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JULY 2016

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July Activity Report 2016

We are concluded the following activities, during the period of July 2016 are as follows:

1. Discussion Meeting with the Chief Architect, Architecture Department:

A discussion meeting was held between the representatives of WDDF and the Chief Architect of Architecture Department on 13th July 2016, at 11 AM, in his office.

The officials of WDDF attended in the above mentioned meeting.

Kazi Golam Nasir, Chief Architect, Architecture Department expressed his heartiest thanks to the representatives of WDDF.

Afterwards, Ashrafun Nahar, the Executive Director of WDDF, on behalf of the representatives of WDDF, submitted a proposal for organizing a seminar on 'Accessibility of Persons with Disabilities including Women with Disabilities in Road, Footpath, Overbridged and Transport', with the initiative of WDDF in collaboration with Architecture Department and call upon to express the solidarity on behalf of Architecture Department to this issue.

The Chief Architect was very cordial and cooperative to us. He expressed his interest to organize a seminar regarding this issue and suggested to organize a discussion meeting with the President of Institute of Architecture Bangladesh (IAB), after organizing this meeting to consist a committee with the representatives from Three institutions (WDDF, Architecture department and IAB) for working together to organize this seminar. He expressed his full support and solidarity to our proposal. Hehe also said that, present Government is very compassionate to the PWDs 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 discussion meeting between the representatives of WDDF and the authority of Architecture Department in order to include the WWDs 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.

2. Seminar with District Judge:

A seminar on 'Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2000' was held on 15th July 2016, at the auditorium of Barisal Judge Court. This seminar is being organized by Bangladesh Protibondhi Unnayan Sangstha (BPUS). Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF was participated as facilitator in this seminar. As a facilitator, on behalf of Women with Disabilities, it was a great opportunity for her to share with a group of judges about the challenges of Women with disabilities for access to justice through this legislation. She stated that, this legislation hasn't address the issue of women with disabilities and their special needs. So, Women with Disabilities aren't getting opportunity to enjoy the advantage of this legislation properly. This legislation has already been amended in 2003 and we directly proposed to the law Commissioner to include the issue of Women with Disabilities but the Law Commissioner didn't accept this proposal and said that, it is not possible to address disability issue in this legislation rather, a strong legislation should be enacted for Persons with Disabilities. So, this legislation has been amended without addressing the issue of Women with Disabilities. Ashrafun Nahar also pointed out that, as this legislation hasn't address the issue of Women with Disabilities, they have to face multifaceted challenges to get justice through this legislation and in many cases victim women with disabilities are deprived from obtaining justice. So, it is immensely important to amend this legislation through including the articles about Women with Disabilities and their special needs which will be very helpful for obtaining justice.

3. Copy of legislations and policy in Braille version distribution program:

A discussion meeting on the occasion of Copy of a number of legislations, Rules of legislations and policy in Braille version distribution program was being held on 19th July 2016, at VIP Lounge of National Pressclub. This program was being organized by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) and Mr. Atiar Rahaman, Additional Secretary, Social Welfare Ministry was present as the Chief Guest of this program. All the participants are mentioned in their speeches that, Certainly, this is a great initiative for the Lawyers and activists with Visual Impairments which has taken by MJF for the first time to distribute a number of legislations, rules of legislations and policy amongst the Disabled Peoples Organizations (DPOs) and lawyers along with activists with Visual Impairments. These Braille documents regarding legislations and policy will be very helpful for the activists with Visual Impairments to cooperate to the Persons with Disabilities for practicing and achieving their equal rights through utilizing these legislations and policy properly.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and reshma Akter, Project Officer of WDDF were participated in this program and Shirin Akhter on behalf of WDDF has received the Braille documents. She told that, this is the momentous gift of life, we are delighted to receive the copy of legislations, rules of legislations and policy for the first time which will enrich our selvss and in this consequence, the persons with Visual Impairment will be able to enhance their participation and inclusion in all affairs of the society including decision making level.

4. Exchanging meeting on Reproductive health rights and family building of Women with disabilities:

An Exchanging Meeting on Reproductive health rights and Family Building of Women with Disabilities was being held on 25th July 2016, at the auditorium of Women Affairs Department. This exchanging meeting was being organized by Turning Point Foundation. The issue on reproductive health rights and family building especially for the women with disabilities was being discussed elaborately in this meeting. All the participants of this exchanging meeting were discussed their life experience before & after marriage as well as different types of complexity of family relation and family building. Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Reshma Akter, Project Officer of WDDF were participated in this meeting. Ashrafun Nahar emphasized on the reproductive health rights of Women with Disabilities; She said that, it is immensely important to manage the issue of reproductive health of Women with Disabilities with consciousness and carefully. As a Woman with Disability, due to negligence, limited movement, lack of understanding and clear ideas, unreachable information and having no opportunity of training, most of the Women with Disabilities aren't being able to maintain their reproductive health properly and suffering

from the problem of unhygienic reproductive health. So, we should take proper initiative in order to create consciousness about the importance of reproductive health and its protection process amongst Women with Disabilities.

Shirin Akhter pointed out that, Women with Disabilities are capable enough to build and manage family relation but due to negative attitude and superstitious mind set they aren't being able to continue family relation. In spite of having valuable contribution of Women with Disabilities in their family, they are always deprived from getting their family rights due to disability. Simultaneously, lack of proper counseling along with access to justice they are also deprived from obtaining justice. So, we've to take required initiative with united endeavor for not only building family of Women with Disabilities but also having opportunity to lead family life as well as to enjoy family rights with self dignity through eliminating the existing limitations.

5. Training on 'Right To Information Act (RTI)':

A Training on 'Right To Information Act (RTI)' was being held on 31st July 2016, at the auditorium of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF). This training with the participation of 31 different types of Women with disabilities, is being organized by Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) in collaboration with Sitakund Federation of DPO. A constructive and illustrative presentation is being delivered by the resource person of this training, Mr. Rejaul Karim Siddiquee, Advocate Supreme Court and Senior Researcher Bangladesh Legal Services and Trust (BLAST). Mr. Vaskar Vatta Chariya, National Consultant, Web Accessibility A To I, Prime Minister's Office and President of Sitakund Federation of DPO was present in the abovementioned training.

This training is being started at 10.00 AM, 31st July 2016, with the welcome remarks of Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director of WDDF including the required information and expected learnings/aims of this training. After that, an introductory session of all the participants and representatives is being conducted by Ashrafun Nahar and all the participants and representatives are introduced with each other in this session.

After having introductory session been finished, Mr. Vaskar Vatta Chariya, National Consultant, Web Accessibility A To I, Prime Minister's Office and President of Sitakund Federation of DPO is being requested to deliver his speech. In his speech he noted that, now it is immensely important for all types of Women with Disabilities to gain knowledge and experience about different legislations, policy and technology concurrently the utilizing methods of these legislations, policy along with technology; otherwise it will be very difficult for them to enjoy their rights properly. Besides, he delivered a brief and valuable presentation on accessible technology for Persons with Disabilities.

Followed by the introductory session, the resource person started his key presentation on 'Right To Information Act (RTI)' and this presentation includes:

1. What is RTI?
2. II) How are the people benefited through utilizing this legislation?

III) What type of information can we get through utilizing this legislation?

1. IV) How can we apply for getting information?
2. V) How can we fill the form up?
3. VI) What type of sources are accountable to provide information?

VII) What is Information Commission? And What its responsibility?

Many questions come from participants in the question-answer session, the resource person responded all the questions and he clearly clarified how to apply for getting information from different sources. He also assured that, in collaboration with WDDF, he will always be ready to cooperate Persons specially Women with Disabilities to apply and to obtain information through utilizing this legislation.

From the responses of all the participants, it would be noted that, this is an effective and time required training for them. Most of the participants have no idea about this legislation and easy along with preferable method of getting accurate and required information. The participants are also pointed out that, Persons specially Women with Disabilities of remote areas are deprived from Government services and facilities and due to lack of accurate information they are always left behind. So, considering the susceptibility of Persons specially Women with Disabilities, this type of training should be organized in divisional and district level.

6. Training on 'Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013':

A Training with the participation of 30 different types of Women with disabilities, on 'Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013' was being organized by Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) in its own auditorium, on 31st July 2016. A constructive and illustrative presentation is being delivered by the resource person of this training, Ms. Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director of WDDF. Mr. Jibon William Gomej, Facilitator, Abilis Foundation and Executive Director of Turningpoint Foundation was present in the abovementioned training.

This training is being started at 2.00 PM, 31st July 2016, with the welcome remarks of Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director of WDDF including the required information and expected learnings/aims of this training. After that, an introductory session of all the participants is being conducted by Ashrafun Nahar and all the participants are introduced with each other in this session. After having introductory session been finished, Mr. Jibon William Gomej Facilitator, Abilis Foundation and Executive Director of Turningpoint Foundation is being requested to deliver his speech. In his speech he noted that, now it is immensely important for all types of Women with Disabilities to gain knowledge and experience about different legislations and policy specially this legislation entitled 'Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013', though this act hasn't been addressed the issue of Women with Disabilities separately. Concurrently the utilizing methods of these legislations and policy; otherwise it will be very difficult for them to enjoy their rights properly.

Followed by the introductory session, the resource person started her key presentation on 'Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013' and this presentation includes:

1. Logicality of Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013,
2. II) Types of disability,

III) Vitality and utilization of this legislation for Persons with Disabilities,

1. IV) Fundamental rights of Persons with Disabilities in accordance with this legislation,
2. V) Different committees mentioned in the legislation and their responsibilities,
3. VI) Justice, free from torture and legal support of this legislation,

VII) No separation and Social inclusion.

The resource person suggested to the participants that, everybody should have proper conception and knowledge about this legislation concurrently they should have try to use the specific reference of this legislation for utilizing in required area. In case of any requirement, WDDF will always take proper initiative to cooperate to the Women with Disabilities through legal aid service providing organizations. Otherwise, it will be very difficult for them to enjoy their rights through the implementation of this legislation properly.

From the responses of all the participants, it would be noted that, this is an effective and time required training for them. Most of the participants have come to know the name of this legislation but they aren't aware about the basic rights for Persons with Disabilities are mentioned in this legislation. The participants are also pointed out that, Persons specially Women with Disabilities of remote areas are deprived from Government services and facilities and due to lack of accurate information they are always left behind. So, considering the susceptibility of Persons specially Women with Disabilities, this type of training should be organized in divisional and district level.

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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