

## **Social Effectiveness of a Rural Development Intervention: A Study of Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP)\***

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### **Abstract**

Many initiatives have already been taken for the development of rural people in Bangladesh. The comprehensive village development program (CVDP) is one of them. The main objective of the study is to assess the social effectiveness of the comprehensive village development program (CVDP). An empirical social survey was conducted among the members to know the social effectiveness of CVDP. A face-to-face interview technique of social survey method was applied for collecting primary data from the respondents. The collected data were analyzed using descriptive techniques. The findings of the study revealed that most of the respondents agreed on the positive role of CVDP in dispute resolution and reducing the trend of going to court for settlement; mutual cooperation and fellow feeling atmosphere had increased in CVDP areas. Moreover, the study found positive changes in the level of women participation in the villages with CVDP intervention.

**Keywords:** Rural development, Social effectiveness, CVDP.

### **Introduction**

Since time immemorial, Bangladesh has been a land of village communities. About 80% people still live in rural areas (Rahman and Roy, 2004). So development of the country, to a large extent, depends on the development of the villages. Government of Bangladesh has been giving thrust on rural development since its inception (Quddus, ed. 1996). There is a debate on the definition and accordingly on the scope of rural development. There is neither a shortage of definitions nor a single conventional definition or ‘narrative’ of – or prescription - on rural development (Maxwell, Urey, and Ashley, 2001). The meaning of rural development has been the subject of much debate and little agreement. Sen (1996:20) mentioned that rural development means raising the productivity and consequently the real income of families earning, their livelihood in rural areas, by increasing employment opportunities in farm and non-farm activities, thereby facilitating their levels of physical, social and cultural well-being. Moreover, Chowdhury *et al.* (1980)

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noted that it is necessary to develop rural people through a participatory approach with regard to rural development. Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP) is the first grass-root and participatory form of organization for rural development in Bangladesh (Hasan, 1999). Comprehensive Village Development Programme, being the latest institutional initiative of the Government of Bangladesh for the development of the villages, was initially an attempt of Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), which is now working under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives. Its ultimate goal is to innovate a sustainable institutional model for rural development through exchanging views and experiences of presently working governmental and non-governmental organizations in this field. In the early 60's a two-tier cooperative system was initiated by Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Comilla, which later came to be known as 'Comilla Model' and was gradually replicated throughout the country. The initial success of this model was very encouraging. But that was short-lived. It has become evident from various evaluation studies conducted by different agencies at different phases since 1970's that the cooperative societies have failed to bring in benefits for the majority of the members and consequently have failed to achieve the overall targets (Quddus, 1996:116). In this context, BARD in late 70's took an endeavour to develop the economic condition of different profession, age, sex and economic standing-based rural population who earlier remained left out from 'Comilla Approach' which was subsequently restructured as IRDP. At the primary stage, this effort was named 'Total Village Development Project (TVDP)' and it came into operation in 1975. From 1983 BARD started implementation of the programme in an extended sphere in the name of 'Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP)'. The first phase of the programme ended in June 1991. Following this phase, it was included in the Fourth and Fifth Five Year Plan of Bangladesh. The third or demonstration phase started in July 1999 and ended on June 2004. This programme labeled as 'National Rural Development Model' is being presently replicated at 4275 villages in 66 Upazilla of 64 districts of Bangladesh. Apparently CVDP is playing an important role in the rural development in Bangladesh from its initiation. There are some studies on the economic or operational effectiveness of CVDP. For example, Islam (2007) conducted a study on three CVDP villages operating in Comilla and one non-CVDP village and he found that the level of all the capitals as well as the level of composite sustainable livelihoods of the people of the CVDP villages was comparatively much higher than the people of the non-

CVDP village. Karim *et al.* (2003), Kamal (2008), and Rahman and Roy (2004) found some remarkable achievements of CVDP.

But no mentionable study had been conducted on the social effectiveness of CVDP. Effectiveness of a programme like CVDP may be studied from different perspectives. The present study was conducted to assess the social effectiveness of CVDP.

### **Objectives and Research Questions**

The study mainly was designed to focus on the social effectiveness of the Comprehensive Village Development Programme. The specific objectives were as follows:

- To assess the social harmony evolved in the villages with CVDP intervention;
- To explore the changes in the level of women participation in the villages with CVDP intervention;
- To observe the acceptance level of the program by the respondents.

### **Methods**

#### **Study design**

Empirical social survey was conducted among the members to know the social effectiveness of CVDP. To realize the study objectives, descriptive techniques were used. Changes in the level of women participation and the social harmony evolved in the villages with CVDP intervention were used as indicators of social effectiveness. Opinion regarding trend in fellow-felling atmosphere, mutual co-operation, dispute resolution etc. were used to be informed about social harmony and women's participation in family decision making, in income generating activities, and in social and political activities were used to know about the changes in the level of women participation in the villages with CVDP intervention in this study.

#### **Study area**

At the time of data collection, CVDP was working in 1575 villages of 21 Upazilla in 18 greater districts of Bangladesh. Among them 80 villages of 7 districts covering all the then greater four divisions (Narayanganj in Dhaka Division, Comilla and Sylhet in Chittagong Division, Bogra and Gaibandha in Rajshahi Division and Kushtia and Jhenaidah in Khulna Division) had been continuing the activities since or before 1991. Considering long-standing involvement, these 80 villages of the programme were considered as the study area.

### Sampling and participants

Three divisions (Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna) were taken purposively for the study excluding Dhaka. As the villages (of Sonargaon *Upazilla*) of Dhaka Division are very adjacent to Dhaka City and the economic and social structures of these villages are very much influenced by the urban life thereby villages of Dhaka Divisions were excluded from the study. Respondents were selected using multi-stage sampling technique. From each of the selected village, excluding Sylhet, 60 families, linked to CVDP through membership, were selected from which data were collected. From Sylhet, 30 families were selected due to being the size of membership small compared to other areas. Different standings especially gender, profession and economic status were considered while selecting the members of CVDP as to making the sample more representative. Quite new members of the programme were excluded. Considering the above-mentioned criteria four separate area-wise lists were prepared from which male or female senior members of the families were selected as respondent randomly. By this way, a total of  $\{(60 \times 3) + (30 \times 1)\} = 210$  members of CVDP were selected.

### Data collection

The face-to-face interview technique of social survey method was applied for collecting primary data of the study. For this purpose an interview schedule, consisting of both open-ended and close-ended questions, was prepared and used for collecting data from the members of CVDP.

### Data analysis

The collected data were analyzed using descriptive techniques. SPSS computer software was used for processing and analyzing the data.

## Results and Discussions

### Demographic characteristics of the participants

Gender is an important variable to assess the socio-economic status. Gender equity ensures the equilibrium of development. Male alone can not ensure the comprehensive development of ignoring the female folk of the society. That is why, the authority of CVDP has been trying to incorporate the gender equity in their programme area. It is depicted from the table 1 that about fifty percent member of CVDP is male and female equally. It is 59.05 percent for male and 40.95 percent for female. If the location of programme is considered, almost same scenario is seen in all the areas. It is 66.67 percent male 33.33 percent female for Comilla, 60 percent male and 40 percent female for Kushtia, 53.33 percent male and 46.67 percent female for Gaibanda and 53.33 percent male and

46.67 percent female for Sylhet respectively. So it is to be said that the gender participation in CVDP is almost equal.

In addition, education is the basic component of the human resource development. Education plays an important role to develop a nation. It is one of the indicators of social status. Most of the respondents are found of having secondary education of this study. It is 33.33 percent followed by 22.38 percent having primary education, 20 percent literate, 11.90 percent higher secondary education, 4.29 percent illiterate and 8.10 percent others academic status. Others include Bachelor degree and Madrasha etc. (Table 1). If the secondary education and above is considered as the sign of better position, the respondents of Kushtia and Gaibanda area is better compared to Comilla and Sylhet. It is mentionable that there is no illiterate member of CVDP in Gaibanda area. If the more illiteracy is considered as the negative symptom of socio-economic status, it can be concluded that the CVDP member of Kushtia and Sylhet is comparatively backward in socio-economic situation in terms of their educational status.

**Table-1: Demographic characteristics of the respondents**

Variables	Location of the Programme								Total	
	Comilla		Kushtia		Gaibanda		Sylhet		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
<b>Gender</b>										
Male	40	66.67	36	60.00	32	53.33	16	53.33	124	59.05
Female	20	33.33	24	40.00	28	46.67	14	46.67	86	40.95
<b>Education</b>										
Illiterate	03	5.00	04	6.67	--	--	02	6.67	09	4.29
Literate	12	20.00	17	28.33	05	8.33	08	26.67	42	20.00
Primary	18	30.00	04	6.67	16	26.67	09	30.00	47	22.38
Secondary	16	26.67	27	45.00	19	31.67	08	26.67	70	33.33
HSC	09	15.00	06	10.00	10	16.67	00	--	25	11.90
Others	02	3.33	02	3.33	10	16.67	03	10.00	17	8.10
<b>Age</b>										
Mean	49.10		37.70		36.15		34.90		40.11	
SD	12.66		10.10		10.69		11.40		12.56	

Age is an important factor in assessing the physical ability of people. Those who are young in age, they are more capable of working compared to older in age. So, for knowing the age, respondents were asked about their actual age. Significant number of the respondents couldn't bear out their actual age. They could mention their age by using different memorable events like year of marriage, birth of first child etc. Sometimes, it was estimated seeing health and physical condition and or appearances. The average age of the total respondents is 40.11 years. The average age of the respondents of different programme area like Comilla, Kushtia, Gaibanda and Sylhet is 49.10, 37.70, 36.15, 34.90 years respectively (Table-1).

### **Social Efficacy of CVDP**

Development is not a unidimensional phenomenon in today's world. We observe a global tendency towards holistic approach of development in literature on development thought. Significance of nonmaterial aspects are similarly emphasized like traditionally stressed material aspects of development. Many programmes brought about enormous physical changes but could not sustain because of ignoring social aspects of development. To what extent CVDP is effective to ensure social development and social harmony, and to increase the level of women's participation are presented in the following tables.

### **Fellow-feeling Atmosphere in Villages after CVDP Intervention**

Fellow-feeling environment ensures cooperation and development. Distance among different status of people living in society may create unhygienic atmosphere that is detrimental to peaceful living and sustainable development. What happened to fellow-feeling atmosphere in villages after intervention of CVDP is manifested in Table 2.

**Table 2: Fellow Feeling Atmosphere in Villages after CVDP Intervention by Programme Area**

Opinion about Fellow Feeling Atmosphere	Location of the Programme								Total	
	Comilla		Kushtia		Gaibanda		Sylhet			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Increased	58	96.67	42	70.00	56	93.33	28	93.33	184	87.62
No Mentionable Change	02	3.33	18	30.00	04	6.67	02	6.67	26	12.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Most of the respondents commented that the fellow feeling atmosphere had increased in CVDP areas. Only 12.38 percent respondents said that no mentionable change had occurred in the atmosphere of fellow feeling. Same picture is depicted by the respondents of all districts like Comilla, Kushtia, Gaibanda and Sylhet of CVDP. If the more positive opinion of the respondents is considered as the effectiveness of CVDP, it can be concluded that the CVDP is an effective and socially viable programme for rural development.

### Mutual Cooperation in Facing Problematic Situation in CVDP Villages

Social relation and cooperation are treated as social capital in development literature. There are some times and some situations where collective efforts have no alternatives. The role of CVDP in ensuring mutual cooperation in problem situation is presented in Table 3.

**Table 3: Level of Mutual Cooperation in Facing Problematic Situation in CVDP by Programme Area**

Mutual Cooperation	Location of the Programme								Total	
	Comilla		Kushtia		Gaibanda		Sylhet			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Very Well	48	80.0	03	5.00	24	40.00	14	46.67	91	43.33
Moderate	10	16.67	45	75.00	35	58.33	14	46.67	105	50.00
Little	02	3.33	12	20.00	01	1.67	02	6.67	14	6.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Data indicate the mutual cooperation in problematic situation of CVDP members. It is depicted that fifty percent respondents commented as moderate in this regard. Mutual cooperation is very well (43.33 percent) among the respondents was mentioned by a significant number of respondents. Difference is seen in the different areas of CVDP. The members of CVDP of Comilla regions are highly satisfied regarding the mutual cooperation. They commented that it had been very well among them. It was 80 percent for Comilla. On the other hand, the respondents of Kushtia and Gaibanda districts are less satisfied compared to the respondents of Comilla. On the review of the data furnished in table, it can be said that the mutual cooperation in problematic situation was increasing by intervention of CVDP.

### Dispute Resolution in Villages

Dispute is common where there are more than one individual and it is also true that social proximity can cause more disputes. We also know that group or society without conflict is impossible. But constant conflict may turn a society toward the back. Opinions concerning the role of CVDP in this regard are presented in Table 4.

**Table 4: Opinion Regarding the Role of CVDP in Dispute Resolution by Location**

Opinion	Location of the Programme								Total	
	Comilla		Kushtia		Gaibanda		Sylhet			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Yes	60	100.00	04	6.67	60	100.00	26	86.67	154	73.33
No	--	--	52	86.67	--	--	04	13.33	56	26.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Data revealed that the highest number of respondents (73.33 percent) agreed upon the positive role of CVDP in dispute resolution in the study area. A mentionable portion of respondents i.e. 26.67 percent said that there is no such role of CVDP in this regard. It is highly disappointing situation found in the Kushtia and Sylhet regions. But the respondents of Comilla and Gaibanda regions are getting the positive benefits of CVDP regarding dispute resolution.

### Trend of Court Settlement due to the Role of CVDP

Court is a place of settlement of dispute of the people living in a society. People wishing to avail state litigation facilities generally go to court. But due to delayed dispose up of cases in courts, the people have to face a lot of sufferings. As a village organization of all the villagers, CVDP has a vital role in settling disputes of rural people. Trend of court settlement of CVDP area is shown in Table 5.

**Table 5: Distribution of Court Settlement Trend of CVDP by Programme Area**

Trend of Court Settlement	Location of the Programme								Total	
	Comilla		Kushtia		Gaibanda		Sylhet			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Reduced	57	95.00	33	55.00	56	93.33	19	63.33	165	78.57
No Mentionable Change	02	3.33	17	28.33	03	5.00	06	20.00	28	13.33
No Comments	01	1.67	10	16.67	01	1.67	05	16.67	17	8.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>100.0</b>



It is reported by 78.57 percent respondents that the trend of going court had considerably reduced in the CVDP area. A portion of the respondents (13.33%) expressed that the situation remains similar as it was earlier.

If the more percentage is considered as the effective role of CVDP, it can be said that the CVDP is an effective programme for reducing trend of going court of the members of CVDP.

### Women's Participation in Family Decision Making

Women are half of the society. If we want to develop society and make development sustainable, empowerment women is to be ensured. There are many indicators of women empowerment. Among them, I picked three major indicators to analyze the role of women. Importance of women's participation in family decision making is vital indicator.' Women are not only instrument but they are also operator in family activities' – this can be examined by analyzing the participation of women in family decision making process.

**Table 6: Distribution of Women's Participation in Family Decision Making of CVDP by Programme Area**

Opinion of the Respondents	Location of the Programme								Total		
	Comilla		Kushtia		Gaibanda		Sylhet		n	%	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%			
<b>Before</b>	Fair	11	18.33	16	26.67	17	28.33	04	13.33	48	22.86
	Moderate	35	58.33	38	63.33	41	68.33	19	63.33	133	63.33
	Not Fair	14	23.33	06	10.00	02	3.33	07	23.33	27	12.86
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>After</b>	Increased Extensively	44	73.33	10	16.67	05	8.33	09	30.00	68	32.38
	Increased Moderately	15	25.00	42	70.00	49	81.67	18	60.00	124	59.05
	Remained as Before	01	1.67	08	13.33	06	10.00	03	10.00	18	8.57
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 6 shows the distribution of level of women's participation in terms of family decision making before and after their involvement with CVDP. It is seen

in a three-point scale that 22.86 percent respondents stated the position of women regarding women's participation in family decision making before their involvement with CVDP as fair, 63.33 percent as moderate and 12.86 percent as not fair. But it is a matter of great hope that women's position in this regard has already been positively changed after their involvement with CVDP. Only 8.57 percent respondents thought the position of women in this regard had remained unchanged while the remaining 91.43 percent respondents thought that the position had positively changed of which 32.38 percent respondents treated the change as extensive and 59.05 percent respondents as moderate. Generally Bangladeshi women contribute a lot to the household and to the country's economy, but in time of making decisions about household matters, the rural women are lagged behind. CVDP in this regard is contributing a lot to provide positive input in people's thought and action.

### Women's Participation in Income Generating Activities

For smooth maintenance of family, participation of capable members including the female ones in income generating activities is crucial. As CVDP encourages women's involvement in its activities, it can generally be said that there should had a positive impact on the women's participation in income generating activities in families related to CVDP.

**Table 7: Women's Participation in Income Generating Activities of CVDP Members by Programme Area**

	Opinion of the Respondents	Location of the Programme								Total	
		Comilla		Kushtia		Gaibanda		Sylhet			
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Before</b>	Fair	13	21.67	16	26.67	14	23.33	01	3.33	44	20.95
	Moderate	33	55.00	40	66.67	44	73.33	22	73.33	129	61.43
	Not Fair	14	23.33	04	6.67	02	3.33	07	23.33	27	12.86
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>After</b>	Increased Extensively	43	71.67	08	13.33	03	5.00	06	20.00	60	28.57
	Increased Moderately	16	26.67	44	73.33	49	81.67	21	70.00	130	61.90
	Remained as Before	01	1.67	08	13.33	08	13.33	03	10.00	20	9.52
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 7 presents the distribution of the level of women's participation in terms of participation in income generating activities before and after their involvement with CVDP. It is seen in a three-point scale that 20.95 percent respondents stated

the position of women regarding participation in income generating activities before their involvement with CVDP as fair, 61.43 percent as moderate and 12.86 percent as not fair. But it is a matter of great hope that women's position in this regard had already been positively changed after their involvement with CVDP. Only 9.52 percent respondents thought the position of women in this regard had remained unchanged while the remaining 90.48 percent respondents thought that the position had been positively changed of which 28.57 percent respondents treated the change as extensive and 61.90 percent respondents as moderate. Women's participation in income generating activities is an indicator of far-reaching impact and it is clear that because of CVDP's policy and practices the families involved with CVDP will be benefited to a great extent in economic term as well as in other multiple impacts gained from increased income.

### Women's Participation in Social and Political Activities

Women's participation in social and political activities is an important indicator of empowerment of women. Involvement to an organization like CVDP itself is a sign of development. However, perception of the CVDP members in this regard is displayed in the following table.

Women's participation in terms of participation in social and political activities before and after their involvement with CVDP is depicted in table no. 8. It is seen in a three-point scale that 16.67 percent respondents stated the position of women regarding participation in social and political activities before their involvement with CVDP as fair, 66.67 percent as moderate and 16.67 percent as not fair.

**Table 8: Women's Participation in Social and Political Activities of CVDP by Programme Area**

	Opinion of the Respondents	Location of the Programme								Total	
		Comilla		Kushtia		Gaibanda		Sylhet			
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Before	Fair	12	20.00	11	18.33	09	15.00	03	10.00	35	16.67
	Moderate	34	56.67	40	66.67	48	80.00	18	60.00	140	66.67
	Not Fair	14	23.33	09	15.00	03	5.00	09	30.00	35	16.67
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>100.0</b>
After	Increased Extensively	43	71.67	06	10.00	02	3.33	09	30.00	60	28.57
	Increased Moderately	16	26.67	30	50.00	48	80.00	18	60.00	112	53.33
	Remained as Before	01	1.67	24	40.00	10	16.67	03	10.00	38	18.10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>100.0</b>

But it is a matter of great hope that women's position in this regard had already been positively changed after their involvement with CVDP. Only 18.10 percent respondents thought the position of women in this regard had remained unchanged while the remaining 81.09 percent respondents thought that the position had positively changed of which 28.57 percent respondents treated the change as extensive and 53.33 percent respondents as moderate. We know that participation in social and political activities will help the women to be the part of policy formulation for themselves as well as for the society and CVDP's contribution in this regard is quite satisfactory.

### Acceptance Level of the Program by the Respondents

The aforementioned findings of the study showed that CVDP has been highly beneficial to the respondents of the study area. However, to find out the acceptance level of the program, a question on probable consequences in case of discontinuation of CVDP was placed before the respondents. Opinions of the respondents in this regard are presented in Table 9.

**Table 9: Probable Consequences in Case of Discontinuation of CVDP by Location**

Opinion	Location of the Programme								Total	
	Comilla		Kushtia		Gaibanda		Sylhet		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Development of the Village Will Continue	01	1.67	07	11.67	01	1.67	01	3.33	10	4.76
Help of Similar Organization Will be Necessary	43	71.67	55	91.67	52	86.67	27	90.00	177	84.29
Great Loss for the Village	59	98.33	11	18.33	57	95.00	28	93.33	155	73.81
<b>Total</b>	<b>103*(N=60)</b>		<b>73*(N=60)</b>		<b>108*(N=60)</b>		<b>56*(N=30)</b>		<b>342*(N=210)</b>	

*\*Multiple Responses*

Most of the respondents (84.29%) stated that in absence of CVDP similar organization or program should be introduced to address the hiatus. Another major portion of respondents said that there would be a great loss for the villages in case of CVDP's discontinuation. Only 4.76 percent respondents mentioned

that there will be no interruption of development in the villages. This scenario indicates that CVDP entails a high level of acceptance by the respondents of the study area.

### **Conclusions**

Many initiatives have already been taken for the development of rural people in Bangladesh. To be an acceptable and sustainable one, a programme must be operationally, financially as well as socially effective. In the present study, an attempt was made to review the social effectiveness of a rural development intervention named CVDP. Study data revealed that the highest number of respondents agreed the positive role of CVDP in dispute resolution in the study area. It is seen that the trend of going court had considerably been reduced in the CVDP area. That mutual cooperation had been very well among the respondents was mentioned by a significant number of respondents. Most of the respondents commented that the fellow feeling atmosphere had been increased in CVDP areas.

Generally Bangladeshi women contribute a lot to the household work as well as the country's economy, but in making decisions about household matters, the rural women are neglected (Mahtab, 2007). The CVDP, in this regard, has been contributing a lot to provide positive input in people's thought and action. In terms of participation in income generating activities before and after their involvement with CVDP, it is seen in a three-point scale that women's participation in income generating activities is an indicator of far-reaching impact and it is clear that because of CVDP's policy and practices the families involved with CVDP will be benefited to a great extent in economic term as well as in other multiple impacts gained from increased income. It is seen that the position of women regarding participation in social and political activities had already been positively changed after their involvement with CVDP. We know that participation in social and political activities will help the women to be the part of policy formulation for themselves as well as for the society and CVDP's contribution in this regard is quite satisfactory.

The positively expressed opinions of the respondents have shown the effectiveness of CVDP, and in this regard it can be said that the CVDP is a socially effective program for rural development so far.

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