

SEPTEMBER 17

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We are concluded the following activities, during the period of September 2017 are as follows:

1. International program from 6 to 12 September 2017:
2. A) Program of Asia Pacific Feminist Forum (APFF)

A program of Asia Pacific Feminist Forum was held in Thailand.

A workshop entitled "Women with Disabilities and development justice" was being held in order to create a linkage of Women with Disabilities and Feminist Forum in this program. This workshop is being facilitated by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF-Bangladesh in join collaboration with Abia Akram from STEP-Pakistan, Rama Decle and Tika from NFDN-Nepal.

1. B) Annual meeting of Asia Pacific Women with Disabilities United (APWDU):

An annual meeting of Asia Pacific Women with Disabilities United (APWDU) under Asia Pacific Women Law and Development (APWLD) partners was being held at the time of this program.

2. Consultation on Universal Periodic Review (UPR):

A consultation in order to share draft stakeholders report on child rights of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) was being organized by Child Rights Advocacy Coalition with the secretarial assistance of Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) in the auditorium of CIRDAP on 12 September 2017.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator of WDDF were present in this program. Shirin Akhter stated that, education system of Children with Disabilities is very limited and due to infrastructural and informational inaccessibility most of the Children with Disabilities aren't being included in education system properly. They're suffering from mal nutrition and it is necessary to arrange a lunch for children in educational institutions and budget should be allocated for all types of children in national budget.

3. Visit the situation of Rohingya refugees with Disabilities of Cox'sbazar from 16 to 18 September 2017:

A number of initiatives have been adopted in order to reduce the sufferings of the Rohingya refugees with disabilities by WDDF are as follows:

1. Dry food and cloths distribution among Rohingya refugees;
2. II) Sending recommendation letter including Seven recommendations to the relevant authorities of Government in order to take some special measures for the Rohingya refugees with Disabilities;

III) Organize discussion meetings with Union Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Ukhia Upazila and District Commissioner (DC)/Additional District Commissioner (ADC) General of Cox'sbazar.

In order to accomplish the activities, WDDF representatives started for Cox'sbazar on 16th September 2017. We distributed relief among Rohingya refugees of Shah Pari Island and Ukhia, Kutupalang refugee shelter centre of Cox'sbazar and submitted recommendation letter to Union Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Ukhia Upazila of Cox'sbazar on 17th September 2017.

Discussion meeting with Additional District Commissioner (ADC) General of Coxesbazar:

A discussion meeting was being organized with the representatives of WDDF as well as the Additional District Commissioner (ADC) General of Coxesbazar at 11.00 AM, on 18th September 2017.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, WDDF submitted the recommendations and discussed about the challenges have to face by the women, aged Rohingya refugees and specially Rohingya refugees with Disabilities as well as the ADC General expressed his commitment that, they will take special measures to bring women and aged Rohingya refugees including refugees with disabilities under relief distribution on the basis of privilege. Besides, the representatives of WDDF handed over some assistive devices for the Rohingya refugees with Disabilities.

It would be noted that, all these activities have been accomplished by the local contribution (Executive Council Members, staffs of WDDF along with their family members) of WDDF.

Following recommendations about Rohingya refugees with Disabilities have been submitted from WDDF.

Recommendations of WDDF about Rohingya refugees:

The representatives of WDDF has submitted a number of recommendations to the relevant authorities of Government including District Commissioner (DC) and Additional District Commissioner (ADC) General of Cox'sbazar in order to making easy lives of Rohingya Nationals with Disabilities including aged people, traumatized women and children. The recommendations are as follows:

1. A column on disability issue should be included in the Biometric registration form of Rohingya National registration process, led by The Department of Immigration and Passport under Home Ministry, Government of The Peoples Republic of Bangladesh and types of disability should be mentioned clearly which will immensely be helpful to go

back the Rohingya refugees in Myanmar as well as to rehabilitate them in their own country.

2. The toilets of Rohingya refugee camp should be accessible for Rohingya refugees specially, Wheel chair and Crutch users Women with Disabilities.
3. Relief equipments such as medicine, food and other need based equipments should be distributed to the Persons with Disabilities including women on the basis of privilege at the time of relief distribution among Rohingya refugees.
4. Assistive device/disability related equipments such as White Cane, Wheel Chair, Crutch, Hearing Aid and other need based devices should be distributed according to the types and accurate measurements of Persons with Disabilities for leading their easy lives in refugee camp.
5. Supportive initiatives should be adopted for rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities including aged peoples of refugee camp with the cooperation of the Social Service Department officers; such as short orientation on using assistive devices along with encouraging them to lead easy and natural life. Simultaneously, counseling service should be provided for the oppressed, victim of sexual violence, traumatized and injured persons specially women and children of refugee camp.
6. A data of the victim of oppression, disability, trauma and injury persons specially women and children of refugee camp should be prepared which will immensely helpful for Government to make advocacy with international communities to pressurize for sending back the Rohingya refugees in their own country.
7. The family of Persons specially Women with Disabilities should be replaced in the camp in plain land area after having collected data.

4. Training:

A day long training with the participation of 25 different types of Women with Disabilities including their parents almost total 40, on 'UNCRPD' (Article 13, 14, 15) and 'SDGs' (Article 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 Protik Mohila O Sheshu Sangstha (PMSS) Pabna**, at Conference hall, PCCS Bazar, Police Line, Pabna, on Tuesday, 26th September 2017.

This training was divided in to Two parts:

1. Inaugural session and
2. 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 and corporate sector were present as Chief Guest and Special Guests in this training.

The inaugural session of this training is being started at 10.00 AM, 26th September 2017, with the welcome remarks of Mamataj Parvin, Vice Chairperson, PMSS. 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, S. M. Saifur Rahman, Executive Director, Protik Mohila O Sheshu Sangstha (PMSS) is being requested to deliver his speech about the significance, purpose including the required information, expected learnings/aims of this training, gaps and challenges of Persons specially Women with Disabilities in the issue of access to justice. Followed by the speech of facilitator, Tafajjal Hossain Tultul, Managing Director, Path Finder Computer Centre, Md. Moen Uddin, Manager, Prime Bank Pabna Branch, Md. Rafikul Islam Umar, Chairman, Bus owners Association along with SWID Bangladesh Pabna,

Md. Harun AR Rashid, Officer, Department of Social Service Pabna and Sawal Biswas, Vice Chairman Pabna Sadar Upazila Parisad are being requested to deliver their speeches as special Guests about the initiatives have been adopted for Persons with Disabilities as well as their responsibilities and duties to them on behalf of Government to make our activities easy and helpful. After that, Md. Mahabubul Alam Mukul, Senior Vice Chairman, Pabna Chamber of Commerce and Industries, 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 Pabna but they are thinking to reduce these challenges step by step. He expressed his firm commitment to include a number of Persons with Disabilities with small and medium industry but the list of interested candidates with disabilities should be provided by this organization. Besides, Tafajjal Hossain Tultul, Managing Director, Path Finder Computer Centre, expressed his commitment to provide computer training for Persons with Disabilities free of cost and Seven hundred taka will be paid as training allowance; simultaneously, he will try to manage job for these trainees but Persons without Disabilities have to pay Five thousand (5000) taka per month for receiving the same training.

This inauguration program is being presided over Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF).

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:

1. Initial discussion,
2. 1st session and
3. 2nd session.
4. **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 (CRPD)"

(Article 13) "Access to justice", (Article 14) "**Liberty and security of the person**" and (Article 15) "**Freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment**".

This topic includes:

1. What is UN CRPD?
2. II) What is Access? and What is justice?

III) Key speeches of these articles.

1. IV) Why are these articles important to know for us?

2. V) What is the connection between article 13, 14, 15 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:

1. What is Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?
2. II) What is Inclusive? and What is Institution?

III) Key speech of this Goal.

1. IV) Why is this goal important to know for us?
2. 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 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 regularly.

5. Seminar:

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 Protik Mohila O Sheshu Sangstha (PMSS) Pabna**, at Conference hall, PCCS Bazar, Police Line, Pabna, on Wednesday, 27th September 2017 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 Welcome speech is being delivered by S.M Saifur Rahman, Executive Director, Protik Mohila O Sheshu Sangstha (PMSS), Pabna. Keynote paper was being presented by AshrafunNahar, 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 are suffering from inaccessible justice system and deprived from their equal citizen rights. In spite of having been arrived in the 21st 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. 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.

Md. Kaysarul Islam, Union Nirbahi Officer (UNO), Pabna Sadar Upazila, was present as Chief Guest in the program. Besides, Nadira Yesmin Jolly, Chairman, Jatiya Mohila Sangstha Pabna branch, Md. Munsur Ali, Disability Officer, Service and help Centre of Persons with Disabilities Pabna and Imdadul Haque, Assistant Director, Non Formal education Bureau Pabna were present as special guests in the abovementioned seminar. On the basis of demands of Two participants, UNO expressed his commitment to take necessary initiatives to fulfill these demands E.G:

1. To manage disability allowance for an orphan Girl with multiple (Visual and Intellectual) Disabilities named Munni Khatun and
2. II) To discuss with judge about a divorce litigation of a Woman with Physical Disability and request to supervise this litigation with importance.

This seminar is being presided over ShirinAkhter, Chairperson, Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF).

7. Sharing meeting on Universal Periodic Review (UPR):

A sharing meeting in order to share Universal Periodic Review (UPR) was being organized by Human Rights Forum of Bangladesh (HRFB) with the secretarial assistance of Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) in the auditorium of CIRDAP on 28 September 2017.

Md. Hasanuzzaman, Program Coordinator, WDDF was present in this program. Md. Hasanuzzaman stated that, education system of Children with Disabilities is very limited and due to infrastructural and informational inaccessibility most of the Children with Disabilities aren't being included in education system properly. Besides, education curriculum also should be modified for Children with Disabilities; they're suffering from mal nutrition and it is necessary to arrange a lunch for children in educational institutions. Women with Disabilities should have right to obtain inherit property and due to disability they should not deprive from this right. Women with Disabilities are becoming victim of physical and mental torture regularly and due to disability they've to face these types of torture and deprivation more and more times; even they've no proper access to justice. budget should be allocated for Persons with Disabilities not only under 'social safety net' but also in specific areas of national budget.

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).