



WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (WDDF)
(AND ORGANIZATION OF AND BY THE WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES WORKING FOR ALL)

May 2018

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

1. 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 was 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.

2. Discussion meeting and equipment's distribution ceremony:

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

General Council and Executive Council members, Chairperson and Executive Director of WDDF were 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.

3. 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 were 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.

4. International program:

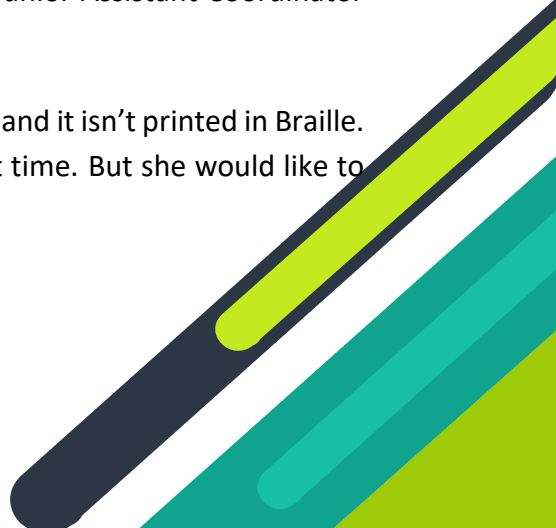
An international program on Gender responsive humanitarian action in disaster period was being organized by United Nations Program Fund for Action (UNFPA) and Women Refugee Commission in Bangkok, from 8 to 10 May 2018.


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

5. 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.


6. Discussion meeting with the representatives of Pabna print and electronic media:

A 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.


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


It is noted that, Shibajit Nag, President, Presclub Pabna and Kamal Ahamed Siddiquee, General Secretary, Presclub Pabna were 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.

7. Seminar:

A 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 aren'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 hand 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. Shafiul 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.

were present as special guests in the abovementioned 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 ShirinAkhter, Chairperson, Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF).


8. Training:


A day long 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 fascilitator 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 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 our activities easy and helpful. After that, Md. Joynal 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 Akhter, 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 analyse 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 us?
- 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 us?

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.

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

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 Rawa Convention Centre, Mahakhali, on 22nd May 2018.

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

