

# OCTOBER 2016

[Home](#) / [October 2016](#)

## OCTOBER ACTIVITY REPORT 2016

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

### 1. Discussion meeting on the occasion of Cerebral Palsy Day:

A discussion meeting on the occasion of Cerebral Palsy Day was being held on 5th October 2016, at Agargaon, Mirpur, Dhaka.

Mr. Firoj Uddin, Volunteer of WDDF participated and discussed about the complexity and special needs of Women with Cerebral Palsy in this program.

### 2. Discussion Meeting with the Secretary of MOWCA:

A discussion meeting was held between the representatives of WDDF and the Secretary of Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA) on 9th October 2016, at 11 AM, in her office.

The representatives of WDDF attended in the above mentioned meeting.

Nasima Begum (NDC), Secretary of Ministry Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA) 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 WDDs to the Secretary and call upon to express the solidarity on behalf of MOWCA to these issues. Simultaneously, She adopted decision to communicate with the Secretary of Road, Transport and Bridge Ministry in order to organize a meeting with the representatives of WDDF and take necessary initiatives for ensuring the accessibility of Persons With Disabilities including Women with Disabilities. 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 Secretary of MOWCA 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.

### 3. CEDAW platform meeting:

A meeting of Citizen's Initiatives on CEDAW, Bangladesh (CIC-BD) was being organized by Steps Towards Development (STD) in its own office, on 12th October 2016. Mr. Ranjan Kormoker, Executive Director Steps Towards Development (STD) presided over the meeting. The aim of this meeting was to share about the existing situation of CEDAW implementation in Bangladesh

with Pramila Patten, an expert on CEDAW and member of UN CEDAW committee and CIC-BD platform members who are going to attend the 65<sup>th</sup> CEDAW review session are requested to attend in this meeting.

The agenda of this meeting were-

1. Discussion about Challenges and gaps of CEDAW implementation in Bangladesh.
2. How to make effective advocacy with the members of CEDAW committee.
3. Preparation of the effective participation in the 65<sup>th</sup> CEDAW review session. Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Reshma Akter, Project officer of WDDF were participated in this meeting.

Ashrafun Nahar discussed about the existing discriminations against Women with Disabilities which are not considered properly in the initiatives of CEDAW implementation.

### 4. Radio Talkshow:

On the occasion of 48<sup>th</sup> White Cane Safety Day WDDF organized Two Radio Talkshows:

1. The 1<sup>st</sup> Radio Talkshow is being organized at 11 AM, on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2016, in 'Radio Amar', and
2. B) The 2<sup>nd</sup> Talkshow is being organized at 1.00 PM, on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2016, in 'Radio ABC'. The discussing issue of these Two Talk shows is Universal Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, Md. Hasanuzzaman, Accounts Officer and Reshma Akter, Project Officer were participated in these Talkshows. The existing barriers and challenges in accessibility of Persons with Disabilities specially, Women with Disabilities in Road, footpath, overbridge, public transport and public buildings are enlightened to the audience. Simultaneously, it has also been clearly pointed out through the discussion of the representatives of WDDF that, how the national development has been interrupted due to the inaccessibility of Persons with Disabilities in all aspects of the society. Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, WDDF discussed about the complexity Women with Disabilities always have to face, the cause and their uninterrupted sufferings due to such existing inaccessible environment for them. Simultaneously, she pointed out the initiatives have been adopted by WDDF in order to include Women with Disabilities in mainstream development through reducing this complexity of inaccessibility as well as she also has mentioned about the importance of allocation and proper utilization of national budget on behalf of Government for reducing the barriers in the areas of accessibility.

Md. Hasanuzzaman, Accounts Officer, WDDF stated that, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) include the issue of inclusive and sustainable city along with human settlements in its Goal-11. So, without considering the issue of Universal Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities, Bangladesh won't be able to actualize the targets of SDGs.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF discussed about the national and international legislations, documents and declarations in order to ensure the Universal Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities and how the Women with severe Disabilities have been deprived from national development process due to existing inaccessible environment. Mentioning about the Government initiatives she said that, despite of having number of Government declarations and orders for creating Universal Accessibility but no one of those has been implemented properly. Most of the public buildings, roads, footpaths overbridges are being designed and constructed as well as all types of transports are being exported without considering the needs and demands of Persons with Disabilities. Specially Women with Disabilities. Simultaneously, mentioning that, WDDF is enthusiastic to provide technical suggestion and cooperation in this ground, she urged to all the audience, representatives of civil society and media to raise their voice and come forward to solve this crisis through discussion. She also urged to the policy makers, Government along with the related and responsible authorities of creating Universal Accessibilities to adopt time required and proper initiatives to reduce this dilemma considering the types along with the requirements of Persons with Disabilities. Otherwise, the dream of poverty free Bangladesh will ultimately be interrupted due to unproductivity, ineffectiveness, backwardness and social exclusion of almost 24 million Persons with Disabilities.

#### 5. Dialogue:

A dialogue entitled "**Accessibility Rights of women with disabilities in Road, Public Transport and Public Buildings**" is being organized with the initiative of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF), from 10 AM to 1 PM, on Sunday 16th October 2016, at VIP Lounge, National Presclub, in order to discuss the scenario of the accessibility right of Women With Disabilities in **Road, Public transport & Public buildings** 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 dialogue 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 the number of Women with Disabilities (WWDs) is half of the total population with disabilities of Bangladesh. 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 dialogue due to advancing forward with this issue.

The participants of the open discussion have clearly been stated that, Without having been enjoyed political rights and 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. Nasima Begum (NDC), Secretary, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA) Bangladesh Secretariat was attended as Chief Guest in the program. Besides, Professor Dr. Shafique Siddique, Department of Accounting and Information Science, University of Dhaka,

Mr. Vaskar Vatta Charya, National Consultant Web Accessibility A to I Prime Minister Office and Advocate Tahmina Begum, Assistant Director, Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) were present in this dialogue.

Welcome Speech is being delivered by Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) and vote of thanks is being delivered by Sanjida Akter, Executive Member, WDDF.

#### 6. Discussion meeting with the Secretary of Road, Transport and Bridge Ministry:

A discussion meeting was held between the representatives of WDDF and the Secretary of Road, Transport and Bridge Ministry on 17th October 2016, at 11.00 AM, in his office.

The representatives of WDDF attended in the above mentioned meeting.

AM Siddique Secretary of Road, Transport and Bridge Ministry 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 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 Women with Disabilities to the Secretary and call upon to express the solidarity on behalf of Road, Transport and Bridge Ministry to these issues. Simultaneously, though the 'Road and Transport Act 2016' is already in the final stage for approval in the cabinet, but in accordance with the proposal of WDDF, He adopted decision to allocate maximum one week time for WDDF in order to include the issue of Persons with Disabilities specially, Women with Disabilities in this act and for taking necessary initiatives for ensuring the accessibility of Persons With Disabilities including Women with Disabilities in road, and transport, he invited Additional Secretary Mrs. Zahida Khanam and Mr. Abdul Malek in this discussion meeting and hand over the responsibility to communicate with us about this issue. He 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 Secretary of Road, Transport and Bridge Ministry 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.

#### 7. Discussion meeting with the State Minister of MOWCA:

A discussion meeting was held between the representatives of WDDF and the State Minister of Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA) on 19th October 2016, at 1 PM, in her office.

The representatives of WDDF attended in the above mentioned meeting.

Meher Afroz Chumki State Minister of Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA) 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 report on including the issues of Women with Disabilities in CEDAW alternative report to the State Minister and call upon to express the solidarity on behalf of MOWCA to these issues.

#### 8. CEDAW platform meeting:

A meeting of Citizen's Initiatives on CEDAW, Bangladesh (CIC-BD) was being organized by Steps Towards Development (STD) in its own office, on 23rd October 2016. Mr. Ranjan Kormoker, Executive Director Steps Towards Development (STD) presided over the meeting. The aim of this meeting is to discuss about the preparation of participation of CIC-Bd members in 65<sup>th</sup> CEDAW session.

10

#### 9. Discussion Meeting with the Chairman, Rajuk:

A discussion meeting was held between the representatives of WDDF and the Chairman of Rajuk, on 24th October 2016, at 11.00 AM, in his office.

The representatives of WDDF attended in the above mentioned meeting.

M Bazlul Karim Chaudhury, Chairman of Rajuk 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 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 Women with Disabilities to the Chairman and call upon to express the solidarity on behalf of Rajuk to these issues. He 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 Chairman of Rajuk 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.

#### 9. Discussion meeting with the Head of news of SA TV:

A discussion meeting was held between the representatives of WDDF and the Head of News of SATV on 25th October 2016, at 11 AM, in SA TV office.

the officials of WDDF attended in the above mentioned meeting. Mr. Mahmud Al Faisal, Head of News of SA TV, 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 Talk show on 'Accessibility of Persons with Disabilities including Women with Disabilities in Road, Footpath, Overbridge and Transport', with the initiative of WDDF and call upon to express the solidarity on behalf of SA TV to this issue.

The Head of News was very cordial and cooperative to us. He expressed his interest to organize a talk Show regarding this issue as soon as possible and discussed about the detail budget and process to organize this type of Talk Show with WDDF. The representatives of WDDF were agreed to organize the Talk Show and on the basis of discussion it is decided that, this talk show is going to be organized on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

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 Head of News of SA TV in order to include the Women with Disabilities in the mainstream of development by ensuring their accessibility rights through media campaign 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.

#### 11. TV Talkshow:

WDDF organized a TV Talkshow in collaboration with SA TV with the participation of the representatives of WDDF, DPOs, different types of institutions, Architects and civil society. This talk show entitled "Universal Accessibility of Persons with Disabilities" is being recorded at 7 PM, on 26th October 2016, and broadcasted on 27th October 2016. The allocated time for the program is One and half hour and this program is being divided in to Two parts: The rackonteurs of the 1st part were Mr. Mobasser Ali, former Chief Architect, Architecture Department and Mr. Abdus Sattar Dulal, President, National Alliance of Disabled Peoples Organizations (NADPO).

The rackonteurs of the 2nd part were Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) and Mr. Iqbal Habib, Architect and City specialist.

In the speech of the conversationalists, the existing barriers and challenges in accessibility of Persons with Disabilities specially, Women with Disabilities in Road, footpath, overbridge, public transport and public buildings are enlightened to the audience. Simultaneously, it has also been clearly pointed out through the discussion of the conversationalists that, how the national development has been interrupted due to the inaccessibility of Persons with Disabilities in all aspects of the society.

The speakers are also discussed the complexity Women with Disabilities always have to face, the cause and their uninterrupted sufferings due to such existing inaccessible environment for them. Simultaneously, it is demonstrated that, the initiatives have been adopted by WDDF in order to include Women with Disabilities in mainstream development through reducing this complexity of inaccessibility as well as it also has mentioned about the importance of allocation and proper utilization of national budget on behalf of Government for reducing the barriers in the areas of accessibility. Besides, Speakers are also discussed about national and international legislations, documents and declarations in order to ensure the Universal Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities and how the Women with severe Disabilities have been deprived from national development process due to existing inaccessible environment. Mentioning about the Government initiatives speakers said that, despite of having number of Government declarations and orders for creating Universal Accessibility but no one of those has been implemented properly. Most of the public buildings, roads, footpaths overbridges are being designed and constructed as well as all types of transports are being exported without considering the needs and demands of Persons with Disabilities.

Simultaneously, mentioning that, WDDF is enthusiastic to provide technical suggestion and cooperation in this ground, the Executive Director of WDDF urged to all the audience, representatives of civil society and media to raise their voice and come forward to solve this crisis. It is also urged in this talk show to the policy makers, Government along with the related and responsible authorities of creating Universal Accessibilities to adopt time required and proper initiatives to reduce this dilemma considering the types along with the requirements of Persons with Disabilities. Otherwise, due to unproductivity, ineffectiveness, backwardness and social exclusion of almost 24 million Persons with Disabilities, the dream of poverty free Bangladesh will ultimately be interrupted.

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).