

# JANUARY 2017

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## JANUARY ACTIVITY REPORT 2017

### Seminar:

A seminar on “**Accessibility Rights of Women with Disabilities**” is being organized with the initiative of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF), at **Azimur Rahman conference hall, the Daily Star Bhaban**, on Thursday, 5th January 2017 from 10 AM to 2 PM. in order to discuss the scenario of the accessibility right of Women With Disabilities and how their advancement is being interrupted due to depriving them from this momentous right. We urge for an inclusive, anti discriminatory and Women with Disabilities friendly society for all. WDDF run and led by Women with Disabilities has been working as collective force with the Government, policy makers, representatives of civil society and media for the inclusion of Women with Disabilities in mainstream development process through reducing their challenges and discrimination in the issue of accessibility. The seminar was being moderated and keynote paper was being presented by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF). In this paper she mentioned that most of Women with Disabilities (WWDs) is suffering from inaccessible environment and deprived from their equal citizen rights.



This large number of girls and Women with Disabilities in Bangladesh are one of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged segment of the society. They are always discriminated based on gender, disabled and all too often, poorest of the poor. They are frequently subjected to discrimination both directly and indirectly and also negative attitudes. In spite of having arrived in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, there is no accessible road and public transport for Persons with Disabilities. So, the scenario of the movement of Women with disabilities is extremely vulnerable in the existing situation. Though UNCRPD Article-9 'Accessibility' noted that, enable persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas. In the consequence of our continuous advocacy and voice raising, 'National Action Plan' on 'Women Advancement Policy 2011' has been mentioned Two reserve seats for WWDs in National Parliament but no initiative has been adopted to implement or actualize this decision.

In the light of realizing this situation, WDDF has organized this seminar due to advancing forward with this issue.

The participants of the open discussion have clearly been stated that, Without having been enjoyed basic rights including accessibility right in road, public transport and public buildings along with equal participation, all types of Women With Disabilities haven't been included in the mainstream of development and in this consequence, national development will extremely be interrupted.

Begum **Tarana Halim MP, Honourable State Minister, Ministry of Posts, Telecommunication and Information Technology** was attended as Chief Guest in the seminar. Besides, Khandakar Atiar Rahman, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare,

**Kamal Krishna Bhattacharyya, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Railways**, Md. Abdul Malek, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Road, Transport, Bridge, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dr. Abu Sayeed M Ahmed, **Immediate Past President, Institute of Architect Bangladesh** and Mr. Iqbal Habib, City and Environment Specialist were present as special Guests.

Welcome Speech was being delivered by Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) and vote of thanks was being delivered by Reshma Akter, Project Officer, WDDF.



### 2. Advocacy Meeting with the representatives of Disabled Peoples Organizations (DPOs):

An advocacy meeting was being organized with the representatives of WDDF as well as the representatives of DPOs, on 14 January 2017, in NADPO office.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Mst. Habiba Khatun, Project Officer of WDDF were participated in this advocacy meeting. Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF submitted a number of proposals to the representatives, about the duties of DPOs on skill development of Women with Disabilities of grass root level through enhancing their leadership, their inclusion in Income Generating Activities (IGA) as well as proactive participation of Women with Disabilities in the process of decision making including implementation along with actualization of policy and action plan in local level in order to leading their torture free and dignified lives. She also mentioned that, the activities of DPOs should be executed considering the improvement of Women with Disabilities and Women with Disabilities right based. Otherwise, proper improvement will be interrupted. The representatives of DPOs were very cordial and cooperative to us. Conveying their full support and solidarity to our proposals, The representatives of DPOs expressed their firm commitment to adopt required initiatives to actualize the submitted proposals for the improvement of Women with Disabilities in future.

### 3. National Sharing Meeting on CEDAW:

A National Sharing meeting of Citizen's Initiatives on CEDAW, Bangladesh (CIC-BD) on the experience of 8<sup>th</sup> CEDAW Shadow Report sharing in 65<sup>th</sup> CEDAW session in Geneva, Switzerland was being organized on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at CIRDAP Auditorium.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, and Md. Hasanuzzaman, Accounts Coordinator of WDDF were participated in this National Sharing meeting.

#### 4. Orientation for conducting survey:

An Orientation program for conducting survey in order to identify Women with Disabilities of Three unions 'Gouripur', 'Baropara' and 'Daudkandi Uttar' of D'audkandi Subdistrict, was being organized by Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF), in Mukul Niketan, on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

Six volunteers were participated in this orientation program; They've been appointed to collect the information of Women with Disabilities from door to door. These volunteers are divided in to Three groups and Two volunteers in each group for Each union. Welcome speech is being delivered by Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, WDDF. Simultaneously she described briefly about the process of data collection, preparation of daily result sheet and accumulate information in the final result sheet of each group. Key presentation including guideline of orientation is being delivered by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF. In this presentation she mentioned about the definition and types of disability in accordance with the 'Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013', process of identifying Persons/Women with Disabilities as well as elaborate information about the characteristics of their disabilities and assistive device.

In the question answer session, the volunteers reviewed the whole survey form and inquired many questions on disability issue and WDDF representatives answers all the questions for their proper understanding. Finally, Two survey forms are being filled up by the volunteers for their practice. The survey of Women with Disabilities is being continued with the close supervision of Masuma Akter, Vice-Chairperson, WDDF. So, it is instructed to all the volunteers that, they've to complete the survey forms accurately, with responsibility and sincerity as well as they're accountable for their regular activities to the supervisor Masuma Akter. Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Masuma Akter, Vice-Chairperson, Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, Md. Hasanuzzaman, Accounts Officer and Habiba Khatun, Project Officer of WDDF were present in this orientation program.

#### 5. Advocacy Meeting with the representatives of National Disabled Grassroot Organization (NGDO) and National Council of Disabled Women (NCDW):

An advocacy meeting was being organized with the representatives of WDDF as well as the representatives of National Disabled Grassroot Organization (NGDO) and National Council of Disabled Women (NCDW), on 24th January 2017, in the office of NGDO along with NCDW.



Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, Md. Hasanuzzaman, Accounts Officer and Mst. Habiba Khatun, Project Officer of WDDF were participated in this advocacy meeting. Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF submitted a number of proposals to the representatives, about the duties of DPOs on skill development of Women with Disabilities of grass root level through enhancing their leadership, their inclusion in Income Generating Activities (IGA) as well as proactive participation of Women with Disabilities in the process of decision making including implementation along with actualization of policy and action plan in local level in order to leading their torture free and dignified lives. She also mentioned that, the activities of DPOs should be executed considering the improvement of Women with Disabilities and Women with Disabilities right based. Otherwise, proper improvement will be interrupted. Shirin Akhter emphasized on the unity of DPOs specially, Women with Disabilities led DPOs. She mentioned that, as Women with Disabilities are still now extremely vulnerable due to gender and disability, so we have to work unitedly and we've to raise united and strong voice for their advancement through achieving their basic human rights.

The representatives of DPOs were very cordial and cooperative to us. Conveying their full support and solidarity to our proposals, The representatives of DPOs expressed their firm commitment to adopt required initiatives to actualize the submitted proposals for the improvement of Women with Disabilities in future.

#### 6. Workshop on Reproductive Health Rights of Women with Disabilities:

A Workshop on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) of Women with Disabilities was being organized by Share-net Bangladesh in ICDDR, on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017. Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Mst. Habiba Khatun, Project Officer of WDDF were present in this meeting. Shirin Akhter mentioned that, SRHR is immensely an important issue for Women with Disabilities but they are totally deprived from this issue due to their disability. WDDF has already organized a number of training on SRHR of Women with Disabilities in order to grow their awareness on this issue and it is seen that, SRHR issue is completely a secret and an alien issue to the Women with Disabilities but they're always suffering different types of physical complexity including various types of female diseases because of this unidentified issue to them. So, it is very essential for Women with Disabilities to lead productive, healthy and disease free lives through having the opportunity of practicing Reproductive Health Rights of them as well as the information, articles and equipments about SRHR should be accessible and easily achievable for all types of Women with Disabilities.

#### 7. Discussion Meeting with the Managing Director (MD) of Jatiya Protibandhi Unnayan Foundation (JPUF):

A discussion meeting was held with the representatives of WDDF as well as the Managing Director of Jatiya Protibandhi Unnayan Foundation (JPUF) on 25th January 2017, at 3 PM, in the office of JPUF.

The representatives of EC including the officials of WDDF attended in the above mentioned meeting.

Kamrun Nahar Begum, Managing Director, Jatiya Protibandhi Unnayan Foundation (JPUF) expressed her heartiest thanks to the representatives of WDDF. Afterwards, Ashrafun Nahar, the Executive Director of WDDF, on behalf of the representatives of WDDF, submitted a paper including the accomplishment, objectives along with a few proposals and Shirin Akhter, Chairperson of WDDF, submitted a brief report on the activities for the promotion and protection of the rights along with dignity of WWDs to the Vice Chancellor and call upon to express the solidarity on behalf of JPUF to these issues.

The Managing Director was very cordial and cooperative to us. She expressed Her full support and solidarity to our proposals and she is agreed with us that, a focal person will be appointed in JPUF in order to discuss the important, emergency issue and to solve the problems of Persons specially Women with Disabilities, JPUF will completely be accessible for all types of Persons with Disabilities as well as 25% of JPUF donation will be allocated for the Women with Disabilities led Organizations. She also said that, present Government is very compassionate to the Persons with Disabilities and very much committed to fulfill their demands.



Above all, it is said that, in the present perspective, the adopted initiative by WDDF, of organizing this dialogue between the representatives of WDDF and the authority of JPUF in order to include the Women with Disabilities in the mainstream of development by ensuring their equal rights along with dignity is really very time required and effective. At the end of the discussion meeting, the representatives after having been attended in the above mentioned meeting expressed their satisfactory feelings and positive remarks.

## ABOUT WDDF

The estimated number of Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) in Bangladesh, is around 24 million people, which constitutes 15 % of total population. 15% of Population have a disability.

Half of these are female. This is 12 Million girls and women with disabilities (WWDs).

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