At the very inception, Ganokendra acted as a centre of presence of an organisation at the community level to make available technical assistance accelerates the velocity of development, by facilitating communication, coordination and providing information to local community and other service-oriented organisations, thereby enhances peoples capacity.

Organisation like Community Resource Centre (CRC) has potential roles in bringing together local initiatives through communication and access to information technology and developing disadvantaged people of rural areas as worthy inhabitants of mundane villages.

CRCs are to help rural people of Bangladesh in moving forward towards an improved living condition. Ultimately, we shall be able to see Bangladesh in world map as a happy, prosperous and technologically developed country.

Dhaka, Bangladesh
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Team Members
Dhaka Ahsania Mission
**Community Resource Centre**

Community Resource Centre (CRC) is a union-based technical support institution. It also functions as service centre and local network of Community Learning Centre (CLC). Dhaka Ahsania Mission in partnership with community manages the activities of CRC.

CRC provides technical support to all Ganokendra and other community-based organizations.

CRC aims at institutionalising linkage with the local service-oriented institutions to make them pro-active in discharging their responsibilities and also realizing people's rights.

There is an institutional networking for linkage of Community Resource Centre and Ganokendra. Community Resource Centre is located at Union level and acts as an associate institution of union parishad by providing required technical assistance.

CRC works in collaboration with Ganokendra and other stakeholder groups in the area through network and linkage and facilitate improving the standard of living of the people, particularly the poor.
Philosophical Perspective

Every community has its own style of living as well as livelihood. Community Based Organizations (CBO) are developed and functions considering these factors. Community Resource Centre strives for flourishing the endless possibilities of these CBO through human resource development and institutional development of CBOs.

In the context of available limited resources at the local level Community Resource Centre required to make relentless efforts for mobilisation of financial, material and other infrastructural resources ultimately contributing to a sustainable development in the area.
Aim
The aim of Community Resource Centre is to establish sustainable linkage of various service-oriented organisations with the community thereby institutionalising people’s participation in accessing public services by the community.

Objectives
a. Providing development information and rendering technical service as per needs of the community institution.
b. Establishing linkage with service providers, local people and other stakeholders.
c. Gearing up and increase of community participation and capability.
d. Local level advocacy to realize people's rights and increased access to information.

Users
Ganokendra of a union, disadvantaged people's organization of the locality and all other CBOs are users of the Community Resource Centre. Besides, the government and non-governmental organisations can use the facilities of CRC to render various services to the targetted people of the local level.
Management

Community Resource Centre is being managed jointly by Dhaka Ahsania Mission and representatives of Ganokendra. There exists a management committee for management of CRC. In the management committee there are representations of Ganokendra, leading personalities of the area, community-based organisations and representatives of Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Besides, representatives of donor families and Union Parishad representatives are also included in its management. Dhaka Ahsania Mission employs a coordinator in each resource centre. The CRC coordinator is accountable to the regional office of Dhaka Ahsania Mission in the area. As an ex officio, the CRC coordinator acts as member secretary of the managing committee. The CRC managing committee conducts its activities through maintaining liaison with local government organisations.
Areas of Activity

Community Resource Centre maintains coordination with Ganokendra, identifies problems and their causes on priority basis for overall development of a union. It identifies the resources for solution to the problems and takes initiatives for optimum use of these. CRC facilitates increased community participation in managing its works.

CRC works in close collaboration with local people, Union Parishad, upazila administration, various community-based organisations, socio-cultural teams, local service providing organisations and other stakeholders. However, the span of activities varies from partners to partners.

CRC activities are divided into four types such as education, training, coordination and information and communication.
Education

- Takes necessary measures for continuing education and providing technical assistance to Ganokendra.

- Takes initiatives for child development, pre-primary education and raising the standard of primary education by bringing a qualitative change in it.

- Takes initiatives for development of educational materials locally.

- Works for establishing child rights by supporting children’s organisations or groups.

- Plays a role in promoting use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in primary and secondary schools.

- Organises awareness raising and recreational functions.
Training

- Organises training courses for members of Ganokendra management committees.
- Organises courses for community leaders to improve their leadership quality and skill development.
- Organises income generating training courses for the target beneficiaries.

Information and Communication

- Exchange information and communication materials among Ganokendra.
- Supplies updated information on development to Ganokendra.
- Develop information data base on subjects relating to education, health, life and livelihood and human rights.
- Supplies information to national and local service-providing organisations at union level.
Coordination

- Takes step to share experiences among various Ganokendra and CBOs.
- Assists in maintaining coordination with different committees of Ganokendra.
- Assists in establishing linkage with distant education programmes.
- Support establishing linkage with various government and non-governmental service-providing organisations.
- Maintains regular contact with Union Parishad and assists in developing linkage among various activities of Ganokendra and Union Parishad.
Examples of Achievements of CRC

Here is a brief description of the visible positive changes at community level following various development measures undertaken by CRC in collaboration with Ganokendra.

A school named ‘Udayan’ has been established in Chowgachha upazila of Jessore district at the joint initiative and management of Nayanpur Pruttasha Community Resource Centre and local people. At present, the resource centre is running the kindergarten school successfully. This has created a bright example of joint initiatives of locals and Community Resource Centre for development in an area. Others can emulate the example for their welfare.
Manotosh Mallik is a farmer at Basontia village under Keshobpur upazila in Jessore district.

That year, Manotosh planted IRRI for the first time in his life. But after 23-24 days of its plantation, he observed that its leaves were being dried. In such a condition, he talked to few people. But they could not give a solution to him.

Finally, he discussed the matter with Parodorshi Community Resource Centre facilitator Kamona Rani. Giving a patient hearing, she asked him to come back after a few days.

On arrival at the resource centre at scheduled time, Manotosh saw that Upazila Assistant Agriculture official Poritosh Kumar Das was waiting to give agri-related counselling to him. Manotosh acted according to his advice. That year 30 maunds of paddy yielded in each bigha of land. Getting a good yield, Manotosh became very happy.
Rahima Begum is an inhabitant of Bharuapara village under Paglakanai union in Jhenidah district. She is a member of Renaissance Ganokendra. Being an ultra-poor, Rahima got a VGD card with the help of Ganokendra community action group member Rokshana. On receipt of the card, she went to the respective Union Parishad, four miles off her village, to receive VGD allowance. But she came back empty-handed as the day was not fixed for distribution of VGD cards.

On return, Rahima went to the Ganokendra and informed the matter to Rokshana. Rokshana advised her to visit Paglakanai Madhukiori Resource Centre. Accordingly, she met with facilitator Minu Khatun to know the date for collecting VGD allowance. Minu informed her that she knows the mobile number of the union chairman. If she desires, she can talk to him. Rahima took his number from Minu and ventilated her grievance to him. From the chairman, she learnt the date of distribution of VGD allowance.
Rahima went to the Union Parishad on the scheduled date and brought her VGD allowance. ‘Following a valuable suggestion of Rokshana, I went to the Union Parishad and received the VGD allowance’, Rahima said.

Hakimpur Shimul Community Resource Centre is the name of a resource centre in Hakimpur union of Chowgachha upazila. Local CRC members have set a unique example here by preventing diarrhoea in the area taking help from the Upazila Health Complex. Hakimpur Shimul Community Resource Centre members have persuaded the health complex authorities to supply 600 packets of saline every month.

The saline packets have been regularly distributed among the diarrhoea affected patients in 54 Ganokendra and CRCs. As a result, people of the locality are being encouraged to receive various kinds of services from a resource centre.
Ganokendra as Driving Force

Ganokendra is the main driving force to facilitate implementation of the development programmes at grassroot level. On the other hand, Community Resource Center (CRC) plays a vital role to strengthen the development initiatives through capacity building, networking among the organizations, dissemination of information.

CRC's role for capacity building of Ganokendra become instrumental to develop a strong and effective platform at union level to realize the people’s rights.

So what we see is Ganokendra and CRC are working together to carry forward the development momentum to attain the expected goal of improved living condition of the people.