

JUNE 2016

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JUNE ACTIVITIES REPORT 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 4th 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. Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Reshma Akter, Project Officer of WDDF were present in this conference. In open discussion Shirin Akhter 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 Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF):

A discussion meeting was held with a Delegation of WDDF as well as the Coordinator of Manusher Jonno 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 6th June 2016, at Reporters Unity. This press conference is being organized by Access Bangladesh Foundation in collaboration with DRF Guarantee Coordination Committee. Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF and Project Officer Reshma Akter were participated in this press conference. 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 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 7th 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. Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Reshma Akter, Project Officer of WDDF were participated in this meeting.

9. Discussion Meeting with the Executive Director of Nijera Kori:

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 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. It is decided that, researcher will be appointed after Ramadan. Ashrafun Nahar,

 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, 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 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.



ABOUT WDDF

The estimated number of Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) in Bangladesh, is around 24 million people, which constitutes 15 % of total population. 15% of Population have a disability.

Half of these are female. This is 12 Million girls and women with disabilities (WWDs).

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