

Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF)

Activity report

July 2019

We are concluded the following activities, during the period of July 2019 are as follows:

1. Workshop:

A three day workshop titled Inception workshop with Disabled Peoples Organizations (DPOs) on Women Integrated Sexual Health (WISH2 Action) project was being organized by Handicap International at the training centre of Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) from 9 to 11 July 2019. Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator, WDDF participated in this workshop.

2. Discussion meeting:

A Discussion meeting on labor market assessment for Persons with Disabilities was being organized by Sight savers at the conference room of Sight savers on 15 July 2019. Md. Abdul Hai, Junior Assistant Coordinator of WDDF participated in this discussion meeting. He said that, for 3rd and 4th class Government job, 5% quota for Persons with Disabilities should be specific. A monitoring system for one year should be activated for new employees of Government and private job.

3. Workshop:

A preparatory workshop on one year progress report on the implementation of UPR commitments was being organized by Human Rights Forum Bangladesh (HRFB) at the Auditorium of NGO forum on 18 July 2019. Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Arifa Khatun, Junior Assistant Coordinator of WDDF participated in this workshop. Shirin Akhter mentioned that, the challenges of Women with Disabilities should be incorporated in the thematic area of women rights and draft Universal Periodic Report should be shared with all thematic group members.

4. Discussion meeting:

A discussion meeting on developing strategy for BRAC Bangladesh from 2021 to 2025 was being organized by BRAC at BRAC in Centre on 18 July 2019. Md. Abdul Hai, Junior Assistant Coordinator, WDDF participated in this discussion meeting. Hai said that, following issues should be included in the Developing strategy for BRAC Bangladesh from 2021 to 2025, e.g.

- I) Creating employment for Persons specially Women with Disabilities in BRAC and other NGOs.
- II) Ensuring accessibility in all infrastructures including head office of BRAC through consultation and cooperation of WDDF.

- III) Creating educational opportunity for Persons especially Women with Disabilities in high school and college level.

5. Executive Council Meeting:

An Executive Council meeting was held at WDDF office, on 20 July 2019. There were almost nine participants including office staffs. Seven agenda have been discussed including miscellaneous in this Executive Council meeting.

6. Training:

A 7 days Training titled Women leadership building and amplification was being organized by Naripokkho at Hope foundation, Savar from 22nd to 29 July 2019.

Rounak Jahan Usha, Treasurer and Arifa Khatun, Junior Assistant Coordinator, WDDF participated in this training. Following issues, e.g. women leadership, history of women movement, multifaceted discrimination against women, discrimination against diverse women groups, struggle of diverse women groups, process of achieving women leadership and amplification are being discussed elaborately.

7. Human chain:

A human chain on protesting violence and torture against Persons with Disabilities was being organized by United Citizens with Disabilities in front of National Press Club at 10 AM, on 23 July 2019. Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator, WDDF participated in this human chain. Shirin Akhter said that, it is a matter of great sorrow that, due to rumor dissemination about requirement of children's heads and blood for Padma Bridge; Persons with Disabilities are frequently tortured and died by mob beating. She on behalf of United Citizens with Disabilities including WDDF has expressed acute rebuking to the mob beaters simultaneously deep condolence and compassion to the Victims with Disabilities and their family for this heinous and remorseful incidents. She also stated that, United Citizens with Disabilities and Disabled Peoples Organizations (DPOs) will adopt required initiative and build abandoned movement unless violence against Persons with Disabilities having stopped.

Following recommendations are being mentioned at the end of the Human chain:

- I) Fifty hundred thousand (5000000) taka should be provided as compensation to the family of the persons with Disabilities who have died by mob beating and utmost medical treatment should be ensured including twenty hundred thousand (2000000) taka compensation for the injured Persons with Disabilities.
- II) Legal action should be adopted against mob beaters and proper punishment should be ensured through ending litigations briskly; special cell should be formed on the basis of requirement for rapid completion of mob beaters litigations.
- III) Persons with Disabilities are becoming victim of violence, attacking or mob beating effortlessly. So, in order to protect them, legislation should be formulated and proper implementation of this legislation should be ensured.

- IV) In order to ensure the right of independent mobility of Persons with Intellectual and mental Disabilities, awareness raising activities including legislation formulation should be adopted.
- V) Noted activities in the schedule of Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013 should be actualized rapidly in order to promoting and protecting basic rights of Persons with Disabilities.

8. Seminar:

A seminar on 'Delimiting rape: Consent, Fraud and Breach of promises' was being organized by Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) at the Auditorium of Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) at 3.00 PM, on 23 July 2019.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator, WDDF participated in this seminar. Shirin Akhter stated that, disability should not be the indicator of measurement as good or bad for a woman. She also highlighted that, Women with Disabilities are frequently becoming victim of fraud and they're often neglected of having delimited their consent due to disability. So, rape law should be formulated considering limitations of Women with Disabilities simultaneously ensuring accessible and inclusive approach of obtaining justice for them.

9. National level advocacy meeting:

A national level advocacy meeting with Disabled Peoples Organizations (DPOs) was being organized by Handicap International at Bengal in Hotel on 28 July 2019. Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator, WDDF participated in this advocacy meeting.

10. Discussion meeting with the Director, Health Department, Rajshahi:

A discussion meeting was held between the representatives of WDDF and the **Director, Health Department, Rajshahi** in his office at 12.00 PM, 29 July 2019. Chairperson and Executive Director including the officials of WDDF attended in the above mentioned discussion meeting. Mr. Gupendra Nath Achariya, **Director, Health Department, Rajshahi** expressed his heartiest thanks to the representatives of WDDF. Afterwards, Ashrafun Nahar, 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 proposal for providing Women with Disabilities friendly health services through health department to the Director and call upon to express the solidarity on behalf of Health department of Rajshahi to these issues. The Director was very cordial and cooperative to us. Expressing full support and solidarity to our proposals he said that, considering the situation of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Health has published a circular and Health departments with the cooperation of Health Ministry will adopt more initiative to make disability friendly health services by rotation. He also said that, present Government is very compassionate to 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 discussion meeting between the representatives of WDDF and the Director of Health Department, Rajshahi in order to include 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 discussion meeting expressed their satisfactory feelings and positive remarks.

11. Discussion meeting with the Students with Disabilities of Rajshahi University:

A discussion meeting was held between the representatives of WDDF and the representatives of Physically Challenged Development Foundation (PDF) comprising the Students with Disabilities of Rajshahi University at PDF office at 5.00 PM, on 29 July 2019. Chairperson and Executive Director including the officials of WDDF attended in the above mentioned discussion meeting. Following issues and challenges of Students with Disabilities are being discussed on the basis of priority: e.g.

- I) Infrastructural and informational inaccessibility of Students with Disabilities.
- II) Making advocacy in order to getting admission of Visual Impaired Students.
- III) Challenges of Students with Disabilities in job sector.
- IV) Getting preparation of Students with Disabilities for getting suitable job through enhancing study habit, English and computer skill.
- V) Taking preparation for obtaining Higher education scholarship.
- VI) Communicating with advocacy organizations specially Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) after having participated in written interview.

Finally, The representatives of WDDF expressed their firm commitment to provide all types of cooperation in order to getting job of Persons with Disabilities and suggested the Students with Disabilities to continue study not only for job but also to enrich their talent without being frustrated. Actually, this discussion meeting is very effective and time required for the Students with Disabilities for encouraging and energizing them.

12. Discussion meeting with Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation:

A discussion meeting was held between the representatives of WDDF and the Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation in his office at 3.00 PM, on 30 July 2019.

The representatives of Executive Council including the officials of WDDF attended in the above mentioned meeting. Mr. Khairujjaman Liton, Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation expressed his heartiest thanks to the representatives of WDDF. Afterwards, Ashrafun Nahar, 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 Women With Disabilities to the Mayor and call upon to express the solidarity on behalf of Rajshahi City Corporation to these issues. The representatives of WDDF also pointed out that, the Rajshahi City Corporation Bhaban and footpaths are inaccessible for Persons specially Women with Disabilities. Acknowledging this reality the Mayor told that, actually, this issue of accessibility isn't being considered 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 Rajshahi City Corporation in order to include 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.

13. Discussion meeting with Chief Community Development Officer of Rajshahi City Corporation:

A discussion meeting was held between the representatives of WDDF and the **Chief Community Development Officer** of Rajshahi City Corporation in his office at 4.00 PM, on 30 July 2019.

The representatives of Executive Council including the officials of WDDF attended in the above mentioned meeting. **Mr. Azizur Rahman, Chief Community Development Officer** of Rajshahi City Corporation expressing his full support to the submitted proposals of WDDF said that, these proposals are immensely important and very relevant for leading standard life of Persons with Disabilities and it is high time to adopt initiative to actualize these proposals.

He suggested WDDF to organize a series of consultations and programs with the authority of Rajshahi City Corporation and the authority will adopt initiative to actualize these proposals by rotation.

14. Discussion meeting with Shamim Sarker, father of a victim Girl with Intellectual Disability:

A discussion meeting was held with Shamim Sarker, a farmer, father of a Rape victim Girl with Intellectual Disability at Red Chilies Restaurant at 9.30 AM, on 31 July 2019.

The representatives of Executive Council including the officials of WDDF attended in the above mentioned meeting. The representatives of WDDF discussed about present situation of his daughter, Ayesha Siddika Shammi's rape litigation. Shamim Sarker informed us there is no mentionable progress of litigation rather he and his family has to face threats and torture always. He also informed that, Department of Social Services hasn't issued disability identification card for his daughter yet but though his family is flood affected and as a farmer, he couldn't cultivate land nevertheless, responsible Ward Commissioner for relief distribution

isn't distributing any type of relief for this family due to having probability of his daughter's with Intellectual Disability getting disability allowance.

After having heard this news of sufferings, Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director of WDDF promptly communicated with responsible officer of Department of Social Services for issuing disability identification card as soon as possible and responsible Ward Commissioner for providing relief to this family according to the reference of "Standing Order on Disaster SOD) of Ministry of relief and disaster. As a result of this discussion and communication, officer, Department of Social Services has issued disability identification card of Ayesha Siddika Shammi on 31 July 2019 and Ward Commissioner has provided relief to this family on 2nd August 2019.

15. Discussion meeting with Public Prosecutor (PP) of Nari Shishu Court 1 of Bogura:

A Discussion meeting was held between the representatives of WDDF and the Public Prosecutor (PP) of Nari Shishu Court 1 of Bogura in his office at 2.00 PM, on 31 July 2019.

The representatives of Executive Council including the officials of WDDF attended in the above mentioned meeting. The representatives of WDDF discussed about present situation and deliberate progress of rape litigation of Ayesha Siddika Shammi, a Girl with Intellectual Disability elaborately. Mr. Naresh Kumar Mukharjee, Public Prosecutor (PP) of Nari Shishu Court 1 of Bogura was very sincere and supportive to this litigation; He checked all litigation papers and noted this litigation with high importance. He also mentioned that, this court is tried to ensure justice for poor, orphan and marginalized Women including Women with Disabilities so, he will operate this litigation on the basis of priority.

Finally, observing the situation and checking documents of litigation, PP expressed his firm commitment to observe this litigation with high priority and adopt initiative to finalize this litigation through obtaining justice.

Prepared by

Shirin Akhter
Chairperson WDDF

Checked by

Ashrafun Nahar
Executive Director WDDF

Approved by

Ashrafun Nahar
Executive Director WDDF