

# AUGUST 2016

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## AUGUST ACTIVITY REPORT 2016

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

1. Training on 'Reproductive Health Rights of Women with Disabilities':

Two Trainings on 'Reproductive Health Rights of Women with Disabilities' were being organized in this reporting period:

1. A) The 1st training on 'Reproductive Health Rights of Women with Disabilities' was being held on 1st August 2016 and
2. B) The 2nd training on 'Reproductive Health Rights of Women with Disabilities' was being held on 30th August 2016

These Two trainings with the participation of 50 different types of Women with disabilities, are being organized by Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) in its own auditorium. There were Three resource persons to conduct the training theoretically and practically for the Women with Disabilities properly. A constructive and illustrative presentation on different parts of human body regarding reproductive health is being delivered by the resource persons of these trainings, Mrs. Khaleda Begum, Chief trainer, and Nargis Akter Lipy, Centre Manager (Expert on Reproductive Health Rights) Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) were present in the abovementioned training.

These trainings are being started at 10.00 AM, both 1st and 2nd August 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 these trainings. 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, the resource personss started their presentation on 'Reproductive Health Rights of Women with Disabilities' and this presentation includes:

What is reproductive health?

1. II) importance of reproductive health for Women with Disabilities.

III) What is periodic cycle?

1. IV) What type of physical and mental changes are being felt and visible in the body of both female and male in their adolescence period?
2. V) Which parts of female and male body are specially considered under reproductive health? What are these parts?
3. VI) What type of initiatives for caring and consciousness we should follow at the time of ministration?

VII) What is sexual relation? How does a woman become pregnant through sexual relation of Two persons?

VIII) What types of complexity women have to face through the interruption of prevention of women disease and protection of reproductive health?

Besides, many important issues about reproductive health are discussed elaborately in the question answer session.

Learnings of these trainings: in the closing speech the participants pointed out that, their learnings from these trainings are as follows:

As Women with Disabilities, they obtained opportunity for the first time to discuss about reproductive health openly as well as to be acquainted with the secret and hidden parts/issues of human body.

1. II) As most of the women are unmarried, they've no idea about sex along with sexual relation. So, they got opportunity to gain knowledge about the internal parts and to identify the external parts of (Men and Women) humanbody practically. Hence, this training is immensely important for them.

III) Hygienic practise at the periodic time.

1. IV) How to maintain periodic cycle and how to save them selves from unexpected pregnancy.
2. V) Required information about taking care and safety of reproductive health.
3. VI) Reproductive health is as equally important for Women with Disabilities and they should have consciousness regarding this issue like non disabled women.

Finally, it is mentioned that, All The participants recommended that this training environment is very friendly for them where they've got opportunity to discuss every issue openly and elaborately. Simultaneously, they've learned many important issues about reproductive health. So, they've agreed that it is an effective training for them & they are interested to continue this training subsequently and for long time in district along with divisional level.

2. Discussion Meeting with the Chief News Editor, ATN News:

A discussion meeting was held between the representatives of WDDF and the Chief News Editor of ATN News on 4th August 2016, at 4 PM, in ATN News Bhaban.

The officials of WDDF attended in the above mentioned meeting. Ms. Munni Saha, Chief News Editor, ATN News 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 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 ATN News to this issue.

The Chief News Editor was very cordial and cooperative to us. She expressed her interest to organize a Talk Show regarding this issue 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 Executive Director told that, After having been discussed officially about the budget and organizing process of Talk Show on ATN News, as soon as possible we'll inform our decision about organizing this program.

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 Chief News Editor of ATN News 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.

### 3. Sharing Meeting:

A Sharing Meeting on 'Food Right Bangladesh from Gender Perspective' was held on 8th August 2016, at CIRDAP auditorium. This Sharing meeting is being organized by Steps Towards Development (STD). Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Reshma Akter, Project Officer, WDDF were participated in this meeting. On behalf of Women with Disabilities, Shirin Akhter raised her voice in order to include the issue of Women with Disabilities in the legislation on Food Right. She told that, usually, women are always deprived from nutritious along with delicious food and Women with Disabilities are the extreme sufferer of this circumstances. So, the issue of Women with Disabilities should clearly be addressed in this legislation. Otherwise, due to taking mal nutritious and contaminated food the number of Children with Disabilities are increased day by day. She also pointed out that, though disability issue has been included in research findings but it is very indistinct and they aren't being addressed in exact terminology. So, Persons including Women with Disabilities must be addressed in appropriate terminology and all legislations along with policy should be formulated through ensuring their inclusion properly. Finally, she proposed to the platform on Food Right Bangladesh to offer her membership of this platform as a representative on behalf of Women with Disabilities in order to ensure the inclusion of this issue

### 4. Discussion Meeting with the Chairman of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC):

A discussion meeting was held between the representatives of WDDF and the Chairman of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on 16th August 2016, at 11 AM, in NHRC office.

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

Kazi Reazul Hoq, Chairman of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) 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 WWDs to the Chairman and call upon to express the solidarity on behalf of NHRC to these issues. Simultaneously, He adopted decision to send Two Demy Official letters on behalf of NHRC to the Chairman of Civil Aviation and Secretary of Road, Transport and Bridge Ministry in order to take necessary initiatives for ensuring the accessibility of Persons With Disabilities including Women with Disabilities as well as selected Two Women representatives with Disabilities(Chairperson and Executive Director) on behalf of WDDF to include in 'Persons with Disabilities and Autism Committee' of NHRC. He 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 dialogue between the representatives of WDDF and the authority of NHRC 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.

### 5. Workshop on 'Sustainable and enhancing efficiency through Enterprise based Training':

A Workshop on Sustainable and enhancing efficiency through Enterprise based Training was being held on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2016, at the Conference room of Bangladesh Garments Export Association (BGMEA) office. This workshop was being organized by Bangladesh Garments Export Association (BGMEA). The importance of Enterprise Based Training (EBT) for Sustainable Development of Garments Sector and the process along with the advantage of enhancing efficiency of the garments workers through Enterprise Based Training were being discussed in this workshop elaborately through paper presentation, panel discussion and question-answer sessions. The Program Director of International Labour Organization (ILO) presented a realistic and meaningful paper on the requirement, process and advantage of inclusion of Persons With Disabilities in Garments sector through different methods including EBT.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Reshma Akter, Project Officer of WDDF were participated in this workshop.

Shirin Akhter raised a number of questions to the President of BGMEA and the high officials of its member institutions about the employment opportunity of Persons with Disabilities specially Women with disabilities, their reasonable accomodation and about the future plan of the BGMEA authority to include them in garments sector. Most of the officials respond that, at present they have no opportunity to include persons with Disabilities in the work force of their institutions but they are thinking and planning to create opportunity for their inclusion properly.

### 6. Discussion meeting with the Mayor of North City Corporation (NCC):

A discussion meeting was held between the representatives of WDDF and the Mayor of North City Corporation (NCC) on 22nd August 2016, at 5.00 PM, in North City Corporation office. The representatives of EC including the officials of WDDF attended in the above mentioned meeting. Mr. Anisul Hoque, Mayor of North City Corporation (NCC) 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 WWDs to the Mayor and call upon to express the solidarity on behalf of NCC to these issues. The representatives of WDDF also pointed out that, the newly constructed NCC Bhaban and footpaths are not accessible for Persons specially Women with Disabilities. Acknowledging this reality the Mayor told that, unintentionally this issue of accessibility was out of their consideration but it is immensely an important issue for building and designing an inclusive city for Persons specially Women with Disabilities and from this moment they will consider this issue in accordance with these proposals in the subsequent construction and designing of new buildings and footpaths. He also mention 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 NCC 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 Chief Executive Officer of Mayor of South City Corporation (SCC):

A discussion meeting was held between the representatives of WDDF and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Mayor of South City Corporation (SCC) on 23rd August 2016, at 12.00 PM, in South City Corporation office. The representatives of EC including the officials of WDDF attended in the above mentioned meeting. Khan Mohammad Bilal, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Mayor of South City Corporation (SCC) expressed his heartiest thanks to the representatives of WDDF. Afterwards, Shirin Akhter, Chairperson of WDDF, on behalf of the representatives of WDDF, submitted a paper including the accomplishment, objectives along with a few proposals and call upon to express the solidarity on behalf of SCC to these issues. The representatives of WDDF also pointed out that, the newly constructed footpaths are not accessible for Persons specially Women with

Disabilities. The CEO also mention 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 SCC 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.

#### 8. A Sharing Meeting on Draft Action plan of 'Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act2013':

A Three days Sharing Meeting on Draft Action plan of 'Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act2013'was held on 23rd August 2016, at the auditorium of Jatiyo Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation (JPUF). This Sharing meeting is being organized by Access Bangladesh Foundation. Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF was participated in this meeting. On behalf of Women with Disabilities, she tried to ensure the participation and inclusion of Women with Disabilities and she also emphasized on the equal enjoyment of basic human rights of Persons specially Women with Disabilities, actions related with accessibility, institutionalization of Women with Disabilities with social security and dignity. She also identified the proactive connection of the relevant ministries and authorities in order to actualize the equal rights and inclusion of Persons with disabilities in accordance with this legislation.

#### 9. Discussion meeting with the Women and Human Rights activists:

A discussion meeting with the Women and Human Rights activists was held amongst of the representatives of WDDF and the Women and Human Rights activists of different Women and Human rights based organizations including Disabled Peoples Organizations (DPOs) at 3.00 PM, on 24th August 2016, at the Auditorium of Steps Towards Development (STD). This discussion meeting is being organized by Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF).

At the starting of the discussion meeting, an introductory session of all the participants and representatives is being conducted by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF and all the participants are introduced with each other in this session. After having introductory session been finished, welcome remarks is being delivered by Ranjon Karmakar, Executive Director, Steps Towards Development (STD).

The keynote paper is being presented by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF. The overall situation of Women with Disabilities specially different types of discriminations Viz: Inequitable socio-economic status, depriving from the enjoyment of basic rights, negligence, violence, inaccessibility in infrastructural, informational areas even in justice, violation of human rights, including many significant areas of human life concurrently, the responsibilities of Women and human rights activists for the advancement of Women with Disabilities are being discussed in this keynote paper.

The participants of the open discussion have clearly been stated that, the issue of Women with Disabilities should be included in policy, planning and program level of women and human rights based organizations considering their special requirements. Otherwise their participation and inclusion in mainstream development will extremely be interrupted.

This discussion meeting is moderated by Ranjon Karmakar, Executive Director, Steps Towards Development (STD). Closing speech and vote of thanks is delivered by Farzana Mazid, Gender Specialist, Institute of Cholera and Diarrhoeal Diseases Research Bangladesh (ICDDRDB).

#### 10. Discussion Meeting with the President, Institute of Architect Bangladesh (IAB):

A discussion meeting was held between the representatives of WDDF and the President of Institute of Architect Bangladesh (IAB)on 24th August 2016, at 7 PM, in his office.

The officials of WDDF attended in the above mentioned meeting.

Abu Sayeed M Ahmed, President, Institute of Architect Bangladesh (IAB) 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, Overbridge and Transport', with the initiative of WDDF in collaboration with Architecture Department along with Institute of Architect Bangladesh (IAB)and call upon to express the solidarity on behalf of Institute of Architect Bangladesh (IAB) to this issue.

The President was very cordial and cooperative to us. He expressed his interest to organize a seminar regarding this issue and decision is adopted that, a letter will be sent on behalf of WDDF to the President for nominating a representative in order to coordinate the tasks of organizing this seminar. He expressed his full support and solidarity to our proposal.

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 Institute of Architect Bangladesh (IAB) 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.

#### 11. 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 August 2016. A constructive and illustrative presentation is being delivered by the resource person of this training, Ms. Shirin Akhter, Chairperson of WDDF and facilitated by Mr. Protik John Rojario, Capacity building Officer of Turningpoint Foundation.

This training is being started at 10 AM, 31st August 2016, with the welcome remarks of Shirin Akhter, Chairperson 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 Shirin Akhter and all the participants are introduced with each other in this session

After having introductory session been finished, the resource person started her key presentation on 'Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013' and this presentation includes:

Logicity of Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013,

##### 1. 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.

## **FEBRUARY'16**

WDDF participated & organized a number of events/programs in February'16. These are as follows:

### **Workshop:**

1. WDDF Executive Director Ashrafunnahar and Project officer Tahseen Showkat were participated in a workshop on "Initiative Towards setting up BD business and Disability network", held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February'16 at hotel Amare, Gulshan2, Dhaka. This workshop jointly organized by Bangladesh Employer's Federation (BEF) & Bangladesh Skills for Employment & Productivity (B-SEP) Project ILO. Mr.Md Mujibul Haque,MP Ministry of Labor & Employment ,Bangladesh was the chief guest. Workshop divided into three session-a) Inaugural session, b) Technical session & c) Group Discussion & presentation. The entire participant divided into 5groups. WDDF Executive Director Ashrafun Nahar Misti was present there as DPOs representative. She said about the inclusion of PWDs in corporate sector & also developing standards for companies to follow with regards to hiring PWDs. She also mentioned about the twin track approach, job availability, technical support for PWDs on information, skill development training, advocacy for PWDs recruitment, disability focal person & person with disabilities in network. It would be noted that, Bangladeshi business mechanism is not friendly for Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) though according to the UN CRPD Article 27 'Work and Employment', state parties recognize the right of PWDs to work on an equal basis with others and promote opportunities for self employment, entrepreneurship, the development of cooperatives and starting one's own business through ensuring infrastructural along with informational accessibility. In the light of realizing this situation, Ashrafunnahar also discussed about the existing challenges of PWDs of having incorporated them selves in business. Simultaneously, stated momentous recommendations for taking initiative towards setting up Bangladeshi business and Disability network for creating disability inclusive business mechanism and business environment. She also stated that, the commercial development of Bangladesh will be interrupted without the proper inclusion of PWDs in the business mechanism of state.
2. WDDF Accounts Coordinator, Md. Hasanuzzaman was participated in a workshop on "inclusion of PWDs in National Parliament and Local Government bodies", held on 13 February'16 at Dailystar vaban. This workshop is being organized by Bangladesh Visually Impaired Peoples Society (BVIPS) in collaboration with Sight Savers International (SSI). It is seen that, proper improvement of PWDs has still now been interrupted due to failing to address the needs and demands by the politicians, parliamentarians and policy makers appropriately and as in this consequence, PWDs aren't be able to keep contribution in the development of the nation. Hence, the inevitability of the inclusion of PWDs in the political processes from grassroot to national level has elaborately been discussed by the discussants and participants of this workshop in the presence of Mr. Fajle Rabbi Miah, Deputy Speaker, National Parliament and Kazi Rozi, Member of Parliament, National Parliament.

### **Disability Working group meeting:**

A disability working group meeting on "National Strategy for inclusion of Persons With Disabilities" (PWDs) in Skills Development", held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February'16, in the Conference room of NSDC Secretariat.

This meeting was being organized by National Skill Development Centre (NSDC) of Government in collaboration with ILO-Bangladesh. There are 30 member organization of working group on Disability Inclusion in TVET and WDDF one of the member organization of this working group. WDDF Executive Director Ashrafunnahar and Project officer Tahseen Showkat were participated in this discussion meeting. The effective strategies and methods of proper inclusion of PWDs in the trainings organized by NSDC are being find out and discussed in this meeting. Simultaneously, WDDF Executive Director mentioned the challenges of WWDs to participate in these trainings as well as pointed out momentous recommendations for designing disability inclusive specially WWDs friendly training programs through eliminating the existing barriers. She said about the national building code which deals with accessibility issues & distribute to TVET. She also suggested that this working group should be monitor TVET institutions to see if they are including persons with disabilities & make advocacy for inclusion as well as to develop a checklist or monitoring tools.

### **CIDV Platform Meeting:**

A discussion meeting of "Citizens Initiative on Domestic Violence (CIDV)" in order to adopting some important strategies on the occasion of International Women Day to protect Violence Against women as well as for creating safe and women friendly environment was held on 9<sup>th</sup> February16. This meeting was being organized by We Can in its own office. WDDF Chairperson Shirin Akhter and Project officer Tahseen Showkat were participated in this discussion meeting.

1. Discussion meeting with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) about the participation in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)60:
2. The first discussion meeting with the CSOs about the participation on behalf of Bangladesh in CSW60 was being organized by UN Women, on 10 February'16, in its own office, Gulshan2, Dhaka.

WDDF Chairperson Shirin Akhter and Project officer Tahseen Showkat were participated in this discussion meeting. There are 3agendas of this meeting. These are given below-

1. How to coordinate support to civil society representatives for attending CSW60
2. Preparation & Advocacy
3. Follow-up on the CSW60 session in relation to the national level implication.

- Shirin Akhter, Chairperson WDDF stated the momentous of inclusion Women With Disabilities (WWDs) issue in the report of CSW60 and If it is not emphasize internationally, it could not be done effectively. As well as this issue is being included in the second agenda of that meeting. Christine Hunter, Country Representative UN Women presided over this meeting.
- The Second pre preparation meeting with the CSOs about the participation on behalf of Bangladesh in CSW60 was being organized by UN Women, on 23 February'16, in its own office, Gulshan2, Dhaka.
- WDDF Chairperson Shirin Akhter and Project officer Tahseen Showkat were participated in this discussion meeting. In this meeting, the role of Bangladeshi women in the up coming CSW60 session and the issue of sharing the submitted Government report in the CSW60 have been discussed on the basis of priority.
- The Third preparatory meeting with the CSOs about the participation on behalf of Bangladesh in CSW60 was being organized by UN Women, on 28th February'16, at Pan Pacific Sonargaon hotel.
- WDDF Executive Director Ashrafunnahar and Project officer Tahseen Showkat were participated in this discussion meeting. The CSOs report is being shared with the Government on behalf of UN Women. In this meeting, WDDF Executive Director pointed out the importance of inclusion of WWDs issue in CSOs and Government report of CSW60 session. Meher Afroz Chumki, State Minister and Nasima Begum, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA) as well as the representatives of other relevant Ministries were present in the abovementioned meeting.

### **Discussion Meeting with Duskin team of Japan**

A discussion meeting with the Duskin Team of Japan was held on 12<sup>th</sup> February'16, at Platinum Grant hotel, Banani, Dhaka.

This Japanese team has been organizing a Ten month leadership training entitled "Duskin Leadership Training" in Japan for the Leaders With Disabilities of the Asia Pacific countries for many years. WDDF Executive Director Ashrafunnahar and Project officer Tahseen Showkat were participated in this discussion meeting. As a Duskin leader, Ashrafunnahar, Executive Director, WDDF shared the existing situation of Bangladeshi PWDs, her working strategies and working experience for the advancement of WWDs as well as pointed out the recommendations about the applicants of Duskin Leadership training.

#### **CEDAW Platform Meeting:**

A discussion meeting of Citizen's Initiatives on CEDAW, Bangladesh (CIC-BD) was being organized by Steps Towards Development (STD) in its own office, on 15 February'16.

Steps Towards Development Executive Director Ranjan Kormoker presided over the meeting. Bangladesh Mohila Parishad President Maleka Banu chair this meeting. The agenda of this meeting were-

- Approval of the last meeting minutes.
- National Sharing of CEDAW Shadow Report
- Brief Program Report
- Summary Report
- Sending shadow Report on CEDAW to UNCEDAW Committee.
- Complete the pending activities of CIC-BD.

The members of CIC-BD gave a short evaluation on National Sharing of CEDAW Shadow Report which was being held on 13<sup>th</sup> Jan'16. WDDF Chairperson, Shirin Akhter and Project officer Tahseen Showkat were participated in this discussion meeting and Shirin Akhter said about the accessible venue for WWDs as well as PWDs. She also gave her opinion on some correction of Summary Report and incorporate WWDs issue in the CEDAW shadow report appropriately. All the members of CIC-BD approve the report with some correction & agreed to send this report UNCEDAW Committee.

#### **Disability Rights Fund Guarantee Convening Meeting:**

Eighth Bangladesh Guarantee Convening Meeting of Disability Rights Fund (DRF) is held at Centrepont hotel, Gulshan2, Dhaka, from 16-18 February'16. This Guarantee meeting is being organized by DRF in collaboration with Access Bangladesh Foundation and as a DRF Guarantee, on behalf of WDDF, Chairperson, Shirin Akhter and Executive Director Ashrafunnahar were participated in this meeting. Disability related and disability inclusive documents Viz: UNCRPD, SDG, legislations on disability, existing situation of PWDs including WWDs of Bangladesh, Government and Non-Government initiatives for the advancement of PWDs as well as challenges and successes of Guarantee organizations are being discussed in different sessions of this meeting. A group working session is being held on different challenging issues of PWDs relevant with SDGs where the presentation of Ashrafunnahar, Executive Director of WDDF and her group is considered as appropriate and best. In 3<sup>rd</sup> day a sharing session about the existing challenges of PWDs is being held with the representatives of donor organizations, corporate sector along with government where the representatives of all guarantee organizations have obtained opportunity to share their challenges with the representatives of Government and Government representatives are also shared their existing initiatives for PWDs as well as motivated to adopt further initiatives for the advancement of PWDs through eliminating the challenges considering their needs and demands.

#### **National Consultation:**

A National consultation on the "Development of Persons With Disabilities Inclusive manual for Local Government Institutions" was held on 17<sup>th</sup> February'16, organized by Sight Savers International (SSI) in its own office. In this national consultation, the idea and importance of Developing the Persons With Disabilities Inclusive manual for Local Government Institutions is being shared with the civil society and Government representatives as well as it is also discussed that, through adopting this initiative PWDs will be responsive and contributive to the state. Simultaneously, in the consequence of spontaneous cooperation of populace including PWDs and Government the progress of the state will be advanced. WDDF Accounts Coordinator, Md. Hasanuzzaman was participated in this national consultation and pointed out his valuable recommendations regarding this issue.

#### **Discussion meeting with donor organization:**

A discussion meeting with Christophel Blinden Mission (CBM), on the representation in "Disability Inclusive Development" in the policy and programs of CBM was being held on 24<sup>th</sup> February'16, in Austrelia Hi Commission, Gulshan2, Dhaka.

WDDF Executive Director Ashrafunnahar and Project officer Tahseen Showkat were participated in this discussion meeting. Ashrafunnahar, Executive Director, WDDF, on behalf of Disabled Peoples Organizations (DPOs) and WWDs shared her rational explanation about the inevitability of inclusion of DPOs along with PWDs in Disability Inclusive Development with the representatives of donor organizations as well as pointed out the time required recommendations regarding this issue. Furthermore, She also noted with high priority about the requirement of special opportunity for WWDs considering their vulnerability and backward situation.

#### **Participation in the program of women and human rights NGO:**

A discussion meeting on the ocasion of "Equality and Community Justice Fellowship Research" report publishing and Certificate distribution was held on 25<sup>th</sup> February'16, at Dailystar Vaban.

This discussion meeting is being organized by Bangladesh Legal Aid Services and Trust (BLAST) in collaboration with Research Initiatives of Bangladesh (RIB) and the research report is being distributed in Braille version for the Visual Impaired Persons. WDDF Executive Director Ashrafunnahar and Project officer Tahseen Showkat were participated in this discussion meeting and obtained opportunity to share the complicatedness of "Access to Justice" for WWDs with a group of justice.

## **MARCH 16**

WDDF participated & organized a number of events/programs in March'16. These are as follows:

- International Women day: A discussion meeting and a cultural program was held on 8<sup>th</sup> March'2016, International Women day, organized by Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA), at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) Vaban. Honorable Prime Minister Shiekh Hasina of Bangladesh was present as the Chief Guest; the State Minister, Secretary along with other relevant officers of MOWCA, a number of Ministers and MPs were present in this program. Besides, representatives from UN Women as well as the representatives of DPOs, GOs, NGOs and CSOs were present. WDDF Chairperson Shirin Akhter and Project officer Tahseen Showkat were participated in the abovementioned program.
- Award Program: An award distribution ceremony on the occasion of International Women Day, to bestow a number of courageous, determined and qualified women, was held on 8<sup>th</sup> March'16, organized by Bangladesh Brand Forum (BBF), at La Meridian Hotel, Nikunjo2, Dhaka. A number of enlightened and self determined women from diverse background and perspective have been selected by Bangladesh Brand Forum for their respective enterprise along with success for award in Sixteen categories. These



categories include Diplomat, Winner of the Mount Everest, Journalist, Artist, Founder and owner of business associations and Human rights activists.


As a human and Women With Disabilities (WWDs) rights activist, Ashrafunnahar, Executive Director, WDDF has achieved award for her human and women rights based activities through establishing an organization of and by WWDs after having been faced multifaceted challenges in her own life. WDDF Chairperson Shirin Akhter and Executive Director Ashrafunnahar were participated in this Award distribution ceremony.



**Roundtable Discussion:** A roundtable discussion on "Political Rights and Participation of Women With Disabilities" for the celebration of International Women Day is being organized with the initiative of seven organizations Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF), Access Bangladesh Foundation, Bangladesh Visually Impaired Peoples Society (BVIPS), Disabled Child Foundation (DCF), Disabled Welfare Society (DWS), National Council of Disabled Women (NCDW), Turning Point Foundation, from 10 AM to 1 PM, on Saturday 12th March 2016, at Azimur Rahman conference hall, the Daily Star Bhaban, on the issue of the Women With Disabilities are excluded from, their equal rights including political rights and participation" We Urge for an inclusive, antidiscriminatory and Women With Disabilities friendly society for all". These Seven Organizations led by Women with Disabilities having united 1<sup>st</sup> time with the initiative of WDDF and working as collective force for their participation in mainstream of the society. The keynote paper was jointly being presented by Nazma Ara Begum Popy, General Secretary, Bangladesh Visually Impaired Peoples Society (BVIPS) and Nasima Akter, President, National Council of Disabled Women (NCDW). WWDs are deprived from practicing and

enjoyment of political rights and participation though UNCPRD Article-29 'Participation in political and public life' noted that, states parties shall guarantee to PWDs political rights and the opportunity to enjoy them on an equal basis with others. 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, the Seven women led organizations have organized this roundtable discussion 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. Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru, Member of Parliament, Convener Parliamentarian Caucus on Disability, was attended as Chief Guest in the program. Besides, Mr. Tariq Ul Islam, Secretary, Planning Ministry Bangladesh Secretariat, Kazi Reazul Hoque, Member, National Humanrights Commission (NHRC), Christine Hunter, Country Representative, UN Women and Ayesha Khanam, President, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) were present in this roundtable discussion. This Roundtable Discussion is moderated by Ashrafun Nahar Misti, Executive Director, Women With Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF). Welcome Speech is being delivered by Nasreen Jahan, Executive Director, Disabled Child Foundation (DCF). Closing speech and vote of thanks is delivered by Mohua Pal, Chairperson of Roundtable Discussion and Vice Chairperson Access Bangladesh Foundation.

 Roundtable-Discussion1

- **Discussion Meeting with the representative of Department For International Development (DFID):** A discussion meeting of DRF Guarantees with the Mr. Naved Chowdhury, Poverty and Protection Adviser of DFID was held in the Conference Hall of Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) Banani, Dhaka, on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2016. This discussion meeting is being organized by DFID in collaboration with Access Bangladesh Foundation. A presentation on DFID Bangladesh Operational Plan is being present by the representative of DFID. It is elaborately discussed in the meeting that, as an international donor organization, through adopting more disability inclusive and accessible programs, policy, plan and fund distribution strategy, DFID might be played a vital role to make DPOs and PWDs more responsive and contributive. WDDF Chairperson Shirin Akhter and Accounts Coordinator Md. Hasanuzzaman were participated in the abovementioned discussion meeting.
- **Discussion meeting with the Grassroot Committee of WWDs:**
  - I) A discussion meeting with the Grassroot Committee of WWDs of Doudkandi, Comilla as well as Upazila Women Officer was held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016, organized by WDDF, at Mukul Niketan in Kanora Union. This meeting is presided over WDDF Chairperson Shirin Akhter, WDDF Vice Chairperson Masuma Akter and Project Officer Erona Khandakar were present in this discussion meeting. Shamima Sultana, the Upazila Women Officer exchanged Greetings and shared her views about the activities of WDDF with the members of Grassroot Committee; she also discussed about the financial support along with assistive device provided by WDDF to the WWDs for starting IGA and continuing education as well as how to utilize this support properly. Furthermore, the women officer talked with the parents of WWDs and suggested them not to be frustrated for their daughters with disabilities but to become more positive and cooperative to them for making them active along with contributive. II) The regular discussion meeting with the Grassroot WWDs Committee of Manikganj was held on 22nd March 2016, organized by WDDF, at Manikganj Disable People's Organization to Development (MDPOD) Rouhadaha, Manikgonj Sadar. The discussed issue of this meeting was celebration of International Women Day and its statement, WWDs rights on property and how to save the property from their neighbours as well as the initiatives of WWDs political participation. This meeting is led by Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, WDDF. March 2016, in Conference room of Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP) Bhaban, Mirpur, Dhaka.
- **Workshop:** A workshop on 'Linking DPOs with the Ready Made Garments (RMG) industry' was held on 23rd March 2016. About the strategies of how to include PWDs in RMG industry was discussed elaborately in this workshop. WDDF Executive Director Ashrafunnahar And Accounts Coordinator Md. Hasanuzzaman were present in the abovementioned workshop.
- **International program:**
  - I) **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)60 Program:** CSW60 session was held from 14 to 24 March, organized by United Nations in New York. With the representatives of Government and CSOs, on behalf of WWDs of Bangladesh, Ashrafunnahar, Executive Director, WDDF was participated in this session. CSW 60 Program Participation.

In 14<sup>th</sup> March of 2016 Executive Director went to the place where she collect pass for enter in the United Nations General Building. There was large no of gathering to hear the state party report of different countries.

WDDF Executive director participated in the program as following :

1. **Have meeting with Donor representative from Urgent Action fund from Women.**
2. **Protect Violence against women**
3. **APWLD Side Event: Achieving Decent Work for Women: The SDGs and Beyond with ITUC**
4. **INEQUALITY RISING: WHY IT'S TIME TO MAKE GENDER & WOMEN'S RIGHTS CENTRAL TO THE INEQUALITY DEBATE**
5. **Importance of CSO participation for SDG implementations**
6. **Development Justice and Government Accountability for the Sustainable Development Goals**
7. **Meetings with Global leaders of Women with Disabilities.**

## 8. Sustainable Development Goals or Sideline Disabled Girls? Making

### SDGs Stand for All Women and Girls

## 9. Promoting Safety and Security of Women Human Rights Defenders through Community Leadership and Governance

**Observation:** Very few representatives from different country and only one side event "on violence against women had discussion about the women with disabilities issue. Tuinisia clearly mentioned Women with Disabilities are most vulnerable in different situations. Very few countries have initiatives for the development of women with disabilities. There are two countries accommodate delegates from Women with disabilities group i.e UK and Zimbabwe. I participate in the different side event and raise voice on women with disabilities empowerment. Australian delegates accept our voice to incorporate women with disabilities issues in there CSW statement. Zimbabwe, Canada and Tunisia state party report clearly mentioned about the intuitive for women with disabilities. Italy, Korea and Ghana representative agreed to increase women with disabilities participation. Only one side event held on Women with disabilities issues. Very few Women with Disabilities participated in the program.



New York city is not really accessible for some time in some area. Feel so much difficulties to participate different program in outside of UN Building and also need power wheelchair to move around in UN Building which have not.

### Opinion:



It is very important to increase women with disabilities participation and there could be different side event on women with disabilities issues. Personal Assistance also need for different types of Women with disabilities participants. Need more strong voice and

initiative for Women with Disabilities.

It is really a wonderful gathering and strong demonstration on women empowerment.

### 1. II) Regional Meeting of South Asian Women Fund (SAWF):

A SAWF Regional Meeting with the partners of South Asia Region and donors was held from 25 to 27 March'16, at Radisson hotel, Kathmandu, Nepal.

A number of presentations on the challenging issues and success of women in different parts of South Asia were present in the different sessions of three days regional meeting. The agenda of this meeting are as follows:

1. Feminist movements in South Asia: Lessons learnt, challenges, future and opportunities.
2. Global and Regional Funding Scenario for Women's Rights Groups:
3. Introduction and a regional perspective
4. Global Trends and perspective
5. Recommendations and Way Forward.
6. Strengthening Feminist Voices
7. Community and Grassroots mobilizing: I) Are we investing enough time, resources and energy in bringing the voices forward?
8. Importance of capacity building, research and strategic spaces in strengthening women's activism.
9. Access to justice, right to mobility and livelihood as well as young women's leadership.
10. Women rights and ICT, environment and gender justice.

WDDF Chairperson Shirin Akhter, on behalf of Bangladeshi WWDs participated in this regional meeting and discussed the situation of WWDs in the light of abovementioned agenda.

She also expressed her appreciation and gratitude to the organizers of this meeting including SAWF in concluding remarks for creating the space of sharing momentous and encouraging experience with the partners of South Asia Region and international donor organizations.

## APRIL 16

WDDF participated & organized a number of events/programs in April'16. These are as follows:

### • Discussion Meeting:

- i) A discussion meeting with the representatives of Christophel Blinden Mission (CBM), on the inclusion and representation of Persons With Disabilities in "Disability Inclusive Development" approach through keeping contribution in developing national programs and policy as well as the policy and programs of CBM as a disability reference/resource group, was held on 7<sup>th</sup> April'16, in CBM office, Banani, Dhaka.

WDDF Chairperson Shirin Akhter and Accounts Coordinator Md. Hasanuz zaman were participated in this discussion meeting. Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, WDDF, on behalf of Disabled Peoples Organizations (DPOs) and WWDs shared her rational explanation about the inevitability of inclusion of DPOs along with PWDs in Disability Inclusive Development with the representatives of CBM as well as pointed out the time required recommendations regarding this issue. Furthermore, She also noted with high priority about the requirement of special opportunity for WWDs considering their vulnerability and backward situation.

- **Consultation Meeting:** A consultation meeting on "Disability Inclusive Budget" was held on 19<sup>th</sup> April'2016, in the conference room of Development Studies Department, Kala vaban, Dhaka University. This program is being organized by Access Bangladesh Foundation, Democratic Budget Movement and Centre on Budget and Policy. WDDF Chairperson Shirin Akhter and Project Officer Erona Khan dakar were participated in this Consultation meeting. Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, WDDF, on behalf of WDDs, stated that, inclusive development is not possible without inclusive budget. Simultaneously, as the estimated number of PWDs is around 24 million people which constitutes 15% out of total population and they are the integral part of the nation. So, it is required to formulate disability inclusive budget for disability inclusive development. She also pointed out that, gender responsive budget is being declared in every fiscal year but Women With Disabilities are excluded from this gender responsive budget and they are only included in the budget for social safety net under Social Welfare Ministry and that system should be changed. Hence, For achieving disability inclusive development, disability issue must be incorporated in national budget and at least 10% budget should be allocated under every ministry and 10% budget for WWDs under gender responsive budget. All the participants have shared their views on the importance of disability inclusive budget and the Chief Guest of this program Kazi Rozi, Member, National Parliament and Vice Chairman of Parliamentary Caucus on Budget assured that, she discussed this issue with high priority and try her level best to bring the reflection of this consultation meeting in the National budget of this fiscal year 2016-2017.
- **Supporting program for a victim woman:** A discussion meeting for providing support to a victim woman was held with the Union Parishad Members and elid leaders in Tangail, on 9<sup>th</sup> April'16. Majeda Akter, a victim woman with her two children was continuously tortured by her husband and his family members as well as at the period of continuous torture, she became frustrated and compelled to come back to her parents house. Majeda with her children started to live with her mother for three years, who is a domestic worker. Majeda's mother informed this issue to the Executive Director of WDDF and asked her cooperation. With the cooperation of WDDF, Majeda filed a case against her

husband. Simultaneously, on behalf of WDDF, this issue is being discussed with lawyer and local thana officers and warrant has been issued to arrest him. After that, Majeda's husband and his family started to communicate with Majeda and her family for taking back her in her family but Majeda has to withdraw the case. In this situation, Majeda's parents couldn't understand what should do but with the suggestion of WDDF, Majeda's parents has arranged a village salish with the elid leaders and the union parishad members of both unions, in the presence of WDDF representatives as well as Majeda's husband and his family members. The elid leaders and Union Parishad members handed over the responsibility of this salish to WDDF and the representatives of WDDF has led the discussion as well as on the basis of discussion of all the members, it is decided that an agreement has been signed between the parents of both Majeda and her husband mentioning that, Majeda will go back to her father-in-law's house but Majeda's husband and his family members have to stop all types of torture to her and in that condition case will be withdrawn otherwise, if Majeda will become victim of torture, case will be executed again. Hence, according to the decision of all the members the agreement has been signed, two family are being united again and Majeda went back with her husband in her father-in-law's family.



- **Monthly NGO Coordination Meeting with District Commissioner:** A monthly NGO Coordination Meeting was being organized by District Commissioner in DC office, on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2016. Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Project Officer Erona Khan dakar were present in this meeting.
- **Strategic Planning Meeting:** A strategic Planning Meeting in order to develop an inclusive strategic plan of UN Women was being organized by UN Women in its office, on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2016. Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Project Officer Erona Khandakar were present in this meeting. Shirin Akhter told that, WWDs are an integral part of women and this group exists in the diverse group of women. So, this strategic plan should be WWDs inclusive as well as inclusive along with special initiatives and programs should be adopted through addressing the special requirements of WWDs.
- **One Stop Crisis Centre (OCC) of Khulna Medical College visit:** WDDF representative team visited One Stop Crisis Centre (OCC) and organized a discussion meeting with the authorities of OCC, Khulna Medical College on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2016. Chairmen Shirin Akhter, Executive Director Ashrafun Nahar Misti, Accounts Coordinator Md. Hasanuzzaman and Project Officer Erona Khandakar were present in this meeting. They discussed about the services of OCC and also mentioned that if any WWDs has come here they should arrange special take care for their physical, mental and legal support along with cure. They have also suggested to maintain registration system and preserve the information in order to collect data of victim WWDs. The officers of OCC have agreed with WDDF about the special care for victim WWDs.



At the time of visiting, One incident surprised us; We noticed that, a 12 years girl with mild intellectual disability has come for support and through discussion with the incharge of OCC and the mother of the girl we came to know that, this girl was raped continuously by an influential village man and whenever she desired to express the issue of her continuous raping publicly, she faced threats of killing her by knife or different ways. While the incident was being brought to light, the female child has already pregnant for Five months but the village chairman hasn't desired to bring the incident to light rather he pressured the victim family to mutual this terrific incident and heinous offence by money without considering the future of the female child.

On the other hand, the OCC officers are only responsible for counseling the victim along with her family as well as to file a case in local thana. WDDF representatives are counseling the female child along with her mother and encourage them for taking shelter of law with the cooperation of WDDF along with OCC authority through filing a case. Above all, this type of heinous offence of the influential persons called human monstrous shocked the representatives of WDDF extremely as well as we are reproaching this type of contemptible offence.

- **Exposure Visit:** An exposure visit was being organized on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016, in Kustiya, Nikunja **Nari Unnayan Sangstha**. A number of issues e.g. types of current programs, the inclusion of WWDs with the activities and future work plan have been observed and discussed between the representatives of WDDF and Nikunja **Nari Unnayan Sangstha** in this visit. WDDF Chairperson, Shirin Akhter and Executive Director, Ashrafun Nahar Misti were discussed with the Executive Council Members of Nikunja **Nari Unnayan Sangstha**. Executive Director, Ashrafun Nahar Misti present the activities of WDDF. Accounts Coordinator Md. Hasanuzzaman and Project Officer Erona Khandakar were also being present there. Ferdowsi Rubi, Chairman, Nikunja **Nari Unnayan Sangstha** presided over the meeting along with discussed their different activities in brief and other Executive Council Members shared their experience about their challenges as WWDs with the representative team of WDDF.



- **Award Distribution Ceremony:** An award distribution ceremony to bestow a number of courageous, determined and qualified women, on the occasion of 46<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, was being organized by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP), on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at Engineers Institute.

A number of enlightened and self determined women from diverse background and perspective have been selected by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, for their respective enterprise along with success for award in Sixteen categories. These categories include Diplomat, Winner of the Mount Everest, Journalist, Cricketer, IT expert, Defense, Artist, Founder and owner of business associations and Human rights activists.

As a human and Women With Disabilities (WWDs) right activist, Ashrafun nahar, Executive Director, WDDF has achieved award for her contribution to the society along with country for her strong endeavor in order to establish an inclusive society for Women With disabilities. through establishing an organization of and by WWDs after having been faced multifaceted challenges in her own life. Md. Hasanuzzaman, Accounts Coordinator WDDF, was participated in this Award distribution ceremony.



- **Public Hearing:** A Public Hearing on The Rights to affective and adequate compensation for workplace deaths and injuries was being organized by Bangladesh Legal Aid Services and Trust (BLAST) on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016, at CIRDAP Auditorium. WDDF Chairperson Shirin Akhter and Project Officer Erona Khan dakar were participated in this program. Shirin Akhter told that, the persons, who become disabled by different

injuries in their workplace or or working period, must be received proper compensation along with all types of cooperation for treatment by his/her own company. If the person is a woman, she must receive special care as a woman according to her requirement as well as after having been disabled they should be enlisted in the list of disability survey conducted by the Ministry of Social Welfare. With the cooperation of the companies according to their policy along with Government these injured persons should be received proper skill training for job and leading their lives as they will be able to lead their lives with dignity and honour instead of being a burden of their family and society.

- **Executive Council Meeting:** An Executive Council (EC) meeting was held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2016. There were almost Ten participants including office staffs. Five agenda have been discussed including miscellaneous in this meeting.





- **International program:** A Strategic Planning meeting on SDG entitled done back to back with CSOs, Intergovernmental forum and Asia Pacific Forum (APF) organized by Asia Pacific Women With Disabilities United (APWWDU) from 29<sup>th</sup> March to 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2016 in Thailand.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF on behalf of Bangladesh was participated in this program.



## MAY 2016

### 1. Grassroot committee meeting of WWDs in Manikganj:

Monthly discussion meeting with the Grassroot WWDs Committee of Manikganj was organized by WDDF, on 4 May 2016, at Manikganj Disable People's Organization to Development (MDPOD) Rouhadaha, Manikganj Sadar. The discussed issue of this meeting was Module-5, the rights of WWDs in accordance with the UNCRPD and how the state preserve the rights of WWDs through adopting different types of time required initiatives. Besides, an incident of family rights violation of women with severe (Both Knee and Wristless) physical disability of Manikganj by her husband, was being shocked all of us extremely and WDDF expressed its commitment to support this WWD (who has got marry and is going to be a mother), in collaboration with Manikganj. This meeting is led by Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, WDDF.

### 6. Discussion Meeting with Feminist NGO Leader:

A discussion meeting on conducting a research about reproductive health of Women With Disabilities was being organized with the initiative of WDDF, on 5 May 2016, with Khushi Kabir, Executive Director, Nijera Kori in its office.

The issues, E.G Researcher appointment, research method, to develop questionnaire to appoint volunteer for data collection and report preparation are being discussed elaborately. Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF led this discussion meeting.

### 7. Discussion meeting of Citizens Initiatives on Domestic Violence (CIDV):

A meeting on Citizens Initiative on Domestic Violence (CIDV) was being organized by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) in its office, on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2016. Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Erona Khandakar, Project Officer WDDF were present in this meeting. CIDV members discussed about TOR finalizing, organizing advisory committee meeting of CIDV and a national sharing on the impact of Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Act (DVPPA) 2010 as well as problems of activating this act in divisional along with district level. Besides, it is also discussed that, how this act would be more effective to reduce violence against women.

### 8. National Discussion Meeting:

A national discussion meeting on "Disability Inclusive National Budget" was held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016, at CIRDAP auditorium. This program is being organized by Access Bangladesh Foundation, Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF and Project Officer Erona Khandakar were participated in this National discussion meeting. Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF, on behalf of WDDs, stated that, inclusive development is not possible without inclusive budget. Simultaneously, as the estimated number of PWDs is around 24 million people which constitutes 15% out of total population and they are the integral part of the nation. So, it is required to formulate disability inclusive budget for disability inclusive development. She also pointed out that, gender responsive budget is being declared in every fiscal year but Women With Disabilities are excluded from this gender responsive budget and they are only included in the budget for social safety net under Social Welfare Ministry and that system should be changed. Hence, For achieving disability inclusive development, disability issue must be incorporated in national budget and at least 10% budget should be allocated under every ministry and 10% budget for WWDs under gender responsive budget. All the participants have shared their views on the importance of disability inclusive budget.

### 9. Discussion Meeting with the Director (Joint Secretary) Enforcement of Bangladesh Road and Transport Authority (BRTA):

A discussion meeting was held with a Delegation of WDDF as well as the Director Enforcement of Bangladesh Road and Transport Authority (BRTA) on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016, at 12 PM, in his office.

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

Bijoy Bhushan Pal, Director, Enforcement of Bangladesh Road and Transport Authority (BRTA) 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 WWDs to the Director and call upon to express the solidarity on behalf of BRTA to these issues.

The Director was very cordial and cooperative to us. He expressed His full support and solidarity to our proposals. He 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 dialogue between the representatives of WDDF and the authority of BRTA 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.

### 10. NGO Coordination meeting with UNO in Narayanganj:

An NGO Coordination meeting with the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Narayanganj was being held in her office, on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016. The programs of NGOs, their working areas, repetition of same activities, organizing regular NGO coordination meeting, involvement of relevant Government officers with the activities of NGOs, the problems of the NGOs working in Narayanganj and solutions ETC are being discussed elaborately. Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Erona Khandakar, Project Officer of WDDF were present in this meeting.

### 11. A discussion Meeting about draft report on "UN CRPD":

A discussion meeting about draft report on "UNCRPD" was being organized by Protibandhi Nagarik Sangathaner Parishad (PNSP) in its own office, on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016. This meeting was being organized in order to review the draft state report on "CRPD" as well as to provide accurate and update information about establishing and actualizing the rights of Persons With Disabilities in the light of "CRPD". Md. Hasanuzzaman, Accounts Coordinator, WDDF was participated in this meeting.

### 12. CEDAW Meeting:

A meeting of Citizens Initiative on CEDAW Bangladesh (CICBD) on CEDAW Reporting was being organized by Steps Towards Development (STD) in its office, on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016. Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF was present in this meeting. The UN CEDAW Committee has sent a number of questions to the Government on the state report on

CEDAW and in these questions one question has been enlisted about disadvantaged women including WWDs in which it is mentioned that, the initiatives or update information of government about WWDs hasn't been mentioned clearly in the state report. So, it is discussed that, with the cooperation of thematic group of WWDs, CICBD platform will make a number of queries about WWDs and collect the answer of this query with update information.

#### 13. Discussion Meeting with the Vice Chancellor(VC) of Islamic University of Technology (IUT):

A discussion meeting was held with a Delegation of WDDF as well as the Vice Chancellor of Islamic University of Technology (IUT) on 18th May 2016, at 10AM, in his office.

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

Professor Dr. Munaz Ahmed Noor, Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Technology (IUT) expressed his heartiest thanks to the representatives of WDDF.

Afterwards, AshrafunNahar, 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 ShirinAkhter, 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 IUT to these issues.

The Vice Chancellor was very cordial and cooperative to us. He expressed His full support and solidarity to our proposals. He 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 dialogue between the representatives of WDDF and the authority of IUT 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.

#### 14. Discussion Meeting with the Chairman of Bangladesh Road and Transport Corporation (BRTC):

A discussion meeting was held with a Delegation of WDDF as well as the Chairman of Bangladesh Road and Transport Corporation (BRTC) on 25th May 2016, at 4 PM, in his office.

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

Mohammad MizanurRahman Chairman of Bangladesh Road and Transport Corporation (BRTC) expressed his heartiest thanks to the representatives of WDDF.

Afterwards, AshrafunNahar, 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 ShirinAkhter, 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 Chairman and call upon to express the solidarity on behalf of BRTC to these issues.

The Chairman was very cordial and cooperative to us. He expressed His full support and solidarity to our proposals. He 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 dialogue between the representatives of WDDF and the authority of BRTC 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.

## JUNE 2016

#### 5. Conference:

A conference on "National Access to Justice" was being organized by Bangladesh Legal Services and Trust (BLAST) in collaboration with Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) and Bangladesh Environmental Law Association (BELA) on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2016, in international Conference Centre of CIRDAP. A number of papers were being present. Among these Three papers on

1. ship breaking,
2. II) Public Interests Litigation (PIL) and
3. Sexual Harassment are being discussed elaborately. A number of lawyers and justice were expressed their valuable views and recommendations about existing justice system on different issues. ShirinAkhter, Chairperson and ReshmaAkter, Project Officer of WDDF were present in this conference. In open discussion ShirinAkhter expressed her recommendations on different issues; E.G For the entitlement of Persons With Disabilities everybody should use the appropriate terminology according to the UN CRPD.

- Most institutions including justice institutions are inaccessible for Persons With Disabilities So, they are deprived from getting proper justice.

Women With Disabilities are often become victim of sexual harassment and due to their disability along with inaccessible justice system in most cases they haven't got any justice. So, media should take strong responsibility to publish the news through addressing their needs with dignity. She also recommended to form a judicial committee for Persons With Disabilities in Supreme Court in order to obtain proper justice for them.

#### 6. Discussion Meeting with the Coordinator of ManusherJonno Foundation (MJF):

A discussion meeting was held with a Delegation of WDDF as well as the Coordinator of ManusherJonno Foundation (MJF) on 5th June 2016, at 10 AM, in her office.

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

Nazrana Yesmin Hira, Coordinator, Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) 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 Coordinator and call upon to express the solidarity on behalf of MJF to these issues.

The Coordinator was very cordial and cooperative to us. She expressed her full support and solidarity to our proposals. She 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 dialogue between the representatives of WDDF and the authority of MJF 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.

#### 7. Press Conference on Reaction after budget:

A press conference on "Reaction after budget was held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016, at Reporters Unity. This press conference is being organized by Access Bangladesh Foundation in collaboration with DRF Guarantee Coordination Committee. AshrafunNahar, Executive Director, WDDF and Project Officer ReshmaAkter were participated in this press conference. AshrafunNahar, Executive Director, WDDF, on behalf of WDDs, stated that, inclusive development is not possible without inclusive budget. Simultaneously, as the estimated number of PWDs is around 24 million people which constitutes 15% out of total population and they are the integral part of the nation. So, it is required to allocate disability inclusive budget for disability inclusive development. She also pointed out that, gender responsive budget is being declared in every fiscal year but Women With Disabilities are excluded from this gender responsive budget and they are only included in the budget for social safety net under Social Welfare Ministry and that system should be changed. Hence, For achieving disability inclusive development, disability issue must be incorporated in national budget and at least 10% budget should be allocated under every ministry and 10% budget for WWDs under gender responsive budget.

Before the National Budget declaration, we repeated the same logical speech for last ¾ years, but there hasn't been any change in National budget. We were hopeful about the National Budget of the fiscal year 2016-17 but the same situation has been happened; Increased the amount of disability pension and the number of pension holders. Persons With Disabilities are excluded from the development areas of National Budget and this is not disability inclusive budget. So, we are not sure that, how long we have to wait for appropriate disability inclusive National Budget. All the participants have shared their views on the importance of disability inclusive budget.

#### 8. Thematic Group Meeting for the Advancement of Women With Disabilities:



A thematic group meeting with the participation of women leaders with disabilities working in different organizations to promote the rights of WWDs was being organized by National Forum of Organizations working with the Disabled (NFOWD) in its office, on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016. A number of issues about WWDs are being discussed in this meeting; E.G. appropriate information about WWDs hasn't been included in the CEDAW report submitted by Government and how the thematic group on the issue of WWDs of CICBD platform will prepare the answer of the question sent by the CEDAW committee to the government. It is often seen that, a number of women and girls with disabilities become victim of sexual harassment and raped but there is no any data have been collected. So, initiative should be taken to collect the accurate data of these women and girls and the members of this thematic group should take the responsibility to collect this data. ShirinAkhter, Chairperson and ReshmaAkter, Project Officer of WDDF were participated in this meeting.

#### 9. Discussion Meeting with the Executive Director of NijeraKori:

A discussion meeting on conducting a research about reproductive health of Women With Disabilities was being organized with the initiative of WDDF, on 9 June 2016, with KhushiKabir, Executive Director, NijeraKori in its office.

The issues, E.G Researcher appointment, research method, to develop questionnaire to appoint volunteer for data collection and report preparation are being discussed elaborately.

Ashrafun-Nahar

It is decided that, researcher will be appointed after Ramadan. Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF led this discussion meeting.

#### 10. Discussion Meeting with the Country Coordinator of Christoffel-Blinden Mission (CBM):

A discussion meeting was held with a Delegation of WDDF as well as the Country Coordinator including a number of representatives of Christoffel-Blinden Mission (CBM) on 22nd June 2016, at 10 AM, in CBM office.

The representatives of EC including the officials of WDDF attended in the above mentioned meeting. Mohd. Shah Nawaz Qureshi, Country Coordinator, Christoffel-Blinden Mission (CBM) expressed his heartiest thanks to the representatives of WDDF.

Afterwards, AshrafunNahar, 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 ShirinAkhter, 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 Country Coordinator and call upon to express the solidarity on behalf of CBM to these issues.

The Country Coordinator was very cordial and cooperative to us. He expressed his full support and solidarity to our proposals. He 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 dialogue between the representatives of WDDF and the authority of CBM 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.



## NOVEMBER 2016

### Discrimination against women with disabilities in society

Women with disabilities are among the most vulnerable segment of society facing stereotyping and stigma. Women with disabilities face discrimination, including multiple discrimination due to both disability and gender. They do not enjoy equality even within the disability community. Person with disabilities rights and protection Act 2013 does not include the gender perspective, and other domestic laws and policies failed to consider women with disabilities issues, such as the prevention and suppression of violence against women and children Act 2000 (amended 2003) and the Domestic Violence Act 2010.

Furthermore, there is no official statistical data disaggregated both by gender and type of impairment or disability, that would allow for policies addressing the rights of Women with Disabilities.

Despite being in the law, reasonable accommodation to ensure equal enjoyment of rights is not being provided in practice in the public and private sectors.

#### Education:

Girls with disabilities are remaining out of schools due to not applying inclusive education. as whole:

1. Accessibility to schools is very challenging due to the long distances students need to travel.
2. Accessibility of educational facilities is not fully ensured to all girls and women with disabilities. As example Government plans to install ramps are limited to primary schools.
3. Government does not have specific initiatives for Girls with disabilities to have access learning of braille and sign language, on equal basis with boys.
4. There is no training for teachers on inclusive education.

#### Employment:

Women with disabilities do not have access in non-government job and there is no measure to promote their inclusion in employment, for example there is no quota reserved for PWDs in the private sector.

Regarding the public sector, women with disabilities face discrimination in the 1% 1<sup>st</sup> class job reservation due to lack of implementation. Women with disabilities has limited access in 10% quota for 3<sup>rd</sup> class and 4<sup>th</sup> class jobs reservation for PWDs and orphan people, because orphans are benefited the most and men with disabilities are generally preferred over women.



Furthermore, reasonable accommodation is not being provided in practice to employees with disabilities.

#### **Health**

Women with disabilities do not access to health services, including those on reproductive health, in general hospital and community health care institutions due to lack of awareness and understanding on the rights of Women with Disabilities and lack of accessibility of health facilities, equipment, information and communication.

For example Doctors and medical professionals recommend women with physical disabilities to stay at home. They are not interested to provide health services to women with disabilities.

## **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).