



**WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (WDDF)**  
(AND ORGANIZATION OF AND BY THE WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES WORKING FOR ALL)

## April 2018

We are concluded the following activities, during the period of April 2018 are as follows:

### 1. Training:

A day long training with the participation of 24 different types of Women with Disabilities, on 'United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)' (Article 13, 15, 16) and 'Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)' (Goal 16) in order to create easy access to justice was being organized with the initiative of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF), **Locally Supported by Bogura Zila Spandon Protibandhi Nari Parisad**, at Conference Hall, Red Chillies Restaurant, Bogura, on Monday, 2nd April 2018.


This training was divided in to Two parts:

A. Inaugural session and

B. Core session.

There was One fascilitator and One Co-facilitator to conduct the training theoretically and practically for the Women with Disabilities properly. The representatives from local government were present as Chief Guest and Special Guests in this training.

The inaugural session of this training is being started at 11.00 AM, 2nd April 2018, with the welcome remarks of Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, WDDF. After welcome speech, 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, Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director of WDDF is being requested to deliver her speech on Significance, purpose including the



required information and expected learnings/aims of this training. Then, S. M. Saifur Rahman, Executive Director, Protik Mohila O Sheshu Sangstha (PMSS) is being requested to deliver his speech about the gaps and challenges of Persons specially Women with Disabilities in the issue of access to justice. Followed by the speech of facilitator, Md. Rashedul Hasan, Instructor, Teachers Training College, Bogra is being requested to deliver his speech as special Guest about the initiatives have been adopted for Persons with Disabilities as well as his responsibilities and duties to them on behalf of Government to make our activities easy and helpful. After that, Md. Hamidul Islam, Union Nirbahi Officer (UNO) and Executive Majistrate , Bogura Sadar Upazila is being requested to deliver his speech as Chief Guest. He is very sincere, responsible and also very glad to be invited in this program. He said that, he is agreed with the existing barriers of Persons specially Women with Disabilities in Bogra and he is trying to reduce these challenges step by step. This inauguration program is being presided over Rebeka Akter, President of **Bogra Zila Spandon Protibandhi Nari Parisad**.

#### **Core session of the training:**

It is noted that, since most of the Women with Disabilities are from very grassroot level and they're participating in this type of training for the first time; So, the core session is being divided in to Three sessions:


**A. Initial discussion,**


**B. 1<sup>st</sup> session and**

**C. 2<sup>nd</sup> session.**

**A. Initial discussion:** In initial discussion, purpose and importance of this training for Women with Disabilities are being discussed by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF and Facilitator of this training.

**Followed by this discussion, S. M. Saifur Rahman,** Executive Director, Protik Mohila O Sheshu Sangstha (PMSS) and Co-facilitator of this training discussed **a number of instructions for the training**





participants and request them to follow these instructions strictly at training period in order to make this training effective. After that, participants are requested to express their expectation from this training, one expectation per participant to analyse their understanding level.

#### **1st session:**

**This session is being facilitated by** Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director of WDDF and Facilitator of this training.

The topic of this session is “United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)”


(Article 13) “Access to justice”, (Article 15) “**Freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment**” and (Article 16) “**Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse**”.


This topic includes:

- I) What is UN CRPD?
- II) What is Access? and What is justice?
- III) Key speeches of these articles.
- IV) Why are these articles important to know for us?
- V) What is the connection between article 13, 15, 16 and obtaining justice?

#### **2nd session:**

**This session is being facilitated by** S. M. Saifur Rahman, Executive Director, Protik Mohila O Sheshu Sangstha (PMSS) and Co-facilitator of this training.





The topic of this session is “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”


(Goal 16 “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”)


This topic includes:

- I) What is SDGs?
- II) What is Inclusive? and What is Institution?
- III) Key speech of this Goal.
- IV) Why is this goal important to know for us?
- V) What is the connection between goal 16 and obtaining justice?

The facilitators suggested to the participants that, everybody should have proper conception and knowledge about these treaty and document concurrently they should have try to use the specific reference of these treaty and document 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 these treaty and documents 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 haven’t any idea about these treaty and document and they aren’t aware about the basic rights for Persons with Disabilities are mentioned in these treaty and document. The participants are also pointed out that, Persons






especially 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 regularly.


## 2. Discussion meeting with the representatives of Bogura print media:

A discussion meeting with the representatives of Bogura print media was being organized with the initiative of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF), **Locally Supported by Bogura Zila Spandon Protibandhi Nari Parisad**, , on Tuesday, 3rd April 2018 at the Conference Hall, Red Chillies Restaurant, Bogura.

Welcome remarks is being delivered by Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, WDDF.

After welcome speech, a paper about the roles and responsibilities of the representatives of print media to make justice system supportive and friendly for Women with Disabilities was being presented by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF. She mentioned that, Women with Disabilities are deprived from obtaining justice due to having gender and disability, they're often becoming victim of mental, physical and sexual torture and violence in their family and society. But most of the incidents haven't ever been expressed and the minimum number of incidents are being expressed publicly and come to an end without any justice. From long time working experience it is seen that, negative attitude, social negligence towards Women with Disabilities, superstitions, illiteracy, poverty, lack of awareness and self-confidence of Women with Disabilities and their parents and infrastructural and informational inaccessibility in all areas of the society including justice institutions of all levels are the most important barriers for the advancement of Women with Disabilities. So, the representatives of print media may play a contributive role through their realistic and time required intervention among Persons Specially Women with Disabilities and their existing barriers, community people, civil society representatives and Government service providers.





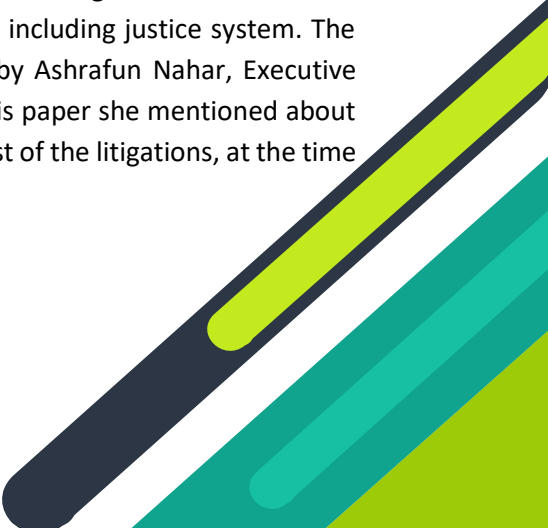
After that, in an open discussion presided over Vice president of Bogura Pressclub, the representatives shared that, they're interested to work in order to reduce the challenges of Persons with Disabilities and a number of representatives also shared their experience of taking initiatives to highlight different challenges of Persons with Disabilities through their writings. Besides, the representatives are discussed that, what types of challenges are faced by Women with Disabilities and which issues should be highlighted by the representatives of media. It is also discussed that, not only challenges and problems but also potentialities and success of Women with Disabilities should be published in newspapers.


Specially, incidence of violence of Women with Disabilities should be published with high importance.

Finally, the representatives of print media expressed their firm commitment that, they will raise their cooperative hands to make the social institutions and society supportive for Women with Disabilities as well as they will be played a contributive role for their advancement.

### 3. Seminar in Bogura:

A seminar on “**Access to Justice for Women with Disabilities**” is being organized with the initiative of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF), **Locally Supported by Bogra Zila Spandon Protibandhi Nari Parisad**, at the Conference Hall, Red Chillies Restaurant, Bogura, on Wednesday, 4th April 2018 from 10 AM to 2 PM. in order to discuss the scenario of access to justice for Women With Disabilities and how their human rights are being violated due to inaccessible and long procedures in justice system. So, 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 infrastructural and informational accessibility in all aspects including justice system. 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 about the constitutional and legal rights of Girls and Women with disabilities. Most of the litigations, at the time







of witness adopting procedures in Court, sign language interpreter aren't being used for the victim girls or women with Speech and Hearing or intellectual impairments. Police officers and medical officers aren't cooperative to file the litigations of victim girls or women with Disabilities and legal institutions aren't disabled friendly. Most of Women with Disabilities (WWDs) are suffering from inaccessible justice system and deprived from their equal citizen rights. In spite of having been arrived in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, there are no accessibility in Judge courts, District courts, even in Supreme Court for Persons with Disabilities. Most of the laws are formulated and enacted without the inclusion and participation of Persons with Disabilities. So, the scenario of the sufferings of Women with disabilities in the ongoing legal support and services is extremely vulnerable in the existing situation. Though UNCRPD Article-13 'Access to justice' noted that, States Parties shall ensure effective access to justice for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, including through the provision of procedural and age-appropriate accommodations, in order to facilitate their effective role as direct and indirect participants, including as witnesses, in all legal proceedings, including at investigative and other preliminary stages. The panel discussants of this seminar shared their challenging experiences and complexity to get justice of Women with Disabilities. They also stated that, though 'Persons With Disabilities Rights and protection Act 2013 and UNCRPD mentioned the issue of getting justice for Persons with Disabilities with very significance, With the strong advocacy and voice raising of Women with disabilities Rights activists, only Three legal aid support providing organizations BLAST, BRAC and BNWLA have come forward with their extensive hand to provide legal services for Women with Disabilities. Without having been enjoyed basic human rights including accessibility right in justice system along with participation, SDGs won't be achieved properly. 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 justice system 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.

Alimun Rajib, Additional District Majistrate (ADM) Bogura was present as Chief Guest in the program. Besides, Shahidul Islam Khan, Officer, Department of Social Services Bogura, Md. Shahidul Islam, Officer, Women Affairs Department Bogura, Representative on behalf of Biraj Chandra Sarker, Principal, Teachers Training College, Bogura, Dr. Khandakar Alangir Hossen, Executive Director, GUK, Md. Harun Ar Rashid, Chief Executive, Light House, Md. Anwarul Islam, Member, Legal Aid Committee, Spandan, Mrs. Mafuzara Miva, Executive Director, PASD, Md. Ziaur Rahman, Executive Director, Shopno, Md. Lutfar Rahman,





Senior Manager, Legal Aid Support Centre, BRAC Bogura and Ashrafun Nahar, Shapna, Coordinator Bogura BLAST Unit office were present as special guests in the abovementioned seminar. This seminar is being presided over Rebeka Akter, President of **Bogra Zila Spandon Protibandhi Nari Parisad**.

Welcome speech is being delivered by Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF).

#### 4. 11<sup>th</sup> Autism awareness day:

A discussion meeting and Cultural program on the occasion of 11<sup>th</sup> Autism awareness day was being organized by National Human Rights Commission Bangladesh (NHRCB), in the Auditorium of BRAC IN Centre on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Johnny Islam, Assistant Program Coordinator, WDDF were participated in the abovementioned program.

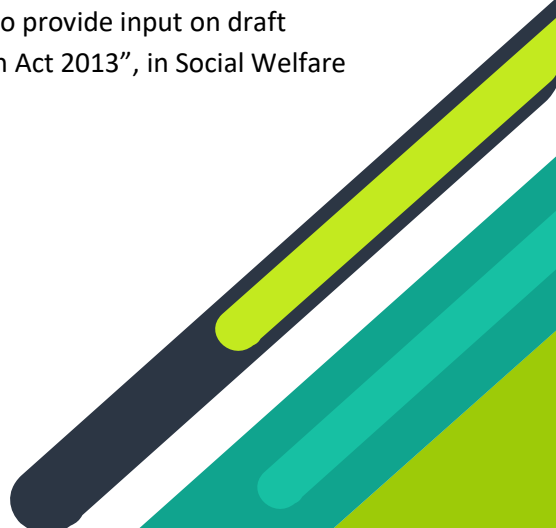
#### 5. Evaluation program:

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, was being invited as evaluator by Christoffel-Blinden Mission (CBM) in order to evaluate the activities of Disabled Rehabilitation and Research Association (DRRA) from 8 to 10 April 2018.


Actually she has been invited as DPO leader and Women with Disabilities Rights activist and she has evaluated the activities have been implemented for the advancement of Persons with Disabilities.

#### 6. Sharing meeting on National Action plan of “Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013:

A sharing meeting on National Action plan of “Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013” was being organized by Department of Social Services in order to provide input on draft National Action Plan of “Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013”, in Social Welfare Ministry on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018.







Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator, WDDF were participated in this sharing meeting.

#### 7. Training on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM):

A Five days training on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM) was being organized by Centre for Disability in Development in its own training Centre from 15 to 19 April 2018.

General Council and Executive Council members and Executive Director of WDDF were participated in this training.

#### 8. Visit Cox's Bazar for Rohingya Project:

WDDF representatives have visited Cox's Bazar in order to implement the project on need assessment of Girls and Women with Disabilities among Rohingya people from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018.


With the initiative of WDDF an orientation program on Disability and working techniques in Rohingya Camps was being organized for Three employees of this project with the cooperation of Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) in Cox's Bazar YPSA office. Besides, WDDF representatives organized meetings with

Additional District Commissioner and Triple RC of Cox's Bazar for starting project activities.

#### 9. Grassroots Women with Disabilities committee meeting:

Two Grassroots Women with Disabilities committee meetings were being organized in April 2018.





The aims of forming these grassroots Women with Disabilities committees in remote areas of different districts are as follows:

I) To introduce Women with Disabilities of the same union with each other as well as to establish a friendly relation among them through regular communication appearing in monthly meetings.

II) To encourage and motivate Women with Disabilities and their parents through reducing their negative attitude about disability.

III) To make Women with Disabilities self conscious about their basic rights, contribution and self dignity in family and society through enhancing their self confidence.


IV) To build leadership capacity of Women with Disabilities through enhancing awareness among them.


V) To provide information about disability related Government initiatives, documents along with facilities including NGOs as well as make them experienced on how to obtain these facilities through advocacy in different level.

VI) To adopt required initiative in order to include Women with Disabilities in local level including women related development process through their regular and active participation.

VIII) To create space in order to share multifaceted challenges in their daily lives, sufferings as Women with Disabilities including success E.G family conflict or discrimination, family/social violence, any type of torture/harassment and adopting the strategy of reducing these challenges and sufferings.

IX) To encourage Women with Disabilities to be self-dependent mentally and financially through identifying their hidden capability as well as providing need based technical and financial support E.G training, assistive device, financial support for small Income Generating Program.





A) The first discussion meeting with the Grassroots Women with Disabilities Committee of 'Daudkandi Uttar' and 'Baropara' Doudkandi, Comilla was being organized by WDDF, at House of Masuma Akter, Vice Chairperson, WDDF of Kanora, Gouripur, Baropara Union on 25th April 2018.

This meeting is presided over Masuma Akter, Vice Chairperson, WDDF and representative of Daudkandi Grassroots Women with Disabilities with the cooperation of Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator of WDDF.

The discussed issues of this meeting were:

I) Introductory session, significance of organizing and participation in this meeting.

II) To review the discussed issues of last meeting.

III) Discussion about interests and potentialities of Women with Disabilities.


IV) Discussion about problems and challenges of Women with and Women without Disabilities.


V) Discussion about the ways of enjoyment of citizen rights through overcoming challenges.

VI) Understanding about basic rights of Women without and Women with Disabilities.

VII) Discussion about rights of Women with Disabilities in light of "Persons with Disabilities rights and Protection Act 2013" and "National Women Advancement Policy".

VIII) Fixing the date of next meeting and so on.





B) Second discussion meeting with the Grassroots Women with Disabilities Committee of 'Gouripur' and 'Baropara' Doudkandi, Comilla was being organized by WDDF, at House of Masuma Akter, Vice Chairperson, WDDF of Kanora, Gouripur, Baropara Union on 26th April 2018.

This meeting is presided over Nila Akter, president of grassroot Women with Disabilities Committee and facilitated by Bethi Akter, Secretary of this committee with the observation and cooperation of Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Masuma Akter, Vice Chairperson and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator of WDDF.

The discussed issues of this meeting were:

I) Introductory session, significance of organizing and participation in this meeting.

II) To review the discussed issues of last meeting.

III) Discussion about interests and potentialities of Women with Disabilities.

IV) Discussion about problems and challenges of Women with and Women without Disabilities.

V) Discussion about the ways of enjoyment of citizen rights through overcoming challenges.

VII) Discussion about rights of Women with Disabilities in light of "Persons with Disabilities rights and Protection Act 2013" and "National Women Advancement Policy".

VIII) Fixing the date of next meeting and so on.

