

013 **Visit to Selected Swanirvor Villages of Rangpur District**
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a) Researchers' Identity

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b) Objectives

Terms of reference of the observation visits were as follows:

- i. To observe the extent of success or failure of the programme in these villages based on the principles of self-reliance;
- ii. To examine whether socio-economic survey has been conducted to draw a picture of existing conditions of the villages;
- iii. To examine whether problems have been detected and projects have been developed for their solution;
- iv. To find out whether the village people have understood the objectives of the Swanirvor programme and have become aware of their benefits;
- v. To examine the formation of the village Swanirvor Committee with a view to develop better leadership in the village;
- vi. To find out the participation of local people, particularly from within the landless, women and youth groups and special projects taken thereof for their benefits;
- vii. To observe people's participation in the development projects from planning to implementation;
- viii. To observe the sources of income of the village Swanirvor Committees and collection of resources for implementation of the development project;
- ix. To observe the mode of co-operation extended by the Union Parishads and other existing local institutions for implementation of the Swanirvor Programme; and
- x. To observe the extent of relationship between the local officials and the village people.

c) Executive summary

Swanirvor is a national Programme organized and guided by Mr. Mahboob Alam Chashi, Special Secretary, Swanirvor, the Government of Bangladesh. It is being implemented through the local administration, in close cooperation with the nation building organizations and the village people. Village has been taken as an implementing unit for the same.

Nationwide attempts have already been made to start the Swanirvor Programme through holding work camps in a number of villages in a phased manner. First phase was to organize three day Swanirvor Work Camps in one village of each division by the Divisional Commissioners. In the second phase, the work camps were organized by the Deputy Commissioners in one village of every district. The third and the last phase were to hold a two day Swanirvor Work Camps in one village of each Thana organized by the Circle Officers.

Main purpose of holding these Swanirvor Work Camps was to demonstrate the objectives of the programme to both the officials and the villagers. Initial thrust of the programme was to achieve self sufficiency in food by utilizing the local resources while reducing population growth simultaneously by creating awareness amongst the rural people.

Extension of the Swanirvor Programme was about to be over by 1975-76 when the programme received one year experience in the field. Therefore, it was felt a necessity to evaluate the activities of the programme at least in one village of each Thana of the country. Those villages were selected where Thana level Swanirvor Work Camps were held to implement the programme. Director of the Academy was requested to extend his resources for co-operation in this regard.

On 24th May, 1976, three faculty members of the Academy joined the Swanirvor Central Evaluation Team to visit the Swanirvor villages of Rangpur district from 25th to 30th May, 1978. Divisional level officers of relevant nation building departments and agencies of Rajshahi division also joined as members of the team. The team members were being assisted by local district, sub-division and Thana level officers in this respect.

Six sub-groups were formed to visit 31 Thanas under the four sub-divisions. The responsibility of visiting seventeen villages of Rangpur sadar and Gaibandha subdivisions was given to the three faculty members of the Academy. The selected villages were Batason-Durgapur of Mithapukur Thana, Kishorgari of Pirganj Thana, Chandipur of Pargacha Thana,

Changmari-Bairagipara of Badarganj Thana, Azizullah of Kotwali Thana, Arazi-Niamat of Gangachara Thana; Dhabalsuti (East) of Patgram Thana, Uttar Parulia of Hatibandha Thana, Srutidhar of Kaliganj Thana and Bonborgram of Kaunia Thana in Rangpur Sadar sub-division and Raghunathpur of Gaibandha Sadar Thana, Habibullahpur of Sadullapur Thana, Garamandi of Sundarganj Thana, Gazaria of Fulsori Thana, Kalapani of Shaghata Thana, Ramkrishnapur of Polashbari Thana and Panthapara of Gobindaganj Thana in Gaibandha sub-division.

During visit to those villages, discussions were made with the Thana level officers, members of the village Swanirvor Committees and cross section of local people. Efforts were extended to collect factual information and qualitative data with a view to make fruitful visits within a short time. However the following reports should by no means be treated as analytical and sufficient. Rather, these are rough reports containing records of activities of village Swanirvor Committees and a few comments in the light of fulfillment of the basic objectives of the Swanirvor Programme in Bangladesh.

