



Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF)
Annual Activity Report 2018
Table of Contents

Sl No	Subject	Page
1	Contact information of WDDF	03
2	WDDF at a glance	03

List of activities accomplished by WDDF

3	Seminar	05
4	Supporting programs for victim Girls with Disabilities	09
5	Discussion meeting with the representatives of Dhaka Bar Association	10
6	National Executive Council Meeting	11
7	Annual General meeting (AGM) and Picnic	11
8	Project Coordination meeting	13
9	Grassroots Committee meeting of Women with Disabilities	19
10	Inauguration ceremony of Skill development course of Grassroots Women with Disabilities	26
11	Focus Group Discussion	26
12	Training of Women with Disabilities on different Legislations, treaty and policy documents	27

13	Media Campaign	36
14	Visit Cox's Bazar in order to implement a Project on need assessment of Women and Children with Disabilities among Rohingya people	43
15	Inauguration of a Health campaign and Closing ceremony of skill development training course of Grassroots Women with Disabilities	43
16	Press conference	44
17	Discussion/Advocacy/Experience sharing Meeting	49
18	Convention on "Rights of Women with Disabilities"	59
19	Accomplished activities in Pabna and Bogura	61
20	Participation in International programs	62
21	The first Global Award for Women with Disabilities "Her Abilities" Achievement	65
22	Award Achievement	66

Participation in different Governmental and Non-Governmental programs/events

23	Discussion Meeting/ Experience sharing meeting	66
24	Consultation/Workshop	73
25	Conference/ Interactive dialogue/ Training/Evaluation program/Press Conference/Knowledge fair/Dialogue	80
26	Consultation/ Discussion meeting for preparing alternative report on CRPD	84
27	Programs on CEDAW	86
28	Discussion meeting of CIDV platform	87
29	Monthly NGO Coordination Meeting with District Commissioner	87
30	Day observance	88

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WDDF at a glance:

Mission: To support for building discrimination free life with equal dignity through creating equal opportunities and full participation of Women with Disabilities for activating all types of enrichment, development and servicing process of all types of Women with Disabilities of Bangladesh.

Vision: All types of Women with Disabilities of Bangladesh are contributing in Development of the nation through achieving economic development with self-dignity in barrier free environment by happening expansion of success in national and international circumference.

Goal:

- A.** Uphold the rights and dignity of Women with Disabilities through ensuring their accessibility and participation in all strata of the society.
- B.** To ensure full inclusion and dynamic participation of Women with Disabilities in all national legislations, policies, action plans and programs including International declarations along with documents.
- C.** To ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and training for all types of Girls and Women with Disabilities.
- D.** To ensure Sustainable Health services and facilities, rehabilitation, full and productive employment, security and recreation of all types of Girls and Women with Disabilities.
- E.** Empowerment of all types of Girls and Women with Disabilities through the attainment of economic sustainability along with building leadership capacity.

WDDF is a voluntary, non- political, non- profitable, non-governmental and women with Disabilities rights based organization. It is a self-help organization of enhancing Women with Disabilities' equal representation in the mainstream part of the society and proactive participating organization of, for and by women with Disabilities, working too actualize their aspirations and hopes for all intents and purposes to enable them to serve as self-reliant and dynamic participants in society. WDDF is run and managed by Women with Disabilities which has constitutionally been enrolling and engaging Women with Disabilities in planning,

implementing and managing of its programs from grassroots to national level. WDDF is dedicated directly to work with Women with Disabilities and they are beneficiaries and owners of this organization.

WDDF would act as an advocacy organization for all types of Women with Disabilities to defend their equal rights along with dignity as well as enrolling them in all strata of the society. To establish an inclusive, barrier-free and right-based society, by endowing with the privilege of the Women with Disabilities, in the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Incheon Strategy and Sustainable Development Goals specific article has been enacted for their advancement and enable to enroll them in the main stream development process of the society.

The estimated number of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Bangladesh is around 24 million, which constitutes 15 % of total population. 15% of Population have a disability. Half of them are female. This is 12 Million girls and women with disabilities. These are huge number of girls and Women with Disabilities in Bangladesh are one of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged segment of the society. They are always discriminated based on gender, disability and all too often, poorest of the poor. They are frequently subjected to discrimination both directly and indirectly and also negative attitudes and stereotyping. Although there are class differences, all Women with Disabilities have to face varying degrees of discrimination considering types and situations. Women with Disabilities are exposed to a greater risk of physical and sexual abuse, for the most part of which takes place within the context of their own families. They're often stigmatized and neglected from early childhood; many girls with disabilities are grown up in the lacking of a sense of their own self-worth and dignity. Most of them are isolated from mainstream society, stigmatized, mistreated and marginalized.

Women with Disabilities have been deprived of basic needs including access to Government and Non-Government services. In spite of having the responsibility of Bangladesh Government to include women in development process but all mainstreaming policies have been formulated and declared excluding Women with Disabilities.

Initiatives of Government and Non-Government organizations have failed to consider specific needs of Women with Disabilities. Rather to a certain extent Women with Disabilities have often been marginalized within women organizations, Non-Government organizations and Disabled Peoples' organizations. In the consequence, their views haven't been addressed in broader advocacy agenda.

It is immensely important; to adopt the policy, programs along with the allocation of need based resources through Government, Non-government organizations and International Non-government organizations to promote Women with Disabilities along with their inclusion in development process.

A group of Women with disabilities felt the absence of their own platform to raise the issues of women and girls with disabilities; they had become united and taken initiative to assess the requirement of a women with disabilities' rights based organization.

In view of the aforementioned state of affairs, as the first registered organization of Women with Disabilities, WDDF has given foundation in 2007, with vigorous efforts of a group of prospective women leaders with disabilities and in 2015 it has been registered in NGO Affairs Bureau.

It has given foundation from this contemplation that: "Women with Disabilities Are not alone. Their united and interminable endeavor will keep contribution to Create an inclusive, right-based and anti- discriminatory state for all including Women with Disabilities through their proper empowerment. And after having been started its activities, Through Advocacy WDDF has successfully been Incorporated the issues of Women with Disabilities in National legislations, Policies, orders, plans, programs and international declarations, documents and Reports.

Annual Activity Report 2018

Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF)

List of accomplished activities of WDDF

On the basis of analysis of the existing projects as well as in accordance with the felt need of grassroots Women with Disabilities (WWDS) all the activities of WDDF for the reporting period of 2018 have been divided in two parts.

Part A: List of activities accomplished by WDDF.

Part B: List of activities/events participated on behalf of WDDF in order to incorporate Women with Disabilities in the development process of the State.

Brief Description of the accomplished activities of part A:

We are concluded the following activities, during the period of 01 January to 31 December 2018 are as follows:

1. Seminar

Three seminars on different emerging issues of Women with Disabilities were being organized with the initiative of WDDF in this reporting year (From 01 January to 31 December 2018).

A) The first seminar on “Inclusion of Women with Disabilities in entire development of the state” is being organized with the initiative of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF), at Azimur Rahman conference hall, the Daily Star Bhaban, on Monday, 26 th February 2018, from 10 AM to 2 PM, in order to discuss the situation of Women With Disabilities in entire development process of the state including different legislations and policies and how their human rights are being violated due to excluding them from most of the development plans and programs of the state. 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, Present social status of Women with Disabilities in accordance with the information obtained from different researches.

In this paper, it is stated that, 99% Women with Disabilities are living under poverty line and less than 1% female Children with Disabilities are getting opportunity of going to school. 96% Women with Disabilities are becoming victim of mental, physical and sexual violence. Poverty has come down below 25% from 57% population of 1991. Inspire of having income discrimination has been increased, number of extreme poor population is 12.9%.



Due to firm commitment of government to build a fair and anti-discriminatory society, though the success of Bangladesh has established a role model in terms of education, health, sanitation and gender has been exposed in front of the world but success of government to establish anti-discriminatory infrastructure and

overall inclusive society for Persons with Disabilities hasn't been visualized. In the last year of Sixth Five year plan Per capita income has been extended in 1324 US\$ but income of Persons with Disabilities hasn't been increased and the initiative creating their financial capability hasn't been visualized.

Respected Guests of seminar said that, in spite of having been formulated national and international legislations and policies in order to establish right based and anti-discriminatory society for Persons with Disabilities and to include them in entire development of the state, these legislations and policies haven't been implemented and actualized. All legislations and policies including "Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013", "Neuro developmental Disability Trust Act 2013", "UNCRPD" and "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" should be included in 7th5 year plan and National Social Security Strategy (NSSS).

In open discussion of the seminar speakers are said that, the issue of Persons with Disability hasn't been included in 7th5 year plan properly and in this consequence, they're excluded from development plan. But the main theme of SDGs is "no one Leave behind". All ministries including Social Welfare Ministry should take responsibility to include Women with Disabilities in entire development of the state.

Besides, guests are also discussed the barriers of social inclusion of Women with Disabilities and ways of eliminating barriers elaborately. Simultaneously, they've expressed their commitment to adopt required initiative to include Women with Disabilities in entire development of the state.

Ms. Sultana Kamal, (Former Adviser Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh), Chairperson, Board of Trustee, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), was present as Chief Guest in the seminar. Besides, Beauty Begum, Clinical Psychologist, as the representative, in absence of Dr. Abul Hossen, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA), Md. Ehsan E Elahi, Joint Secretary, Bangladesh Road and Transport Corporation (BRTC) Road and Bridge Ministry and Zakia K Hassan (Immediate Past President Women for Women), Development Analyst and Researcher, President DIPTO Foundation were present as special Guests. This seminar is being presided over Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF).

B) The Second seminar on "Access to Justice for **Women with Disabilities**" is being organized with the initiative of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF), locally supported by Bogra Zila Spondon Protibondhi Nari Parisad, at the Conference Hall, Red Chillies Restaurant, Bogra, on Wednesday, 4th April 2018 from 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM, in order to discuss the scenario of access to justice for Women with Disabilities and how their human rights are being violated due to inaccessible and long procedures in justice system. 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 about the constitutional and legal rights of Girls and Women with Disabilities.

Most of the litigations, at the time of witness adopting procedures in court, sign language interpreter isn't being used for the victim Girls or Women with Speech and Hearing or intellectual Impairments. Police officers



and medical officers aren't cooperative to file the litigations of victim Girls or Women with Disabilities and legal institutions aren't disability friendly. Most of Women with Disabilities are suffering from inaccessible justice system and deprived from their equal citizen rights. In spite of having been arrived in the 21st Century, there are no accessibility in 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 UN CRPD article-13 'Access to justice' noted that, States parties shall ensure effective access to justice for Persons with Disabilities on an equal basis with others, including through the provision of procedural and age-appropriate accommodations, in order to facilitate their effective role as direct and indirect participants, including as witnesses, in all legal proceedings, including at investigative and other preliminary stages. The panel discussants of this seminar shared their challenging experiences and complexity to get justice of Women with Disabilities. They also stated that, though 'Persons with Disabilities Rights and protection Act 2013' and UN CRPD mentioned the issue of getting justice for Persons with Disabilities with very significance, with the strong advocacy and voice raising of Women with Disabilities rights activists only three legal support providing organizations BLAST, BRAC and BNWLA have come forward with their extensive hands to provide legal services for Women with Disabilities. Without having been enjoyed basic human rights including accessibility right in justice system along with participation, SDGs won't be achieved properly. In the light of realizing this situation, WDDF has organized this seminar due to advancing forward with this issue

The participants of the open discussion have clearly been stated that, Without having been enjoyed basic rights including accessibility right in justice system along with equal participation, all types of Women With Disabilities haven't been included in the mainstream of development and in this consequence, national development will extremely be interrupted.

Alimun Rajib, Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Bogra was present as Chief Guest in the program. Besides, Shahidul Islam Khan, Officer, Department of Social Services Bogra, Md. Shahidul Islam, Officer, Women Affairs Department Bogra, Representative on behalf of Biraj Chandra Sarker, Principal, Teachers Training College, Bogra, Dr. Khandakar Alangir Hossen, Executive Director, GUK, Md. Harun Ar Rashid, Chief Executive, Light House, Md. Anwarul Islam, Member, Legal Aid Committee, Spondan, Mrs. Mafuzara Niva, Executive Director, PASD, Md. Ziaur Rahman, Executive Director, Shopno, Md. Lutfar Rahman, Senior Manager, Legal Aid Support Centre, BRAC Bogra and Ashrafun Nahar Shapna, Coordinator Bogra BLAST Unit office were present as special guests in the abovementioned seminar. This seminar is being presided over Rebeka Akter, President of **Bogra Zila Spondon Protibondhi Nari Parisad**.

Welcome speech is being delivered by Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF).

C) The third seminar on "**Access to Justice for Women with Disabilities**" is being organized with the initiative of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF), at Conference hall, PCCS Bazar, Police Line, Pabna, **Locally Supported by Protik Mohila O Sheshu Sangstha (PMSS) Pabna**, on Monday, 14th May 2018 from 10 AM to 2 PM,in order to discuss the scenario of access to justice for Women With Disabilities and how their human rights are being violated due to inaccessible and long procedures in justice system. 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 Welcome speech is being delivered by S.M Saifur Rahman, Executive Director, Protik Mohila O Sheshu Sangstha (PMSS), Pabna. Keynote paper was being presented by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF). In this paper she mentioned about the constitutional and legal rights of Girls and Women with disabilities. Most of the litigations, at the time of witness adopting procedures in Court, sign language interpreter isn't being used for the victim girls or women with Speech and Hearing or intellectual impairments. Police officers and medical officers aren't cooperative to file the litigations of victim girls or women with Disabilities and legal institutions aren't disabled friendly. Most of Women with Disabilities are suffering from inaccessible justice system and deprived from their equal citizen rights. In spite of having been arrived in the 21st Century, there are no accessibility in Judge Courts, District courts, even in Supreme Court for Persons with Disabilities. Most of the legislations 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 for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, including through the provision of procedural and age-appropriate accommodations, in order to facilitate their effective role as direct and indirect participants, including as witnesses, in all legal proceedings, including at investigative and other preliminary stages. They also stated that, though 'Persons with Disabilities Rights and protection Act 2013 and UNCRPD mentioned the issue of getting justice for Persons with Disabilities with very significance, With the strong advocacy and voice raising of Women with disabilities Rights activists, only Three legal aid support providing organizations BLAST, BRAC and BNWLA have come forward with their extensive hands to provide legal services for Women with Disabilities. Without having been enjoyed basic human rights including accessibility right in justice system along with participation, SDGs won't be achieved properly. In the light of realizing this situation, WDDF has organized this seminar due to advancing forward with this issue.

The participants of the open discussion have clearly been stated that, without having been enjoyed basic rights including accessibility right in justice system along with equal participation, all types of Women With Disabilities haven't been included in the mainstream of development and in this consequence, national development will extremely be interrupted.

Md. Shaffiul Islam, Assistant District Commissioner (ADC) General, Pabna, was present as Chief Guest in the program. Besides, MST. Shamima Akter, Assistant Police Super (ASP), Pabna,

Md. Abdul Momin, Deputy Director, Department of Social Services Pabna,

Kanij Irin Jahan, Officer, Women Affairs Department Pabna

And ADV. Md. Alangir Hossain, Coordinator, Pabna Unit BLAST.

We're present as special guests in the above mentioned seminar.

Speakers of this seminar recognized that, there are gaps and challenges to get justice for Women with Disabilities and they expressed their commitment to take initiatives to reduce the gaps and challenges. Besides, the special guests are expressed their interest to learn sign language in order to cooperate the Women with Speech and Hearing Impairments and they wanted our cooperation in this regards. Kanij Irin Jahan expressed her commitment to include Women with Disabilities in the programs of Women Affairs department.

This seminar is being presided over Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF).

2. Supporting programs for victim Girls with Disabilities:

A) Supporting an orphan Girl with multiple Disabilities to rescue her land:

WDDF representatives visited Nilfamari from 1st to 4 January 2018 in order to rescue the land of Mohsina Khatun, an orphan and poor woman with Multiple Disability through mutation and settling her in Nilfamari. At the time of visiting, we came to know from Mohsina that, her husband has taken disability loan from Department of Social Service in the name of Mohsina in 2008 and still now most of the amount of that loan has not been repaid. As the loan has been collected in the name of Mohsina, so, she has to pay back this loan.



So, WDDF representatives organized a discussion meeting with the officer of Department of Social Services in order to collect Mohsina's Disability allowance book and arranged a sitting with Mosina's husband. The officer of Department of Social services was very cordial, he pressurized the person for pay back the loan instantly and after having been disagreed obligated him to deliver written commitment that he will have to recompense the

money within Seven days. Md. Hasanuzzaman, Program Coordinator, WDDF met with the officer of Nilfamari Sonali Bank and collected last Eighteen months' disability allowance of Mohsina Khatun. WDDF representatives have also visited the office of AC land and submitted application for mutation of Mohsina's land through discussion with AC land Officer over telephone and the Personal Officer accepted this issue seriously and informed us that, they will have handled this issue with importance.

Since Mohsina has multiple disability, she has no literacy and relatives to take care of her; relevant institutional officers aren't trained on disability issue. So, they couldn't understand her and couldn't deal with her properly. Besides, in order to identify Mohsina's plot of land, WDDF representatives visited the location for the first time and discussed with her husband and remind him that, as he hasn't take any responsibility of Mohsina, so, according to the marriage condition the litigation will be activate again. We're still now fighting for Mohsina, so he should be careful about Mohsina and he should pay her maintenance cost.

WDDF representatives will come back Nilfamari again and Mohsina will be settled in Nilfamari.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, Md. Hasanuzzaman, Program Coordinator and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator, WDDF participated in this visit.

B) Providing cooperation to a victim woman for obtaining Legal support service:

Early morning, on 28th February 2018, Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, WDDF came to know from Masuma Akter, Vice-Chairperson of WDDF that, a woman named Hosneara Akter (Nayan) of Kanora Village, Baropara Union, Daudkandi, has become victim of severe violence by her husband and lost one eye. After some times, just before organizing grassroots Women with Disabilities committee meeting, the woman with her mother, grandmother and two girl children came to them. They were extremely shocked and confounded to see her; she was seriously ill with one injured eye, hungry along with mentally devastated. She was crying continuously and Shirin Akhter couldn't understand what initiative she would take in this moment. Relatives including mother of victim woman also informed that, this in humanitarian torture and oppression to their daughter has been going on for long period; Number of village salishes couldn't stop

this violence rather she lost one eye. So, strong legal initiative and inflexible punishment of the offender is required now.

After having heard series of cruel incidents of violence and on the basis of their written complain to WDDF; Shirin Akhter made a phone call to police help line (999), the authority received her complain with importance and send Sohel Ahammed, Sub Inspector of Police, accompanied with a police officer of Daudkandi Thana at the meeting venue. He investigated the incident through talking with victim woman and her relatives directly and filed a litigation against offender with his responsibility. In order to arrest offender the police force also arrested offender's sister and sister in-law at that night. Subsequently, they invited her along with her family members at WDDF office and they organized a discussion meeting with the reporters of National Daily Newspapers. The reporters are expressed their commitment to cooperate these victim women and The National Daily Prothom-Alo published an online report on this incident (Page-3 of Pathita News) on 5th March 2018.



3. Discussion meeting with the representatives of Dhaka 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 Executive members of Dhaka Supreme Court Bar Association at 4.30 PM, on 2nd January 2018 in President's room of Supreme Court building.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator of WDDF participated in the above mentioned discussion meeting.

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 key note 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 the solidarity of bar association members to this issue.

They've expressed their commitment that, they will cooperate the Persons/Women with Disabilities if they will go to them with the official letters/recommendation of WDDF in order to resolve any pending litigation or any type of legal cooperation.



They've also assured that, they will discuss and assigned a number of advocates to provide voluntary cooperation in order to resolve the litigations of Persons specially, Women with Disabilities.

Zainul Abedin (ADV), President, Umme Kulsum Bagum (Rekha) (ADV), Vice-President, Mahbub Uddin Khokon (ADV), Secretary and other representatives of Dhaka Bar association were very cordial and cooperative to us; They decided to discuss our proposals as an agenda in the next Executive meeting and they expressed their commitment to adopt required initiative to reduce these challenges of Persons Specially Women with Disabilities access to justice.

4: National Executive Council Meeting

Five National Executive Council (NEC) meetings were held during this reporting year (From 01 January to 31 December 2018).



i) First Executive Council (EC) meeting was held at WDDF office, on 14th February 2018. There were almost ten participants including office staffs. Five agenda have been discussed including miscellaneous in this meeting.

II) Second Executive Council (EC) meeting was held at WDDF office, on 19th April 2018. There were almost ten participants including office staffs. Five agenda have been discussed including miscellaneous in this meeting.

III) Third Executive Council (EC) meeting was held at WDDF office, on 19th June 2018. There were almost ten participants including office staffs. Six agenda have been discussed including miscellaneous in this meeting.

IV) Forth Executive Council (EC) meeting was held at WDDF office, on 4th July 2018. There were almost ten participants including office staffs. Five agenda have been discussed including miscellaneous in this meeting.

V) Fifth Executive Council (EC) Meeting was held at WDDF office, on 14th September 2018. There were almost ten participants including office staffs. Five agenda have been discussed including miscellaneous in this meeting.

5. Annual General meeting (AGM) and Picnic:

Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Picnic of WDDF were being organized with the initiative of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) at Aronnobash resort Pubail from 14th to 15th February 2018. Sixteen General members participated in these above mentioned events but the total number of participants of these events including volunteers, guides and support staffs were almost Twenty-four. AGM has started at 10 am, on 15th February 2018. Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, WDDF presided over the meeting. She started this AGM expressing her gratitude, gratification and appreciation at first to almighty Allah and then to WDDF for having the opportunity to organize this AGM and Picnic in such fascinating and enjoyable natural environment. She also expressed gratitude and thanks to all members, staffs and volunteers for their active and spontaneous presence and participation. After that, she requested Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF to facilitate the AGM.

Ashrafun Nahar has also started to facilitate the discussion through expressing her gratitude and satisfaction to Almighty Allah. She presented the agenda of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) expressing heartiest gratitude and thanks on behalf of WDDF to all the members for their presence. There were five agenda including miscellaneous. The presented agenda of this meeting were as follows:

1. Discussion of last meeting minutes and approved.
2. Discussion about Annual Activity Report and approved.

3. Discussion about annual financial statement 2017, proposed Action plan and Budget 2018 and approved.
4. Submission of Audit report of 2017, and approved as well as discussion of Auditor appointment and approved,
5. Miscellaneous.

A) Ashrafun Nahar, Member Secretary of WDDF submitted the last meeting minutes and in accordance with the opinions of all the GC members the last meeting minutes is being approved.

B) The Vice-Chairperson of WDDF Submitted the Annual Activity Report of 2017, in accordance with the opinions of all the GC members the submitted Annual Activity Report is being approved.

C) In the absence of Treasurer, Member Secretary and Chairperson of WDDF submitted the annual



financial report of 2017, proposed Action plan and Budget 2018 in accordance with the opinions of all the GC members the submitted annual financial report as well as proposed Action plan and Budget 2018 are being approved.

D) In the absence of Treasurer, Member secretary with the cooperation of Accounts officer of WDDF submitted the Audit report of 2017 to all the GC members and in accordance with the opinion of all the GC members, the submitted audit report has been approved.

E) In accordance with the opinion of all the GC members it is decided that the responsibility of appointing auditor has been handed over the Chairperson and treasurer of WDDF.

In conclusion, Chairperson expressed the optimism that, Women with Disabilities will lead their lives with self-dignity, self-independence along with contributive citizens for the state through the activities of WDDF. Simultaneously, with the expansion and leadership of WDDF a contributive role will be played by Women with Disabilities for their advancement in international level.

Finally, she expressed heartiest gratitude on behalf of herself to the General Council Members for their continuous suggestion, support and cooperation for the advancement of WDDF and declared the closing of the Annual General Meeting for that day.

Picnic:

After long expectation of WDDF team, the amusing and delighted day of picnic has appeared for them.

Actually, WDDF team has started for picnic in the late afternoon of 14th February 2018. They've arrived at 6 PM on that day at aronnobash resort, Pubail, Gazipur and our members are very fascinated to visit this resort abounded with natural beauty. They've seated near the swimming pool, shared their childhood memories taking snacks and coffee, many of the members were singing songs and presented comics.

Exclusively, they've passed an extraordinarily delightful evening with all of their members, staffs and volunteers. After having a peaceful and sound sleep, at early morning of 15th February they've gone for swimming and themembers all more or less have participated in swimming in a safe, secured and women friendly environment. In Bangladesh, this large number of Women with Disabilities group has hardly obtained opportunity and gone for swimming. So, this event is very enjoyable and memorable for WDDF team.

After that, having completed the program of AGM, WDDF organized number of sports and games E.G: Quiz Competition, Speech on instantaneous topics, and Performance on instantaneous topics and Pillow music. Then a prize distribution ceremony has been organized for all participants.

Besides, there were different types of sports items including Cradle. So, the members haven't miss the opportunity of rocking which was one of the amusing moments for them and at the time of rocking, they went back to their impressive childhood over and over again.

6. Project Coordination meeting:

Three Project Coordination meetings of the Mid Level Coalition Project of WDDF in collaboration with Protik Mohila O Sheshu Sangstha (PMSS) of Pabna and Bogra Zila Spondon Protibondhi Nari Parisad of Bogra were being organized by WDDF in this reporting year.

A) 1st Project Coordination meeting in order to signing an agreement for 2018 among three organizations: I) Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF), II) Protik Mohila O Sheshu Sangstha (PMSS) and III) Bogra Zila Spondon Protibondhi Nari Parisad

For implementing a mid-level coalition project of Disability Rights Advocacy Fund (DRAF) (1st part had been implemented in 2017 and 2nd part is going to be implemented in 2018) in join collaboration entitled "To access justice and sustainable development for Women with Disabilities at all levels through inclusive building institutions" in Dhaka, Pabna Sadar and Bogra Sadar was being organized by Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) on 24thJanuary 2018, at WDDF office.

S.M Saifur Rahman, Executive Director, Protik Mohila O Sheshu Sangstha (PMSS), Rebeka Akter, President, Bogra Zila Spondon Protibondhi Nari Parisad and Md. Abdul Based, Coordinator of Bogra Zila Spondon Protibondhi Nari Parisad including the representatives of WDDF were present in this Project Coordination meeting.

At first an introductory session was held and all the representatives of three organizations were introduced with each other in this session. After having been completed the introductory session, the purpose of coordination meeting and the agenda are being discussed by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF elaborately.



This project Coordination meeting is being divided in to three sessions:

1. Administrative process discussion session,
2. Programs and implementation process discussion session and
3. Financial rules and regulations discussion session.

1. Administration process discussion session:

This session is being continued by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF. She demonstrated following instructions in her session for the project implemented organizations:

I) Full time project staffs must present in office regularly through maintaining daily office time from 9.00 AM to 5.00 PM except One-hour lunch (1.00-2.00 PM) strictly without Friday.

II) Volunteer staffs are not obligated to present office regularly but all staffs will take leave through notifying head office.

III) Two representatives (One staff from WDDF and One staff from PMSS) on behalf of PMSS, Pabna and Two representatives (One staff from WDDF and One staff from Bogra Zila Spondon Protibondhi Nari Parisad) on behalf of Bogra Zila Spondon Protibondhi Nari Parisad, Bogra will be present in monthly Sub district and district NGO Coordination meetings regularly in respective districts and Two activity reports will be submitted for Two organizations in each Coordination meeting.

IV) Partner organizations should preserve and maintain strictly following documents: Movement register, Salary register, File register, Cheque register, Bank statement register, Staff attendance book, Leave form, Asset register, Telephone index and Card holder.

V) Office should be decorated with issue based and program related materials and all documents/papers should be preserved in respective files properly.

2. Programs and implementation process discussion session:

This session is being continued by Shirin Akhter, Program Director and Md. Hasanuzzaman, Program Coordinator, WDDF. They demonstrated following instructions in their session:

The programs have to be completed within October 2018 and considering this situation all the programs of two organizations under this project have been divided in to two parts:

A) In 1st part a number of programs have been implemented by two abovementioned organizations with close monitoring of WDDF.

I) Two grassroots Women with Disabilities group formation (From former consisted three groups of Three Unions) with 30-35 members and organizing 48 (For each organization) grassroots Women with Disabilities committee meetings in this reporting year.



II) An advocacy team formation with 9/11 active, expert, vocal and educated Women with Disabilities from Two grassroots committees who will raise voice and adopt time required initiatives against torture and human rights violation of Women with Disabilities as well as

organizing Ten (For each organization) issue based discussion meetings.

III) Organize six follow up meetings (For each organization) with the representatives of Local Government.

IV) Organize seven discussion meetings (For each organization) with family members and Neighbors of Women with Disabilities, religious leaders and elite persons/social leaders.

V) Data collection through reading local Daily newspaper, preserve for their own organization and also submit to WDDF.

B) In 2nd part, there are three activities have been implemented by WDDF directly with the local support of these two organizations.

These activities are as follows:

I) organize a seminar (For each organization),

II) Organize a training (For each organization) and

III) Organize four discussion meetings under the program of media campaign.

Suggestions for programs implementation:

- I) Work plan should be prepared in due time by Md. Abdul Based, Coordinator, Bogra Zila Spondon Protibondhi Nari Parisad and share with rebeka Akter, President of this organization for her suggestion and submit to WDDF (1st date of implementing month or before).
- II) Two staffs must participate in all programs and if it won't be possible to participate for any one, he/she will inform through written application.
- III) A written proposal including a number of issue based recommendations should be prepared before all discussion meetings and maintenance plan/responsibilities of continuing a program should be shared and fixed among all the participants.
- IV) Date of organizing programs should be fixed and informed to WDDF at least Three days before for their participation (If possible).
- V) Program wise files should be prepared and proposals/documents/program related information should be preserved in relevant files properly.
- VI) Prepare check list, collect and preserve required information before organizing seminar, training, media campaign or any type of big event.
- VII) A file including proposal/recommendation and organizational documents should be submitted to the relevant authority with whom you're going to organize discussion/advocacy meeting.
- VIII) Activity reports should be detail and information based.



3. Financial rules and regulations discussion session:

The rules and regulations of this session are being discussed by Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator, WDDF with the cooperation of Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF.

- I) Cash withdrawal from bank, Official expenditure maintenance, Cash maintenance, bills and vouchers preparing and bank statements collection ETC.- Accounts related responsibilities carried by Md. Abdul Based, Coordinator, (WDDF) on behalf of Bogra Zila Spondon Protibondhi Nari Parisad.
- II) S.M Saifur Rahman, Project Manager, WDDF on behalf of Pabna and Md. Abdul Based, Coordinator, WDDF on behalf of Bogra will be allowed to take advance 1,000/- Taka (Maximum) for any program and volunteers of WDDF on behalf of Pabna and Bogra will be allowed to take advance 500/- Taka (Maximum) for any program.
- III) Advance money must be adjusted within Three days of taking advance.
- IV) VAT (Whether expenditure is being up to 1,000/- Taka) should be paid as soon as possible after having completed program.
- V) Date of money withdrawal from bank, posting in Cash book and taking advance have to be consistency; Withdrawn money from bank must be posted in Cash book within the same date.
- VI) Salary should be recorded in Salary register and Ledger book, not in Cash book.

Finally, with the opinion of all the representatives of three organizations the agreement has been signed and the Project Coordination meeting is being closed.

B) 2nd Project Coordination meeting in order to monitor and review the plan and programs according to the signing agreement on 24th January 2018, among Three organizations: I) Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF), II) Protik Mohila O Sheshu Sangstha (PMSS) and III) Bogra Zila Spondon Protibandhi Nari Parisad For implementing a mid-level coalition project of Disability Rights Fund (DRF) in join collaboration entitled “To access justice and sustainable development for Women with Disabilities at all levels through inclusive building institutions” in Dhaka, Pabna Sadar and Bogra Sadar was being organized by Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) at 2.00 PM, on 3rd April 2018, in the office of Bogra Zila Spondon Protibandhi Nari Parisad, Bogra. At first the purpose of coordination meeting and 4 Months action plan of Three organizations according to the agreement paper of mid level coalition project are being discussed by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF elaborately. After that, the report and challenges of 4 months' activities has submitted by Rebeka Akter, President, Bogra Zila Spondon Protibandhi Nari Parisad. Accounts operation and record keeping process of accomplished activities is being discussed by Md. Abdul Based, Coordinator, Bogra Zila Spondon Protibandhi Nari Parisad. The gaps and solution are being discussed by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF along with S.M Saifur Rahman, Project Manager of this Mid Level Coalition project and representatives of Bogra Zila Spondon Protibandhi Nari Parisad are agreed to follow the suggestions. Secondly, the report along with challenges of 4 months (May-August) activities and Accounts operation including record keeping process are being discussed by S.M Saifur Rahman, Executive Director, Protik Mohila O Sheshu Sangstha (PMSS). It is mentioned in the report that, this partner organization couldn't complete the activities within this reporting period according to the action plan of the project but S.M Saifur Rahman, Executive Director, Protik Mohila O Sheshu Sangstha (PMSS) assured that, he will complete the rest of activities of the last reporting period including all the activities of next reporting period. Thirdly, the report along with challenges of 4 months' activities has been shared by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF and give emphasize on the importance of completing all the activities according to the action plan within the time frame.

Finally, with the opinion of all the representatives of Three organizations the action plan for the next reporting period (Till to the next Coordination meeting) has been approved and the Project coordination meeting is being closed.

C) 3rd Project Coordination meeting in order to monitor and evaluate the implemented programs according to the plan of signing agreement on 24th January 2018, among Three organizations:

- I) Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF),
- II) Protik Mohila O Sheshu Sangstha (PMSS) and
- III) Bogra Zila Spondon Protibondhi Nari Parisad



For implementing a mid-level coalition project of Disability Rights Fund (DRF) in join collaboration titled “To access justice and sustainable development for Women with Disabilities at all levels through inclusive building institutions” in Dhaka, Pabna Sadar and Bogra Sadar was being organized by Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) on 20 October 2018, in the office of Bogra Zila Spondon Protibondhi Nari Parisad, Bogra. At first the purpose of coordination meeting and yearly (From January to December 2018) action plan of Two organizations according to the agreement paper of mid-level coalition project are being reviewed by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF elaborately. It is also notified that, this coordination meeting is being considered as an evaluation

meeting of One year implemented programs and this evaluation will be completed in to Two parts: I) Accounts and II) Programs.

Then on behalf of the respective organizations required documents are being submitted by Md. Abdul Based, Coordinator, WDDF responsible for the programs of Bogura Zila Spondon Protibondhi Nari Parisad and S.M Saifur Rahman, Executive Director, responsible for the programs of PMSS. After that, Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, WDDF discussed about the report, strength, challenges and experiences of the implemented activities with Rebeka Akter, President, Bogura Zila Spondon Protibondhi Nari Parisad. Rebeka Akter mentioned that, Women with Disabilities of Two unions have become conscious about their needs, rights and dignity. Simultaneously, due to having members of Grassroots Women with Disabilities committee and through organizing regular meeting of these groups, the group members are sharing their problems as well as solving arising problems along with conflicts of their family with the cooperation of group leaders. Parents and family members are started to understand that, Women with Disabilities can do many things with the proper caring and support of family and they're able to contribute to improve their family in many cases more than other non-disabled members.

Chairman and Members of Union Parisads are becoming sensitized to Women with Disabilities issue through organizing Local Government meetings and they expressed their commitments to be cooperative to Women with Disabilities.

Family members of Women with Disabilities and School teachers have started to understand the importance and process of education for Students with Disabilities. Simultaneously, they've come to know about Government facilities and services, legislation along with policy for Persons with Disabilities through organizing yard meetings with their presence. So, they've also assured us that, they will become cooperative to include the Students with Disabilities in education.



An advocacy team has consisted of nine Students with Disabilities and prepared to make advocacy with the concern authorities of Bogura Sadar Upazila in order to get required services and facilities for Women with Disabilities including reducing violence against them.

Mentioning the challenges, she said that, they've to face multifaceted challenges in 1st year, e.g. most of the group members are illiterate or partially literate. So, most of them are totally unaware about Government facilities and services for Persons with Disabilities including legislation and policies. Even they don't know about their accurate type of disabilities and needs and their parents think that, as their daughters have disability so they can do nothing. Most of the group members expected that they will get financial assistance for participating in these activities.

Rebeka also said that, it is very difficult for them to understand the grassroots Women with Disabilities that they should become conscious about their own basic rights and learn how to obtain Government facilities and services as a Citizen with Disability through participating in these activities. But in 2nd year, Women with Disabilities of grassroots committee have motivated to some extent and they're interested to go to the local administration and local leaders to inform their problems. According to

the suggestion of the Bogura Zila Spondon Protibondhi Nari Parisad the illiterate aged group members are interested to involve with Income Generating Activities (IGA) and young Girls/Students with Disabilities are interested to continue their education. Simultaneously, a number of Women with Disabilities have got disability identification card and many of them are getting disability allowance which make them self-confident about their capabilities.

Followed by the discussion, Accounts operation and record keeping process of accomplished activities has been discussed by Md. Abdul Based, Coordinator, WDDF responsible for the programs of Bogura Zila Spondon Protibondhi Nari Parisad. The gaps and solutions are being discussed by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF along with S.M Saifur Rahman, Project Manager of this Mid-Level Coalition project of WDDF, responsible for the programs of Pabna along with supervising the programs of Bogura. Ashrafun Nahar said that, the process of preparing bills and vouchers has been improved. So, they've to review Cash book and Ledger book including accounts related documents accurately and after having completed all types of corrections, submit to WDDF within 31st October 2018. Besides, they've to prepare activity and financial reports of 2018 within the time frame as well as all types of documents should be documented properly. The representatives of Bogura Zila Spondon Protibondhi Nari Parisad are agreed to follow the suggestions.

Secondly, the report, challenges and achievements of the implemented programs and Accounts operation including record keeping process of Pabna are being discussed by S.M Saifur Rahman, Executive Director, Protik Mohila O Sheshu Sangstha (PMSS).

The achievements of this organization through implementing this project are as follows:



- I) PMSS has formed Two Grassroots Women with Disabilities groups in two Unions and Thirty (30) Women with Disabilities have become self-confident and conscious about their basic needs, rights and dignity.
- II) Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) has enlisted Forty-five (45) members through Grassroots Women with Disabilities committees in order to provide loan in easy condition.
- III) A number of Women with Disabilities have got opportunity to receive (6 months) computer training in 'Path Finder' Computer Centre, without any cost and with Seven hundred (700) Taka as monthly training allowance.
- IV) Union Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Pabna Sadar Upazila has allocated an accessible toilet for Persons with Disabilities in the Ground Floor of BRDB.
- V) Two Women with Disabilities have admitted in Honors, National University, following Disability Quota.
- VI) Lawyers of Bangladesh Legal Aid Services and Trust (BLAST) expressed their commitment to provide legal support to the Women with Disabilities whenever they need.
- VII) Youth and Sports Department has agreed to include Women with Disabilities issue in the programs of that department.

- VIII) An advocacy team has consisted of ten Women with Disabilities and prepared to make advocacy with the concern authorities of Pabna Sadar Upazila in order to get required services and facilities for Women with Disabilities including reducing violence against them.

Discussing the challenges of implementing this project he mentioned that, I) this is the first time experience of PMSS to work in two projects together. So, they've to face difficulties to some extent but they've overcome these difficulties in 2nd year.

So, it will be easy for them to actualize the rest of the programs within this month. But they've to utilize the learnings of this project.

Finally, It is suggested that, Two partner organizations have to collect Testimonial from their respective UNOs as soon as possible and submit to WDDF as well as with the concluding speech of Chairperson of WDDF the Project coordination meeting is being closed.

7. Grassroots Committee meeting of Women with Disabilities:

With the initiative of WDDF, six Grassroots Women with Disabilities committees have been formed in three unions of Daudkandi, Cumilla, three unions of Bogra and three unions of Pabna as well as sixteen Grassroots Women with Disabilities committee meetings were being organized in Daudkandi in this reporting year.

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

- 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.
- 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.
- IV) To build leadership capacity of Women with Disabilities through enhancing awareness among them.
- 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.
- 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 devise, and financial support for small Income Generating Program.



A) First discussion meeting with the Grassroots Women with Disabilities Committee of ‘Daudkandi Uttar’ and ‘Baropara’ Daudkandi, Comilla was being organized by WDDF, at House of Masuma Akter, Vice Chairperson, WDDF of Kanora, Gouripur, Baropara Union on 4th February 2018.

This meeting is presided over Masuma Akter, Vice Chairperson, WDDF and representative of Daudkandi Grassroots Women with Disabilities with the observation and cooperation of Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, and Md. Hasanuzzaman, Program Coordinator of WDDF.

The discussed issues of this meeting were:

I) Introductory session, significance of organizing and participation in this meeting.

II) To review the discussed issues of last meeting.

III) Discussion about Accessibility right of Persons with Disabilities in light of “Persons with Disabilities rights and Protection Act 2013”.

IV) Discussion about Inheritance right of Persons with Disabilities in light of “Persons with Disabilities rights and Protection Act 2013”.

VI) Discussion about Employment right of Persons with Disabilities in light of “Persons with Disabilities rights and Protection Act 2013”.

VII) Existing situation of Persons with Disabilities to obtain these rights.

VIII) Fixing the date of next meeting and so on.

B) Second discussion meeting with the Grassroots Women with Disabilities Committee of ‘Gouripur’ and ‘Baropara’ Daudkandi, Comilla was being organized by WDDF, at House of Masuma Akter, Vice Chairperson, WDDF of Kanora, Baropara union on 5th February 2018.

This meeting is presided over Nila Akhter, president of grassroots Women with Disabilities Committee and facilitated by Bethi 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. The discussed issues of this meeting were:

I) Introductory session, significance of organizing and participation in this meeting.

II) To review the discussed issues of last meeting.

III) Discussion about Accessibility right of Persons with Disabilities in light of “Persons with Disabilities rights and Protection Act 2013”.

IV) Discussion about Inheritance right of Persons with Disabilities in light of “Persons with Disabilities rights and Protection Act 2013”.

VI) Discussion about Employment right of Persons with Disabilities in light of “Persons with Disabilities rights and Protection Act 2013”.

VII) Existing situation of Persons with Disabilities to obtain these rights.

VIII) Fixing the date of next meeting and so on.



C) Third discussion meeting with the Grassroots Women with Disabilities Committee of ‘Gouripur’ and ‘Baropara’ Daudkandi, Comilla was being organized by WDDF, at House of Masuma Akter, Vice Chairperson, WDDF of Kanora, Gouripur, and Baropara Union on 27th February 2018.

This meeting is presided over Nila Akter, president of grassroots Women with Disabilities Committee and facilitated by Bethi 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. The discussed issues of this meeting were:

I) Introductory session, significance of organizing and participation in this meeting.

II) To review the discussed issues of last meeting.

(Due to understanding limitation, the articles of legislation were being repeated).

III) Discussion about Accessibility right of Persons with Disabilities in light of "Persons with Disabilities rights and Protection Act 2013".

IV) Discussion about Inheritance right of Persons with Disabilities in light of "Persons with Disabilities rights and Protection Act 2013".

V) Discussion about Employment right of Persons with Disabilities in light of "Persons with Disabilities rights and Protection Act 2013".

VI) Discrimination and torture to Women with Disabilities to obtain family rights and how to prevent.

vII) Fixing the date of next meeting and so on.

D) Forth discussion meeting with the Grassroots Women with Disabilities Committee of 'Daudkandi Uttar' and 'Baropara' Daudkandi, Comilla was being organized by WDDF, at House of Masuma Akter, Vice Chairperson, WDDF of Kanora, Gouripur, Baropara Union on 28th February 2018.

This meeting is presided over Asma Akter with the observation and cooperation of Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Masuma Akter, Vice Chairperson and Md. Hasanuzzaman, Program Coordinator of WDDF.

The discussed issues of this meeting were:

I) Introductory session, significance of organizing and participation in this meeting.

II) To review the discussed issues of last meeting.

III) Discussion about violence against women and how to reduce violence:



In order to provide idea about violence against women and the activities along with duties of Police force, we invited Sohel Ahammed, Sub Inspector, Daudkandi Thana of Comilla as discussant about violence against women and what type of cooperation they're providing on behalf of law enforcement agency to reduce violence against women or how to protect them from violence. He expressed his firm commitment to provide all types of cooperation to protect Women with Disabilities from violence.

E) Fifth discussion meeting with the Grassroots Women with Disabilities Committee of 'Daudkandi Uttar' and 'Baropara'

Daudkandi, Comilla was being organized by WDDF, at House of Masuma Akter, Vice Chairperson, WDDF of Kanora, Gouripur, and Baropara Union on 20th March 2018.

This meeting is presided over Masuma Akter, Vice Chairperson, WDDF and representative of Daudkandi Grassroots Women with Disabilities with the cooperation of Md. Hasanuzzaman, Program Coordinator of WDDF.

The discussed issues of this meeting were:

I) Introductory session, significance of organizing and participation in this meeting.

II) To review the discussed issues of last meeting.

III) Discussion about day observation.

IV) Discussion about International Women Day.

V) Discussion about theme of International Women Day.

VI) Understanding about basic rights of Women without and Women with Disabilities.

VII) Discussion about rights of Women with Disabilities in light of “Persons with Disabilities rights and Protection Act 2013” and “National Women Advancement Policy”.

VIII) Fixing the date of next meeting and so on.

F) Sixth discussion meeting with the Grassroots Women with Disabilities Committee of ‘Gouripur’ and ‘Baropara’ Daudkandi, Comilla was being organized by WDDF, at House of Masuma Akter, Vice Chairperson, WDDF of Kanora, Gouripur, and Baropara Union on 21st March 2018.

This meeting is presided over Nila Akter, president of grassroots Women with Disabilities Committee and facilitated by Bethi Akter, Secretary of this committee with the observation and cooperation of Masuma Akter, Vice Chairperson and Md. Hasanuzzaman, Program Coordinator of WDDF.



The discussed issues of this meeting were:

I) Introductory session, significance of organizing and participation in this meeting.

II) To review the discussed issues of last meeting.

III) Discussion about day observation.

IV) Discussion about International Women Day.

V) Discussion about theme of International Women Day.

VI) Understanding about basic rights of Women without and Women with Disabilities.

VII) Discussion about rights of Women with Disabilities in light of “Persons with Disabilities rights and Protection Act 2013” and “National Women Advancement Policy”.

VIII) Fixing the date of next meeting and so on.

G) Seventh discussion meeting with the Grassroots Women with Disabilities Committee of ‘Daudkandi Uttar’ and ‘Baropara’ Daudkandi, Comilla was being organized by WDDF, at House of Masuma Akter, Vice Chairperson, WDDF of Kanora, Gouripur, Baropara Union on 25th April 2018.

This meeting is presided over Masuma Akter, Vice Chairperson, WDDF and representative of Daudkandi Grassroots Women with Disabilities with the cooperation of Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator of WDDF.

The discussed issues of this meeting were:

I) Introductory session, significance of organizing and participation in this meeting.

II) To review the discussed issues of last meeting.

III) Discussion about interests and potentialities of Women with Disabilities.

IV) Discussion about problems and challenges of Women with and Women without Disabilities.

V) Discussion about the ways of enjoyment of citizen rights through overcoming challenges.

VI) Understanding about basic rights of Women without and Women with Disabilities.

VII) Discussion about rights of Women with Disabilities in light of “Persons with Disabilities rights and Protection Act 2013” and “National Women Advancement Policy”.

VIII) Fixing the date of next meeting and so on.

H) Eighth discussion meeting with the Grassroots Women with Disabilities Committee of 'Gouripur' and 'Baropara' Daudkandi, Comilla was being organized by WDDF, at House of Masuma Akter, Vice Chairperson, WDDF of Kanora, Gouripur, Baropara Union on 26th April 2018.

This meeting is presided over Nila Akter, president of grassroots Women with Disabilities Committee and facilitated by Bethi Akter, Secretary of this committee with the observation and cooperation of Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Masuma Akter, Vice Chairperson and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator of WDDF.

The discussed issues of this meeting were:

- I) Introductory session, significance of organizing and participation in this meeting.
- II) To review the discussed issues of last meeting.
- III) Discussion about interests and potentialities of Women with Disabilities.
- IV) Discussion about problems and challenges of Women with and Women without Disabilities.
- V) Discussion about the ways of enjoyment of citizen rights through overcoming challenges.
- VII) Discussion about rights of Women with Disabilities in light of "Persons with Disabilities rights and Protection Act 2013" and "National Women Advancement Policy".
- VIII) Fixing the date of next meeting and so on.

I) Ninth discussion meeting with the Grassroots Women with Disabilities Committee of 'Daudkandi Uttar' and 'Baropara' Daudkandi, Cumilla was being organized by WDDF, at House of Masuma Akter, Vice Chairperson, WDDF of Kanora, Gouripur, Baropara Union on 10th July 2018.



This meeting is presided over Masuma Akter, Vice Chairperson, WDDF and representative of Daudkandi Grassroots Women with Disabilities with the cooperation of Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Arifa Khatun, Junior Assistant Coordinator of WDDF.

The discussed issues of this meeting were:

- I) Introductory session, significance of organizing and participation in this meeting.
 - II) To review the discussed issues of last meeting.
 - III) Discussion about marriage and family rights of Women with Disabilities, advantages and disadvantages of building family without accurate selection and plan.
 - IV) Discussion about challenges of Women with Disabilities about how to maintain family.
 - V) Discussion about sanitary latrine set up in the houses of Persons Especially Women with Disabilities with the cooperation of Government.
 - VI) Discussion about basic instructions of leading healthy and protected lives of Women with Disabilities.
 - VII) Discussion about how to prevent family members from different types of waterborne and contiguous disease and what types of measures should be taken at the time of having attacked from Typhoid or Diarrhea including preparing or saline.
 - VIII) Discussion about maintaining clean and healthy life at the time of menstruation and protect themselves of having attacked from different types of feminine disease
 - X) Fixing the date of next meeting and so on.
- J) Tenth discussion meeting with the Grassroots Women with Disabilities Committee of 'Gouripur' and 'Baropara' Daudkandi, Cumilla was being organized by WDDF, at House of Masuma Akter, Vice Chairperson, WDDF of Kanora, Gouripur, Baropara Union on 11th July 2018.

This meeting is presided over Masuma Akter, Vice Chairperson, WDDF and representative of Daudkandi Grassroots Women with Disabilities with the cooperation of Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Arifa Khatun, Junior Assistant Coordinator of WDDF.

The discussed issues of this meeting were:

- I) Introductory session, significance of organizing and participation in this meeting.
- II) To review the discussed issues of last meeting.
- III) Discussion about marriage and family rights of Women with Disabilities, advantages and disadvantages of building family without accurate selection and plan.
- IV) Discussion about challenges of Women with Disabilities about how to maintain family.
- V) Discussion about sanitary latrine set up in the houses of Persons Especially Women with Disabilities with the cooperation of Government.
- VI) Discussion about basic instructions of leading healthy and protected lives of Women with Disabilities.
- VII) Discussion about how to prevent family members from different types of waterborne and contiguous disease and what types of measures should be taken at the time of having attacked from Typhoid or Diarrhea including preparing Or saline.
- VIII) Discussion about maintaining clean and healthy life at the time of menstruation and protect themselves of having attacked from different types of feminine disease
- IX) Fixing the date of next meeting and so on.

K) Eleventh discussion meeting with the Grassroots Women with Disabilities Committees of 'Daudkandi Uttar', 'Baropara' and 'Gouripur' Daudkandi, Cumilla was being organized by WDDF, at Mukul Niketan of Kanora, Gouripur, on 5th August 2018.

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,
- II) To develop leadership capacity among Girls and Women with Disabilities.



L) Twelfth discussion meeting with the Grassroots Women with Disabilities Committee of 'Daudkandi Uttar' and 'Baropara' Daudkandi, Cumilla was being organized by WDDF, at Mukul Niketan of Kanora, Gouripur, on 10th September 2018.

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) Current Government facilities and services for Persons with Disabilities and how to enjoy these facilities and services?

- II) Importance of inclusion in Government Disability Survey as Woman with Disability and
- III) Importance of education and training for Women with Disabilities and how to incorporate in education and training?

M) Thirteenth discussion meeting with the Grassroots Women with Disabilities Committee of 'Gouripur' and 'Baropara' Daudkandi, Cumilla was being organized by WDDF, at Mukul Niketan of Kanora, Gouripur, on 12th September 2018.

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) Current Government facilities and services for Persons with Disabilities and how to enjoy these facilities and services?
 - II) Importance of inclusion in Government Disability Survey as Woman with Disability and how to include in this survey?
 - III) Importance of education and training for Women with Disabilities and how to incorporate in education and training?
- N)** Fourteenth discussion meeting with the female students with disabilities of grassroots Women with Disabilities committee of Daudkandi, Cumilla in order to include Girls with Disabilities in education was being organized by Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF), at Mukul Niketan of Kanora, Gouripur, on 24th October 2018.

This meeting is presided over Shirin Akhter, Chairperson with the cooperation of Masuma Akhter, Vice-Chairperson and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator of WDDF.

The discussed issues of this meeting were:

- I) Introductory session,
- II) Significance of organizing this meeting,
- III) Importance of Women with Disabilities inclusion in education,
- IV) Cause of exclusion or drop out of Women with Disabilities from education,
- V) Necessity of female students with disabilities friendly educational environment in educational institutions,
- VI) Accessibility of female students with disabilities in educational institutions and
- VII) Miscellaneous.

O) Fifteenth discussion meeting with the Grassroots Women with Disabilities Committee of 'Daudkandi Uttar' and 'Baropara' Daudkandi, Cumilla was being organized by WDDF, at House of Masuma Akter, Vice Chairperson, WDDF of Kanora, Gouripur, Baropara Union on 12 November 2018.

This meeting is presided over Masuma Akter, Vice Chairperson, WDDF and representative of Daudkandi Grassroots Women with Disabilities committee with the cooperation of Arifa Khatun, Junior Assistant Coordinator of WDDF.

The discussed issues of this meeting were:



Introductory session.

- I) Review the discussed issues of last meeting.

- II) Discussion about activities of organization briefly.
- III) Discussion about existing problems of Persons with Disabilities and techniques of solving these problems.
- IV) Miscellaneous.

P) Sixteenth discussion meeting with the Grassroots Women with Disabilities Committee of 'Gouripur' and 'Baropara' Daudkandi, Cumilla was being organized by WDDF, at House of Masuma Akter, Vice Chairperson, WDDF of Kanora, Gouripur, and Baropara Union on 13 November 2018.

This meeting is presided over Masuma Akter, Vice Chairperson, WDDF and representative of Daudkandi Grassroots Women with Disabilities committee with the cooperation of Arifa Khatun, Junior Assistant Coordinator of WDDF.

The discussed issues of this meeting were:

- I) Introductory session.
- II) Review the discussed issues of last meeting.
- III) Discussion about activities of organization briefly.
- IV) Discussion about existing problems of Persons with Disabilities and techniques of solving these problems.
- V) Miscellaneous.

8. Inauguration ceremony of Skill development course of Grassroots Women with Disabilities:

An inauguration ceremony of Skill development course of Grassroots Women with Disabilities was being organized by Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF), at the house of Masuma Akter, Vice-Chairperson, WDDF, Kanora, Daudkandi, on 28th February 2018.

A Two-month long Sewing training course under this skill development course was being inaugurated by the representatives of WDDF comprising Shirin Akter, Chairperson, Masuma Akter, Vice-Chairperson and Md. Hasanuzzaman, Program Coordinator of WDDF including Grassroots Women with Disabilities committee members and Sewing trainer were present in this program. With the supervision of Masuma Akter, Vice-Chairperson, WDDF, this Sewing training course with the Seven Women with Speech and Hearing Impairment and Physical Disabilities will be continued for Two months from March to April 2018.



9. Focus Group Discussion:

Two Focus Group Discussions were being organized by WDDF in this reporting year.

A) 1st Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with the Women with Disabilities of Comilla City Corporation Sub district (Sadar Dakkhin), was being organized with the initiative of WDDF on 5th March 2018 at the Auditorium of Doctor Monwara Market Cumilla.

Md. Khalequjaman, President, Drishtihin Kallyan Sangstha locally cooperated with WDDF to conduct this program. Twenty-one Women with Disabilities participated in this FGD. Among these Twenty-One Women with Disabilities, there are 11 women are physically Disabled, 1 woman is visually impaired, 1 woman is intellectually disabled, 1 woman is multiple Disabled (Autistic and Speech Impaired), 1 woman is Mentally

Disabled and 7 women are speech impaired. Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF briefly mentioned about the activities of WDDF and discussed about its future plan. Shirin Akhter, Chairperson expressed her sincere thanks on behalf of WDDF for the spontaneous cooperation and participation of all participants. She also has mentioned that WDDF always raises strong voice for the proper inclusion of WWDs in every aspects of the society. Md. Khalequjaman, President, Drishtihin Kallyan Sangstha encourages the activities of WDDF and also mentioned that in future WDDF

will try to adopt required initiatives for the development of Women with Disabilities of this area. After that Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator, Md. Hasanuzzaman program Coordinator and Johnny Islam Assistant Program Officer of WDDF distributed questionnaire and help them to fill up this questionnaire. Every participant has to fill up a questionnaire about her situation in different aspects.

B) 2ndFocus group discussion (FGD) with the Women with Disabilities of Barisal sadar Upazila was being organized with the initiative of WDDF and locally supported by Bangladesh Protibondhi Unnayan Sangstha (BPUS) at the Auditorium of BPUS on 1st October 2018.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator of WDDF were present in this Focus Group Discussion. Thirty-three Women with Disabilities participated in this FGD. Among these Thirty-three beneficiaries, there are 19 women are Physically Disabled, 6 women are Visually Impaired, 4 women are hearing and speech impaired and 3 women are multiple Disabled.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF discussed about the situation of Women with Disabilities with the participants. Shirin Akhter, Chairperson expressed her sincere thanks on behalf of WDDF for the spontaneous cooperation and participation of all participants. She also has mentioned that WDDF always raises strong voice for the proper inclusion of Women with Disabilities in every aspects of the society. Md. Badiul Alam, Executive Director, (BPUS) encourages the activities of WDDF for the advancement of Women with Disabilities. After that Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator WDDF and Mithu Chakrabarti, Officer BPUS distributed questionnaire and help them to fill up this questionnaire. Every participant has to fill up a questionnaire about their situation in different aspects.



10. Training of Women with Disabilities on different Legislations, treaty and policy documents:



WDDF organized Three Trainings of Women with Disabilities on 'United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)' and

'Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)' in Bogra, Pabna and Dhaka in this reporting year (From 01 January to 31 December 2018).

A) 1stDay long training with the participation of 24 different types of Women with Disabilities, on 'United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)' (Article 13, 15, 16) and 'Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)' (Goal 16) in order to create easy access to justice was being organized with the initiative of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF), **Locally Supported by Bogra Zila Spondon Protibondhi Nari Parisad**, at Conference Hall, Red Chillies Restaurant, Bogra, on Monday, 2nd April 2018.

This training was divided in to two parts:

- A. Inaugural session and
- B. Core session.

There was One facilitator and One Co-facilitator to conduct the training theoretically and practically for the Women with Disabilities properly. The representatives from local government were present as Chief Guest and Special Guests in this training.

The inaugural session of this training is being started at 11.00 AM, 2nd April 2018, with the welcome remarks of Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, WDDF. After welcome speech, 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, Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director of WDDF is being requested to deliver her speech on Significance, purpose including the required information and expected learnings/aims of this training. Then, S. M. Saifur Rahman, Executive Director, Protik Mohila O Sheshu Sangstha (PMSS) is being requested to deliver his speech about the gaps and challenges of Persons Specially Women with Disabilities in the issue of access to justice. Followed by the speech of facilitator, Md. Rashedul Hasan, Instructor, Teachers Training College, Bogra is being requested to deliver his speech as special Guest about the initiatives have been adopted for Persons with Disabilities as well as his responsibilities and duties to them on behalf of Government to make these activities easy and helpful. After that, Md. Hamidul Islam, Union Nirbahi Officer (UNO) and Executive Magistrate, Bogra Sadar Upazila is being requested to deliver his speech as Chief Guest. He is very sincere, responsible and also very glad to be invited in this program. He said that, he is agreed with the existing barriers of Persons Specially Women with Disabilities in Bogra and he is trying to reduce these challenges step by step. This inauguration program is being presided over Rebeka Akter, President of **Bogra Zila Spondon Protibondhi Nari Parisad**.

Core session of the training:

It is noted that, since most of the Women with Disabilities are from very grassroots level and they're participating in this type of training for the first time; so, the core session is being divided in to three sessions:

- A. Initial discussion,**
- B. 1st session and**
- C. 2nd session.**

A. Initial discussion: In initial discussion, purpose and importance of this training for Women with Disabilities are



being discussed by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF and Facilitator of this training.

Followed by this discussion, S. M. Saifur Rahman, Executive Director, Protik Mohila O Sheshu Sangstha (PMSS) and Co-facilitator of this training discussed a number of instructions for the training participants and request them to follow these instructions strictly at training period in order to make this training effective. After that, participants are requested to express their expectation from this training, one expectation per participant to analyze their understanding level.

1st session:

This session is being facilitated by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director of WDDF and Facilitator of this training.

The topic of this session is “United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)”

(Article 13) “Access to justice”, (Article 15) “**Freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment**” and (Article 16)” **Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse**”.

This topic includes:

- I) What is UN CRPD?
- II) What is Access? And what is justice?
- III) Key speeches of these articles.
- IV) Why are these articles important to know for Persons/Women with Disabilities?
- V) What is the connection between article 13, 15, 16 and obtaining justice?

2nd session:

This session is being facilitated by S. M. Saifur Rahman, Executive Director, Protik Mohila O Sheshu Sangstha (PMSS) and Co-facilitator of this training.

The topic of this session is “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”

(Goal 16 “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”)

This topic includes:

- I) what is SDGs?
- II) What is Inclusive? And what is Institution?
- III) Key speech of this Goal.
- IV) Why is this goal important to know for Persons/Women with Disabilities?
- V) What is the connection between goal 16 and obtaining justice?

The facilitators suggested to the participants that, everybody should have proper conception and knowledge about these treaty and document concurrently they should have try to use the specific reference of these treaty and document for utilizing in required area. In case of any requirement, WDDF will always take proper initiative to cooperate to the Women with Disabilities through legal aid service providing organizations. Otherwise, it will be very difficult for them to enjoy their rights through the implementation of these treaty and documents



properly.

From the responses of all the participants, it would be noted that, this is an effective and time required training for them. Most of the participants haven't any idea about these treaty and document and they aren't aware about the basic rights for Persons with Disabilities are mentioned in these treaty and document. The participants are also pointed out that, Persons especially Women with Disabilities of remote areas are deprived from Government services and facilities and due to lack of accurate information they are always left behind. So, considering the susceptibility of Persons Especially Women with Disabilities, this type of training should be organized in divisional and district level regularly.

B) 2nd Daylong training with the participation of 25 different types of Women with Disabilities including their parents almost total 40, on "United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)" (Article 13, 15, 16) and "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" (Goal 16) in order to create easy access to justice was being organized with the initiative of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF), Locally Supported by Protik Mohila O Sheshu Sangstha (PMSS) Pabna, at Conference hall, PCCS Bazar, Police Line, Pabna, on Tuesday, 15th May 2018.

This training was divided in to two parts:

A. Inaugural session and

B. Core session.

There was One facilitator and One Co-facilitator to conduct the training theoretically and practically for the Women with Disabilities properly. The representatives from local government and legal institutions were present as Chief Guest and Special Guests in this training.

The inaugural session of this training is being started at 10.00 AM, 15th May 2018, with the welcome remarks of S.M Saifur Rahman, Executive Director, PMSS. After welcome speech, 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, Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) is being requested to deliver her speech about the significance, purpose including the required information, expected learnings/aims of this training, gaps and challenges of Persons Specially Women with Disabilities in the issue of access to justice. Followed by the speech of Executive Director, ADV. Md. Mohiuddin, President, Bar Association, Pabna, Md. Hasanuzzaman, Officer, Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB)



Pabna and ABM Shariful Haque, Officer, Family Planning, Pabna are being requested to deliver their speeches as special Guests about the initiatives have been adopted for Persons with Disabilities as well as their responsibilities and duties to them on behalf of Government to make these activities easy and helpful. After that, Md. Zoynal Abedin, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), Pabna Sadar Upazila, is being requested to deliver his speech as Chief Guest. He is very sincere, responsible and also very glad to be invited in this program. He said that, he is agreed with the existing barriers of Persons Specially Women with Disabilities in Pabna but they are thinking to reduce these challenges step by step. He also said that, whether any Woman with Disability of this Upazila faces any complicity regarding the services and facilities under his supervision, she may communicate with him and he will solve this problem as soon as possible. Besides, the officer of BRDB said that, he enlisted all the members of grassroots Women with

Disabilities committees and BRDB will provide loan to all members for Income Generating Activities (IGA). President of Bar Association expressed his commitment to cooperate to advance the litigations of Women with Disabilities as well as to reduce the challenges of getting justice.

This inauguration program is being presided over Shirin Akter, Chairperson, Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF).

Core session of the training:

It is noted that, since most of the Women with Disabilities are from very grassroots level and they're participating in this type of training for the first time; so, the core session is being divided in to three sessions:

- A. Initial discussion,**
- B. 1st session and**
- C. 2nd session.**

A. Initial discussion: In initial discussion, purpose and importance of this training for Women with Disabilities are being discussed by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF and Facilitator of this training.

Followed by this discussion, S. M. Saifur Rahman, Executive Director, Protik Mohila O Sheshu Sangstha (PMSS) and Co-facilitator of this training discussed a number of instructions for the training participants and request them to follow these instructions strictly at training period in order to make this training effective. After that, participants are requested to express their expectation from this training, one expectation per participant to analyze their understanding level.



1st session:

This session is being facilitated by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director of WDDF and Facilitator of this training.

The topic of this session is “United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)”

(Article 13) “Access to justice”, (Article 15) “**Freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment**” and (Article 16) “**Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse**”.

This topic includes:

- I) What is UN CRPD?
- II) What is Access? And what is justice?
- III) Key speeches of these articles.
- IV) Why are these articles important to know for Persons/Women with Disabilities?
- V) What is the connection between article 13, 15, 16 and obtaining justice?

2nd session:

This session is being facilitated by S. M. Saifur Rahman, Executive Director, Protik Mohila O Sheshu Sangstha (PMSS) and Co-facilitator of this training.

The topic of this session is “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”

(Goal 16 “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”)

This topic includes:

- I) What is Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?
- II) What is Inclusive? And what is Institution?
- III) Key speech of this Goal.
- IV) Why is this goal important to know for Persons/Women with Disabilities?
- V) What is the connection between goal 16 and obtaining justice?

The facilitators suggested to the participants that, everybody should have proper conception and knowledge about these treaty and document concurrently they should have try to use the specific reference of these treaty and document for utilizing in required area. In case of any requirement, WDDF will always take proper initiative to cooperate to the Women with Disabilities through legal aid service providing organizations. Otherwise, it will be very difficult for them to enjoy their rights through the implementation of these treaty and documents properly.



C) 3rd Two days long training with the participation of 20 different types of Women with Disabilities including their parents but the total number of participants including staffs and volunteers total 22, on “United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)” (Article 9, Article 13, 15, 16), “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” (Goal 16) and “Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013” in order to create easy access to justice was being organized with the initiative of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF), from 17 to 18 November 2018, at the Auditorium of Aronnobash resort.

This training was divided into three parts:

- A. Core session on “Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013”
- B. Core session on the articles of UNCRPD and
- C. Core session on Goal-16 of SDGS.

Three core sessions are being discussed in Two days and there was One facilitator and Two Co-facilitators to conduct the training theoretically and practically for the Women with Disabilities properly.

➤ **Core sessions of the 1st day training:**

It is noted that, since most of the Women with Disabilities are from very grassroots level and they're participating in this type of training for the first time; so, the core session of 1st day is being divided into five sessions:

- A. Introductory session,
- B. Initial discussion,
- C. 1st session
- D. 2nd session and

E. 3rd session.

A. Introductory session: An introductory session of all the participants is being conducted by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) and all the participants are introduced with each other in this session.

B. Initial discussion: In initial discussion, purpose and importance of this training for Women with Disabilities including the required information, expected learnings/aims of this training, gaps and challenges of Persons Specially Women with Disabilities in the issue of access to justice are being discussed by Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, WDDF and Co-facilitator of this training.

Followed by this discussion, Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF and Facilitator of this training discussed a number of instructions for the training participants and request them to follow these instructions strictly at training period in order to make this training effective. After that, participants are requested to express their expectation from this training, one expectation for each participant to analyze their understanding level.

C.1st session: This session is being facilitated by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF and Facilitator of this training with the cooperation of WDDF staffs.

The topic of this session: “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”



(Goal 16 “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”).

This session includes:

- I) Definition of sustainability and its requirement. Simultaneously essentially considered issues for sustainable development.
- II) 17 Goals of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- III) Importance of SDGs for Persons with Disabilities simultaneously relation of SDGs with them.
- IV) Definition and importance of Inclusiveness and Institution.
- V) Importance of Inclusiveness and Institution for Persons with Disabilities.

- VII) Key speech of Goal 16.
- VII) Relationship between goal 16 and obtaining justice.

It would be noted that, considering the requirements, understanding level and working areas of Women with Disabilities simultaneously in order to utilize this training in any situation in light of their real experience effectively, more priority has been given to practical exercise than theoretical notes and lectures. Hence, in order to illustrate SDGs and its importance, number of practical exercises have been done by the participants.

D. 2nd session: This session is being facilitated by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Facilitator of this training, Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Md. Abdul Hai, Junior



Assistant Coordinator, WDDF and Co-facilitators of this training.

The topic of this session is “Disability and non-discrimination”

This session has focused on the scenario of discrimination towards Persons specially Women with Disabilities simultaneously relation of equality, equity and non-discrimination as well as practice how to reduce discrimination.

E. 3rd session: This session is being facilitated by Md. Abdul Hai, Junior Assistant Coordinator, WDDF and Co-facilitator of this training along with S.M Saifur Rahman, Executive Director, Protik Mohila O Sheshu Sangstha (PMSS). The topic of this session is “Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013” besides a number of topics closely related with this training are being discussed in the third session.

The topics include:

- I) Significance of enacting “Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013”.
- II) Specific rationalities of enacting “Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013”.
- III) Definition of Disability and barriers.
- IV) Types of disability (In light of “Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013” and questions of the participants).
- V) Definition of Persons with Disabilities in light of “Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013”.
- VI) Definition of rights of Persons with Disabilities and discussion about their 17 fundamental rights in light of “Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013”.
- VII) Duties of Local Government for obtaining justice in light of “Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013”.

Besides, a practical session was being conducted with the facilitation of the Chairperson and Executive Director of WDDF at the end of the third session. In order to understand Women with Disabilities of different districts about the advocacy techniques, this practical session was being conducted with the participation of all participants and facilitators, on making advocacy with the responsible authorities of Local Government in order to obtaining rights including government facilities and services for Persons Specially Women with Disabilities through utilizing the learnings of this training.



B. 2nd core session.

Core sessions of the 2nd day: Two core sessions were being conducted in 2nd day.

Before having started the core sessions, a recapping session was being conducted with the facilitation of Md. Abdul Hai, Junior Assistant coordinator, with the cooperation of Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF where all participants are recapping the discussing issues and learnings of 1st Day by rotation.

A. 1st core session and

1st core session: This session is being facilitated by Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, WDDF.

The topic of this session is “United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)”.

Article 9 “Accessibility”,

Article 13 “Access to justice”,
Article 15 “Freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading Treatment or punishment” and Article 16 “Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse”.

This topic includes:

- I) Brief perception about United Nations, UN CRPD and its articles.
- II) Definition of Accessibility and justice.
- III) Definition of Reasonable accommodation.
- IV) Key speeches of these articles.
- V) Significance of these articles for Women with Disabilities.
- VI) Relation amongst article 9, article 13, 15, 16 and obtaining justice.
- VII) Comparison amongst “United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)”, “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” and “Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013”.

2nd core session: This session is being facilitated by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF along with Facilitator of this training. The topic of this session is “**Personal Attitude and behavior**”. This session has focused on experience of personal life, attitude and behavior of Persons Specially Women with Disabilities as well as personal attitude and behavior of Persons without Disabilities towards Persons Specially Women with Disabilities. Two practical sessions were being conducted under this core session. 1st practical session has focused on to accept a Person/Woman with Disability and try to solve his/her problem through realization.



2nd practical session is an interview and experience sharing session. The purpose of this session is to share successive achievements of a Male (S.M Saifur Rahman, Executive Director, Protik Mohila O Sheshu Sangstha (PMSS)) with Wheel Chair User and a Female (Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF)) with Visual Impairment through facing continuous struggles and multifaceted challenges of their lives from their own respective perspective with the participants for their learnings and experience.

The facilitators suggested to the participants that, everybody should have proper conception and knowledge about these treaty, legislation and documents concurrently they should have try to use the specific reference of these treaty and documents for utilizing in required area. In case of any requirement, WDDF will always take proper initiative to cooperate to the Women with Disabilities through legal aid service providing organizations. Otherwise, it will be very difficult for them to enjoy their rights through the implementation of these treaty, legislation and documents properly. From the responses of all the participants, it would be noted that, this is an effective and time required training for them. Most of the participants haven't any idea about these treaty and documents and they aren't aware about the basic rights for Persons with Disabilities are mentioned in these treaty and documents. The participants are also pointed out that, the practical sessions of this training, specially,

I) Practical sessions on advocacy techniques,



II) Practical session on accepting a Person/Woman with Disability and solving his/her problem through realization. And

III) Practical session taking on interview and experience sharing session will be very helpful for them to continue advocacy for achieving basic rights, government services and facilities for Women with Disabilities in their working areas and the knowledge and learnings of these sessions will not only enrich their activities and experience but also contribute to overcome different unexpected challenges through addressing properly.

They also suggested that, persons especially Women with Disabilities of remote areas are deprived from Government services and facilities and due to lack of accurate information they are always left behind. So, considering the susceptibility of Persons Especially Women with Disabilities, this type of training should be organized in divisional and district level regularly.

11. Media Campaign:

With the initiative of WDDF two discussion meetings and two trainings were being organized under the program of media campaign in this reporting year (From 01 January to 31 December 2018).

First discussion meeting with the representatives of Bogra print media was being organized with the initiative of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF), **Locally Supported by Bogra Zila Spondon Protibondhi Nari Parisad, on Tuesday, 3rd April 2018 at the Conference Hall, Red Chillies Restaurant, Bogra.**

Welcome remarks are being delivered by Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, WDDF.

After welcome speech, a paper about the roles and responsibilities of the representatives of print media to make justice system supportive and friendly for Women with Disabilities was being presented by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF. She mentioned that, Women with Disabilities are deprived from obtaining justice due to having gender and disability, they're often becoming victim of mental, physical and sexual torture and violence in their family and society. But most of the incidents haven't ever been expressed and the minimum number of incidents are being expressed publicly and come to an end without any justice. From long time working experience it is seen that, negative attitude, social negligence towards Women with Disabilities, superstitions, illiteracy, poverty, lack of awareness and self-confidence of Women with Disabilities and their parents and infrastructural and informational inaccessibility in all areas of the society including justice institutions of all levels are the most important barriers for the advancement of Women with Disabilities. So, the representatives of print media may play a contributive role through their realistic and time required intervention among Persons Specially Women with Disabilities and their existing barriers, community people, civil society representatives and Government service providers.



After that, in an open discussion presided over Vice president of Bogra Pressclub, the representatives shared that, they're interested to work in order to reduce the challenges of Persons with Disabilities and a number of representatives also shared their experience of taking initiatives to highlight different challenges of Persons with Disabilities through their writings. Besides, the representatives are discussed that, what types of challenges are faced by Women with Disabilities and which issues should be highlighted by the representatives of media. It is also discussed that, not only challenges and problems but also potentialities and success of Women with Disabilities should be published in newspapers.

Specially, incidence of violence of Women with Disabilities should be published with high importance.

Finally, the representatives of print media expressed their firm commitment that, they will raise their cooperative hands to make the social institutions and society supportive for Women with Disabilities as well as they will be played a contributive role for their advancement.

B) Second discussion meeting with the representatives of Pabna print and electronic media was being organized with the initiative of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF), **Locally Supported by Protik Mohila O Sheshu Sangstha (PMSS)**, on Sunday, 13th May 2018 at the Press Club of Pabna.

Welcome remarks is being delivered by Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, WDDF.

After welcome speech, a paper about the roles and responsibilities of the representatives of print media to make justice system supportive and friendly for Women with Disabilities was being presented by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF. She mentioned that, Women with Disabilities are deprived from obtaining justice due to having gender and disability, they're often becoming victim of mental, physical and sexual torture and violence in their family and society. But most of the incidents haven't ever been expressed and the minimum number of incidents are being expressed publicly and come to an end without any justice. From long time working experience it is seen that, negative attitude, social negligence towards Women with Disabilities, superstitions, illiteracy, poverty, lack of awareness and self-confidence of Women with Disabilities and their parents and infrastructural and informational inaccessibility in all areas of the society including justice institutions of all levels are the most important barriers for the advancement of Women with Disabilities. So, the representatives of print and electronic media may play a contributive role through their realistic and time required intervention among Persons Specially Women with Disabilities and their existing barriers, community people, civil society representatives and Government service providers.



After that, in an open discussion presided over Akhinur Islam Remon, Vice President of Pabna Press Club, the representatives shared that, they're interested to work in order to reduce the challenges of Persons with Disabilities and a number of representatives also shared their experience of taking initiatives to highlight different challenges of Persons with Disabilities through their writings. Besides, the representatives are discussed that, what types of challenges are faced by Women with Disabilities and which issues should be highlighted by the representatives of media. It is also discussed that, not only challenges and problems but also potentialities and success of Women with Disabilities should be published in media.

different challenges of Persons with Disabilities through their writings. Besides, the representatives are discussed that, what types of challenges are faced by Women with Disabilities and which issues should be highlighted by the representatives of media. It is also discussed that, not only challenges and problems but also potentialities and success of Women with Disabilities should be published in media.

Specially, incidence of violence of Women with Disabilities should be published with high importance.

It is noted that, Shibajit Nag, President, Press Club Pabna and Kamal Ahamed Siddiquee, General Secretary, Press Club Pabna participated and shared their valuable opinion and experience in this discussion meeting.

Finally, the representatives of print and electronic media expressed their firm commitment that, they will raise their cooperative hands to make the social institutions and society supportive for Women with Disabilities as well as they will be played a contributive role for their advancement.

C) First advocacy training with media with the participation of advocacy team members of Bogura Zila Spondon Protibondhi Nari Parisad was being organized with the initiative of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF), **Locally Supported by Bogura Zila Spondon Protibondhi Nari Parisad**, at the meeting room of Bogura Zila Spondon Protibondhi Nari Parisad on 21st October 2018.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator of WDDF, Rebeka Akter, President and Executive Members of Bogura Zila Spondon Protibondhi Nari Parisad were present in this training.

Welcome speech including purpose and requirement of this training is being delivered by Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, WDDF. Followed by the welcome speech introductory session and discussion sessions are being facilitated by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF.

Two journalists from print and electronic media discussed about the strategy of advocacy with media and the role of media to protect the human rights of marginalized people including Women with Disabilities.

Sanju Roy, Journalist, Daily Chadnibazar Bogura and Meherul Sujan, Regional Representative of Jamuna T.V Bogura were resource person of this training. In order to make this training easy and comprehensive the resource persons have delivered their training presentation in lecture method. Both of them emphasized in their discussion on making strong and regular advocacy on behalf of Women with Disabilities with media. They mentioned that, according to "Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013" and different policies Women with Disabilities have full and equal rights to get protection and justice from any type of violence through full support and cooperation of media but without any notification to any law enforcement agencies or relevant authorities, it is difficult to adopt any type of initiative by media. As it is notified on behalf of Women with Disabilities through this training that, media can play a vital role to protect from violence or to reduce violence against Women with Disabilities, so the resource persons expressed their commitment that, media will always be with Women with Disabilities in any requirement. Hence, after having been faced any type of violence, discrimination or injustice, they should notify relevant authorities and media. It is the responsibility of media to support marginalized people including Women with Disabilities and Women with Disabilities should regular keep in touch with media.

Finally, it would be noted that, through this training a positive relation between media and Bogura Zila Spondon Protibondhi Nari Parisad has been created and the advocacy team members will be able to obtain effective and spontaneous cooperation of media to advance the initiative of easy access to justice of Women with Disabilities.

D) Second Training titled “**Skill development and Use Media to protect and promote human rights of Women with Disabilities**” was being organized with the initiative of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) at Tewfik Aziz Khan Seminar Hall, Daily star Bhaban on 8 December 2018.



Welcome speech including purpose and requirement of this training is being delivered by Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, WDDF.

Followed by the welcome speech introductory session and discussion sessions are being facilitated by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF. After that, a paper about the roles and responsibilities of the representatives of print and electronic media in order to make justice system supportive and friendly simultaneously skill development of Women with Disabilities for protecting and promoting

their human rights by utilizing media was being presented by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF. She mentioned that, Women with Disabilities are deprived from obtaining justice due to having gender and disability, they're often becoming victim of mental, physical and sexual torture and violence in their family and society. But most of the incidents haven't ever been expressed and the minimum number of incidents are being expressed publicly and come to an end without any justice. From long time working experience it is seen that, negative attitude, social negligence towards Women with Disabilities, superstitions, illiteracy, poverty, different types of violence against Women with Disabilities, lack of awareness and self-confidence of Women with Disabilities and their parents and infrastructural and informational inaccessibility in all areas of the society including justice institutions of all levels are the most important barriers for the advancement of Women with Disabilities depriving from getting justice. So, in order to reduce the existing barriers for obtaining justice, the representatives of electronic and print media may play a contributive role through their realistic and time required intervention among Persons Specially Women with Disabilities, community people, civil society representatives, professionals, relevant responsible authorities and Government service providers. Three resource persons were invited to conduct three sessions.

1st session is being conducted by Mahfuza Jasmine, Special Correspondent and Focal point PM's Initiatives Ten, Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS). She divided all trainees in to three groups and conducted a group work with three questions.

- I) As a Woman with Disability what type of barrier do you've to face usually?
- II) How media can cooperate you?
- III) What is your expectation to media?

In light of answers of these three questions she delivered her suggestive and encouraging speech for Women with Disabilities. In her speech, she shared a number of stories of tortured and oppressed women simultaneously how they've released themselves from torture and violence.

She also emphasized on endeavor and determination of Women with Disabilities for obtaining their rights and establishing their dignity in all aspects of society. She also noted that, every Woman with Disability should have to become conscious about her rights and techniques of advocacy with media and whenever she becomes victim of violence she has to communicate with responsible authorities along with media without maintaining any secrecy with her family. Every participant of this training

should follow these techniques not only for herself but her neighbors or friends or any victim with disability with the cooperation of WDDF if required. It is duty of media representatives. She expressed her commitment that, she will always cooperate Women with Disabilities as representative of media to promote and protect their Human Rights and work together to protest all types of violence against Women with Disabilities.

2nd session is being conducted by Rabeya Baby, Staff Reporter and Editor, Women Affairs, Daily Ittefaq. She conducted his session in lecture method where she has focused on the initiatives State has already been adopted and which initiatives State should take to promote and protect Human Rights of Women with Disabilities. She mentioned that, Different technical and health institutions of government have adopted different initiatives for improving the situation of Persons with disabilities as well as to reduce disability but these initiatives are inadequate in comparison with the number of Persons with Disabilities. So, we're optimistic that, government will adopt effective, appropriate and time required measures for advancement of Persons with Disabilities considering their types, class, grade and situation.

After that, Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, WDDF announced that, Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF achieved the first Global award for Women with Disabilities "Her Abilities" in Rights Category on 3rd December 2018 and it is certainly a great achievement for Women with Disabilities of Bangladesh. So, members and staffs of WDDF including resource persons of this training congratulated Ashrafun Nahar with a bundle of flowers.

Followed by this congratulation session, Alam Mullah, father of a (Female child) victim with Intellectual Disability shared his personal experience and sufferings due to feeling a rape case of his child daughter. After that, Shirin Akhter shared the background of this rape litigation and how extreme sufferings he and his family has to face for 4 years long.



She shared that, at the time of visiting One Stop Crisis Centre (OCC) of Khulna Medical College on 13th April 2016, One incident surprised them; They noticed that, Takia, a 13 years girl with intellectual disability, Village: Charkushla, 3 Chaklada union, Thana: Terokhada, Dist.: Khulna has come for support and through discussion with the in charge of OCC and the mother of the girl they came to know that, this girl was raped continuously by a Sixty years influential village man in January 2016 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 Union Parisad Chairman was unwilling to bring the incident to light rather On behalf of the offender Union Parisad Chairman proposed the victim girl's family to resolve this terrific incident and heinous offence through sum compensation without considering the future of the female child. But Takia's family hasn't agree with this proposal. 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. However, this type of heinous offence of the influential persons called human monstrous shocked the representatives of WDDF extremely as well as they're reproaching this type of contemptible offence. Hence, with the suggestion and cooperation of WDDF and OCC Takia's mother

filed a litigation. The litigation is going on with the supervision and interference of Bangladesh Legal Aid Services and Trust (BLAST) and the offender was being arrested and put in to prison. On the other hand, hard days were starting for Takia's family, they've to pass every moment facing social negligence, deprivation, torture, threats of life destruction including rape for withdrawing the litigation but they've been waiting for justice.

In the meantime, Takia gave birth to a boy baby, with the cooperation of WDDF this baby handed over to government child home of Khulna called 'Chotomonir Nibash' and DNA test has been completed with the supervision of Court which has proved that offender is guilty for this type of heinous offence.

So, in order to taking revenge of this incident, on 26th March 2017, Din Islam, Chairman, 3 No, Chaklada union, Terokhada, Khulna ordered his flatterers to strike Takia's mother with sharp instrument on her head and even after having she fell down on the ground they're beating her with heavy sticks cruelly until she became senseless. It was a very heartrending scenery, while a group of men with the order of a union parisad Chairman were beating a helpless woman lie down on the ground but nobody has nothing to do. After having stopped their beating, it was seen that, Takia's mother lied down on the ground losing sense, became injured seriously and nonstop bleeding from her head. Her relatives admitted her in hospital and thirteen stitches had to put on her head. At the time of WDDF representatives visit, she was seriously ill, even she couldn't walk and her whole body grasped with the spot of injury. They were counseling her, suggested her to be patient and assured her



that, representatives of WDDF are always with Takia's family; they've already informed about this shocking incident to the relevant authorities of Dhaka and now they'll report to the local government, media and law enforcement agency of Khulna to handle this issue rightly, seriously as well as to protect Takia's family from this type of in humanitarian torture.

After having been reported to Local Government, law enforcement agencies and media, they've got positive response and assurance of all types of possible cooperation from relevant authorities. Police Super (SP) and Union Nirbahi Officer (UNO) instantly ordered to the Office in Charge (OC) of Terokhada Thana to adopt initiative to rescue Takia's family from all types of torture and risks. Even UNO went to Takia's house and told Takia's mother to send her children to school. He also assured that, he will have observed the situation and take initiative whether any problem is being created.

However, though torture and cruel treatment of offender's party aren't being stopped but reduced to some extent and litigation process is going on very slowly and smoothly through continuous threats and pressure of withdrawing litigation.

Mean while the offender got bail simultaneously grade of torture and in human treatment to Takia's family has started to become extreme and unexpectedly a dead body of a male child has found in a jungle; so, having utilized this scope the hostile UP Chairman enlisted Takia's father's name in litigation as an offender of murder case falsely.

The existing scenario states that, Takia's father is passing days as an alone, absconder offender and Takia's mother, a housewife of an ultra-poor family including four children (two female children and

two male children) is passing very hard days in her small cottage, with hunger and thirst simultaneously with mental and social pressure, deprivation and torture along with continuous threats of life risks.

In conclusion, it is enquired that, to obtain justice of such an old aged rapist of a female child with Intellectual Disability is an offence?

Should this type of offence be compromised through compensation?

What should we do as Women activists with Disabilities?

Break the silence and come forward with united voice, "WE WANT JUSTICE".

After having shared this background incident, Shamim Sarker, father of a (Female child) victim with Intellectual Disability shared his personal experience and sufferings due to filing a rape case of his child daughter. After that, Ashrafun Nahar shared the background of this rape litigation and how extreme sufferings he and his family has to tolerate for 3 years long.

She shared that, Ayesha Siddika Shammi, a 14 years' girl with Intellectual Disability of an ultra-poor family of Bogura used to play in the yard of their house. One after noon Shammi's Grandmother suddenly saw that, Shammi entered in to room with cluttered dress and her Grandmother understood that something has been happened. She asked to Shammi and Shammi informed that, a scoundrel of their village raped her forcibly. Shammi's Grandmother filed a litigation instantly and truth of complaint is being proved by medical test. The offender is being arrested and after one week he got bail.

The representatives of WDDF discussed about this heinous offence with this offender's village people and most of them are complained that they're exasperate by the intolerable torture of this offender and they claimed his real punishment for this offence. The representatives of WDDF also made advocacy about the litigation with Police Super (SP) who committed that, he himself will supervise this litigation but unfortunately he has been transferred after a few months.

At present, Shammi's family is passing very hard days due to continuous threats and torture of offender and his family and Shammi's father is continuously running in court. So, as a day laborer, it is extremely difficult for him to run for a litigation continuously beside maintaining a family though advancement of this litigation is extremely sluggish. So, representatives of WDDF are frustrated and shocked, they couldn't understand what they should do.

3rd session is being conducted by Zahirul Islam Mamun, Chief Executive Editor, ATN Bangla. He conducted his session in lecture method where he focused on presence, advocacy and activities of WDDF for the advancement of Women with Disabilities. He said that, through strong and continuous advocacy of WDDF, electronic and print Medias are started to open their eyes about promoting and protecting human rights of Women with Disabilities and this type of advocacy should be continued not only in Dhaka but also all over the country including remote areas.

It is certainly noted that, the number of incidents of human rights violation is 3 or 4 times higher than capital city and most of these incidents haven't been expressed publicly. So, WDDF should continue advocacy with electronic and print Medias in sub district and district level through intensifying its activities. Finally, on behalf of ATN Bangla, he expressed his firm commitment to work with WDDF in order to promoting and protecting human rights of Women with Disabilities properly.

Vote of Thanks is being delivered by Rounak Jahan Usha, Treasurer, Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF).

12. Visit Cox's Bazar in order to implement a Project on need assessment of Women and Children with Disabilities among Rohingya people:

WDDF representatives have visited Cox's Bazar in order to implement the project on need assessment of Girls and Women with Disabilities among Rohingya people from 21st to 23rd April 2018.

With the initiative of WDDF an orientation program on Disability and working techniques in Rohingya Camps was being organized for three employees of this project with the cooperation of Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) in Cox's Bazar YPSA office. Besides, WDDF representatives organized meetings with Additional District Commissioner and Triple RC of Cox's Bazar for starting project activities.

13. Inauguration of a Health campaign and Closing ceremony of skill development training course of Grassroots Women with Disabilities:

A closing ceremony of skill development training course of Grassroots Women with Disabilities and an inauguration program of Health campaign through them to lead Healthy lives were being organized with the initiative of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) at Mukul Niketan of Baropara Union, Daudkandi on 11 June 2018.

Two grassroots Women with Disabilities committee members and their parents, Executive Council members and Staffs of WDDF were participated in these programs.

The main purpose of organizing this health campaign is to encourage leading healthy lives of neighbors and village peoples of three unions of Daudkandi through ensuring healthy lives of Women with Disabilities and their family.



The methods of how to lead healthy life, advantages of leading healthy life simultaneously disadvantages of leading unhealthy life are being discussed by Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director of WDDF. They've also discussed the methods of leading healthy life with only consciousness and very limited expenses. One thousand (1000) copies of leaflet comprising rules of leading healthy life was being distributed among the inhabitants of Daudkandi.

Besides, with the initiative of WDDF, a Two month sewing training course for Grassroots Women with Disabilities has been conducted from 1st March to 31st May 2018. With the resourceful training of an efficient, responsible and disability friendly female trainer and with the close supervision of Masuma Akter, Vice-Chairman of WDDF Seven Women with Disabilities have completed their sewing training efficiently. So, in order to continue their sewing practice regularly as well as to encourage these Women with Disabilities to become self-confident and self-independent through operating Income Generating Activities (IGA) WDDF with the cooperation of local donor and Door for Inclusive Society (DIS) has distributed seven sewing machine among seven trainees.

Md. Mahabubul Alam, Union Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Daudkandi was present as Chief Guest and

Md. Sataruzzaman, Officer, Department of Social Services, Daudkandi was present as special Guest in this closing ceremony.

The trainees are displayed their sewn dresses and our guests were very delighted to observe the efficiency of Women with Disabilities.

Besides, Guests also said that, this initiative of WDDF is certainly an effective and appreciative to make Women with Disabilities active and self-help through this type of training and equipment distribution.

After having completed the speeches of Chief Guest and Special Guest, they've inaugurated the Health Campaign.

14. Press conference:

Two Press conference on different emerging issues were being organized by WDDF in this reporting year.

A)1st Press Conference titled "Making easy access to justice of Women with Disabilities", focusing multifaceted challenges of Women with Disabilities including existing barriers of access to justice was being organized with the initiative of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) at 11.00 AM, on Sunday, 1st July 2018 at VIP Lounge, National Press Club, in order to discuss the scenario of deprivation of Persons With Disabilities from development process and how their advancement is being interrupted due to depriving them from various momentous rights including accessibility. The representatives of General Council (GC) and Executive Council (EC) of WDDF, representatives of DPOs, NGOs, CSOs and representatives of mass media were participated in this press Conference.



The main purpose of organizing the press conference is to urge to the Government for an "Inclusive, anti-discriminatory and Persons With Disabilities friendly society for all" through delivering accessible Government services and facilities as well as making accessible roads, public transports and public institutions in order to include Persons with Disabilities in mainstream development process. Simultaneously, to notify Government and the relevant authorities of the City Corporations that, the situation of the roads of Dhaka City are extremely dangerous along with insecure for the mobility of Persons with Disabilities.

This Women with Disabilities right based organization has been working with the Government, policy makers, Disabled Peoples Organizations (DPOs), representatives of civil society and media for the inclusion of People with Disabilities in mainstream development process through reducing the challenges of Women with Disabilities and discrimination in the issue of access to justice. The keynote paper was being presented by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF). In this paper she mentioned that the development indicators of media at the side of inconsistency and incongruity of society. To accomplish appropriate demands and social movement, media works as milestone. She also stated that, WDDF is a right based organization of Women with Disabilities, struggling to build an anti-discriminatory society in order to lead dignified lives of them.

Mentioning about the statistics of Women with Disabilities she said that, according to the household survey of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), 9.07% of total population are Persons with

Disabilities. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) June 2011, almost 15% of total population of Bangladesh are Persons with Disabilities approximating to all developing countries. So, according to that statistics, number of Persons with Disabilities is approximately 24 million, among them, number of Women with Disabilities is 12 million.



In accordance with the information obtained from different researches, it is noted that, 99% Women with Disabilities are living under poverty line and less than 1% Female Children with Disabilities are getting opportunity of going to school. 96% Women with Disabilities are becoming victim of mental, physical, sexual and emotional violence. According to the reports of different newspapers up to 2016, it is seen that, number of violence happening to Women and Female children with Disabilities is very high but the number of publishing reports regarding violence

is very limited. From research and real experience it is seen that, whether any Woman with Disability becomes victim of violence once; in most cases, she has to become victim of violence again and again. 78% Women and female children with Disabilities are become victim of different types of physical and sexual violence only due to their own limited power of prevention (BLAST) and among them 18% is become victim of violence again and again.

Besides, existing barriers for Women with Disabilities in justice system and techniques of solving are being discussed in the abovementioned press conference. Required instructions about accountability of the state and adopting proper initiatives have been mentioned for protecting and preventing violence against Women with Disabilities in Schedule-12 of "Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection act 2013", Article-13, 15and 16 of "Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)" and Goal-16 of "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)". There is no instruction about the process of justice of Persons with Disabilities specially Persons with Hearing and Speech Impairments and Intellectually Disabled Persons in different legislations including Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2000.

Camera trial and proper technology in order to get justice of Women with Hearing and Speech Impairments and Intellectually Disabled should be ensured and Witness of Visual Impaired Women should be accepted. All essential procedures involved with justice system including the infrastructure of Court premises should be disable friendly. Lawyers and judges have to achieve training and knowledge on disability issue. The process of police station and getting medical report for Women with Disabilities should be ensured as soon as possible.

Women with Disabilities are suffering from inaccessible environment and deprived from their equal citizen rights. The large number of population in Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged segment of the society. Roads, footpaths, Underpass, over bridge, public transports and public institutions are inaccessible for them. Besides, manholes of the cities and rural-urban areas are often uncovered and it is tremendously risky for the mobility of Persons with Disabilities. We want to live together, contribute in building golden Bangladesh and prosperous nation together. So, it is noted that, Persons including Women with Disabilities are always subject of discrimination including human rights violation and without having been enjoyed accessibility rights in all aspects of society, all types of Persons with Disabilities haven't been included in the mainstream of development and in this consequence national development will extremely be interrupted. Participated media representatives are expressed the same

concern with this paper and acknowledged their accountability to Persons including Women with Disabilities.

The representatives of WDDF expressed their high optimism that, the flight of steps of establishing rights and dignity of 15 million People with Disabilities would be easier and they will be able to play a contributive role as human resource not rather being treated as a burden of society in the development of society and nation and in the consequence of achieving their needs and demands through the proper implementation and actualization of “UN Convention on Rights of Persons With Disabilities (UN CRPD)” and “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”. So, the representatives of Women with Disabilities led organizations, NGOs and CSOs call vigorously for the rapid implementation of CRPD and SDGs to actualize the development process of the country. Farida Yesmin, Psychologist, Society for the Welfare of the Intellectually Disabled (SWID)-Bangladesh, urged that, the Government of Bangladesh, Bangladesh mass Media, Disabled Persons Organizations (DPOs), representatives of civil society including all classes to work together to create a friendly environment by ensuring their full and equal participation in all aspects including employment in order to improve the living standard of PWDs. Representatives with Speech and Hearing Impairments said that, As Persons with Speech and Hearing Impairments, they've to face multifaceted challenges due to inaccessible roads and transport. So, they are optimistic that, 15 million Persons With Disabilities will enjoy the equal opportunity like all citizen's, it will be easy to eliminate all forms of barriers to fulfill the demands of Persons With Disabilities and will ensure there full participation in the development activities of the state. Besides them, representatives of DPOs also delivered their speech in this press conference. All the speakers in the press conference expressed their optimism that, successful implementation and actualization of national and international instruments including “UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities” will eradicate all kinds of discrimination between Persons with Disabilities & non-disabled people & will be able to build a happy & anti-discriminatory nation.



The press conference was conducted with the leadership of Chairperson, Shirin Akhter, Member Secretary, Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Council Members and General Council Members including spontaneous cooperation of the staffs of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF),

The Press Conference, which was being organized by WDDF was a very time required and effective initiative. A large number of reporters and photo journalists of Electronic and Print Media were present in this Press Conference. A number of folders along with related documents were being distributed among the participants on behalf of this Organization. Besides, a press release was being published at the end of the Press Conference.

B) 2nd press Conference titled “**Preserve quota for Persons with Disabilities in 1st and 2nd class Government job**”, focusing the declaration of Prime Minister of abolishing 1st and 2nd class government job quota for all including Persons with Disabilities, was being organized with the initiative of Thirteen Disabled Peoples Organizations (DPOs), Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and International Non-Government Organizations (INGOs), e.g. Access Bangladesh Foundation, Bangladesh Legal Aid Services and Trust (BLAST) Centre for Disability in Development (CDD), Disabled Welfare Society (DWS), Disabled Child Foundation (DCF), Disability Research and Rehabilitation Association (DRRA), Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF),

National Counsel for the Disabled Women (NCDW), Sight Savers, Sign Language for the Deaf and Sign Language Users (SDSL), Turning Point Foundation, Visually Impaired Peoples Society (VIPS), Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) in join collaboration at 11.00 AM, on Sunday, 28 October 2018, at Conference Lounge, National Press Club in order to discuss the scenario of the employment right of Persons With Disabilities and how their advancement is being interrupted due to depriving them from this momentous right. Secretarial support for organizing this press conference has been provided by Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF). The representatives of DPOs, NGOs and INGOs were participated in this Press Conference.



The main purpose of organizing the press conference is to urge to the Government for Preserving 5%Quota for Persons with Disabilities in 1st and 2nd class Government job unconditionally through building accessible and discrimination free job environment. Simultaneously, to notify Government and the relevant authorities involved with the process of employment that, though national and international legislations and policies have clearly been mentioned about the quota system for Persons with Disabilities but nevertheless, employment right of them is

extremely being violated due to improper management and multifaceted challenges in different aspects including inaccessibility. So, it is indivisible to preserve quota for Persons with Disabilities in 1st and 2nd class Government job otherwise achievement and actualization of "Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities", "Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013" and "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" will extremely be interrupted.

These DPOs, NGOs and INGOs having united & working as collective force with the Government, policy makers, representatives of civil society and media for the inclusion of People with Disabilities in employment through reducing their challenges and discrimination in different aspects. The keynote paper was being presented by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF). In this paper she mentioned about background of preserving quota for Persons with Disabilities, negative impact of abolishing their quota and rationality of preserving quota for them. Persons with Disabilities are suffering from unemployment problem and deprived from enjoyment of their equal citizen rights including the right of employment. The large number of population with disability in Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged segment of the society. Most of them are living under poverty line and roads, footpaths, Underpass, over bridge, public transport, public buildings including employment institutions are inaccessible for them. Besides, due to being gender and for having severe disability Persons specially Women with severe Disabilities are often deprived from employment opportunity and lost their interests to life leading including education. There are a number of examples of Persons with Disabilities who have committed suicide suffering from unemployment problem. Besides, Persons with Disabilities have experience of building and involving with movement in different times and situations for their inclusion in employment. They're trying their best to notify these issues again and again but nevertheless, due to the negligence of the relevant authorities, lack of proper data collection, lack of proper conception about overall situation of Persons with Disabilities and without considering the demands and requirements of Persons with Disabilities along with disability related legislations and policies disability quota has been abolished. Isn't it Human rights violation? Persons with Disabilities don't want any more human rights violation, any more death! They want to live together, contribute in building golden Bangladesh and prosperous nation together. So, it is noted that, Persons with Disabilities are always

subject of discrimination including human rights violation and without having been enjoyed employment right, all types of Persons with Disabilities haven't been included in the mainstream of development and in this consequence, national development will extremely be interrupted.

Five recommendations are being mentioned in the keynote paper of this press conference:

- I) 5% quota should be preserved for Persons with Disabilities in 1st and 2nd class Government job unconditionally and this percentage of quota should be divided according to the type of Persons with Disabilities.



- II) For 3rd and 4th class Government job, 5% quota for Persons with Disabilities should be specific.
- III) 5% job quota should also be preserved for Persons with Disabilities in Non-Government and commercial institutions

beside Government.

- IV) For employment, equity between male and female with disabilities should be ensured.
- V) For employment of Persons with Disabilities in Government job, a specific policy should be formulated.

This Press conference is moderated by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF and Welcome Speech is delivered by Nazrana Yesmin Hira, Coordinator, Manusherr Jonno Foundation (MJF). Closing speech is delivered by Md. Jahangir Alam, Thematic Expert, Centre for Disability in Development (CDD).The representatives of DPOs expressed their high optimism that, the flight of steps of establishing the rights and dignity of 24 million of disabled people would be easier and they will be able to play a contributive role as human resource not rather being treated as a burden of society in the development of society and nation and in the consequence of achieving their needs and demands through the proper implementation and actualization of "Convention on Rights of Persons With Disabilities", "Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013" and "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)". So, the representatives of Women with Disabilities lead organizations call vigorously for the rapid implementation of the convention to actualize the development process of the country. Md. Ali Ahammed, President, Bangladesh Students with Disabilities united Council urged that, the Government of Bangladesh, Bangladesh mass Medias, Disabled Persons Organizations (DPOs), representatives of civil society including all classes to work together to create a friendly environment by ensuring their full and equal participation in all aspects including employment in order to improve the living standard of Persons With Disabilities. M.I Chowdhury, leader with Speech and Hearing Impairment said that, Women with Speech and Hearing Impairments have to face multifaceted challenges due to infrastructural and informational inaccessibility in job sectors. So, they are optimistic that, 24 million Persons With Disabilities will enjoy the equal opportunity similar to all citizen's and it will be easy to eliminate all forms of barriers to fulfill the demands of Persons With Disabilities and will ensure there full participation in the development activities of the state. Besides them, National Executive Members and representatives of DPOs also delivered their speech in this press conference. All the speakers in the press

conference expressed their optimism that, successful implementation and actualization of national and international instruments including “**Convention on Rights of Persons With Disabilities**” will eradicate all kinds of discrimination between Persons With Disabilities & non-disabled people & will be able to build a happy & anti discriminatory nation.

The press conference was conducted with the leadership of the representatives of DPOs, NGOs and INGOs including Persons with Disabilities. The Press Conference, which was being organized by 13 organizations, is a very time required and effective initiative. A large number of reporters and photo journalists of Electronic and Print Media were present in this Press Conference. The keynote paper was being distributed among the participants on behalf of these Organizations and a press release was being published at the end of the Press Conference.



15. Discussion/Advocacy/Experience sharingMeeting with Government and Non-Government Organizations:

The main purpose of organizing these discussion/advocacy/Experience sharing meetings is to ensure the inclusion of Women with Disabilities (WWDs) in all newly adopted policies and plans, which had not been happened before as well as for the implementation of Government along with international rules and regulations including “UN CONVENTION ON RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES”.

Fourteen Discussion/Advocacy/Experience sharing Meetings were being organized by WDDF in various purposes in this reporting year (From 01 January to 31 December 2018).

1st Discussion meeting with Union Nirbahi Officer (UNO):

A **discussion meeting with Union Nirbahi Officer (UNO)** of Daudkandi in order to notify about the continued programs under the project titled “Strengthening WDDF to make Discrimination free society for Women and Girls with Disabilities” (September 2017-August 2018) in Daudkandi was being organized by WDDF at the Auditorium of UNO office, on 9th July 2018.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Masuma Akter, Vice-Chairperson, Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and office staffs of WDDF were present in this discussion meeting. Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director of WDDF discussed about completed and ongoing project activities in local and national level briefly.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Masuma akter, Vice-Chairperson discussed about necessity of this project, direct experience of implementing project activities and the mentionable changes have been happened among Women with Disabilities of this working area due to growing awareness and self-confidence through implementing this project.

Samira Haque, Accounts coordinator, WDDF has notified about project budget and program wise expenditure.



UNO has expressed his satisfaction for advancement of ongoing activities of WDDF and he especially encouraged to observe piloting programs on Income Generating Activities (IGA) for Women with

Disabilities of Daudkandi. He asked to submit activity wise budget of the programs have been organized in Daudkandi after having completed this project.

2nd Consultation:

A consultation titled “**Mobility improvement of Persons with Disabilities**” was jointly being organized by North and South City Corporations and Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) at WDDF office, on 12 July 2018.

Representatives from Disabled Peoples Organizations (DPOs), Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) participated in this consultation. The representatives of City Corporations delivered a presentation and after having completed the presentation, representatives of DPOs discussed about the challenges they've to face due to inaccessible roads including footpath, underpass, over bridge and zebra crossing and transports as well as how this mobility problem has been influencing their lives through depriving them from getting basic needs and rights.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF stated that, due to strong and longtime advocacy of DPOs ramps are being created with very limited number of footpaths for improving accessibility situation of Persons with Disabilities specially Wheel Chair users but due to banning motor cycles getting on footpath some pillars are being set up close to the ramps. So, another barrier is being created for Persons with Disabilities to get on footpaths and in this consequence, Women with Disabilities have to face more challenges.



Sumona, Woman with Physical Disability from Bangladeshi System change Advocacy Network (BSCAN) mentioned that, Braille guide block/ special tiles are being set up in very limited number of footpaths due to easy mobility for Persons with Visual Impairments but the existing barriers, e.g. pillars, light posts, large sized trees and so on haven't been removed; so the difficulties aren't also be removed.

At the end of discussion the representatives of North and South City Corporations expressed their commitment to adopt initiatives in order to improve the mobility of Persons with Disabilities and distributed a form for submitting effective ideas/recommendations regarding mobility improvement for Persons with Disabilities.

❖ 3rd Discussion meeting with Women with Visual Impairments about article 23 of “United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD)”:

Discussion meeting with the participation of Women with Visual Impairments about article 23 of “United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD)” was being organized by Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) in its office, on 18th July 2018.



Actually, it was a sharing meeting about challenges for Women with Disabilities of getting married at early age, how early marriage has been interrupted to develop carrier of Women with Disabilities and what types of initiatives have to take to avoid early marriage.

Main discussants were Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF). Shirin Akhter discussed about the challenges for Women with Disabilities of getting married at early age and what types of initiatives have to take to avoid early marriage. Ashrafun Nahar discussed about how early marriage has been interrupted to develop carrier of Women with Disabilities elaborately. Shirin Akhter stated that, family is the best learning centre for all of us and according to UN CRPD and “Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013” every Woman with Disability should have right to respect for home and family through building family considering their specific time and competence. It is seen now a days that, Women with mild Disabilities especially Women with Visual Impairments are getting married after completing SSC or HSC, they’re becoming mother and at the age of 18 or below 18 they’ve to take responsibility of maintaining a family and children. So, they couldn’t continue their studies efficiently, they’re becoming frustrated and depressed physically and psychologically; in most cases, their husbands left them at a time without taking any responsibility of family. In this critical situation they aren’t able to manage any reasonable job for maintaining their family due to low education, lack of efficiency and in this consequence, their carrier development will extremely be interrupted even they’ve to lead in humanitarian lives due to lack of fulfilling basic needs including nutritious food and healthy living place.

In order to avoid early marriage, Women with Disabilities have to achieve mental strength, they should have realistic carrier development plan excluding emotion and they should discuss with their senior sisters or Disabled Peoples Organizations (DPOs) especially WDDF for proper suggestion and advice.

Ashrafun Nahar emphasized on establishment of Women with Disabilities with self-confidence and dignified lives through education and economic empowerment. She stated that, Women with Disabilities are still now living in extreme vulnerable position depriving from Government and Non-government opportunities and services. Decision of early marriage and family building of Women with Disabilities without completing proper education or without ensuring required support including economical support for self-dependence destroyed their carrier completely. So, it should be considered by Women with Disabilities that, the erroneous decision of Women with Disabilities early marriage and family building is being destroyed not only their lives and carriers but also the carriers of their next generation face severe threatens and risks. So, before getting marry, it is prerequisite for Women with Disabilities to complete education and become self-independent through economic empowerment. Otherwise advancement of Women with Disabilities will extremely be interrupted.

❖ 4th Discussion meeting with feminist group:

A discussion meeting with feminist group including grassroots committee of Women with Disabilities was being organized with the initiative of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) on 28th July 2018 at Erulia Union of Bogura Sadar. Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator, WDDF organized this discussion meeting. Ashrafun Nahar discussed about feminism, women rights including Women with Disabilities, family and social discrimination against women including Women with Disabilities and how to reduce this discrimination elaborately.



The members of grassroots Women with Disabilities committee stated that, due to having disability and for being gender they always have to face different types of discriminations from their family and society and in most cases, they're deprived from all types of enjoyment, Government facilities and services due to disability. So, this is an effective and important meeting for them where they've learned as Women with Disabilities why and how they will include them in mainstream women rights movement.

5th Discussion meeting with feminist group:

A discussion meeting with feminist group including grassroots committee of Women with Disabilities was being organized with the initiative of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) on 29th July 2018 at Namuza Union of Bogura Sadar.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator, WDDF organized this discussion meeting. Ashrafun Nahar discussed about feminism, women rights including Women with Disabilities, family and social discrimination against women including Women with Disabilities and how to reduce this discrimination elaborately.



The members of grassroots Women with Disabilities committee stated that, due to having disability and for being gender they always have to face different types of discriminations simultaneously they've to become victim of violence from their family and society as well as in most cases, they're deprived from all types of enjoyment, Government facilities and services due to disability. So, this is a meaningful and important meeting for them where they've learned as Women with Disabilities, it is required for them to include in mainstream women rights movement, why and how they will include them in mainstream women rights movement.

6th Experience sharing meeting:

An experience sharing meeting with the advocacy team comprising educated Women with Disabilities was being organized with the initiative of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) at 3.00 PM, on 29th July 2018 at the office of Bogura Zila Spondon Protibondhi Nari Parisad.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator, WDDF organized this discussion meeting. Ashrafun Nahar discussed about developing leadership of Women with Disabilities. She emphasized on establishing a dignified lives of Women with Disabilities with self-confidence as



well as enjoyment of basic rights of them through getting Government facilities and services properly. Without leadership of Women with Disabilities it will be difficult for them to get need based Government facilities and services as well as to include their issues in development plans and policies. But for leadership, achieving experience is very essential. She also stated that, due to lack of leadership among Women with Disabilities they're still now in extreme vulnerable situation. So, Women with Disabilities have to take responsibility to change their fate. The

members of advocacy team became encouraged, realized the importance of this issue and expressed their commitment to prepare themselves for leadership.

7th 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 5th 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 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.

8th 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 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family.

9th 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-Chattogram, at the Auditorium of Utsa office of Chattogram on 29th August 2018.

It was an experience sharing meeting with the Women leaders with Disabilities in Divisional level of Chattogram. Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, Executive and General Council Members 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.

10th Experience sharing meeting:

An Experience sharing meeting in order to share discriminatory experience and challenges of family and society faced by grassroots Women with Disabilities was being organized with the initiative of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) and locally supported by Bangladesh Protibondhi Unnayan Sangstha (BPUS) at the Auditorium of BPUS, in Barisal Sadar Upazila on 1st October 2018.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator of WDDF were present in this experience sharing meeting.

Mr. Badiul Alam, Executive Director, Bangladesh Protibondhi Unnayan Sangstha (BPUS) delivered welcome speech where he expressed his gratification due to getting opportunity of organizing this type of program in BPUS with WDDF jointly. He also encouraged Women with Disabilities to share their experiences very friendly and frankly which will be helpful to take initiatives for reducing discrimination against them. Simultaneously he inspired Women with Disabilities to become conscious about their rights and dignity through building their organization if required and he will cooperate in this regard. After that, James ripon Barai, Chairman, BPUS delivered his encouraging speech for Women with

Disabilities and thanked us for organizing this program in order to protect rights of this vulnerable group.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, WDDF delivered her speech focusing background and activities of WDDF along with purpose of organizing this program in BPUS.

After that, Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF stated about methods of sharing experience and information in focus group discussion briefly as well as she facilitated the introductory session. After

having completed introductory session, discussion session started and Women with Disabilities started to share their experience of deprivation and discrimination from family, educational institutions and social aspects.

A number of Women with Disabilities shared their heartrending story and most of them are burst in to tears at that time. The stories are shared briefly.

Nure Jannat Chadni, a Woman with Visual Impairment by birth enlightened that, they are three sisters and two of them are borne with Visual



impairments. According to her statement, after having given birth two Visual Impaired Female Children, a grief-stricken life has started for her mother. She has to face negligence, depravation, stereotyping and discrimination always. She couldn't participate in any family discussion, decision and programs, rather she is obligated to go to kitchen and to do other house hold activities more than other family members due to having her two Visual Impaired Girls.

Though Chadni's mother tried to take initiative to include her daughters in education but her father prohibited by saying that, where persons with eye sight have to face challenges in many steps of education and job; Visual Impaired Girls can do nothing, so, they don't need education.

After few years, Chadni's family settled in Barisal and with the suggestion of Mr. Badiul Alam, Executive Director, Bangladesh Protibondhi Unnayan Sangstha (BPUS), Chadni and her younger sister took admission in Open University and started education. In the meantime, Chadni got married; a married person with eyesight convinced her through blackmailing her emotionally and married her within a very short time. Chadni has already given birth two children (One female and one male child) but she with her husband has been living in her parents' house. Her husband hasn't yet been taking her in his house or he doesn't arrange any separate house for his wife and children rather he is blaming on her wife that, due to visual impairment she is unable to provide services to her husband. But as husband or as a father of children, he doesn't take any responsibility of his wife and children, even he doesn't provide any expenditure to run his family and doesn't look after the children at all. Actually, he is completely indifference towards his family. Chadni has already complained to legal aid providing organization, Bangladesh Legal Aid Services and Trust (BLAST) and BLAST is trying to solve her husband's problem through discussion but Chadni's husband hasn't yet been changed his mentality and behavior.

At the time of describing her emotive life experience, Chadni burst in to tears and said that, she is still now struggling with the expectation of fulfilling the dream of completing her education and establishing dignified and peaceful life for her children.

Mukti Sarkar, a woman with physical Disability (By birth) of Hindu caste shared that, from her birth as a Woman with Disability, she has to face multi forms of discriminations in all aspects of her life up to this time.

She has completed her education up to HSC level through continuous struggle and after that, due to her disability, her family arranged her matrimony with an Epilepsy patient by force in order to remove family burden. Mukti has to get married and settled in a new family surrounded with unending struggle. Actually, marriage hasn't added any new fascination, delight or happiness in her life rather she encircled with everlasting poverty, frustration, depravation and discrimination. After having got married, she has given birth one boy baby with severe Disability (One side of the body is paralyzed) and within short time her husband died having suffered from Epilepsy.

So, Mukti has to pass her life through continuous struggling as a Widow Woman with Disability with a five-year boy baby with severe disability. She has to do daily household work of her family after having looked after her baby simultaneously, she has to meet up the daily requirements (Feeding, clothing) of her family through working in a Multipurpose/Microcredit Company with a very small salary where her responsibility is to collect money from Moneylenders at night for which she has to face criticism and rebuking always by her neighbors and society people.

"What could I do to release me from this circle of discrimination? And what is the future of my baby"? Asked Mukti bursting into tears. We tried to console her through our suggestions but actually for a Widow Woman with Disability with a boy with Disability in rural area, it is really very difficult to continue livelihood without special support of Government and civil society.



With the financial and technical cooperation of BPUS **Anima** is maintaining a tea stall successfully and maintaining her daily expenditure simultaneously contributing to maintain her family by that tea stall. In spite of being a Woman with physical Disability, as Anima is an earning member of her family so, all decisions of her family are being adopted on the basis of her opinion.

Through experience sharing of Anima, an important issue is being cleared to us that, economical independence is being played a vital role for the empowerment of even a Woman with Physical Disability of rural area through preventing discrimination to her.

Most. Afroja Akter Nipa, an educated (Completed Masters in Sociology and a candidate of LLM) Woman with Physical Disability and **Popy Akter** full, a Woman with Visual Impairment shared their discriminatory experience in education. Both of them shared that, a girl with Visual Impairment couldn't attend in the Secondary School Certificate Exam for the noncooperation of school Headmaster. In spite of having tried to meet with the Headmaster again and again he couldn't meet with them and finally they've to transfer school for participating in that exam. So, from experience sharing meeting it would be noted that, Women with Disabilities have to face multifaceted challenges and discriminations in all aspects of their lives for being gender and due to having disability 3 or 4 times more than men with Disabilities.

11th Discussion meeting:

A discussion meeting with the participation of DPOs, NGOs and Persons with Disabilities on taking initiatives to reserve quota for Persons with Disabilities in 1st and 2nd class

Government job was being organized with the initiative of WDDF at the meeting room of WDDF on 10th October 2018.

The adopted decisions of this discussion meeting are as follows:

Regular programs will be adopted and continued by Disabled Peoples Organizations (DPOs) in collaboration with Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and Persons with Disabilities continuously.

- I) All programs will be continued without any political involvement.
- II) Discussion meeting and advocacy will be organized and continued with the responsible authorities of employment.
- III) DPOs, NGOs and 15% population with disabilities of Bangladesh will have ownership in all programs in order to reserving quota for Persons with Disabilities.

Participants of this discussion meeting were as follows:

Access Bangladesh Foundation, Action on Disability and Development (ADD) International, Sign Language for the Deaf and Sign Language Users (SDSL), Visually Impaired Peoples Society (VIPS), Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF), Work for Better Bangladesh (WBB) Trust and Persons with Disabilities.

12th Discussion meeting:

A discussion meeting with the participation of DPOs, NGOs and Persons with Disabilities on taking initiatives to reserve quota for Persons with Disabilities in 1st and 2nd class Government job was being organized with the initiative of WDDF at the meeting room of WDDF on 16th October 2018.

The adopted decisions of this discussion meeting are as follows:

- I) DPOs and NGOs will organize a Press Conference with their collective initiatives and 13 organizations, e.g. Access Bangladesh Foundation, BLAST, Centre for Disability in Development (CDD), Disabled Welfare Society (DWS), Disabled Child Foundation (DCF), Disability Research and Rehabilitation Association (DRRA), Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), National Council for the Disabled Women (NCDW), Sight Savers, Sign Language for the Deaf and Sign Language Users (SDSL), Turning Point Foundation, Visually Impaired Peoples Society (VVIPS), Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) are interested to put their name and logo in the banner of Press Conference.

- II) Press Conference will be organized within 1st November 2018 in National Press club.
- III) Responsibilities of organizing Press Conference will be distributed among all organizations.
- IV) Budget will be shared among all organizations but as venue will be booked on the basis of emergency through cheque



so WDDF will pay venue cost.

- V) Asim Dio, advocacy and communication Manager of CBM will prepare the statement of Press Conference and share with all organizations within 24th October 2018.
- VI) Morjina Ahmed, Executive Director of Disabled Welfare Society (DWS) will fix a date and discuss with the Students with Disabilities of Dhaka University and representatives of NGOs.

Participants of this discussion meeting were as follows:

Christoffel-Blinden Mission (CBM), Centre for Disability in Development (CDD), Disabled Welfare Society (DWS), Disabled Child Foundation (DCF), Sign Language for the Deaf and Sign Language Users (SDSL), Turning Point Foundation, and Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF).

13th Discussion meeting with Union Nirbahi Officer (UNO):

A discussion meeting with Union Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Daudkandi, Cumilla in order to notify him about activities and budget of the implemented project from September 2017 to August 2018 was being organized by WDDF at UNO's office on 24 October 2018.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Masuma Akhter, Vice-Chairperson and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator of WDDF were present in this discussion meeting. Shirin Akhter and Masuma Akhter discussed about the activities and Samira Haque discussed about budget of the project.

Followed by our discussion, Md. Mahabubul Alam, UNO of Daudkandi, Cumilla expressed his satisfaction for our effective activities and appreciated us simultaneously would like to know about our next plan about this area of Daudkandi. Then Shirin Akhter informed that, WDDF is interested to continue these activities in this area next time and they're trying to get another project.

14th Discussion meeting with General Manager of Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel:

A discussion meeting on accessibility in Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel including wash room was being organized between the representatives of WDDF and General Manager of Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in its cafeteria on 6th November 2018.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator, Md. Abdul Hai, Junior Assistant Coordinator and Arifa Khatun, Junior Assistant Coordinator of WDDF participated in this discussion meeting.

Mr. Paul Flet, General Manager of Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel expressed his heartiest gratitude and thanks to the representatives of WDDF.

Afterwards, Shirin Akhter, Chairperson of WDDF, delivered welcome speech and discussed about purpose of organizing this discussion meeting briefly. Followed by her discussion, Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director of WDDF, on behalf of the representatives of WDDF, submitted a paper including a few proposals for ensuring accessibility of Persons with Disabilities to the General Manager.

General Manager was very cordial and cooperative to us. He informed us that, construction of two accessible wash rooms (One for male and one for female) in ground floor has already been started but it will take some times and other inaccessible places will be modified by rotation. He expressed his full support and solidarity to the proposals of WDDF. 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.



16. Convention on “Rights of Women with Disabilities”:

A convention on “Rights of Women with Disabilities” with the participation of one hundred Women with Disabilities and their family members from different districts of Bangladesh, was being organized with the initiative of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) in SWID Convention Centre on Tuesday, 18th September 2018.

The discussion of convention unanimously related to fundamental rights, requirements, challenges, facilities and services of Persons Especially Women with Disabilities has divided in to Two parts:

1. Inaugural session is in 1st part and
2. Two parallel sessions are in 2nd part.

This convention is being moderated and keynote paper is being presented by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF. In this paper she mentioned that, fundamental responsibility of developed and humanitarian state is Persons with Disabilities should not be considered only from quantitative point of view rather whether at least one citizen have to face vulnerable situation due to having disability and gender, both fundamental and humanitarian services should be ensured for his/her. Highlighting references of national and international documents on disability including Constitution of Bangladesh, she noted that, despite having clearly mentioned about enjoyment of all types of fundamental and human rights, required and standard facilities and services for public life by Persons including Women with Disabilities equitably like other citizens in Constitution of Bangladesh, “United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD)”, “Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013”, “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” including number of legislations and policies, Women with Disabilities are completely deprived from obtaining fundamental and human rights, facilities and services due to lack of awareness, attitudinal barrier, social negligence, infrastructural and informational inaccessibility in all areas of society, lack of time required and disability inclusive planning along with budget allocation considering their special requirements.



She emphasized on making education, health services, employment, rehabilitation and obtaining justice including essential services of Social Welfare Ministry easy and inclusive for Persons Especially Women with Disabilities through making time required as well as deliverable properly.

In order to ensure equal rights and obtaining equal opportunities for Persons with Disabilities like other citizens in all advantages and services including infrastructure, transport, communication, information and technology to allocate budget on the basis of equity; proper planning and inclusive development considering the requisite of disability diversity is inevitable to protect and actualize fundamental and human rights for all citizens.

She urged to advance the progress of marginalized and extremely vulnerable Persons with Disabilities without passing time or expressing any reluctance due to limitation of resource.

Ms. Nazma Ara Begum Popy, General Secretary, Visual Impaired Peoples Society (VIPS) and Mr. Jibon William Gomes, Executive Director, Turning Point Foundation (TPF) were present as panel discussants in two parallel sessions of this convention.

Ms. Nazma Ara Begum Popy presented paper in 1st parallel session titled “Leadership of Women with Disabilities and expansion”. She emphasized on continuation of leadership of Women with Disabilities, creating new leadership, enhancing qualitative, quantitative and efficient Women leaders with Disabilities for long terms. Simultaneously enhancing participation of grassroots Women with Disabilities in social activities and keeping their contribution in social and state development. She also noted that, though state is accountable and responsible in accordance with “Convention on Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)” and UN CRPD to abolish all types of discrimination against Women with Disabilities but due to having no formulation of inclusive legislations or amendment of existing legislations, no implementation of existing legislations and policies as well as lack of need based, time required and realistic inclusive development plan and programs, Women with Disabilities are leading in humanitarian, undignified and insecure lives becoming victim of multifaceted discriminations, e.g. poverty, illiteracy, poor reproductive health services including risky water and sanitation facilities etc. Hence, Without efficient and potential leadership of Women with Disabilities from grassroots to national level simultaneously united voice, realistic, rights and need based initiatives and strong advocacy on behalf of Women with Disabilities organizations with Government and Non-Government institutions to make their thoughts and outlook inclusive; it won't be possible to reduce discrimination against Women with Disabilities and in this consequence, they won't be included in mainstream development and country development will extremely be interrupted.



Mr. Jibon William Gomes presented paper in 2nd parallel session titled “Persons with Disabilities access in Government services”.

He focused on ensuring need based, time required and proper services for Persons Especially Women and Children with Disabilities in remote, rural and city areas irrespectively. In order to ensure proper and effective services for all types of Persons with Disabilities information about all types of services should be disseminated widely simultaneously trained, disability conscious and disability friendly focal person should be appointed in each service centre. He also noted that, monitoring and mechanism system for providing services should be strong and regular as well as all service centres should be universally accessible and secured for all types of Persons Especially Women with Disabilities. It is also important to mention that,

with the possibility of creating accessibility and allocating proper budget through removing all types of barriers, Persons especially Women with Disabilities will be able to participate in mainstreaming activities of the society, consequentially country will be advanced.



Besides, Vashkar Vatta Chariya, National Consultant, Web Accessibility a2i, Prime Minister office, farjana Najneen tultul, Assistant Director, National Human Rights Commission Bangladesh (NHRCB), Selina Ahmed, Executive Director, Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) were present as panel guests. Highlighting “Persons with

Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013”, “United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with

Disabilities (UN CRPD)" and "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" they said that, it is prerequisite to adopt initiative for ensuring services for Women with Disabilities in Government and Non-Government institutions. Simultaneously they mentioned that, opportunities should be created for Women with Disabilities to keep contribution in development process by Government and Non-Government Institutions and policy makers through eliminating negative attitude, prejudiced mentality and misconception about potentiality of Women with Disabilities in order to ensure their equal and full inclusion in mainstream development process. Otherwise real and universal development of entire population of the state will be interrupted.

Rashed Khan Menon, MP, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Social Welfare was present as Chief Guest in this convention.

Besides, Ms. Mahmuda Min Ara, Managing Director, Jatiyo Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation (JPUF) and additional Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare, Julian Francis, Development worker and Disability activist, Ms. Shaheen Anam, Executive Director, Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), Ms. Sultana Kamal, (Former Adviser, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh), Chairperson, Board of Trustee, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), Ms. Khushi Kabir, Executive Director, Nijera Kori were present as special Guests.

Chief Guest said that, presented proposals and recommendations of this convention will be considered momentously and he also committed to send recommendation for preserving quota of Persons with Disabilities in 1st and 2nd class Government job on behalf of Social Welfare Ministry to the Parliamentarian Standing Committee.

Special guests are stated that, the keynote paper is very momentous and illustrative simultaneously all types of challenges of Persons with Disabilities, suggestions and solutions are being addressed properly. So, they desire that, Government will adopt proper and time required initiatives in order to include Persons Especially Women with Disabilities in all aspects of the society through reducing existing challenges and discriminations against Persons with Disabilities as well as they also expressed their firm commitment to be cooperative in this regards.

This convention was presided over Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) and vote of thanks was being delivered by Rounak Jahan Usha, Treasurer, WDDF.



160 participants including Women leaders with Disabilities and their family members from Dhaka, Chattogram, Rajshahi, Barisal, Pabna, Bogra, Cumilla, Gazipur, Manikgonj, Chapainawbabgonj, representatives of Disabled Peoples Organizations (DPOs) and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), representatives of electronic and print media and volunteers were participated in this auspicious convention spontaneously.

17. Accomplished activities with the initiative of WDDF in Pabna and Bogura Sadar Upazila in this reporting year (From 01 January to 31 December 2018):

Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) with the co-implementers, Protik Mohila O Sheshu Sangstha (PMSS) and Bogura Zila Spondon Protibondhi Nari Parisad has been implemented a number of programs jointly in Pabna and Bogura Sadar Upazila under the project titled "To access justice and sustainable development for Women with Disabilities at all levels through inclusive building institutions"

The implemented programs are as follows:

1. 48 (For each organization) regular discussion meetings with grassroots committee of Women with Disabilities,
2. Ten (For each organization) issue based discussion/advocacy meetings,
3. Six follow up meetings (For each organization) with the representatives of Local Government,
4. Seven discussion meetings (For each organization) with family members and Neighbors of Women with Disabilities, religious leaders and elite persons/social leaders,
5. Data collection through reading local Daily newspaper, preserve for their own organization and also submit to WDDF,
6. A seminar (For each organization),
7. A training (For each organization) and
8. Four discussion meetings under the program of media campaign.



মঙ্গলবার দুপুরে বঙ্গভূ সদর উপজেলা পরিষদের হল রহমে জেলা স্পন্দন প্রতিবন্ধী নারী পরিষদ ও ডাবলুডিএফ (ডাউর্খা) এর মৌখিক উদ্যোগে স্থানীয় সরকারের জনপ্রতিনিধিদের সাথে মতবিনিময় সভায় প্রধান অতিথির বক্তব্য রাখেন সদর উপজেলা চেয়ারম্যান আলী আজগর তালুকদার হেন্দা।

তার ০৮-০৫-১৮

18. Participation in International programs:

The representatives of WDDF have participated in the following international programs in this reporting year.

A) Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 62 Session:

CSW 62 session was being organized by United Nations in New York, USA from 14 to 24 March 2018. With the representatives of Government and CSOs, on behalf of Women with Disabilities of Bangladesh, Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF participated in this session from 9 to 16 March 2018.

She has participated in Inaugural session, two discussion sessions and five side events. In two side events she has participated as speakers and other three side events as participant.



As speaker She focused on the advancing condition of women and girls with disabilities in rural communities and ICT, digitalization. There were 4 and 5 discussants in both side events from 5 countries. 4 Women discussants with disabilities about Women with disabilities in rural condition were from Sweden, 62

Philippine, Bangladesh and USA. Among these countries, the situation of Bangladesh is most disadvantage categories as Government does not have specific initiatives for women and girls with disabilities. The situation of Sweden is better. Government has different and specific initiatives for women and girls with disabilities empowerment through providing suitable assistive devices, health care and insurance, incentive care for daily living and education, open the employment opportunity or unemployment allowance, freedom from any type of barrier, accessible road and transportation. So, it is said that, Citizens with Disabilities of Sweden are living in inclusive society for all. USA also has American Disability Act which supports all types of cooperation for enjoying as equal as other citizens.

As women with disabilities of all countries have some limitations but most of the countries have taken measures to meet up the limitations except Bangladesh.

In her presentation she briefly presents very grassroots situation and focus on the gaps which has not considered on the basis of priority for the empowerment of women and girls with disabilities from family to state level though we have Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013, Government has signed and ratified UNCRPD.

There were 5 speakers in ICT and rural women where she was only woman with disability and introduce of ICT to rural women with disabilities is not remarkable; it is only for the self or individual users. Other 4 speakers haven't spoken or mentioned about disability issue. But in the open discussion it was interesting that even the participants, who have no interest to know about disability situation before the session, they've mentioned that, it is really important to make the program inclusive otherwise society will not be prepared for all and all developments for advancement will be destroyed. From More other 6 sessions where she was present as participant were wonderful discussion but it is still disappointing to her that most of the speakers always forget to speak about the situation of Women with Disabilities And in most cases only women and girls with disabilities raise their own issues. Still disability is less priority issue and not focusing the route cases for empowerment of Women with Disabilities issues in the global Women Rights Movement. This year she has followed girls and women with disabilities participation is also lower than other years. She had participated for too short time and at the beginning sessions. So, it could be increased up to other sessions.



It is very important to increase the participation of women with disabilities activists otherwise the issue of Women with Disabilities will not be address properly and it will be alarming to achieve SDGs for different countries including Bangladesh.

B) Fifth Asia Pacific People's Forum on Sustainable Development and Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development program:

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, WDDF has participated in these Two abovementioned programs from 24 to 31st March 2018.

Asia Pacific Peoples' Forum on Sustainable Development (APPFSD) on 25 to 27 March 2018 and the Asia Pacific

Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) from 28 to 30 March 2018. Both events were held in Bangkok, Thailand.

She narrated that, it was a great opportunity for her to participate in these events as Chairperson of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) and South Asian Disability Forum (SADF) on behalf of Bangladeshi Women with Disabilities.

This participation has brought an enormous and unanimous opportunity for Women with Disabilities to engage with the APPFSD which is the largest gathering of civil societies working on sustainable development from across Asia Pacific and is jointly organized by the United Nations Economic & Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) and the Asia Pacific Civil Society Regional Engagement Mechanism (APRCM).

As disability is an intersectionality of human diversity so disability has existed amongst all vulnerable groups and considering this point of view, Women with Disabilities are the most marginalized group amongst all marginalized groups and the issues of their improvement and inclusion are the furthest behind. APPFSD is a largest, momentous and dynamic platform of CSOs from where Persons with Disabilities have obtained opportunity to strengthen their movement, to raise their collective voice about their challenging issues of Persons Specially Women with Disabilities through different events of CSOs which will make the



CSOs responsive to the movement of Persons with Disabilities.

A vibrant, time required and dynamic workshop was being organized with the leadership of the disability constituency of Asia Pacific, titled "Sustainable Cities and Communities grounded in Development Justice: Disabled People's Movements in the Asia Pacific". In this workshop the disability constituency raised collective voice highlighting the importance of making the cities sustainable for Persons with Disabilities from the ground of development justice from different perspectives. It is

also mentioned with high importance that, the cities should be resilient and sustainable considering the mobility limitation of Women with Disabilities on the basis of high priority. Otherwise meaningful and effective inclusion of Women with Disabilities in societies will extremely be interrupted and this population will live furthest behind from development process.

She is highly optimistic through participating in APPFSD 2018 on behalf of Bangladeshi Women with Disabilities that, this largest platform will be played a contributive role to create the linkage of Persons with Disabilities in the following areas:

- I) Disability constituency and CSOs will reconnect with each other at regional level and amplify the messages in various intergovernmental processes in the regions.
- II) To strengthen the movements, the solidarity and struggle of disability constituency to dismantle systemic barriers in achieving sustainable development and development justice.

5th APFSD is a regional and inclusive preparatory event which has engaged member states, United Nations bodies, other international organizations, major groups and other stakeholders where she has participated and raised strong voice in a number of side events focusing the challenges and discrimination of Women with Disabilities.

Throughout this participation she has obtained the opportunity to share experiences and explore common ground and actions, develop common messages and coordinate strategies for more effective

participation in the regional and global intergovernmental processes on sustainable development as well as for developing cooperation and joint work plans on sustainable development.

It is a great achievement for disability constituency to include in APRCEM and through this participation disability constituency has obtained opportunity to build collective capacity and efforts to advocate for Women with Disabilities human rights and development justice in the region.

Recommendations:

- I) Enhancing the participation of the number of all types of participants with disabilities specially Women with Disabilities.
- II) It would be better for her if Braille documents of APPFSD program would be available.
- III) APPFSD team members were very sincere, active and cooperative to ensure effective participation of Persons with Disabilities and to highlight disability issue; she is very grateful to them.
- IV) Enhancing participation of CSOs in the event of disability constituency.
- V) Organizing side event of disability constituency focusing challenges of Persons and Women with Disabilities from 6th APFSD event.
- VI) Include Persons specially, women with Disabilities in all levels and phases of national planning, development, implementation and monitoring that is grounded in inclusion and development justice.
- VII) Develop regional and national mechanisms to end violence against women and access to justice.
- VIII) Developing and sharing different materials on disability issues in APRCEM Website.
- IX) Commit to strengthening the capacity of women with disabilities to contribute to their local communities and be able to take on leadership positions at various levels.

C) Gender responsive humanitarian action in disaster period:

An international program on Gender responsive humanitarian action in disaster period was being organized by United Nations Program Fund for Action (UNFPA) and Women Refugee Commission in Bangkok, from 8 to 10 May 2018.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF was participated in this program.

19. The first Global Award for Women with Disabilities “Her Abilities” Achievement:

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF achieved “Her Abilities” Award, the first Global award for Women with Disabilities in Rights Category, announced by Light for the World on 3rd December 2018 and it is certainly a great achievement for Women with Disabilities of Bangladesh.

3 winners of Her Abilities Award 2018 from Bangladesh, Zambia

and Nigeria have been selected out of 158 nominees from 52 countries.

The Award is split into three categories: Arts, Culture and Sports; Rights and Health and Education.

So, Ashrafun Nahar won in the Rights category as a women’s rights activist and as the founder of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) in Bangladesh, a country which is traditionally patriarchal and reports high levels of violence against women. Through WDDF Women with Disabilities will get a voice simultaneously equal opportunity will be created for them in education, employment and



legislation and policy making level through which they will be able to contribute to build an inclusive society for all including Women with Disabilities in future.

20. Award Achievement celebration:

A program on the occasion of achieving First Global Award for Women with Disabilities titled “Her Abilities”, announced by Light for the World on 3rd December 2018 and achieved by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) in rights category was

being organized with the initiative of Disability Rights Promotion International (DRPI)-Canada at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, at 6.00 PM, on 11 December 2018.



Representatives of DRPI Canada Professor Dr. Marcia Roux, York University Canada, Mr. Shawn K Baker, Shirin Akhter, (Former Country Coordinator DRPI Bangladesh) Chairperson WDDF, Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator, WDDF and Dr. Ferdousi Begum, Country Coordinator DRPI Bangladesh were present in this award achievement celebration program. Professor Dr. Marcia Rioux congratulated Ashrafun Nahar for her ground breaking achievement on behalf of Bangladesh. Besides, the challenges of implementing DRPI project and its impact for Persons with Disabilities in the employment sector of Bangladesh are being discussed elaborately.

Part B

Participation in different Governmental and Non-Governmental programs/events:

The officials as well as staffs of WDDF participated in different Governmental/Non-governmental programs/events. Viz:

1. Discussion Meeting/ Experience sharing meeting:

WDDF participated in 35Discussion / Experience sharing/Advocacy Meetings/Roundtable Discussions in this reporting period.

(a) Discussion meeting on launching report regarding SDGs implementation:

A discussion meeting in order to launch of report regarding the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the role of Disabled Persons Organizations (DPOs) was being organized by Leonard Cheshire Disability Bangladesh (LCDB), at the auditorium of LCDB office, at 10.00 AM, on 1st February 2018.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Md. Hasanuzzaman, Program Coordinator, WDDF participated in this discussion meeting. The report, ‘Disability inclusion and the Sustainable Development Goals,’ is based on research conducted in April 2017 and outlines the key findings.

It also contains a number of recommendations of how SDGs implementation can be supported by DPOs. At the meeting the organizer team will share the key elements of the report and also provide a chance to discuss how SDGs implementation has progressed since the research was conducted. Shirin Akhter said that, though about education of Persons with disabilities has been mentioned in Goal -4 of SDGs with high importance but most of the educational institutions are built without considering infrastructural and informational accessibility for them and in remote areas authorities and teachers of educational institutions have no idea about the education system of Persons with Disabilities. Besides, Shirin Akhter

and Md. Hasanuzzaman were working very actively in the working group to report about the weakness of Government to achieve SDGs including Persons with Disabilities.

(b) 19th Anniversary of Daily Jugantor:

A discussion meeting on the occasion of 19th Anniversary of Daily Jugantor was being organized by Daily Jugantor in the auditorium of Daily Jugantor office, on 1st February 2018.

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



(c) Preparation meeting about Election Alliance of Citizens with Disabilities:

A Preparation meeting about Election Alliance of Citizens with Disabilities was being organized by Protibondhi Nagorik Sangathaner Parishad (PNSP) in joint collaboration with Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) and Visually Impaired Peoples Society (VIPS) at the auditorium of PNSP office, on 1st February 2018.

Md. Hasanuzzaman, Accounts Coordinator of WDDF Participated in the above mentioned discussion meeting. Md. Hasanuzzaman expressed his opinion in different issues including about preparing logo and name of alliance.

(d) Discussion meeting:

A discussion meeting of Advisory committee on International Conference titled Disability and Disaster Risk Reduction management was being organized by Jatiya Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation (JPUF), on 8th February 2018 at the Auditorium of JPUF.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director of WDDF was present in this discussion meeting as the member of this Advisory Committee. She has mentioned that, all types of initiatives including accessibility in all levels of shelter centre should be adopted considering the vulnerability and special requirements of Women and Children with Disabilities at the disaster period. She emphasized on giving priority for considering the special requirements about reproductive health of Women with Disabilities, pregnant Women with Disabilities and specially Women with severe Disabilities E.G Women with Wheel Chair user, Intellectual Disabilities, Autism, Speech and hearing Impairment and Visual Impairment.

(e) Discussion meeting:

A discussion meeting titled 'Of life and struggle' on the occasion of visiting Bangladesh of Three Women Peace Novel Laureates was being organized by Naripokkho in Krishibid Institute on 28th February 2018.

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



(f) Discussion meeting on violence against women with

Novel Laureates Women:

A discussion meeting on Violence against Women with Two Women Peace Novel Laureates and with the representatives of Women's Novel Initiative was being organized by Naripokkho at Padma Hall of Dhaka Club on 1st March 2018.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Md. Hasanuzzaman, Program Coordinator, WDDF participated in this discussion meeting. Shirin Akhter said that, Women with Disabilities are not free from violence, rather they

are become victim of violence in their family and society more times than non-disabled women and due to their disability they can't prevent violence. Most of the relevant legislations and policies don't address or incorporate the issue of Women with Disabilities and justice system is completely inaccessible for them.



There is no informational and infrastructural accessibility for Persons specially Women with Disabilities in Police stations and court premises. In most cases, Judges are refuse to take the witness of Women with intellectual Disabilities, Visual Impairment and Speech and Hearing Impairment. So, large number of Women with Disabilities are depriving from obtaining justice.

(g) Discussion meeting:

A discussion meeting regarding 'Women's innovation grant' and grant distribution ceremony was being organized by Access to Information A2I in Prime Minister's Office on 8th

March 2018.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Md. Hasanuzzaman, Program Coordinator of WDDF participated in the abovementioned program.

(h) Discussion meeting:

A discussion meeting followed by a cultural event on the occasion of celebration International Women's day 2018 was being organized by National Human Rights Commission Bangladesh (NHRCB), in the Auditorium of Liberation War Museum, on 8th March 2018.

Johnny Islam, Assistant Program Coordinator, WDDF was present in this program.

(I) Sharing meeting on National Action plan of "Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013":

A sharing meeting on National Action plan of "Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013" was being organized by Department of Social Services in order to provide input on draft National Action Plan of "Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013", in Social Welfare Ministry on 10th April 2018.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator, WDDF participated in this sharing meeting.

(J) Discussion meeting:

A discussion meeting on disability inclusive budget was being organized by Access Bangladesh Foundation in CIRDAP Auditorium, on 4th May 2018.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF participated in this discussion meeting. She said that, National budget should be allocated considering the needs and demands of Persons specially Women with Disabilities. Only budget allocation for Persons with Disabilities has included under social safety net; this budget won't be considered as disability inclusive budget. 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 without disability inclusive budget proper development of the state including Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) achievement will extremely be interrupted.

(K) Discussion meeting and equipment's distribution ceremony:

A discussion meeting and need based equipments distribution ceremony on the occasion of 1st anniversary of Door for Inclusive Society (DIS) was being organized by Door for Inclusive Society (DIS) in Seashell restaurant and party centre, on 5th May 2018.

General Council and Executive Council members, Chairperson and Executive Director of WDDF participated in this program. Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director of WDDF said that, this is an important and need based initiative of DIS and she expressed sincere gratitude and thanks to the team members of DIS for donating

three sewing machines to the skill development trainees of WDDF. But she noted that, the stage of this restaurant should be accessible for all and she said that, she is hopeful that, it would be modified according to the design of Universal accessibility in future.

(L)Gender Responsive Budget (GRB) project launching ceremony:

A gender Responsive Budget (GRB) project launching ceremony was being jointly organized by Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA) and UN Women in CIRDAP International Convention Centre on 8th May 2018.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Arifa Khatun, Junior Assistant Coordinator of WDDF participated in this program.

Shirin Akhter said that, separate budget should be allocated considering the needs of Women with Disabilities in Gender Responsive Budget and inclusive programs should also be adopted for them. Otherwise Women with Disabilities will be deprived from development process and real development of women will be interrupted. Women with Disabilities should be included in the project monitoring committee and all public institutions including training institutions should be universally accessible for all otherwise Women with Disabilities won't be able to enjoy the opportunities of this project.

(M) Education report launching ceremony:

A discussion meeting on the occasion of launching an education report was being organized by Campaign in the Auditorium of Local Government and Engineering Division (LGED) Bhaban, on 9th May 2018.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Arifa Khatun, Junior Assistant Coordinator of WDDF were participated in this program. Shirin Akhter said that, this education report is a large document and it isn't printed in Braille. So, it isn't possible for her to go through the report within short time. But she would like to know that, whether this report has covered disability issue or not and if this report hasn't cover the issue of Students with Disabilities, it won't be a complete education report as this report hasn't been covered all students (with and without) Disabilities. In this consequence, Students with Disabilities will be deprived from the initiatives have been taken by submitting this report.

(N) Discussion meeting:

A discussion meeting with Department for International Development (DFID) on Global Summit on disability was being organized by Sight Savers International (SSI) in its office on 4th June 2018.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator, WDDF participated in this discussion meeting. She discussed about causes of inefficiency and potentialities of Disabled Peoples Organizations (DPOs).

(O) Advocacy planning meeting:

An advocacy planning meeting on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Management was being organized by Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) at the Auditorium of Visually Impaired Peoples Society (VIPS), on 7th June 2018.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Arifa Khatun, Junior Assistant Coordinator of WDDF were participated in this advocacy planning meeting. Shirin Akhter said that, WDDF will organize advocacy meetings with two ward Councilors of Adabar, Disaster Risk Reduction Officer and Director of Emergency Response of District Commissioner Office.

(P) Project launching ceremony:

A project launching ceremony was being organized by Action on Disability and Development (ADD) International at Spectra Convention Centre on 10th July 2018.

Md. Abdul Hai, Junior Assistant Coordinator, WDDF participated in this project launching ceremony.

(Q) Discussion meeting of Disability Alliance on SDGs:

A discussion meeting of Disability Alliance on SDGs was being organized by Sight savers at Conference room of Sight Savers on 17July 2018.

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

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are being divided in to five clusters among the participants and about draft list of disability related indicators is being prepared in this meeting.

(R) Project Launching Ceremony:

A project Launching Ceremony on “Taking Successful Innovation to Scale - Pathways for Disability-Inclusive Graduation out of Poverty” was being organized by Handicap International (HI) at Spectra Convention Centre on 30th July 2018.

Md. Abdul Hai, Junior Assistant Coordinator, WDDF participated in this project launching ceremony.

(S)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), at Banga Bandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) on 8th August 2018.

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

(T)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 12th August 2018.

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

(U) 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, at the Auditorium of Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) on 13th 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.

(V)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 18th 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 working experience of WDDF, 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.

(W)Discussion meeting:

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

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

(X) Discussion meeting:

A discussion meeting on open spaces of North City Corporation (NCC) modernization and development was being organized with the initiative of North City Corporation (NCC) in Suchana Community Centre, on 1st September 2018.

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

(Y)Discussion meeting:

A discussion meeting on “Violence against women and Children and our duties” was being organized by National Human Rights Commission Bangladesh (NHRCB) at the auditorium of NHRCB, on 4th September 2018.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator of WDDF were present in this discussion meeting.

Shirin Akhter said that, Women and Female Children with Disabilities are frequently becoming victim of violence and rape but they haven’t get justice due to their poverty and disability. They’ve to lead vulnerable lives due to mental and physical harassments including threats of life risk. So, Government should adopt need based and time required initiative considering types and requirements of Women with Disabilities to reduce violence against them. Women activists with Disabilities should be included in all committees of legislations and policies in order to address their requirements properly.

(Z)Discussion meeting:

A discussion meeting on inclusion of persons with Physical and mental Disabilities in mainstream development and responsibility of Social corporates was being organized by National Human Rights Commission Bangladesh (NHRCB) at the auditorium of NHRCB, on 8th September 2018.

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

(AA) Discussion meeting:

A discussion meeting on ending violence against Girls was jointly being organized by World vision Bangladesh and Dhaka Tribune at the Auditorium of Dhaka Tribune office, at 3.00 PM, on 9th September 2018.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF participated in this discussion meeting. She said that, Women with Disabilities are frequently becoming victim of different types of violence, e.g. abuse, physical, mental, emotional and sexual violence and rape; especially Women with Speech and Hearing Impairments, Intellectual Disabilities and Visual Impairments are becoming victim of violence more times than others. The rate of violence against Children including Children with Disabilities have been enhanced in extreme level and perhaps, constant degradation of social and human values is the most important cause of becoming violent or happening inhumanitarian torture against Children. So, she emphasized on practicing good governance, enhancing moral, social and human values; simultaneously, proper implementation of legislations and equitable and inclusive social justice for all.

(BB) Discussion meeting:

A discussion meeting on “Situation analysis on access of Persons with Disabilities, in infrastructures of public service institutions 2018 was being organized by BSCAN, in Daily star Bhaban on 23rd September 2018.

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

(CC)Assembly of Persons with Disabilities:

An assembly of Persons with Disabilities for reserving Quota in 1st and 2nd class Government job was being organized by Bangladesh Students with Disabilities Association at Shahabag on 11 October 2018.

Md.Abdul Hai, Junior Assistant Coordinator of WDDF participated in this assembly.

(DD) Book launching ceremony:

A handbook launching ceremony and preparing a handbook on “**Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013**” in accessible format was jointly being organized by USAID, Bangladesh Legal Aid Services and Trust (BLAST), Blue Law International, National Council for Disabled Women (NCDW) and National Grassroot Disabled Organization (NGDO) , at Hotel Lake Castle at 4 PM, on 14 October 2018.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator, WDDF participated in this book launching ceremony. Ashrafun Nahar interrogated that, can Persons with Disabilities adopt legal initiative due to not having implemented “Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013” properly?

She has also mentioned that, though we get support from legal aid centre after having Women with Disabilities become victim of violence but due to long procedure of litigation they've deprived from getting proper justice. Besides, highlighting the importance of accessibility issue, she stated that, though this program is being organized with the initiative of three International Non-Government Organizations (INGOs) and two national Disabled Peoples Organizations (DPOs) but accessibility issue of Persons with Disabilities hasn't been considered. Most of the institutions don't consider the needs of Persons with Disabilities, consequentially they're deprived from getting services of these institutions.

(EE) Round table discussion:

A round table discussion titled “**Employment opportunity in establishing rights of Persons with Disabilities and scope: a Global review**” was being organized by Bangladesh Students with Disabilities united Council at VIP Lounge, National Press Club on 31st October 2018.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator of WDDF participated in this roundtable discussion. Ashrafun Nahar was present as guest speaker and she said that, Having been considered Sixth five year plan, Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013, policies, Sustainable Development Goals and Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other relevant national and international instruments, Preserve quota for Persons with Disabilities is very essential. Persons with Disabilities will continue their movement until getting any indication of preserving disability quota but it is mournful that, Persons with Disabilities comedown to road for preserving disability quota even in 2018. She also mentioned following recommendation:

I) 5% quota should be preserved for Persons with Disabilities in 1st and 2nd class Government job unconditionally and this percentage of quota should be divided according to the types of Persons with Disabilities.

II) For 3rd and 4th class Government job, 5% quota for Persons with Disabilities should be specific.

III) 5% job quota should also be preserved for Persons with Disabilities in Non-Government and commercial institutions beside Government.

(FF) Discussion meeting:

A Discussion meeting in order to observing Human Rights Day was being organized by National Human Rights Commission Bangladesh (NHRCB) at the Conference room of NHRCB, at 10 AM, on 2nd December 2018.

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

(GG) Discussion Meeting:

A discussion Meeting of Disability Alliance on SDGs was being organized by Sight Savers at Conference room of Sight Savers on 12 December 2018. Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator, WDDF participated in this discussion meeting.

(HH) Discussion meeting:

A discussion meeting on Disabled Peoples Organizations (DPOs) capacity and funding sources was being organized by National Grassroot Disabled Organization (NGDO) at the meeting room of NGDO on 14 December 2018. Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director of WDDF participated in this discussion meeting. Ashrafun Nahar said that, in spite of having capacity of DPOs, as small organizations DPOs aren't being qualified to get multiyear or large scale fund so DPOs face challenges to continue their activities. She also mentioned that, Persons with mild Disabilities are being employed in worker level but Persons with Severe Disabilities and educated Disabled Persons aren't getting any job.

(II) Discussion Meeting:

A discussion meeting on the occasion of 27th International day of Persons with Disabilities observation was being organized by Save the Children in its office on 18 December 2018.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator, WDDF participated in this discussion meeting. As speaker of this discussion meeting Ashrafun Nahar focused on discriminatory situation of Persons with Disabilities of Bangladesh in different areas. The special needs of Persons with Disabilities in education, health, employment and recreation aren't being addressed properly so, they're deprived from their fundamental human rights.

She also noted that, any public transport and most of the infrastructures aren't being accessible for Persons with Disabilities simultaneously development plans and programs aren't being disability inclusive. In this consequence, due to having the agenda of Persons with Disabilities out of development plans and programs they aren't be able to contribute in development process.

2. Consultation/Workshop:

(A) Program of showing a stage play:

A Program of showing a stage play "addressing gender based discrimination faced by urban women of Bangladesh" organized by UN Women Bangladesh in Westin Hotel, on 2nd February 2018.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Md. Hasanuzzaman, Program Coordinator, WDDF participated in this Program. Shirin Akhter expressed her gratitude to the actress of the stage play and organizer for including the issue of Women with Disabilities and she requested to the actress that, if it is possible to distribute the Bengali version of this stage play, it will be helpful to encourage rural Girls and Women with Disabilities through showing this stage play.

(B) Consultations of draft committee on National Action plan of "Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013":

A consultation of draft committee on preparing 'National Action Plan' of "Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013" was being organized by Jatiya Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation (JPUF) under Social Welfare Ministry, in the auditorium of Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) from 4 to 5 February 2018.



Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF has achieved membership of this committee on behalf of Disabled Peoples Organizations (DPOs) and she has delivered her inputs according to all the articles of the above mentioned legislation to make the ‘National Action Plan’ inclusive and effective for Persons with Disabilities specially addressing the issue of Women with Disabilities properly through participating actively and regularly.

(C) A consultation of draft committee on preparing ‘National Action Plan’ of “Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013” was being organized by Jatiya Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation (JPUF) under Social Welfare Ministry, in the auditorium of JPUF from 26 February to 1st March 2018.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF participated in this consultation and she has delivered her inputs according to all the articles of the abovementioned legislation to make the ‘National Action Plan’ inclusive and effective for Persons with Disabilities specially addressing the issue of Women with Disabilities properly through participating actively and regularly.

(D) Multi stakeholder’s consultation on commission on the Status of Women (CSW):

A multi stakeholder’s consultation on 62 Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) titled ‘Challenges and Opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls’ organized in joint collaboration by Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA) and UN Women, in CIRDAP International Convention Centre, on 25th February 2018.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator of WDDF were present in this consultation. Ashrafun Nahar stated that, While Women with Disabilities of Dhaka city have to face multifaceted barriers due to inaccessibility for obtaining basic services and facilities, E.G as a participant of this consultation she couldn’t move freely in this convention Centre. In this situation, Women with Disabilities of grassroots areas are completely deprived from their basic rights, services and facilities. So, it is very challenging for rural Women with Disabilities to enjoy minimum health facilities and to become economically empower through overcoming the existing challenges.

(E) Consultation session on ‘Women’s Rights Movements in Bangladesh: Challenges and Opportunities’:

A consultation session on ‘Women’s Rights Movements in Bangladesh: Challenges and Opportunities’ was being organized by the High Commission of Canada, with the cooperation of Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), on 19th March 2018, at the Auditorium of Canadian Recreation Centre.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director of WDDF participated in this consultation.



They discussed briefly what types of challenges they've to face as Women with Disabilities at the time of their joining with women rights movements, what types of challenges they've to face at present and what types of initiatives they're planning to take in future for their advancement.

They mentioned that, most of the Women leaders have no idea about the challenges and needs of Women with Disabilities. But as the first registered organization of Women with Disabilities they've to struggle to understand the women that Women with Disabilities are an integral part of women are living in most vulnerable situation and they've special needs along with hidden potentialities. So, for the real improvement of women, there is no alternative of including Women with Disabilities. They participated in all types of programs of NGOs and CSOs and raised voice regarding the inclusion of Women with Disabilities.

At present, due to regular participation and advocacy of WDDF, women rights based organizations have started to consider the issue of Women with Disabilities, they invite WDDF in their programs to raise voice regarding this issue. Even many of women leaders and activists raise their voice about the needs and inclusion of Women with Disabilities and include this agenda in required documents. Now WDDF has included in a number of Government and Non-Government committees and platforms as advocacy organization of Women with Disabilities. It is certainly a great recognition for WDDF and Women with Disabilities. Though as a small and Women with Disabilities rights based organization, there are many challenges; E.G. funding limitation, lack of efficient staff and efficiency among Women with Disabilities, frequent staff shifting, no specific plans and programs of Government considering the situation and needs of Women with Disabilities and so on.

Actually, WDDF would like to change the living standard and situation of Women with Disabilities through inspiring their hidden potentialities and enhancing leadership especially in remote areas where they're leading in humanitarian lives; they've no acceptability and they're often becoming victim of all types of violence. WDDF is struggling for proper inclusion of Women with Disabilities in mainstreaming development in light of UN CRPD and SDGs.

(F) Consultation of draft committee on National Action plan of “Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013”:

A consultation of draft committee on National Action plan of “Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013” was being organized by Department of Social Services (DSS) In Jatiya Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation (JPUF) from 23 to 27 March 2018.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF has achieved membership of this committee on behalf of Disabled Peoples Organizations (DPOs) and she has delivered her inputs according to all the articles of the abovementioned legislation to make the ‘National Action Plan’ inclusive and effective for Persons with Disabilities specially addressing the issue of Women with Disabilities properly through participating actively and regularly.

(G) Consultation:

A consultation on reducing barriers for economic detachment of Women with Disabilities was being organized by BSCAN in BRAC in Centre on 9th June 2018.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF participated

in this consultation. Ashrafun Nahar said that, National budget of fiscal year 2018-19 has been declared on 7th June 2018 but the expectation of Persons with Disabilities and their organizations hasn't been reflected



in this budget. In the development areas of national budget, there is no allocation for Persons with Disabilities considering their demands. E.G: accessibility in public buildings and public transports, mobility and communication and roads and bridges ETC. So, how will Persons with Disabilities be included in universal development? Budget for Persons with Disabilities is still now being allocating under Social Safety Net. So, it is seen that, regarding disability issue, Government is still now working on the basis of charity. There are many success of Government for improving the situation of Persons with Disabilities but this is not inclusive development. As a result, it is seen that, one part of Bangladesh has been developed no rather whole Bangladesh and ultimately the achievement of SDGs for this country will extremely be interrupted.

(H) Consultation:

A Consultation titled "***Accessibility of limited mobility***" was being organized by World Bank in its Auditorium on 26 June 2018.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF participated in this consultation.

She said that, I) In order to ensure universal accessibility for all including Women with Disabilities, organizations of themselves should include in planning and designing process.

II) In order to ensure diversity inclusion in roads and transports, related authorities of Government including International Non-Government Organizations, UN organizations and donors should understand the requirements of all classes of people including Women with Disabilities.

III) It would be noted that, technology is available to all of us now. So, according to the requirement, planners and designers are able to collect modern, technological, appropriate and time required designs, samples and resources very easily for ensuring universal accessibility.

IV) Persons especially Women with Disabilities should incorporated in monitoring and mechanism process for proper implementation and actualization of the adopted plans and programs regarding universal accessibility through identifying and reducing the gaps.



(I) Workshop:

A workshop on Disability and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was being organized by BRAC and facilitated by Access Bangladesh Foundation at BRAC Centre on 11th July 2018.

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

(J) Workshop:

A workshop on Status of implementation of "Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013" was being facilitated by Bangladesh Legal Aid Services and Trust (BLAST) and organized by BRAC, in BRAC Centre at 10 AM, on 14th July 2018.

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

(K) Workshop:

A workshop on State and Disability was jointly being organized by BRAC and facilitated by Turning Point Foundation (TPF) and Disability Research and Rehabilitation Association (DRRA), in BRAC in Centre at 2.00 PM, on 14th July 2018.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF participated in this workshop.

From her practical experience she mentioned about a number of challenges of Persons with Disabilities and recommendations, E.I.

Challenges:

- **Lack of effective participation of persons with disabilities in planning**, implementation, monitoring, decision making and other areas. Even there are least participation of people with disabilities in the committees formed under the Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act, 2013. But the participation of people with disabilities is a prerequisite in disability inclusion.
- **Lack of proper implementation of law and policies**, in spite of having a good legal framework. Besides, some other laws and policies should be disability inclusive.
- **No comprehensive and complete survey** on disability prevalence, which is seriously hindering the planning and allocating budgets for their education, skill development, employment, health, rehabilitation and other interventions.
- **Derogatory attitudes and mind-sets** of decision-makers, implementers and different professionals towards ability of people with disabilities hinder their effective participations.
- **Lack of coordination** among the ministries, government agencies and departments as well as lack of strategy, accountability and knowledge
- **Inappropriate budget allocation** as per laws and policies. Budget allocations are only limited to social safety net.
- **Inaccessible environment** including transport system, buses, trains, air and water transports, parks, hotels, cinemas, banks, educational institutions, etc. Lack of accessibility is a big concern.
- **Lack of education, training, employment** opportunities for persons with disabilities in public and private jobs, lack of enabling environment, training and technological development.
- **Limited scopes for the most marginalised groups among people with disabilities** including hearing & speech impairment, intellectual disability, autism, down syndrome, cerebral palsy, etc.
- **Lack of awareness and support from families and lack of access to information**

Recommendation

- **A database** including disaggregated data on gender, disability types, age groups, geographical areas, etc. though a comprehensive and door to door survey on the persons with disabilities.
- **Universal accessibility** should be ensured in all public and private infrastructure and environments including physical, attitudinal and other barrier free environments.
- **National Strategy for persons with disabilities** by the all ministries as per the laws, policies and national plans with an inclusion lens, where age, disability and intersectionality will get equal priority and independence and autonomy for people of all ages with disability to be ensured as well as combat neglect and abuse for older people with disability.

(L)Workshop:

A workshop on Removing stigma and discrimination was being facilitated by Protibondhi Nagarik Sangathaner Parisad (PNSP) and organized by BRAC, in BRAC in Centre at 2.00 PM, on 14th July 2018.

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

(M) Consultation:

A consultation on 'Definition of Rape and Understanding of Consent' was being organized by Bangladesh Legal Aid Services and Trust (BLAST) at the Auditorium of Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) on 08 September 2018. Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator, WDDF participated in this consultation. Shirin Akhter said that, she thinks, taking consent for involving physical and sexual relation is very essential and consent should be taken from all types of women including Women with Disabilities considering their diversity and expressing capacity. A large group of women, e.g. Women with Speech and Hearing Impairments, Intellectual or other Disabilities express their sentiments or consent in different ways or following special techniques. But while any person will involve in physical or sexual relation with these types of women without understanding of consent or not taking their consent in legally recognized ways; then they will become victim of rape, abuse and torture. So, in

order to ensure socially and legally recognized and enjoyable physical and sexual relation, understanding of consent is immensely important. She also emphasized on formulation of definition of rape considering all diverse groups of human being.

(N)Workshop:

A workshop on Challenges and duties to obtain rights and justice of Persons with Neuro Developmental Disabilities was being organized by SEID Trust at VIP Lounge, National Press Club, on 24th September 2018. Md. Abdul Hai, Junior Assistant Coordinator, WDDF participated in this workshop.

(O)Workshop:

A workshop on Identification of gaps and challenges to ensure Web Accessibility was being organized by A2I, at Hall room of Bangladesh Computer Counsel on 3rd October 2018.

Md. Abdul Hai, Junior Assistant Coordinator of WDDF participated in this workshop.

(P) Consultation:

A consultation titled ‘Ensuring Witness Protection in Rape Trials’ was being organized by BLAST at the Auditorium of Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) on 22nd October 2018.

Arifa Khatun, Junior Assistant Coordinator of WDDF participated in this consultation. She said that, it is important to include Women with Disabilities issue in the system of rapetrial and witness protection otherwise they're deprived from getting justice through rape trial law.

(Q) Workshop:

A workshop in order to design program of the project titled **‘Disability inclusive Development (DID)’** was being organized by Sight savers in Platinum Grand Hotel from 28 to 29 October 2018.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator of WDDF participated in this workshop. Ashrafun Nahar provided inputs to include Women with Disabilities in the programs of the project properly.

(R) Consultation:

A consultation on Structuring guideline for stop discrimination based on disability was being organized by Bangladesh Legal Aid Services and Trust (BLAST) at the auditorium of Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) on 1st November 2018.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Arifa Khatun, Junior Assistant Coordinator of WDDF participated in this consultation. Shirin Akhter said that, Women and Girls students with Disabilities are becoming victim of rape frequently but after having been filed litigation accuser have to face threats and false litigation by the offender. It would also be noted that, infrastructural environment of educational institutions, educational equipment's and curriculums are inaccessible for the Students with Disabilities. Classmates aren't friendly and teachers aren't trained properly. So, in order to include Persons with Disabilities in education properly an elaborate guideline through identifying specific gaps and limitations is essential. Otherwise Persons with Disabilities are dropped out from education.

(T) Workshop:

A workshopon Implement strategy for inclusion Persons with Disabilities and disadvantaged population in skill development training was being organized by Skill for Employment Investment Program (SEIP) at the auditorium of SEIP on 8 November 2018.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator, WDDF participated in this workshop. Ashrafun Nahar emphasized on reducing age limitation for Persons with Disabilities inclusion in job and organizing home based training for Women with Disabilities through assigning a disability friendly and trained focal person.

(U) Consultation seminar:

A consultation seminar titled '**Redress for Rape: Ensuring Deterrence, Punishment and Reparation**' was being organized by Bangladesh Legal Aid Services and Trust (BLAST) at the Auditorium of Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) on 10 November 2018.

Arifa Khatun, Junior Assistant Coordinator of WDDF participated in this consultation. Arifa Khatun said that, Women with Disabilities are frequently becoming victim of physical and sexual torture due to not having protective capacity but they haven't get any justice through village smallish. Due to different types of difficulties including inaccessibility and long procedure of justice system they're demotivated and in most cases depriving from getting justice. So, in order to ensure proper justice for Persons/Women with Disabilities, special procedure should be introduced in legislations.

(V) Consultation:

A consultation on Women's integrated sexual health was being organized by Department for International Development (DFID) in Option Consulting Service Hall on 28 November 2018.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator, WDDF participated in this consultation. Ashrafun Nahar said that, Women with Disabilities are totally deprived from the perception and caring of sexual health due to being gender and disability and inaccessible information and services. Besides, health infrastructures including medical buildings and medical equipments are totally inaccessible for Women with Disabilities so obtaining health services including sexual health is extremely difficult for them.

(W) Consultation:

A consultation titled '**Stakeholders consultation: ensuring access to metro Rail for Persons with Disabilities**' was jointly being organized by National Human Rights Commission Bangladesh (NHRCB) and BRAC at the Auditorium of BRAC Centre at 1.30 PM, on 2nd December 2018.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator of WDDF participated in this consultation. Ashrafun Nahar participated as guest speaker on behalf of Persons with Disabilities. She said that, long years ago when she got on metro rail in Japan, she thought that, whether Bangladesh would introduce disability friendly metro rail system then Persons with Disabilities would be benefited to a great extent. So, after having been started activities of metro rail project we're started to make advocacy with government for ensuring accessibility of Persons with Disabilities in metro rail. She recommended that, infrastructural and informational accessibility should be ensured for all types of Persons/Women with (mild, moderate and severe) Disabilities especially Persons with Wheel Chair users, Visual impairments, Speech and hearing impairments, Cerebral Palsy, Autism, Intellectual Disabilities and Down syndrome.



Recommendations from Persons with Disabilities should be adopted and utilized in designing the entire metro rail operation and management system including main entries, ticket counters, waiting rooms, compartments, exit doors and so on.

Shirin Akhter said that, she was frustrated to hear from a semi government official that, Persons with Disabilities won't be able to get on metro rail but today she is delighted to know that metro rail will be fully accessible for all types of Persons with Disabilities.

Furthermore, she suggested that, secured environment for Women and Children with Disabilities should be ensured in metro rail simultaneously strong and regular monitoring and mechanism system should be sustained.

(X) Consultation:

A consultation on employment was jointly being organized by International Labor Organization (ILO), World Bank, CBM and Plan International at Lake Castle Hotel on 6 December 2018.\

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator, WDDF participated in this consultation. Ashrafun Nahar emphasized on employment of Persons with Disabilities in Different non-government areas, e.g. corporate offices, farms, readymade garments sector, private companies etc.

She also suggested that, in order to enhance working efficiency, accessible, inclusive and time required training should be arranged for Persons/Women with Disabilities considering their types and needs. Accommodation of working Persons with Disabilities should be arranged adjacent to working institutions.

Data of unemployed or interested job candidates should be collected. Effective projects with outsized companies or investors should be adopted and actualized through creating partnership with them.

3. Conference/Interactive dialogue/Training/Evaluation program/Press Conference/Knowledge fair/Dialogue:

(A) Conference:

1. Conference on Gender and Sexual Reproductive Health rights of young adults 2018:

A Conference titled Gender and Sexual Reproductive Health rights conference young adults 2018 was being organized by BRAC in Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, on 31st January 2018.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator were present in this conference. A survey report on sexual and reproductive health rights of young adults has shared. So, Ashrafun Nahar questioned that, how many Persons with Disabilities have been included in this survey? But she didn't get any response from report presenter/organizers.

2. International conference on Sustainable Development:

An International conference on Sustainable Development was being jointly organized by Institute of Development Studies and Sustainability (IDSS) and United International University (UIU) from 15 to 17 February 2018, at the Auditorium of United International University (UIU).

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator of WDDF were present in a session of this conference titled "Mainstreaming Disability and development: Pathways and Challenges." Shirin Akhter said that, Persons with Disabilities are still now furthest behind from the agenda of Mainstreaming development. Negative attitude and mind set towards Persons with Disabilities, informational and infrastructural inaccessibility in public buildings, roads and public transports, Not having formulated disability inclusive National budget and formulation and designing legislations, policies, plans and programs without inclusion of Persons with Disabilities along with DPOs are the enormous barriers for the proper inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in mainstreaming development. Another important concern is that, without considering the special requirements and demands of Women with Disabilities to ensure their inclusion; the adopted initiatives of Go and NGOs in order to include Persons with Disabilities in mainstreaming development will extremely be interrupted.

3. National Conference:

A National Conference on “Access to Justice for All” is being organized jointly by 28 legal aid and human rights organizations, in the auditorium of Bissho Shahitto Kendra from 10 to 11 March 2018.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Johnny Islam, Assistant Program Coordinator of WDDF participated in this National Conference. Including inaugural session, the representatives of WDDF participated in

5 following sessions:

1. Justice and Citizens rights.
2. Parallel session -2, Barriers and duties in access to justice of public in Court.
3. Parallel session-5. Problems and inadequacy of implementing Existing policy and legislations for establishing justice of marginalized people.
4. Parallel session-9. The role and contribution of Citizens organizations to achieve Goal-16 of SDGs.
5. Final session- Summery of the sessions duties.

In Parallel session -2, Shirin Akhter raised the emerging issue, the barriers of Persons Specially Women with Disabilities in access in Court. She mentioned that, Firstly, Courts premises are infrastructural and information ally inaccessible for Persons Specially Women with Disabilities even Legal Aid Centres of Government are located in the highest floor of Court buildings. So, this is the first and most important barriers that, there is no ramp and lift at the entrance of the Courts premises which consistently hinders Persons Especially Women with Disabilities to access in Court premises.

Secondly, having no accessible wash room and sitting or moving places for Persons Specially Women with Disabilities in Court buildings.

Thirdly, Court staffs even Judges and lawyers have no experience of how to deal with a Person with Hearing and Speech impairment/Visually Impaired/Intellectually Impaired. Besides, most of them have no idea about Sign language.

So, she suggested that, the issues; e.g. Disability and handling process of all types of Persons with Disabilities in Court premises should be included in training curriculum of Judges, Lawyers and all Court staffs.

In Parallel session-5, Shirin Akhter is played her role as speaker on behalf of marginalized group on Disability. Emphasizing on implementation of existing policies and legislations for marginalized groups, Shirin Akhter mentioned that, due to problems and inadequacy of implementing existing legislations and policies, Simultaneously, Bureaucratic complexity, marginalized people have to face multifaceted discriminations and challenges in their daily lives and almost 50% challenges might be reduced in the consequence of proper implementation of existing legislations and policies.

4. South Asia Regional Conference: “Gender, Rights and Choices, Access to justice in a Mega city”:

A south Asia Regional Conference titled “Gender, Rights and Choices, Access to justice in a Mega city” was being organized by BLAST at senate Bhaban, Dhaka University, from 19 to 20 March 2018.

Johnny Islam, Assistant Program Coordinator, WDDF was present in this Conference.

5. National Conference on "Disability Inclusive Poverty Graduation Model":

A national Conference on "Disability Inclusive Poverty Graduation Model", was being organized by Handicap International (HI), at Amari Dhaka hotel on 20th March 2018.

Johnny Islam, Assistant Program Coordinator, WDDF was present in this National Conference.

6. Conference:

A two days Conference titled “Urdha Gagone Baje Madal” on the occasion of 35 anniversaries of Naripokkho was being organized by Naripokkho at Bangla Academy from 12-13 October 2018.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, Rounak Jahan Usha, Treasurer and Arifa Khatun, Junior Assistant Coordinator of WDDF were present in this conference. Ashrafun Nahar said that, without inclusion of

Persons with Disabilities in all development activities, real progress of the state will extremely be interrupted.

Mentioning about the issue of violence against Women with Disabilities she noted that, Women with Disabilities are frequently becoming victim of physical and sexual violence but due to different types of complications including infrastructural and informational inaccessibility and long procedure of litigation they've become frustrated to continue the litigation and in most cases, they aren't get proper justice.

7. Youth Conference 2018:

A day long Youth Conference titled "**Youth Conference 2018, Bangladesh and Agenda 2030 Expectation of Youth**" was being organized by Citizens platform for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Bangladesh at Krishibid Institute on 14 October 2018.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Arifa Khatun, Junior Assistant Coordinator of WDDF participated in this Youth Conference. In a session titled ruling of legislation Shirin Akhter said that, everybody can't enjoy equal advantages of legislation, e.g. under privilege people especially Person/Women with Disabilities are always depriving from legislative/legal protection. So, proper initiative should be adopted to ensure equal opportunity of legislations for all citizens including Citizens with Disabilities.

8. Conference:

A conference titled "Knowledge fair on Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID)" was being organized by Disability Research and Rehabilitation Association (DRRA) at the Auditorium of Krishibid Institute on 25 November 2018.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Arifa Khatun, Junior Assistant Coordinator, WDDF participated in this conference. Shirin Akhter focused on the gaps and challenges to obtain Government facilities and services for Persons Specially Women with Disabilities including Department of Social services and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) Affairs Bureau and suggested to provide these services and facilities properly through reducing the gaps and challenges.

(B)Interactive Dialogue Proper modification to ensure access to justice of Persons with Disabilities:

An interactive dialogue titled Proper modification to ensure access to justice of Persons with Disabilities was being organized by Sign Language for the Deaf and Sign Language Users (SDSL), at Azimur Rahman Conference Hall, The Daily Star Bhaban, on 20th February 2018.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF was present in this Interactive dialogue. She said that, in order to ensure access to justice of Persons with Disabilities Specially Women with Disabilities, reasonable accommodation for them considering their special needs and demands in justice related institutions should be set up or modified. Otherwise Persons Specially Women with severe (Visual Impairment, Speech and Hearing Impairment, Completely Wheel Chair User/Spinal cord Injured and Intellectual Disabilities) Disabilities will totally be deprived from obtaining proper justice. In most cases, Poverty of victim, family and social barriers/superstitions, threats from offender's party and insecurity, inaccessible public transports, police stations and court premises are enormous barriers for obtaining justice for Persons with Disabilities. So, in order to reduce these barriers, it is essential to adopt required initiatives in light of UN CRPD, Persons with Disabilities rights and Protection Act 2013 and SDGs by Government in join collaboration and with the suggestion of DPOs.

(C) Training:

1. Training on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM):

A Five days training on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM) was being organized by Centre for Disability in Development in its own training Centre from 15 to 19 April 2018.

General Council and Executive Council members and Executive Director of WDDF participated in this training.

2. Training on disability inclusion:

A Training on Disability Inclusion in strategy and development programs of DEFAT was being organized by CBM-Australia in Australian Recreation Club from 3 to 5 November 2018.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Arifa Khatun, Junior Assistant Coordinator of WDDF participated in this training. Ashrafun Nahar was Co facilitator of this training.

(D) Evaluation program:

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, was being invited as an evaluator by Christoffel-Blinden Mission (CBM)-Bangladesh in order to evaluate the activities of Disability Research and Rehabilitation Association (DRRA) from 8 to 10 April 2018.

Actually she has been invited as DPO leader and Women with Disabilities Rights activist and she has evaluated the activities have been implemented for the advancement of Persons with Disabilities.

(E) 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 9th 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.

(F) Knowledge Fair on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR):

A knowledge Fair on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) was being organized by Share-Net Bangladesh at Spectra Convention Centre, on 9th September 2018.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF participated in this SRHR Knowledge Fair. Ashrafun Nahar submitted a paper about SRHR of Women with Disabilities and in this paper she mentioned that, the estimated number of Women with Disabilities is 12 million and certainly they're a large portion of society. But in comparison of number of Women with Disabilities, accessible, appropriate and required SRHR related information and facilities for them considering types and requirements of Women with Disabilities are very inadequate. So, they're almost deprived from these types of services and facilities.

Due to lack of accessible source of SRHR for Women with Disabilities and their insufficient knowledge about SRHR, they've very limited opportunity to share their problems and challenges about SRHR issues. Simultaneously relatives, neighbors and people of society conceive and disseminate negative and misconception about SRHR issues of Women with Disabilities. Professionals aren't interested and experienced at all to share or to deal with all types of Women with Disabilities about SRHR issues. She also noted that, due to strong voice raising of Disabled Peoples Organizations (DPOs) of Women with Disabilities especially WDDF, men led DPOs, though the initiatives of discussion, thinking and rarely inclusion of Women with Disabilities in SRHR issues but very limited number of Women with Disabilities of



city areas are getting opportunity to be included in these initiatives. Hence, in order to ensure proper inclusion of Women with Disabilities in SRHR facilities and services, it is required to adopt accessible and disability inclusive SRHR initiatives considering requirements of all types of Women with Disabilities irrespective of caste, creed, class, male, female, geographic location, religious minority, ethnicity and disability.

(G) Dialogue:

A dialogue on working together for the promotion and protection of human rights, civil society dialogue with National Human Rights Commission Bangladesh (NHRCB) was being organized by National Human Rights Commission Bangladesh (NHRCB) at Azimur Rahman Conference Hall, Daily star Bhaban on 20 November 2018.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Arifa Khatun, Junior Assistant Coordinator, WDDF participated in this dialogue. Shirin Akhter said that, disability issue should be included more specifically in the submitted report. The hard copy of the distributed book isn't accessible for Persons with Visual Impairments or Print Disabilities so soft copy/accessible audio book should be distributed for them.

Persons with Disabilities and their organizations built movement for preserving disability quota in 1st and 2nd class Government job and they expected active participation and cooperation of NHRCB simultaneously the authorities of NHRCB should play more proactive role to get justice of violence against Women with Disabilities.

4.Consultation/ Discussion meetingfor preparing alternative report on Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD):

Representatives of WDDF participated six consultation/discussion meetings for preparing CRPD alternative report in this reporting period. (Note:As an active and regular member of CRPD thematic group, alternative report on six articles of CRPD has been submitted on behalf of WDDF).

(A) Consultation about CRPD alternative report preparation:

A Consultation meeting about submitting alternative report on CRPD was being organized by Bangladesh Legal Aid Services and Trust (BLAST)at the conference room of Impact Foundation Bangladesh, on 18th January 2018.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator, WDDF participated in this consultation meeting.

Shirin Akhter suggested that, a platform in order to prepare alternative report on CRPD should be formed in the name of 'Citizens Initiative on CRPD'. Report should be prepared on the basis of different themes and divided into different thematic groups. Since BLAST has started reporting process and advanced to some extent, so, report might be completed with the technical support of BLAST for the first time.

Platform members will be able to collect fund through their collective endeavor if it won't be possible they will prepare this alternative report through their own contribution. As they've experience of participating in CEDAW reporting session, so, they may utilize this experience in the reporting session of CRPD to make this session effective.

(B)Discussion meeting of CRPD thematic group on alternative report:

A discussion meeting of CRPD thematic group on alternative report was being organized by National Grassroot Disabled Organization (NGDO), at Turning Point Foundation Office on 19th February 2018.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF was present in this discussion meeting. She suggested that, thematic group formation and fixation of themes for every group are very essential initiatives to prepare this type of alternative report. So, according to her suggestion a number of thematic groups are being consisted and themes have been fixed for the groups. WDDF has agreed to work on **Article-9. 'Accessibility'** in the above mentioned discussion meeting.

(C)Discussion meeting of CRPD thematic group on alternative report:

A discussion meeting of CRPD thematic group on alternative report was being organized by National Grassroot Disabled Organization (NGDO) at the Auditorium of Visually Impaired Peoples Society (VIPS) on 9th June 2018.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Arifa Khatun, Junior Assistant Coordinator of WDDF participated in this discussion meeting.

Shirin Akhter said that, discussion meeting of this group should be organized at least once in each month otherwise working inspiration will be interrupted. All group members have to carry on their own responsibilities sincerely and one reporter should start report writing. Coordination and communication among group members should be enhanced.

(D) Discussion meeting of CRPD thematic group on alternative report:

A discussion meeting of CRPD thematic group on alternative report was being organized by National Grassroot Disabled Organization (NGDO) at the office of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) on 21st July 2018.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Arifa Khatun, Junior Assistant Coordinator of WDDF participated in this discussion meeting. With the opinion of all participants following decisions are being adopted:

1. Report of each thematic group on UN CRPD articles will be prepared in four parts:

- I) Present status,
- II) Gaps with state report,
- III) Challenges and
- IV) Recommendation.

2. Each thematic group will submit prepared report within 9th August 2018.

3. Next thematic group meetings will be organized on 11 and 18th August 2018.

Coordination and communication among group members will be enhanced and continued.

(E) Discussion meeting of thematic group on CRPD alternative report:

A discussion meeting of thematic group on CRPD alternative report was being organized by National Grassroot Disabled Organization (NGDO) at the Auditorium of Turning Point Foundation on 30th August 2018. Arifa Khatun, Junior Assistant Coordinator, WDDF participated in this discussion meeting.

(F) Consultation:

A consultation of CRPD thematic group on alternative reportwas being organized by Bangladesh Legal Aid Services and Trust (BLAST) in collaboration with National Grassroot Disabled Organization (NGDO) at the Auditorium of Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) on 11 November 2018.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Arifa Khatun, Junior Assistant Coordinator of WDDF participated in this consultation.

Shirin Akhter said that, all platform members have to be conscious about time and time schedule should be maintained by all. She has also informed that, actually, the responsibility of preparing report on article 22 of CRPD to Jahangir Alam, Thematic Expert, Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) has been given; he agreed to prepare and submit this report but the report hasn't been submitted even it hasn't been informed WDDF whether the report is submitted or not. However, she will try her best to submit this report within 25 November 2018. Besides, platform members should work in joint collaboration in order to include disability issue in election manifesto.

5. Programs on Convention on Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW):

Representatives of WDDF participated in five programs of Citizen's Initiative on CEDAW Bangladesh (CICBD) platform in this reporting year.

(A) Workshop:

A workshop on CEDAW awareness raising with media representatives was being organized by Steps Towards Development (STD), Bangladesh Women Journalist Network and Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) at the Auditorium of Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) on 6th September 2018.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator and Arifa Khatun, Junior Assistant Coordinator of WDDF participated in this workshop. Ashrafun Nahar participated as speaker on disability issue. She said that, the issue of Women with disabilities has been included in general recommendations of CEDAW and for proper actualization of CEDAW it is required to consider women diversity. Women with Disabilities are facing discriminations to enjoy their fundamental rights and to get justice. Public institutions, roads and transports are designed and imported without considering requirements of Persons especially Women with Disabilities. Besides, they're frequently becoming victim of mental, physical and sexual violence due to disability and poverty. They're excluding from legislations, policies, programs and development plans. Consequentially, a large portion of women will be excluded from development process and they aren't able to contribute in social development simultaneously proper actualization of CEDAW will be interrupted.



(B) Workshop:

A workshop titled Agenda for technical Workshop on CEDAW was being organized by UN Women in collaboration with Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA) at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel on 14 October 2018.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator of WDDF participated in this workshop. Ashrafun Nahar interrogated that, has any initiative been adopted to actualize the recommendations for reducing discrimination against Women with Disabilities have been mentioned in CEDAW? Has Women with Disabilities issue been addressed through these gender desks?

(C) General meeting of CICBD:

General meeting of Citizens Initiative on CEDAW Bangladesh (CICBD) was being organized by Steps towards Development (STD) at the auditorium of STD, on 9th October 2018.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Arifa Khatun, Junior Assistant Coordinator, WDDF participated in this general meeting.

(D) Workshop:

A workshop on presentation about the implementation status of different legislations including the issues for advancement of women, e.g. Uniform Family code, Anti-discriminatory law, National machineries for advancement of women, legislation for criminalizing violence against women and girls, withdrawal reservation on CEDAW and women's participation in public and political life was being organized by Citizen's Initiative on CEDAW Bangladesh (CICBD) at the Auditorium of Steps Towards Development (STD) on 23rd October 2018.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Arifa Khatun, Junior Assistant Coordinator of WDDF participated in this workshop. It is noted that, Women with Disabilities issues are absent in the abovementioned legislations and national machineries of women except anti-discriminatory law and Shirin Akhter provided her inputs to include Women with Disabilities issues in these legislations and national machineries.

(E) National sharing on CEDAW:

A national sharing about the implementation status of Uniform Family code, Anti-discriminatory law, National machineries for advancement of women, legislation for criminalizing violence against women and girls in the light of concluding observation of CEDAW was being organized with the initiative of Citizen's Initiative on CEDAW Bangladesh (CIC BD) at the Auditorium of CIRDAP on 31st October 2018.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Arifa Khatun, Junior Assistant Coordinator of WDDF participated in this national sharing. Shirin Akhter said that, it is delighted for Women with Disabilities that, due to our active and regular participation Women with Disabilities issue is being addressed with importance and properly by this platform. Simultaneously, it would be noted that, Women with Disabilities issue hasn't been included in any legislation and machineries of today's discussion and presentation, so they're optimistic that these legislations and machineries will be modified and included Women with Disabilities issue properly.

6.Discussion meeting of Citizens Initiative on Domestic Violence (CIDV) platform:

(A) A discussion meeting of Citizens Initiative on Domestic Violence (CIDV) in order to formulate a draft action plan of CIDV was being organized by this platform in Raowa Convention Centre, Mahakhali, on 22nd May 2018.

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

(B) A discussion meeting of Citizen's Initiative on Domestic Violence (CIDV) was jointly being organized by We Can and Care Bangladesh at Raowa Convention Centre at 3.30 PM, on 2nd December 2018.

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

7. Monthly NGO Coordination Meeting with District Commissioner:

Representative of WDDF participated in five Monthly NGO Coordination Meetings in this reporting period.

(A) First monthly NGO Coordination Meeting was being organized by District Commissioner at the Auditorium of DC office, on 18th March 2018. Md. Hasanuzzaman, Program Coordinator, WDDF participated in this coordination meeting.

(B) Second monthly NGO Coordination Meeting was being organized by District Commissioner at the Auditorium of DC office, on 28th August 2018.

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

(C) Third NGO Coordination Meeting was being organized by District Commissioner at the Auditorium of DC office, on 31st October 2018.

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

(D) Fourth NGO Coordination Meeting was being organized by District Commissioner at the Auditorium of DC office, on 18 November 2018.

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

(E) Fifth NGO Coordination Meeting was being organized by District Commissioner at the Auditorium of DC office, on 18 December 2018.

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

8.Day Observance:

(A) International Women Day:

A discussion meeting and a cultural program were held on 8th March 2018, on the occasion of International Women day, organized by Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA), at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) Bhaban.

Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh was present as the Chief Guest; the State Minister, Meher Afroz Chumki, MOWCA, the Secretary along with other relevant officers of MOWCA, a number of Ministers and MPs were present in this program. Besides, Country Representative from UN Women as well as the representatives of DPOs, GOs, NGOs and CSOs were present. GC and EC members, Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Md. Hasanuzzaman, Program Coordinator of WDDF participated in the abovementioned program. training is scheduled for the **15th to 18th of September,**

(B) 11th Autism awareness day:

A discussion meeting and a Cultural program on the occasion of 11th Autism awareness day were being organized by National Human Rights Commission Bangladesh (NHRCB), in the Auditorium of BRAC Centre on 7th April 2018.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Johnny Islam, Assistant Program Coordinator, WDDF participated in the abovementioned programs.

(C) Cerebral Palsy Day:

A discussion meeting and a cultural program on the occasion of Cerebral Palsy Day were being organized by Protibondhi Nagarik Sangathaner Parishad (PNSP) at the Auditorium of Liberation War Museum on 7th October 2018.

Md. Abdul Hai, Junior Assistant Coordinator of WDDF participated in this event. Ten talent Students with Disabilities have achieved award in this event for their success in education.

(D) World White Cane Safety Day:

A rally, a discussion meeting and a cultural program on the occasion of 50th "World White Cane Safety Day" were being organized by Social Welfare Ministry at the Auditorium of Department of Social Services on 15th October 2018.

Md. Abdul Hai, Junior Assistant Coordinator of WDDF participated in these events of day observance.

(E) International and National Day of Persons with Disabilities:

A discussion meeting and a cultural program on the occasion of 27th International Day of Persons with Disabilities and 20th National Day of Persons with Disabilities were being organized by Ministry of Social Welfare in collaboration with DPOs and NGOs on 3rd December, 2018 at the Auditorium of Bongobandhu International Conference Centre (BICC).

The theme of this year is: “**Empowering Persons with Disabilities and ensuring inclusiveness and equality**”.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator, Arifa Khatun, Junior Assistant Coordinator and Md. Abdul Hai, Junior Assistant Coordinator of WDDF participated in this program.



Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina was the chief guest of this program; The Minister, Rashed Khan Menon, Ministry of Social Welfare, the Secretary along with other relevant officers of MOSW, a number of Ministers and MPs were present in this program. Besides, the representatives of DPOs, GOs, NGOs and CSOs were present.

On that day, an inauguration program in order to inaugurate Disability fair was being organized by Jatiyo Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation (JPUF) under Ministry of Social Welfare at its own campus, at 4.00 PM. Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF presented the keynote paper about disability and Bangladesh perspective. Executive Council members and staffs of WDDF were present in this inauguration program.

(F) Human Rights Day:

A discussion meeting and a cultural program on the occasion of 70th Human Rights Day were being organized by National Human Rights Commission Bangladesh (NHRCB) at Hotel Inter Continental Dhaka on 10th December 2018.

Honorable Chief Justice was Chief Guest of these programs. Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator, Arifa Khatun, Junior Assistant Coordinator and Md. Abdul Hai, Junior Assistant Coordinator of WDDF participated in these programs of Human Rights Day.

(G) International day for the Elimination of Violence against Women:

A program on the occasion of observance of the International day for the Elimination of Violence against Women was being organized by National Human Rights Commission Bangladesh (NHRCB) in collaboration with Human Rights Program (HRP)-United Nations Development Program (UNDP) at Conference room of NHRCB at 1.00 PM, on 11 December 2018. Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator of WDDF participated in this program.

Prepared by

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