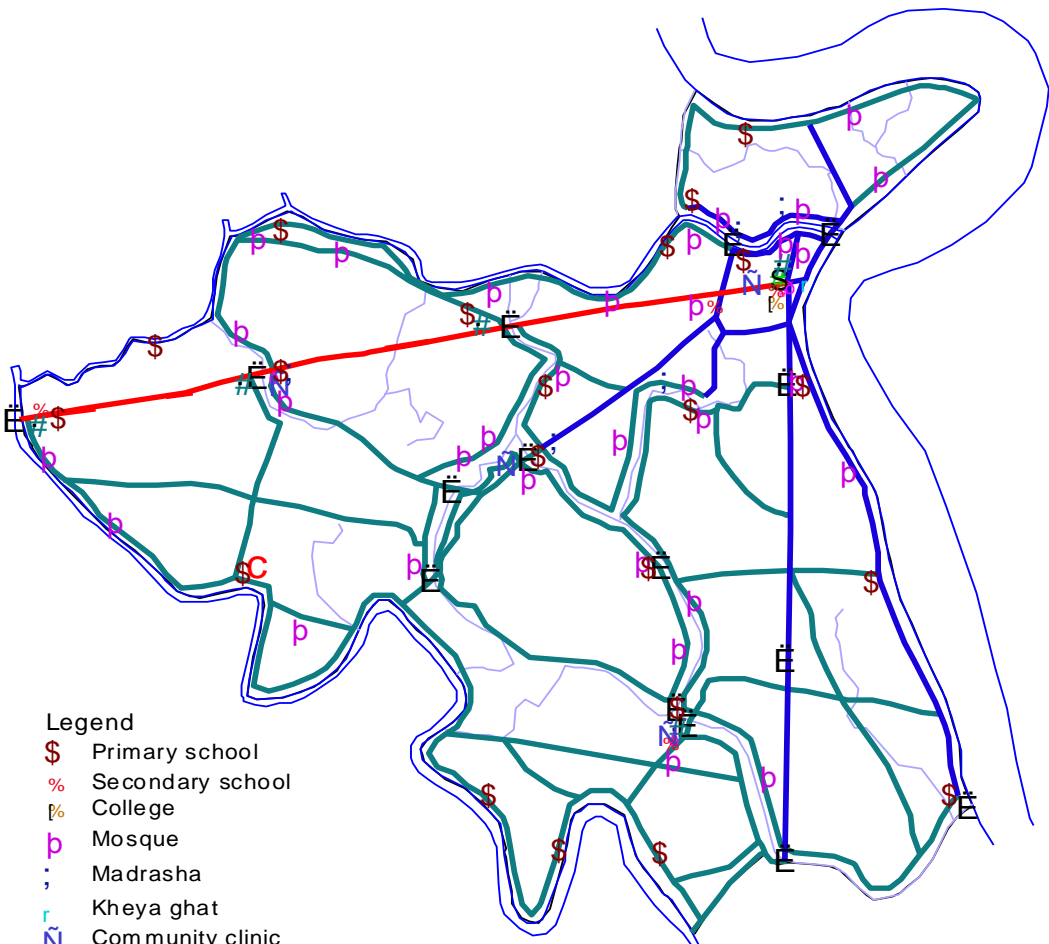


Queue for getting drinkable water

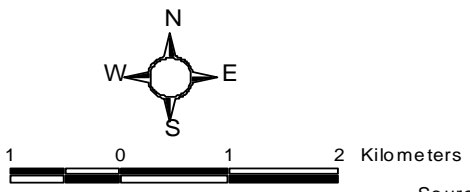
**v. Location map of the library**



### Important establishment of Atulia union



- Legend**
- \$ Primary school
  - % Secondary school
  - p/ College
  - b Mosque
  - Madrasa
  - r Kheya ghat
  - N Community clinic
  - o Post office
  - # Hat / Bazaar
  - C Cyclone centre
  - S Godown
  - # Tahshill office
  - E Culvert/Sluice gate
  - Rural road class 1 (R1)
  - Rural road class 2 (R2)
  - Rural road class 3 (R3)
  - Tributaries of river
  - Main river
  - Atulia union



Source: Union parisad  
BURP Dissertation, URP Discipline, KU