

Profile

of



Background

Nice Foundation is a rights-based NGO working in south-west Bangladesh to improve economic sustainability and reduce inequalities and social disadvantage. It focuses on women, children and disadvantaged minority groups, especially the very marginalized Dalit Kawra (pig rearer) community. It follows a participatory model with the active involvement of its beneficiaries in its research, management and decision-making.

Nice Foundation focuses on one of the most disadvantaged communities of the world, the Kawra community of ‘untouchable’ pig-rearing Hindus in the Khulna region of south-west Bangladesh. It was set up in 2005, following a major research project undertaken by the research agency, Research Initiatives Bangladesh¹. There are five minority pig-eating communities in the area. Some 80% of households are landless; only 5% are literate and around 60% have an average monthly income below 1,000 taka (around US\$16).

The communities are deprived of fair justice and social status. Few children have any formal education. Many basic rights are non-existent, including water sanitation and space for animal husbandry. Some take up pig-rearing as a profession, as pork has a large market among Hindus, Christians, foreigners and, in Dhaka, international hotels. However, pig-rearing is not accepted by the majority Muslim community. Pig rearers therefore have to hide their pigs and rear them out of the sight of the general public. Moreover, many pigs die of unknown diseases, as the Government does not have treatment facilities. No pathological testing facilities are available in the region and local government livestock officers neglect Kawra communities. No permitted and recognized shops sell pig meat.

Class and status gaps create discrimination, resulting in a loss of self-confidence. Majority communities possess Kawra lands illegally and control their resources. They have no opportunity to participate even in the lowest local government structure. They are not accepted on managing committees of schools, markets and in other social institutions. They are not allowed to participate in any decision-making processes in the region.

It is women who bear the brunt of this disadvantage. The UNDP Gender-related Development Index (GDI) ranks Bangladesh at 123rd position out of 174 countries. The poor ranking is the result of the women’s low literacy rates and low share of earned income. In 1997, female literacy rate was half that of men. Women’s real GDP per capita was less than 60 per cent that of men. Women are often at a disadvantaged position in both social and economic terms.

Following the ‘Research Initiatives Bangladesh’ research, the Nice Foundation was formed in 2005 by a group of women guided by Mr Mujibur Rahman, Ms Dorieke Goodijk of Wageningen University Holland, and members of the Dalit Kawra community who identified the help they needed and supported the establishment of the Nice Foundation. The Foundation worked on a largely voluntary basis for four years, working with a network of NGOs in the area, earning consultancy fees from NGOs and liaising the Government’s NGO Affairs Bureau. In 2009, it received its first major international funding – a two-year grant from the Global Fund for Women (USA) to develop its work with Kawra women. It also achieved formal recognition from NGO Affairs Bureau, which in Bangladesh is a prerequisite for receiving international aid. It is now broadening out its remit, using its skills and resources to meet wider community needs.

¹ *Research Initiatives Bangladesh (RIB)*, is a non-governmental, non-profit research-support agency, registered under the Companies Act 1994 of Bangladesh. Its Board of Directors is composed of seven eminent citizens of Bangladesh with a rich and varied background in education, research and international affairs. See their web site at <http://www.rib-bangladesh.org/>

Focus

The organization focuses on Human rights, Participatory Action Research, Dalit minorities, women & children and as a whole, Climate Change, Education, and Health. It does not work on revolving credit.

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The Legal Status

Nice Foundation is allowed to offer its services to the target beneficiaries by the GOB. It is also providing its services to the target people as per the provision of the legally approved constitution. The organization has legal authority to operate its activities all over the country through registration with relevant government agencies: Following are the registration status:

Registration authority	Registration no.	Date
The Joint Stock Co. under the Society Act	Khulna/139	20 July 2005
Bangladesh NGO Affairs Bureau	2407	2 Feb 2009 Renewal upto 2029
Bangladesh Department of Social Welfare	1463	7 Feb 2012
European Community Potential Applicant Data Online Registration (PADOR)	ERS-1701731303	BD-2010

Constitution

The constitution of Nice Foundation is formulated by the executive committee and adopted by the general members of Nice Foundation. The constitution of Nice Foundation is legally approved by the respective registration agencies of the Government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh.

Vision

A society is congenial to the economic and socio-cultural development of socially underprivileged communities, especially Dalit, women, children, and excluded people.

Mission

Create opportunities and enable the underprivileged community especially Dalit, women, children, and excluded people for sustainable resource management, livelihood security, gender equity, and human rights.

Specific Objectives of the Organization:

- To undertake activities for human rights and good governance, legal support to women and children and gender equality
- To undertake emergency relief and rehabilitation activities in natural disaster
- To undertake and promote research activities on various aspects of social development
- To establish or support training centers of conduct and arrange training programs, grant stipends, scholarships, sponsor or organize seminars, workshops, conferences and periodicals

- To help poor people for improving access to resources and providing institutional and other facilities to the physically vulnerable and distressed people.
- To undertake and carry on welfare and development activities for poor in fundamental rights (health, education, shelter etc.).
- To undertake activities on integrated agriculture development, fisheries and livestock activities on integrated agriculture development, fisheries and livestock development.
- To undertake activities for establishing education schools for children and adults.
- To undertake socio-economic activities for reduction of poverty and employment creation.
- To undertake activities for conservation of nature and environment development.
- To promote human development through awareness creation and social mobilizations.
- To establish and maintain libraries and information services to facilitate further and publicize the objectives of the society.
- To establish branch office of Projects of **Nice Foundation**
- To accept donation, gifts, contribution or lawful subscriptions towards promoting and maintaining the objectives of the society and invest and apply the same when the organization may need for carrying its objectives.
- To borrow loans from any bank/institutions/foundations/individuals reputed for the purpose of the organization of its beneficiaries upon such term and on such conditions as may be determined by the organization from time to time.
- To appoint employees, consultants, experts to implement the social work and may discontinue and terminate their services as deem fit and appropriate by the organizational policy.
- To work in close cooperation of jointly with similar organization /foundations whether government, non-government, private, national or international that are pursuing similar objectives.
- To purchase, hire or take lease of any movable or immovable properties and sell or dispose off the same in any form when required.
- To appoint legal practitioners and to appear before the court to prosecute or to defend, compound or refer to arbitration any case or suit for or against the organization.
- To take all necessary steps such as opening of bank accounts towards the proper management of all financial and other support received for programs and authorize persons or a person to operate these bank accounts.
- To provide consultancy services to the NGOs, societies for their capacity building
- To do all such other activities as are conducive or incidental to the attainment of the above objectives.

Strategic Directions

- ✓ Development through Research
- ✓ Building up people's organization and leadership development.
- ✓ Capacity Building of local NGOs
- ✓ Better livelihood for the target beneficiaries.
- ✓ Sustainable management of natural resources.
- ✓ Development of poorest of the poor (Dalit, Hard Core Poor, aborigine, outcaste, ethnic minority and PWD).
- ✓ Human rights and good governance.

Governing System of the Organization:

Nice Foundation is governed by its legally and democratically formed management committees. These are General Body, Governing Body and General Management. Details of the governing system of the organization are given below:

General Body:

A 51 member general committee is the supreme authority of Nice Foundation. The membership is permanent unless it is vacant constitutionally which is formally approved by the registration authority. The general body elects 07 members Governing Body for a 05 (five) year term.

Management and staff

In line with Bangladesh NGO practice, a 51-member general committee has overall responsibility for the Nice Foundation. Members include academics, social workers, other professionals and housewives. The general committee elects seven members as the executive committee for a five-year term. This meets quarterly and is accountable for monitoring performance, developing policy, leadership and budget management. Members also act as voluntary workers. There are currently 27 staffs working in different projects. Paul Thompson, Professor Middlesex University work with Nice Foundation as a volunteer for one year who got permission to stay 12 months with Nice Foundation (NGO Affairs Bureau Approval obtained under the project). Colin Wilby has been promoting Nice Foundation from UK as an International Adviser.

General Management:

The Secretary is responsible for management and administration, and implementation of programs as of yearly plan following Long Range Strategic Plan of Nice Foundation. The organization has formed its Management Team to ensure ownership, greater participation and dynamic partnership among its staff members in order to establish an effective and efficient management system, and foster transparency, accountability and decentralization of programs and its execution.

Organogram of the Organization:

The organization has emerged as an education and research development NGO in the southwest coastal region of Bangladesh. It has an organogram approved by the Governing Body. The Secretary performs the duty as an honorary Executive Director of the organization. Two coordinators are performing all programme activities who is reportable to the Executive Director. The Chief Accountant maintains Account with the help of Accountant following the approved financial manual. There are five cells (finance, HR, Procurement, Gender, Internal Audit) that have been functioning with limited resources.

Accounts Maintaining System of Nice Foundation

Nice Foundation has a standard accounts manual. The accounting system is based on accrual basis and on the system of double-entry book keeping. It may be mentioned here that journal Voucher should be introduced to make the accounting system as 'accrual'. According to the rules of double entry system, each entry is always entered in two different account i.e., every debit must have its corresponding credit. The primary books of account like cash book, general ledgers etc. have to be maintained at all accounting affairs following the principles of a double entry system.

The information on the above mentioned documents are recorded. Receipts/Payments Statements, (ii) Cash/Bank Books are regularly prepared by each and every unit of Nice Foundation, where financial activities take place.

Banking System of Nice Foundation

As per the relevant article of the Nice Foundation constitution all fund/ money of Nice Foundation are deposited in the banks recognized by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The Secretary and the concerned jointly operate bank accounts of Nice Foundation. If need, more accounts can be opened and jointly be operated by the Secretary and any other officer with the prior approval of the GB. Nice Foundation receives the donor fund through mother Account in Sonali Bank, Daulatpur Branch, Khulna, SB A/C no. 34040144.

Auditing System of Nice Foundation

Nice Foundation has a transparent management system. To ensure the proper implementation and management of activities, organization should observe the quality and accuracy of it through a third eye. Auditing procedure of Nice Foundation works as the third eye of the organization. Both internal and external audit are conducted by the organization.

Internal audit is conducted by the internal audit team selected by Governing Body. Though the internal audit team is guided by the Secretary it works independently. The government-recognized audit firm conducts an external Audit every year. Generally, the organization appoints NGOAB enlisted external audit firm for auditing of the organization. But in the case of auditing of project accounts, audit firms select by the donor.

Our Programmes and Activities

Our work to bring about a poverty-free, just society through strengthening the socio-economic condition of extremely poor people (especially destitute women) has seven program areas.

Programme themes



In addition, across-cutting themes, we seek to counter gender-based violence, the spread of HIV/AIDS and the use of tobacco control.

Geographical Coverage

To date, we have operated in the following parts of Bangladesh:

Division	District (zila)	Sub-district (upazila)
Khulna	Khulna	Khulna Sadar, Batiaghata, Dighalia, Dumuria, Koyra and Dacop
	Jessore	Monirampur, Keshobpur and Sador
	Bagerhat	Moralgang, Rampal and Mongla
	Satkhira	Tala
	Narail	Narail Sadar
Rangpur	Dinajpur	Khanshama (project closed)
Cox'sbazar	Teknaf	In Camp 4 & 4Ext. and Host Communities in Ukhya

Annex1: Major Projects and Research

SL	Project Name	Donor	Duration	Project Objectives
1	Health and Vocational Skill Development project for Dalit Community in Dighalia	Project Bangladesh, USA	2022-2025	To provide health services by MBBS Doctor To Provide skill development training for the Dalit Youths
2.	Emergency Response for Rohingya Women Community Women empowerment and social capital of the Rohingyas: Empirical evidence of refugee women living in Bangladesh	Tohoku University Japan	August-December 2023	To conduct a rural field survey at Rohingya refugee camps, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh Research Topic: Social Cohesion among Rohingya refugees and host communities Scope of work Survey preparation(Online and on site) Discussions regarding the survey through Skype Selection and training of research assistants Conducting the surveys through interviews Survey Management (including renting vehicles for transportation and finding respondents for interview. Collection of data Contents of deliverables A survey report including the following information shall be submitted. Survey schedule List of assistants List of survey participants with signatures

SL	Project Name	Donor	Duration	Project Objectives
				Collected interview information and data.
2	Education Health Support to Kawra Child Schooling Project	AFMR Foundation, Dhaka	2019-2025	To reduce the drop out of Dalit Kawra Children from formal school To provide education support to talented students
3	Dalit Women's Livelihood Development Project	Bangladesh NGO Foundation	2022-2023	To improve the livelihoods of extremely poor Kawra women through providing Sheep and training on sheep rearing.
4	A comparative study on Social Cohesion with Rohingya and Host community in Cox'sBazar	Tohoku University Japan	2023	To collect data on social cohesion and impact of influx in host community
5	Dalit Kawra Women Development Project	Global Fund for Women	2019-2024	South Asian Young Women Leaders Mentorship Program Creating Community Young Women Leaders
6	Vulnerable Group Development Project	Department of Women's Affairs (Bangladesh)	2017-18 2018-2019 2020-2022 2022-2024	To reach highly-disadvantaged rural women with food and training to enhance their livelihoods and self-reliance.
7	Strengthening the Human Rights Defenders Network Project	MSF/NED, USA	2020-2023	Capacity Building of Human Rights Defenders Facts Finding and Legal support to victims
8	Tobacco Control Campaign Project	AFIB, Dhaka	2019-2025	Campaign, advocacy, rally, publication on tobacco control
9	Special Latrine Installation projects for Dalit Kawra and Fisher folks project	Bangladesh NGO Foundation	2020-2022	Installation of model latrine for dalit community in Dacope and Dighalia Upazila
10	Lactating Mother Programme	Department of Women's Affairs (Bangladesh)	2018-2019 2019-2020	Monitoring of Lactating mother's safetyNet activities.
11	Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights Project	WaterAid, Bangladesh	2016-on going	Strengthening the SRHR Network

SL	Project Name	Donor	Duration	Project Objectives
12	Kinder Garden School Activities with Dalit Community	Own	2020- on going	To improve the educational system and stooping drop out at the primary level
13	Bio-diversity conservation support to Dalit community	UBINIG, Bangladesh	2018-2023	Naya Krishi Andolon Adaptive agriculture cultivation Saline tolerant Agriculture promotion
14	Health and Education Development Project in Kawra Para, Aronghata	Project Bangladesh, USA	2019-2022	To reduce the drop out of Dalit Kawra Children from formal school
15	Community-based Adaptive Learning in the Management of Conflict about natural resources in Bangladesh and Nepal	The Business Growth Fund, Middlesex University (UK)	2014-17	RESEARCH: to understand better the factors which lead to conflict or to co-operation in the light of the threat of climate change.
16	Participatory Action Research on Securing Livelihoods through Improving the Kawra pig-rearing Community	Netherlands Embassy through Blue Gold	2016-18	RESEARCH: to produce concrete strategies for getting better outputs from pig rearing even in unfavourable conditions.
17	Combating the Trafficking of Dalit Women and Children	Danida through Rights Jessore	2007-10	To increase awareness of women and children trafficking and jointly work with government and other concerned groups on the issue.
18	Ensure Primary Health Care, Water and Sanitation for Dalit Kawra Community	NGO Foundation (Bangladesh)	2007-08	To reduce mortality rates by increasing awareness of public health, water, sanitation and nutrition.
19	Promoting Peace and Co-existence in Bangladesh	Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bangladesh)	2016	To work with stakeholders, decision-makers and the Kawra pig-rearing community to facilitate their rights on pig rearing in a peaceful and cordial atmosphere.
20	Livelihood Development and Professional Rights of the Kawra pig-rearing Community	Global Fund for Women	2008-09	To assess the socio-economic condition of the Kawra pig-rearing community so that a concrete strategy can be developed for the alleviation of poverty.
21	The Kawra Women's Livelihood Development Project	NGO Foundation Bangladesh)	2008-11	To improve livelihood of extremely poor women from the Kawra community by improving their

SL	Project Name	Donor	Duration	Project Objectives
				capacity and financial means.
22	Adult Education for Dalit Women	Gram Bangla Committee (Bangladesh)	2008-11	To increase overall literacy rate and empower women both within the family and more generally.
23	Increasing Attendance of Poor Kawra Children in Schools	Hope for the Children (United Kingdom)	2009-10	To reduce the dropout rate in pre-primary schools, especially of poor girls from the Kawra community.
24	Increasing Women's Participation in Water Management in Khulna	NGO Foundation (Bangladesh)	2009-10	To reduce pressure on underground water especially in February-April when levels low.
25	Improved technology Saline-tolerant Agriculture	International Rice Research Institute	2009-12	To familiarise farmers with modern techniques and technology for cultivating saline-tolerant agriculture.
26	Enhancing the Urban's Poor's Understanding of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	Own Funds	2010-11	To increase knowledge about safe water, sanitation and hygiene among the urban poor and in slum areas.
27	The Role of Floodplain Community-based Organisations in Coping with Risk	The Business Growth Fund, Middlesex University (UK)	2010-12	RESEARCH: to understand how community organisations' decisions are influenced by perceived risks in relation to disaster planning.
28	Research on Professional Beggars in Khulna	Own funds	2010	RESEARCH: to understand better the reasons for begging in Khulna and to make recommendations for how it can be reduced through meeting beggars' individual needs.
29	Improvement of Sanitation and Drinking Water	Qatar Charity	2010-11	To ensure the access to safe water and sanitation facilities at affordable costs, focusing on areas in south-west Bangladesh where the need is greatest.
30	Community-based Bio-diversity Management Project	Probartana/UBI NIG NGOs (Bangladesh)	2011-12	To increase awareness of climate changes and protect the eco-system.
31	Kawra Women's Livelihood Development Project	NGO Foundation (Bangladesh)	2011-14	To improve the livelihoods of extremely poor Kawra women through providing pigs and training on pig rearing.

SL	Project Name	Donor	Duration	Project Objectives
32	Health and Education Development Project for Children from the Kawra Community	Project Bangladesh (USA)	2011-18	To increase children's enrolment in primary-level schooling and reduce the drop-out rate; and to improve children's health through improved nutrition and food education at school.
33	Distribution of Blankets to the Dalit Poor in Flood-prone Areas	Project Bangladesh (USA)	Jan 2012	Distribution of 500 blankets to families in need during exceptionally cold weather.
34	Distribution of Plants to the Poor in Flood-plain Areas	Project Bangladesh (USA)	June 2013	Distribution of 1,000 plants to 200 families to bolster flood defences and protect the environment in flood-prone areas.
35	Minority Women's Livelihood and Child Education Development Project	NGO Foundation (Bangladesh)	2014-17	To reduce the rate of drop out of school children at primary level; and to improve Kawra living standards.
36	Relief Support to Flood Victims in North Bengal	Project Bangladesh (USA), own funds and a donor from Dhaka	Aug-Sept 2017	Providing food and education to flood-affected families.
37	Kawra Women's Livelihood Development Project	Bangladesh NGO Foundation	2017-18	To improve the livelihoods of extremely poor Kawra women by providing capacity building and technical training.
38	Kawra Women's Capacity Development Project	Global Fund for Women (USA)	2017-20	To develop the capacity of Kawrapig-rearing women through skills and management training.