

# AUGUST 17

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

1. Grassroot Women with Disabilities committee meeting: One Grassroot Women with Disabilities committee meeting was being organized in August.

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

1. I) To introduce Women with Disabilities of the same union with each other as well as to establish a friendly relation among them through regular communication appearing in monthly meetings.
2. II) To encourage and motivate Women with Disabilities and their parents through reducing their negative attitude about disability.

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

1. IV) To build leadership capacity of Women with Disabilities through enhancing awareness among them.
2. V) To provide information about disability related Government initiatives, documents along with facilities including NGOs as well as make them experienced on how to obtain these facilities through advocacy in different level.
3. VI) To adopt required initiative in order to include Women with Disabilities in local level including women related development process through their regular and active participation.

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

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

A discussion meeting with the Grassroot Women with Disabilities Committee of 'Daudkandi Uttar' and 'Baropara' Doudkandi, Comilla was being organized by WDDF, at Mukul Niketan of Gouripur Union at 10.00 AM, on 1st August 2017.

This meeting is presided over Asma Akter, president of grassroot Women with Disabilities Committee and facilitated by Sima Akter, Secretary of this committee with the observation and cooperation of Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Masuma Akter, Vice Chairperson and Md. Hasanuzzaman, Program Coordinator of WDDF.

2. Consultation about National Action Plan on 'Persons with Disabilities Rights and protection Act 2013':

A consultation meeting about National Action Plan on 'Persons with Disabilities Rights and protection Act 2013' was being organized by National Human Rights Commission Bangladesh (NHRCB), at 10 AM, on 2nd August 2017, in the Auditorium of NHRCB. Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Md. Hasanuzzaman, Program Coordinator were present in this consultation meeting. Actually, it was a review meeting of draft National Action Plan.

3. Sylhet shelter home visit:

WDDF representatives visited Sylhet divisional shelter home on 9th August 2017 and organized a discussion meeting with Abu Shama, Social Service Officer of this shelter home. Actually, it was a follow up visit of WDDF. In 2014, at the time of shelter home construction, WDDF made strong advocacy with the relevant authorities of Government in order to making this shelter home infrastructurally accessible through attaching ramp, accessible toilet for wheel chair users and other essential facilities to ensure accessibility for Women with Disabilities. Simultaneously, to accommodate victim Women with Disabilities through providing their need based services. So, after having been constructed this shelter home, it was the first time visit of the representatives of WDDF in order to follow up the accessibility of the shelter home and whether victim Women with Disabilities are getting services or not. After having been completed the shelter home visit, it would be noted that, this shelter home is infrastructurally accessible and Women with mild Disabilities are getting services. It is also noted that, Abu Shama, Social service Officer of shelter home thinks that, due to negative attitude, unacceptability of victim Women without Disabilities and lack of informational accessibility, Women with Disabilities haven't get proper facilities and services. So, shelter home for Women with Disabilities should be separate. otherwise it is very difficult for them to accommodate them together. Besides, this visit will also be helpful for us to disseminate the information about Government facilities for victim Women with Disabilities and victim Women with disabilities from the remote areas of Sylhet will get opportunity to accommodate here along with taking services on the basis of requirement.

4. Discussion meeting with the representatives of Sylhet Bar Association:

A Discussion meeting was being organized with the representatives of WDDF as well as the representatives including President, Vice President, Secretary and other members of Sylhet Bar Association at 3.00 PM, on 9th August 2017 in Court building. Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Md. Hasanuzzaman, Program Coordinator of WDDF attended in the above mentioned meeting.

Md. Hasanuzzaman, Program Coordinator, WDDF facilitated the meeting and Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, WDDF explicated the purpose and importance of organizing this discussion meeting in her welcome speech.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF presented a keynote paper including a few proposals and Shirin Akhter discussed about the complexity of Women with Disabilities in access to justice along with the inaccessibility in Court building and call upon solidarity of bar association members to this issue.

The representatives of Sylhet Bar association were very cordial and cooperative to us and they expressed their commitment to adopt required initiative to reduce these challenges of Persons specially Women with Disabilities access to justice.

5. Workshop: A workshop on 'Strength and weakness of women's organizations as well as develop a future action to remove the barrier in order to contribute in greater women's movement' was being organized by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2017, in the Auditorium of MJF.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, WDDF participated in this workshop.

Ten Women's organizations were participated in this workshop. As an organization of Women with Disabilities, the strength, weakness, background of connecting with mainstream women movement, experience of making advocacy in national and international level and success of WDDF are being discussed elaborately.

6. Executive Council meeting:

An Executive Council meeting was held on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2017 at Daudkandi (In the residence of Masuma Akter, Vice Chairman, WDDF). There were almost Ten participants including office staffs. Five agenda have been discussed including miscellaneous in this meeting.

7. Training on "Reproductive health rights of Women with Disabilities":

A training on 'Reproductive Health Rights of Women with Disabilities' was being held on 19th August 2017

This training with the participation of 24 different types of Women with disabilities of Three unions (Gouripur, Baropara and Daudkandi Uttar) of Daudkandi, Comilla is being organized by Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) in the auditorium of Hasanpur Boys and Girls Vocational Training Centre, Daudkandi. There was One resource person and Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Executive Director, along with Program Coordinator of WDDF facilitated 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 person of this training, Nargis Akter Lipy, Centre Manager (Expert on Reproductive Health Rights) Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) was present in the abovementioned training.

This training is being started at 10.00 AM, on 19th August 2017, 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 persons started her presentation on 'Reproductive Health Rights of Women with Disabilities' and this presentation includes:

1. What is reproductive health?
2. 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?

1. IX) What are sexual organs?
2. X) Which sexual organs are being used for maintaining sexual relation?

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:

1. 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.
2. 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.

8. Discussion meeting of thematic group on Women Rights:

A discussion meeting of thematic group on Women Rights was being organized by National Human Rights Commission Bangladesh (NHRCB), at 10 AM, on 21st August 2017, in the Auditorium of NHRCB.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator, WDDF participated in this discussion meeting. On behalf of Women with Disabilities WDDF has been included in the thematic group on Women rights.

Another important agenda of this discussion meeting was review the recommendations of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) about women rights. Shirin Akhter emphasized to include the issue of Women with Disabilities Rights in the women rights issue of UPR report as well as the accessibility issue of Women with Disabilities.

9. Seminar:

A seminar on "**Analysis of the situation of Women with Disabilities in different law and policy**" is being organized with the initiative of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF), at **Azimur Rahman conference hall, the Daily Star Bhaban**, on Wednesday, 23rd August 2017, from 10 AM to 2 PM. in order to discuss the situation of Women With Disabilities in different law and policy and how their human rights are being violated due to excluding their rights in different laws and policy. So, we urge for an inclusive, anti

discriminatory and Women with Disabilities friendly society for all. WDDF run and led by Women with Disabilities has been working as collective force with the Government, policy makers, representatives of civil society and media for the inclusion of Women with Disabilities in mainstream development process through reducing their challenges and discrimination in the issue of infrastructural and informational accessibility in all aspects including justice system. The seminar was being moderated and keynote paper was being presented by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF). In this paper she mentioned that, 96% Women with Disabilities become victim of physical, mental torture and sexual harassment as well as less than 1% female children with Disabilities get opportunity of going to school.

Effective initiatives have yet not been adopted for their skill development and creating employment. Though the issue of stopping social discrimination and torture to the Persons with Disabilities in law and policy has been mentioned but specific initiative hasn't been adopted to actualize these law and policy. Most of Women with Disabilities (WWDs) are suffering from inaccessible justice system and deprived from their equal citizen rights. In spite of having been arrived in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, there are no accessibility n Judge courts, District courts, even in Supreme Court for Persons with Disabilities. Most of the laws are formulated and enacted without the inclusion and participation of Persons with Disabilities. So, the scenario of the sufferings of Women with disabilities in the ongoing legal support and services is extremely vulnerable in the existing situation. Though UNCRPD Article-13 'Access to justice' noted that, States Parties shall ensure effective access to justice

## 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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