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Title : Learning Outcomes of Underprivileged Children of Bangladesh Provided by
some selected NGOs

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LEARNING OUTCOMES OF UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN OF BANGLADESH PROVIDED BY SOME SELECTED NGOs

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In Bangladesh, illiteracy is the major problem in human development. To reduce illiteracy the government of Bangladesh has introduced the compulsory primary education, which was acted in 6th February 1990. But a large number of children, who are known as Underprivileged children is deceived from the formal primary education system. A large number of children who is working to assist their family for economic support is the most hard-to-reach and is very often termed as underprivileged children. For the true development of the country these underprivileged children should not be underneath of the education. A recent Bangladesh Institute of Development studies (BIDS) study through Government of Bangladesh estimates that the number of underprivileged children in Bangladesh to be 445,000 of whom 75% is in Dhaka city. Considering the trend in the ever-increasing numbers of these children over the past 10 years, it is estimated that by the year 2014 the number of

underprivileged children would exceed 930,000. So, it is important for the Government to ensure basic education for these Underprivileged children. This is why the government launched EFA program in Bangladesh to improve the education and to raise literacy rate to 62% by the year 2000. After 'The Dakar education forum 2000' target was cent percent literacy. Due to some constraints the government has change the target and has taken many initiatives. Government started Basic 'Education for Hard-to-Reach Urban Working Children (BEHTRUWC)' project (2nd phase), under BNFE for the underprivileged children. Main objectives of the BEHTRUWC are:

- Quality NFE of skill based basic education to develop the life standard for the working children aged 10-14, where 60% are girls.
- Skill based training for enhancing the life standard of working children aged

13 or more, which will help their earning.

- Advocacy in divisional and national level to establish economic and social security for the working children and their families by which their education and safe working environment will be created.
- Enhancing the awareness of the stakeholders to decrease child labor.

Now, the government along with the NGOs is providing education to the underprivileged children for achieving the objectives of BEHTRUWC project.

This study was conducted to determine the level of Achieved Learning Outcomes of Underprivileged Children provided by some selected NGOs. Comparing the achievement among the learners of different NGOs as well as between girls and boys were the objective of the study. The study was included three NGOs and four centers from each NGO were selected. 120 learners were selected for the purpose of data collection, where girls and boys were equal in number. An achievement test item of mother language Bangla, Mathematics and Life skill was used for data collection.

The study observed that Achievement of the learners in Mathematics and Life Skill and Bangla was satisfactory for their practical oriented class. Boys mean score was slightly better than the girls in almost cases, but the difference was not significant between the achievement of boys and girls except in Mathematics. Boys are mainly work outside their home. Especially they work in hotels, shops and serves as bus or temporal helper. On the other hand, girls are mainly involved in household works. So, boys are more familiar with everyday arithmetic's than the girls, which helped the boys

to do better in Mathematics than the girls. No significant difference was found among the achievement of the learners of the NGOs except in Life skill. It is evident from the study that all the NGOs are trying hard to improve learners' achievement.

The study recommends taking more care to the girls to increase their achievement in Mathematics by giving more attention to them.

From the study it has been proved that NGOs are trying to play role in the education sector along with the government to reduce the illiteracy from the country and to convert huge manpower into human resource. This kind of activities of NGOs in Bangladesh may become an example for other developing countries.

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