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APRIL 2016

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APRIL ACTIVITIES REPORT 2016

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 7th 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 WDDs 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 WDDs considering their vulnerability and backward situation.

- **Consultation Meeting:** A consultation meeting on "Disability Inclusive Budget" was held on 19th 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 WDDs 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 9th 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 backher in her family but Majeda has to withdraw the case. In this situation, Majeda's parents couldn't understand what should to 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 11th 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 12th April 2016. Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Project Officer Erona Khandakar were present in this meeting. Shirin Akhter told that, WDDs are an integral part of women and this group exists in the diverse group of women. So, this strategic plan should be WDDs inclusive as well as inclusive along with special initiatives and programs should be adopted through addressing the special requirements of WDDs.

- **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 13th 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 WDDs 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 WDDs. The officers of OCC have agreed with WDDF about the special care for victim WDDs.

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 14th 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 46th anniversary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, was being organized by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP), on 18th 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 21st 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 24th 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 29th March to 2nd April 2016 in Thailand.

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

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).

