

Kajoli Model Center for Children of Waste Pickers:



A research project supported by RIB on cleaning workers and waste pickers (scavengers) in two large garbage dumps in and around the capital city, Dhaka, had led to the discovery of a large number of very young children who accompany their mothers to their work sites. These children are normally left to play and scavenge on the filth and stench of the dumps. As a follow-up to the project, RIB decided to experiment with the idea of opening a Kajoli Model center for these children in the Matuail Dump Site in Dhaka, which is the largest garbage dumping ground in the country. The Center is presently run by Grambangla Unnayan Committee, referred to above, under the leadership of Mr. A.K.M. Maksud.

There are some 30 children who attend the Center for four hours a day under a teacher who himself is from a very disadvantaged background. The Center has become extremely popular with the mothers since it also serves as a day care center for the children. RIB is seeking to attract additional funds to extend the scope of the project and increase the number of such centers to other dumps in the country.