

## Activity Report

August 2018

Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF)

We are concluded the following activities, during the period of August 2018 are as follows:

### **1. Discussion meeting with Ward Counselor:**

A discussion meeting with Ward Counselor on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM) was jointly being organized with the initiative of Visually Impaired Peoples Society (VIPS) and Women With disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) with Ward Counselor in Ward Counselor's office, Ward # 30 on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Md. Abdul Hai, Junior Assistant Coordinator (WDDF), Nazma Ara Begum Popy, General Secretary and Shamsul Arifin Khan, Coordinator, VIPS were participated in this discussion meeting. The representatives of both Disabled Peoples Organizations (DPOs) VIPS and WDDF discussed about Persons with Disabilities inclusion in Ward Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM) committee in order to ensure security of Persons with Disabilities at the time of any disaster period. The ward Counselor appreciated our initiative and expressed his firm commitment to include Persons with Disabilities as member of this committee from next Ward Committee meeting on DRRM.

### **2. Discussion meeting with grassroots Women with Disabilities:**

A discussion meeting with grassroots Women with Disabilities in order to growing awareness about their rights and making them self-confident was being organized by Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF discussed about rights of Women with Disabilities in this discussion meeting.

### **3. Workshop:**

A workshop on existing challenges of Persons with Disabilities to exercise voting rights was being organized by Election Commission in collaboration with Election Alliance of Citizens with Disabilities and International Forum of Electoral Service (IFES) on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2018 at the Auditorium of Election Commission office.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Arifa Khatun, Junior Assistant Coordinator of WDDF were participated in this workshop. Ashrafun Nahar emphasized on following recommendations:

- I) To include Persons with Disabilities in election observer group and separate observer group should be assigned for Persons with Disabilities through providing training this group on disability issue.
- II) In order to cooperate Persons with Disabilities to cast their votes accessibly and securely, an officer should be assigned in each voting centre simultaneously separate accessible election booths and election officer in each booths should be set up for Persons with Disabilities to cast their votes independently.
- III) To collect information of Voters with Disabilities through visiting from door to door in grassroots level and voter list should be updated.

#### **4. Discussion meeting:**

A Discussion meeting on the occasion of 88 Birth day of Banga Mother Sheikh Fazilatun Nessa was being organized by Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA), in Banga Bandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator of WDDF were present in this discussion meeting.

#### **5. Press Conference:**

A press Conference on demanding independent investigation of recent violence against students and journalists as well as release of Shahidul Alam, a renowned photo grapher and founder of Drik Gallery was being organized by Human Rights Forum of Bangladesh (HRFB), in National Press Club on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF participated as speaker in this Press Conference. Ashrafun Nahar said that, students should be free from all types of violence and the students, who already have become disabled due to violence their issues should be considered on the basis of human rights. Actually, all issues related with public interests should be considered and justified for peaceful life leading and advantage of citizens simultaneously for preserving human rights of all classes of citizens.

This meeting is presided over Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF and representative of Daudkandi Grassroots Women with Disabilities committee.

The discussed issues of this meeting were:

- I) To reduce family and social discrimination against Girls and Women with Disabilities,
- II) To make Women with Disabilities active and productive through enhancing awareness, self-confidence and efficiency,
- III) To develop leadership capacity among Girls and Women with Disabilities.

#### **7. Pre preparation meeting:**

A pre preparation meeting about observing national mourning day on the occasion of death of father of the Nation Banga Bandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was being organized by NGO Affairs Bureau at the Auditorium of NGO Affairs Bureau on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Arifa Khatun, Junior Assistant Coordinator of WDDF were present in this pre preparation meeting.

#### **8. Discussion meeting:**

A discussion meeting on implementation of **“Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017”** and next course of action for enacting rules of **“Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017”** was being organized by We Can Alliance to end Domestic Violence, in the Auditorium of Manusher Jonnyo Foundation (MJF) on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Arifa Khatun, Junior Assistant Coordinator of WDDF were participated in this discussion meeting. Shirin Akhter said that, Women with Disabilities aren't being addressed and their issues aren't being included in **“Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017”** but the State Minister of MOWCA has mentioned in CEDAW session that, the age of marriage is being reduced due to getting marriage of Women with Disabilities easily. It is also noted that, the rate of disability will be increased due to early marriage.

#### **9. Grief-stricken discussion meeting:**

A Grief-stricken discussion meeting on the occasion of national mourning day was being organized by Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) at WDDF office, on 15th August 2018.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF started this discussion meeting through apprising her deep gratitude and veneration to the departed soul of father of the Nation, Banga Bandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. She said that, Banga Bandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was a great leader and the architect of country's independence through whose continuous struggle and self-dedication we've achieved an independent country as well as we're living as an independent nation.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, WDDF said that, we're very fortunate that, we've got a self-devoted leader like Banga bandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who has dedicated his life for this country. Due to his unparalleled leadership and interminable struggle, we're living as independent citizens in a sovereign and independent country like Bangladesh. So, we will keep him in our regular prayer every

day including today. The learnings of resilient struggle and story of self-dedication of Banga bandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will be guidance for us to build a prosperous and inclusive Bangladesh which will be resilient, sustained, and peaceful and secured for our next generation. Simultaneously, this lesson of struggle and self-devotion will encourage our next generation to serve their mother land with loyalty, love and sincerity.

After that, all staffs of WDDF discussed about his constant struggle, great leadership and devotion for Bangladesh and his novels by rotation. They said that, the great leader Banga Bandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is our ideal and we should learn always from his work and life.

Finally, we conveyed our deep veneration and seeking eternal peace for the departed souls of Banga bandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family.

#### **10. Discussion meeting:**

A discussion meeting titled “Justice for Women on perspective of Bangladesh” was being organized by We can alliance to end domestic violence, in Daily star Bhaban on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Arifa Khatun, Junior Assistant Coordinator of WDDF were participated in this discussion meeting.

Ashrafun Nahar stated that, according to our working experience, it is seen that, Women with Disabilities are becoming victim of rape in different districts and after having filed a case with the cooperation of WDDF it takes long procedure. Due to this extreme slow process and long procedure, victim Women with Disabilities and their parents have to wait for long time for court judgment simultaneously they’ve to face different types of sufferings, mental and physical harassments including threats from offenders’ party. Consequentially, in most cases, they aren’t agree to continue the litigations. On the other hand, as advocates have to continue these litigations at the side of other paid litigations, so, in most cases, they aren’t interested to expend enough time to these unpaid litigations. She mentioned the incidents of some recently continued litigations for instance. She has also would like to inform about duties on behalf of victim in this circumstances.

#### **11. Experience sharing meeting:**

An experience sharing meeting on discrimination against Girls and Women with Disabilities was being organized by Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) and locally supported by Association of Women with Disabilities-Chattagram, in the Auditorium of Utsa office of Chattagram on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

It was an experience sharing meeting with the Women leaders with Disabilities in Divisional level of Chattagram. Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator of WDDF were present in this experience sharing meeting. Welcome speech is being delivered by Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, WDDF, where she

illustrated the purpose of the meeting. Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF facilitated the experience sharing meeting.

At first every participants is introduced with each other through introductory session. After that, Ashrafun Nahar discussed about activities of WDDF through focusing the discriminatory areas for Women with Disabilities where WDDF is making advocacy to reduce discrimination against Girls and Women with Disabilities in her speech briefly. She also said that, Women with Disabilities have to be active and self-confident in order to obtaining their rights simultaneously, she encouraged all the participants to share their experience openly and without any hesitation.

So, all participants shared their story of discrimination in different areas by rotation.

According to the statements of Women with Disabilities, they've to face multifaceted problems and discriminations in all aspects of life.

They emphasized on family, education, employment, health, recreational and social activities where they've to face severe discrimination by their relatives, family members, classmates, colleagues, community people and civil society representatives due to their disabilities.

Finally, all participants are agreed with the same opinion that, Women with Disabilities have to be very conscious about their rights and work together with efficiency to reduce discrimination against them.

## **12. Discussion meeting:**

A discussion meeting of thematic committee on Disabilities and Autism was being organized by National Human Rights Commission Bangladesh (NHRCB) at the auditorium of NHRCB, on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

Md. Abdul Hai, Junior Assistant Coordinator, WDDF participated in this discussion meeting.

## **13. Discussion meeting of thematic group on UN CRPD alternative report:**

A discussion meeting of thematic group on UN CRPD alternative report was being organized by National Grassroots Disabled Organization (NGDO) at the Auditorium of Turning Point Foundation (TPF) on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

Arifa Khatun, Junior Assistant Coordinator, WDDF participated in this discussion meeting.