

We draw our own map



Amader Gram ICT4D project

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Pallab Mohaimen & Arafat Shahriar Translated by: Jiniya Afroz

We know what maps are. We know the variety of maps that exist. Maps of the world, the continents, countries and big cities drawn in different ways. Even the plans of houses mapped out too. All driven by demand or necessity, reflecting commercial, not human, interest. For this reason, we hardly find maps of villages. Where they do exist, they are likely to be hundred-year-old land drawings.

If we want development at village level, then maps are essential. A single map of a single village can give us the real geographical arrangement at the grassroots level. If the mosques, rivers, bridges and culverts of the villages are included, then things become very clear. The overall impression of the village situation can be revealed.

The Amader Gram mapping project

Understanding the significance of maps for village development, the Amader Gram ICT4D project began the mapping project in four villages in Rampal thana, Bagerhat district: Sreefoltola, Kamranga, Newmarket and Dokkhinpara

Amader Gram mapping team

Md Rezaul Karim	Mahmud Sheikh
Md Hadiuzzaman	Torikul Islam
Borhan Sheikh	Abul Kalam
Rasel Mahmud	Sohel Rana

The mapping process

Who best to draw the maps? The village people themselves, mapping their own village.

One group was assigned for each village. Two members of the Amader Gram team worked in each group. Each group got three days to explore their village and produce their map.

The mapping team leader, Md Rezaul Karim, confirmed that two days was spent exploring, followed by one day of map drawing.

All houses, markets, mosques, temples, rivers, old gardens, bridges, culverts, tubewells, mazars and other local details were included. Symbols were used, as in traditional mapping.

▼ Students mapping the village

Initially the maps were drawn on separate sheets of tracing paper. Once they were all complete, the four village maps were combined into one. It then became possible to show the four different villages in a single map. The team then scanned these drawings into the computer and rendered them as digital maps. It is now possible to view the maps at different scales on screen and to print the whole maps, or just selected sections.

In future the basic map can be used in various sectors to guide programme development and implementation.

The Amader Gram team want to include other villages of Rampal thana within this project.





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Amader Gram
ICT4D Project

Khardar, Daspara More
Bagerhat 9300, Bangladesh

Tel: +880 468 62212

Fax: +880 468 63592

E-mail: info@amadergram.org

www.amadergram.org

Amader Gram Knowledge Portal:

www.amadergramonline.net