

DECEMBER 2017

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We are concluded the following activities, during the period of December 2017 are as follows:

1. International Day of Persons with Disabilities:

26th International Day of Persons with Disabilities and 19th National Day of Persons with Disabilities was being organized by Social Welfare Ministry of Bangladesh in collaboration with DPOs and NGOs on 3rd December, 2017 in the Auditorium of Bongobandhu International Conference Centre (BICC).

The theme of this year is : "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all".

Abul Mal Abdul Muhit, Honourable Minister, Finance Ministry was the chief guest of this program. Discussion meeting and cultural program are being organized on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Md. Hasanuzzaman, Program Coordinator, WDDF were participated in this program.

2. Radio talkshow:

A Radio Talkshow on "eliminate Women Torture" is being organized at 4.00 PM, on 3rd December 2017, on 'Radio FM Colour'. The speakers of this talkshow were Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF), Barister Nawmi Naj Chowdhury and Fariya Ahamed, representative, BLAST and Rokeya Begum, representative, Voice and Views.

The discussing issue of this Talk show is violence against Women with Disabilities. In the speech of the conversationalists, existing barriers and challenges of Women with Disabilities in access to justice, violence against Women with Disabilities, way forward and role of stakeholders are enlightened to the audience. Simultaneously, it has also been clearly pointed out through the discussion of the conversationalists that, how the human rights of Persons with Disabilities are being violated due to the inaccessibility of Women with Disabilities in all aspects of justice system.

The speakers are also discussed the complexity Women with Disabilities always have to face, the cause and their uninterrupted sufferings due to such existing inaccessible environment for them. Simultaneously, it is demonstrated that, the initiatives have been adopted by WDDF in order to include Women with Disabilities in mainstream development through reducing this complexity of inaccessibility in different institutions as well as it also has mentioned about the importance of allocation and proper utilization of national budget on behalf of Government for reducing the barriers in the areas of promoting and preserving human rights. Besides, Speakers are also discussed about national and international legislations, documents and declarations in order to ensure the Universal Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities and how the Women with severe Disabilities have been deprived from national development process due to existing inaccessible environment. Mentioning about the Government initiatives speakers said that, despite of having number of Government declarations and orders for creating Universal Accessibility but no one of those has been implemented properly. Pointed out the reference of a case study of victim Girl with Multiple Disability, Ashrafun Nahar stated that, inspite of having Two legislations for promotion and protection of rights of Persons with Disabilities; a 23 years Girl with Multiple Disability, named Mohsina Khatun of Nilfamari, was raped by a Forty five years man in 2005 and gave birth to a girl baby. On behalf of the offender village leaders paid only Seven Thousand Taka as compensation to victim woman through shalish and her family isolated her through grasping the money from her. After that, with the support of WDDF, this rape case has filed. It was a very heartrending scenery, while a 23 years pregnant Woman with Multiple Disability without shelter, food and any type of support was crying alone. At that time, WDDF representatives visited and noticed that, she was seriously ill, even she couldn't walk. We (WDDF representatives) were counseling her, suggested her to be patient and assured her that, we are always with you; we'll adopt required initiative to inform this incident to the relevant authorities of Dhaka and now we'll report to the local government, media and law enforcement agency of Nilfamari to handle this issue rightly and seriously.

However, in the consequence of strong advocacy of WDDF and with the cooperation of law enforcement agency and Local Government we would be able to file the litigation and ensured her accommodation in Rajshahi shelter home.

Subsequently, offender and his family decided to marry Mohsina Khatun in order to suspend the litigation temporarily and Mohsina got marry with the offender with the instruction of court through a number of conditions; he has also provided a plot of land to Mohsina for her security and she gave birth to a girl baby. But due to negligence, mental and physical torture, her one year baby has died and Mohsina couldn't live in her home even her husband hasn't provide any maintainance cost or hasn't take any responsibility.

Ashrafun Nahar also mentioned that, 96% Women with Disabilities become victim of physical, mental torture and sexual harassment as well as less than 1% female children with Disabilities get opportunity of going to school. Effective initiatives have yet not been adopted for their skill development and creating employment. Though the issue of stopping social discrimination and torture to the Persons with Disabilities in law and policy has been mentioned but specific initiative hasn't been adopted to actualize these law and policy. Most of Women with Disabilities (WWDs) 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.

So, the speakers urged that, relevant authorities of Government, legal and human rights activists, NGOs and DPOs should have to adopt required initiatives to protect Women with Disabilities from all types of violence. Otherwise, the dream of inclusive society will ultimately be interrupted due to unproductivity, ineffectiveness, backwardness and social exclusion of almost 12 million Women with Disabilities.

3. Seminar:

A seminar on "Transformation Towards Sustainable and resilient Society for all" was being organized by Physically Challenged Development Foundation (PDF), in the Conference hall of Management Department, Dhaka University on 4th December 2017.

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

Ashrafun Nahar stated that, accessibility is an immense important issue for transforming the lives of Persons with Disabilities. In spite of having directives on accessibility in national along with international legislation, convention along with different policies E.G Schedule of "Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013", Article-9 of "United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)", Article-64 of "Bangladesh National Building Code (BNBC)" and Goal-11 of "Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs)"; But none of these directives has been implemented properly and as a result Persons with Disabilities become inactive due to having barrier in accessibility and they are considered as burden of their family, these burdens will be turned in to social burden.

So, there is no alternate without creating accessibility for persons with Disabilities through actualizing these legislation, convention and policies; Otherwise the goal of inclusive society will extremely be interrupted.

4. 4. Discussion meeting with Women rights activists:

A Discussion meeting with Women rights activists was being organized by UN Women-Bangladesh at 3.00 PM, on 5th December 2017.

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

Discussing about overall situation of Women with Disabilities of Bangladesh, Ashrafun Nahar mentioned that, disability issue has been controlled by Ministry of Social welfare but this Ministry even Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA) doesn't have any special initiative for Women with Disabilities.

She also urged to the Country Director of UN Women that, at the time of her interaction with the relevant authorities of Government on behalf of UN Women, whether she would like to know about the adopted initiatives and plans for Women with Disabilities and deliver her suggestions; It will certainly bring a positive impact for Women with Disabilities.

5. 5. Citizen's Conference on SDGS in Bangladesh 2017:

A Citizen's Conference on SDGs in Bangladesh 2017 was being organized by Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh in Krishibid Institute, on 6th December 2017.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator, WDDF were present in this Citizens Conference.

In a Parallel session on 'Women Empowerment', mentioning the barrier of inaccessibility of Persons with Disabilities, Ashrafun Nahar said that, The key message of "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" is "No one left behind"! but there is no opportunity to use toilet even in conference venue for the participants with Wheel Chair users, though there are Two accessible toilets in Ground Floor but these toilets are being used as store rooms. So, how is it possible to move forward together without addressing this emerging needs of Women with Disabilities?

(A report has been published in a Daily National News paper 'Prothom Alo' focusing this vital issue.

Dated: 7th December 2017).

6. Job Fair:

A Job Fair of Persons with Disabilities was being organized by Access Bangladesh Foundation in collaboration with international Labour Organization (ILO), on 9th December 2017, in the Auditorium of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturing Export Association (BGMEA) Bhaban.

Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director and Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator, WDDF were present in this Job fair. This is the first job fair where approximately, One hundred job seekers with disabilities have been appointed in different level of jobs.

7. International Conference on "Promoting Equality, Justice and Human dignity":

An international conference on "Promoting Equality, Justice and Human dignity" was being organized by National Human Rights Commission Bangladesh (NHRCB) in the auditorium of Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) on 10 December 2017.

Samira Haque, Accounts Coordinator, WDDF participated in this conference.

8. Discussion meeting with Police Super (SP) Dhaka:

A Discussion meeting was being organized with the representatives of WDDF as well as Police Super (SP) of Dhaka at 12.00 PM, on 11th December 2017 in his office. Police Super (SP) of Dhaka expressed his heartiest thanks to the representatives of WDDF. Afterwards, Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, WDDF on behalf of all the representatives submitted a paper including the accomplishment, objectives along with a few proposals including a brief report on the activities for the promotion and protection of the rights along with dignity of Women with Disabilities to the Police Super and call upon to express his solidarity on behalf of Police force to these issues.

The Police Super of Dhaka was very cordial and cooperative to us. He expressed His full support and solidarity to our proposals and he is agreed with us that, all Thana, districts including the offices of Police Super should be accessible for Women with Disabilities and Disability issue should be included in the training curriculum of police. He mentioned that, police force is going to take initiatives according to these proposals but it is difficult for them to adopt initiative on policy related issue. He also said that, present Government is very compassionate to the Persons with Disabilities and very much committed to fulfill their demands.

Above all, it is said that, in the present perspective, the adopted initiative by WDDF, of organizing this dialogue between the representatives of WDDF and the Police Super of Dhaka in order to incorporate Women with Disabilities in the mainstream of development by ensuring their equal rights along with dignity is really very time required and effective. At the end of the discussion meeting, the representatives after having been attended in the above mentioned meeting expressed their satisfactory feelings and positive remarks.

9. Disability Rights Fund Exit meeting:

Bangladesh Disability Rights Fund (DRF) Exit meeting is held in the Conference room of Centrepont hotel, Gulshan2, Dhaka, from 13-14 December 2017. This Guarantee meeting is being organized by DRF in join collaboration with Access Bangladesh Foundation and BLAST. As a DRF Guarantee, on behalf of WDDF, Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director were participated in this meeting. The Guarantee meeting has started with an introductory session of the participants which also has included a number of achievements of Disability Rights Fund Guarantee through Disability Rights Fund. Besides, Three Awardees: 'Mohua Paul, Vice Chairperson, Access Bangladesh Foundation', Md. Badiul Alam, Bangladesh Protibandhi Unnayan Sangstha (BPUS) and Vaskar Vatta Charya, National Consultant, A To I, Prime Minister Office have been congratulated for their national and international level award achievements as successful disability rights activists.

After that, A group working session is being held on Three topics:

1. I) About the achievements of DRF guarantee organizations through DRF.
2. II) What are the next steps of continuing these achievements?

III) Future plan of DRF Guarantee organizations.

The participants are divided in to Three groups and each group has prepared separate presentation on all these Three topics.

After having completed these presentations , the next session is being started at 3.00 PM and the first presentation on How to work in partnership? is being delivered by Rejaul Karim Siddiquee, Senior Researcher, BLAST;

The second presentation on 'Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is being delivered by Albert Mollah, Executive Director, Access Bangladesh Foundation and Vaskar Vatta Charya, National Consultant, A to I, Prime Minister Office, discussed about Government funding opportunities and facilities.

After that, Paul Deany, Program Officer, DRF has assigned Two topics for another group work and requested to submit next day.

1. What initiatives should be taken for improvement of Persons with Disabilities?
2. With whom DPOs should work to actualize these initiatives?

and the 1st day is being closed with this group work.

The 2nd day is being started with the recapping session of Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, WDDF and she covered all discussion of 1st day very exclusively.

After having recapping session been finished, An award has been declared on behalf of Disability Rights Fund for Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) for the vivacious work of this women with Disabilities organization in national and international level and Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director received this award on behalf of WDDF.

Followed the award distribution, a sharing session about the existing challenges of Persons with Disabilities is being held with the representatives of donor organizations, corporate sector along with government where the representatives of all guarantee organizations have obtained opportunity to share their challenges with the representatives of Government and Government representatives are also shared their existing initiatives for Persons with Disabilities as well as motivated to adopt further initiatives for the advancement of Persons with Disabilities through eliminating the challenges considering their needs and demands.

At the end of DRF exit meeting, a gift on behalf of WDDF has handed over by Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, WDDF to Paul Deany, Program Officer, DRF.

10. Seminar:

A seminar titled 'Violence against Women and female children with disabilities, barriers in justice system and duties' was being organized by National Council of the Disabled Women (NCDW) in the Auditorium of Bangla Academy, on 17th December 2017.

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

Ashrafun Nahar mentioned that, 96% Women with Disabilities become victim of physical, mental torture and sexual harassment as well as less than 1% female children with Disabilities get opportunity of going to school. Effective initiatives have yet not been adopted for their skill development and creating employment. Though the issue of stopping social discrimination and torture to the Persons with Disabilities in law and policy has been mentioned but specific initiative hasn't been adopted to actualize these law and policy. Police officers of Thana aren't become cooperative to the Women with Disabilities, They are disagreed to file any complain about violence against Women with Disabilities even they've no experience to handle them due to not having clear conception and training on disability issue. Most of Women with Disabilities (WWDs) 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 Women with Disabilities. Most of the laws are formulated and enacted without the inclusion and participation of Women 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.

So, she urged that, 'Women and Children repression prevention Act 2000-2003' should be amended and a chapter considering the types and needs of Women with Disabilities should be included in this Act. Initiatives and information about protection from violence should be accessible and available for all classes of people. The rate of violence against Women with Disabilities is not lower than Non Disabled Women but due to lack of disability related information and awareness of the relevant authorities, the incidents of violence haven't been published properly.

Infact, relevant authorities of Government, legal and human rights activists, NGOs and DPOs should have to adopt required initiatives to protect Women with Disabilities from all types of violence. Otherwise, the dream of inclusive society will ultimately be interrupted due to unproductivity, ineffectiveness, backwardness and social exclusion of almost 12 million Women with Disabilities.

11. Project Coordination meeting:

A Project Coordination meeting in order to monitor and evaluate the implemented programs according to the plan of signing agreement on 24th February 2017, among Three organizations: I) Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF),

1. 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 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) from 20 to 21st December 2017, in the office of Bogra Zila Spondon Protibandhi Nari Parisad, Bogra. At first the purpose of coordination meeting and yearly (From January to December 2017) 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 Bogra Zila Spondon Protibandhi Nari Parisad and S.M Saifur Rahman, Executive Director, PMSS. After that, Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, WDDF discussed about the report, strength, challenges and experiences of the implemented activities with Rebeka Akter, President, Bogra Zila Spondon Protibandhi Nari Parisad. Rebeka Akter mentioned that, Women with Disabilities of Three unions have become conscious about their rights and dignity. Simultaneously, due to having members of Grassroot 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.

Chairman and Members of Union Parisads are becoming sensitized on Women with Disabilities issue through organizing Local Government meetings and they expressed their commitment 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. For example, she said that, A Girl with Intellectual Disability of Lahiripara Union has started to improve her intellectual capacity with the strong and continuous cooperation of her school Head Mistress.

Mentioning the challenges she said that, working unions are so far from their office and 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 help for participating in these activities.

Rebeka also said that, it is very difficult for them to understand the grassroots Women with Disabilities that they will 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. They suggested the illiterate aged group members to involve with IGA and young Girls/Students with Disabilities to continue their education. Simultaneously, Women with Disabilities have to become self-confident about their capability.

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 Bogra Zila Spondon Protibandhi 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 Bogra. Ashrafun Nahar said that, the process of preparing bills and vouchers isn't accurate; Using Fluid in Cash book, Ledger book, bills and vouchers is completely prohibited and according to the process of WDDF, there must be correction for proper record keeping. So, you've to prepare a Cash book and a Ledger book including accounts related documents accurately and submit to WDDF within 27th December 2017. Besides, you've to manage and maintain separate files for separate documents accurately; you've to prepare organizational documents, activity and financial report within the time frame as well as all types of documents should be documented properly.

The representatives of Bogra Zila Spondon Protibandhi 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 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:

1. PMSS has formed Three Grassroot Women with Disabilities groups in Three Unions for the first time and Forty five (45) Women with Disabilities have become self-confident and conscious about their rights and dignity.
2. II) Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) has enlisted Forty five (45) members of Grassroot 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.
1. IV) Union Nirbahar Officer (UNO) of Pabna Sadar Upazila has allocated an accessible toilet for Persons with Disabilities in the Ground Floor of BRDB.
2. V) Two Women with Disabilities have admitted in Honors, National University, following Disability Quota.
3. VI) Lawyers of BLAST expressed their commitment to provide legal support to the Women with Disabilities whenever they need.
- VII) PMSS has got a project from Actionaid Bangladesh at the time of running this project of WDDF.

Discussing the challenges of implementing this project he mentioned that, I) This is the first time experience of PMSS to work in Two project together. So, we've to face difficulties to some extent but we will overcome these difficulties in next time.

1. II) As we couldn't complete the planned activities within time frame so, it was complicated for us to actualize most of the programs within Three months rapidly. But we've to utilize these learnings.

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.

12. Yard meeting:

A yard meeting on 'Disability and development' was being organized by Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF), in the Conference room of Duksu, on 23rd December 2017.

Infact, it was an orientation meeting for the Students with Disabilities and Non Disabled Students of different educational institutions E.G. University, colleges BUET and so on. The purpose of this meeting is:

1. I) To enrich the students about different types of Persons with Disabilities, their needs and reasonable accommodation for effective participation and inclusion.
2. II) to enrich the students through disseminating disability related legislations, policies and Convention among them in order to involve them in advocacy of designing inclusive institutions.

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

Disability related legislations, policies and convention are being briefly discussed by Ashrafun Nahar, Executive Director, WDDF. She illustrated that, how Disability related legislations, policies and convention relate the rights of Students with Disabilities and how Non Disabled Students may contribute for the proper actualization of these national and international instruments. In her discussion, in order to enlighten clear conception about disability, Persons with Disabilities, accessibility and reasonable accommodation she discussed Two analytical questions.

1. How a (Disabled without Wheel Chair User/Non Disabled) person will speak with a Wheel Chair User?
2. How a Non Disabled person will pass a day with a Visual Impaired Person?

Discussion and solution of these questions were very practical and realistic examples of realizing the challenges of different types of Persons with Disabilities.

The session of Ashrafun Nahar has also included 'Persons with disabilities rights and protection Act 2013', 'UN Convention on rights of Persons with Disabilities', 'Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)', different declarations and policies.

In the next session, Shirin Akhter, Chairperson, WDDF has discussed about 'Disability and development'.

Her topic has included:

1. The linkage between disability and development,
2. II) The linkage between disability and inclusiveness

III) Difference between equality, equity and non discrimination,

1. IV) Challenges of Women with Disabilities for being gender and disability and
2. V) difference between disability and barrier.

She discussed Four analytical questions in her discussion.

1. How to design an accessible transport for all including Persons with Disabilities?
2. II) How to design an accessible book for all including Persons with Disabilities?

III) How to design an inclusive building for all including Persons with Disabilities?

1. IV) How to design an accessible IT instrument for all including Persons with Disabilities?

Dr. Mr. Istiak Ahmed, Professor, Wels University USA was present as discussant.

Vote of thanks is being delivered by Suraiya Akter Bably, Treasurer, Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF).

13. Training on “7th Five year plan and Disability”:

A Two day training on “Seventh Five year plan and Disability” was being organized by Center for Disability in Development (CDD), in the Training Centre of CDD, Ganda, Savar, Dhaka, from 25 to 26 December 2017.

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

Inclusion of disability issue in Seventh Five year plan, working areas for DPOs to actualize the Seventh Five year plan, procedure of preparing national budget and the procedures of inclusion a new issue in national budget through advocacy with relevant Government authorities ETC are being discussed in this training elaborately.

14. Grassroot Women with Disabilities committee meeting:

Two Grassroot Women with Disabilities committee meetings were being organized in December 2017.

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

1. 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.
2. 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.

1. 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.
2. 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 device, financial support for small Income Generating Program.

2017. A) The first discussion meeting with the Grassroot Women with Disabilities Committee of 'Daudkandi Uttar' and 'Baropara' Doudkandi, Comilla was being organized by WDDF, at House of Masuma Akter, Vice Chairperson, WDDF of Kanora, Gouripur Union on 26th December 2017.

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.

1. II) To review the discussed issues of last meeting.

III) Discussion about day observation.

1. IV) Discussion about International Day of Persons with Disabilities.
2. V) Discussion about theme of International Day of Persons with Disabilities.
3. VI) Understanding about basic rights of human being and Persons with Disabilities.

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

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

2017. B) The Second discussion meeting with the Grassroot Women with Disabilities Committee of 'Gouripur' and 'Baropara' Doudkandi, Comilla was being organized by WDDF, at House of Masuma Akter, Vice Chairperson, WDDF of Kanora, Gouripur Union on 27th December 2017.

This meeting is presided over Nila Akter, president of grassroot 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.

1. II) To review the discussed issues of last meeting.

III) Discussion about day observation.

1. IV) Discussion about International Day of Persons with Disabilities.
2. V) Discussion about theme of International Day of Persons with Disabilities.
3. VI) Understanding about basic rights of human being and Persons with Disabilities.

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

- Fixing the date of next meeting and so on.

15. Interactive dialogue on '**Advocacy for practice: Stop Violence against persons with neuro-developmental disabilities**':

An interactive dialogue titled '**Advocacy for practice: Stop Violence against persons with neuro-developmental Disabilities**' was being organized by SEID Trust, in the Auditorium of CIRDAP ,on 28th December 2017.

Shirin Akhter, Chairperson and Samira Haque , Accounts Coordinator, WDDF were participated in this program.

Shirin Akhter started her speech with a heartrending death incident of a Speech and Hearing Impaired man, died by road accident due to not having heard the Bus's Horns.

She had a polite asking to the audience and Guests that, How many days Persons with Disabilities will have to be lost their lives silently?

Persons with Neuro-developmental Disabilities have no reasonable accommodation in transports, educational, employment and health institutions, recreation along with shopping centres and they've no security anywhere. Even after having become victim of violence; they've no access to justice in justice related agencies E.G Police stations, Judge courts, supreme court and so on. Most of professionals aren't properly trained and responsible to handle these types of Persons with Disabilities.

Hence, everywhere they've to lead their lives with extreme insecurity.

So, without united and need based initiatives in light of legislations, policies, declarations and convention as well as their proper actualization; it won't be possible to reduce challenges and discrimination against Persons with Disabilities. Consequentially, SDGs won't be achieve and expected development of state along with nation will extremely be interrupted.

ABOUT WDDF

The estimated number of Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) in Bangladesh, is around 24 million people, which constitutes 15 % of total population. 15% of Population have a disability.

Half of these are female. This is 12 Million girls and women with disabilities (WWDs).