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NGOs In Environmental Education—II

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h) Material Development : This is another area where the NGOs can contribute. BRAC, VERC, GSS, FIVDB, CARITAS, ACTION AID, etc have the experience of developing educational materials.

i) Demonstration and trend setting : NGOs have been playing a very important role in demonstration and trend setting which are also communicating, motivating and educating. For example, NIJERA KORI has set a small environment friendly solar power system for use in its office premises in a remote village of Noakhali; CCDB has such a system for water pumping in front of its office in a village of greater Rajshahi district; BRAC, PROSHIKA-MUK,

Comilla Proshika, CARITAS, Poush and many other NGOs have demonstrative activities in supply of clean water and sanitation, and afforestation; Proshika-MUK and some other NGOs have demonstrative activities in environmentally sound agricultural practices. People are gradually convinced through demonstration and education about the utilities of environment friendly technology and practices. Targeted participants of the non-formal environmental education can be physically shown and explained these for their knowledge. In some cases, trend is set, e.g., clean water and sanitation, and afforestation.

i) Documentation and Research :

While implementing many non-formal environmental educational activities along with sustainable development work, scope and opportunities have been created for documentation and research.

j) Acculturation : Projects and programmes are the planned activities while acculturation produces desired behaviour habitually and spontaneously. NGOs have a greater role in acculturation through non-formal environmental education. After the projects die, habit and sustained conducive behaviour will remain.

k) Networking, Partnership and Coalition : In promoting non-formal environmental education NGOs can do networking, partnership and

coalition. In Bangladesh, there is a Coalition of Environmental NGOs (CEN) to raise environmental awareness and to work for environmental issues.

NGOs have been playing an important role in the process of transformation. In this transformation, issue of environment is profound. Hence, the role of NGOs in non-formal environmental education should be properly recognized.

The writer is Executive Director of Comilla Proshika Centre For Development, The above was presented at a recent workshop on "Importance of Non-formal Environmental Education" organized by Bangladesh POUSH.