

LOST CHILDHOOD



Half Yearly Newsletter of BSAF under Ending Child Labour in Bangladesh Programme Year: 3, Volume: 1, January – June 2018

Editorial

Ending Child labour in Bangladesh Programme is a consortium consisted of three NGOs of Bangladesh i.e. BSAF, UDDIPAN and VERC; supported by Terre Des Hommes Netherlands. This consortium is lead by UDDIPAN.

UDDIPAN and VERC have been working in the field implementation in their respective working areas i.e. Chittagong and Savar (Dhaka), while BSAF has been doing advocacy and lobbying at national level. Needless to say, all the activities of this consortium have been directed to bring child labour to an end.

Ending Child labour in Bangladesh programme has started in January 2016 and will end at December 2018.

The activities of the consortium of 3rd year from January to June have been reflected in this volume.

Hope the reader and stakeholders will get a glimpse of idea about the ongoing activities of Ending Child labour in Bangladesh programme.

While care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information presented herewith, BSAF makes no representation or warranty that the report is free of error or omission. Hope the readers will look at graceful eyes in case of any error or omission.

Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF)

Data Launching Press Conference on State of Child Rights in Bangladesh-2017

Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF), with the support of Terre des Hommes Netherlands (TdH-NL) has organized a press conference on

Mahmood, Director, BSAF. A number of CSOs and media were present at the press conference. State of Child Rights in Bangladesh-2017 report has been prepared by BSAF's program officer Ms. Azmi Akter and the report is available at BSAF's website: www.bsafchild.net.



“State of Child Rights in Bangladesh-2017” on 8 January 2018, at Sagor-Runi Auditorium, Dhaka Reporters' Unity, Dhaka.

Mr. Kazi Reazul Hoque, Chairman of National Human Rights Commission was present at the press conference as Chief Guest and Mr. Md. Emranul Huq Chowdhury, Chairperson of BSAF has chaired the program. The brief press briefing paper on overall Child Rights Situation in Bangladesh-2017 along with specific recommendations to improve the situation was presented by Mr. Abdus Shahid

Observance of World Day against Child Labour

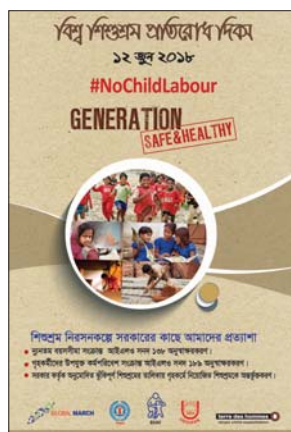
ILO has been observing 12 June as World Day Against Child Labour since 2002 to aware mass people about adverse effect of child labour. Since then, BSAF has been observing this day in Bangladesh jointly with Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE), development partners, CSOs and Media to chalk out way forward regarding child labour in Bangladesh. This year, BSAF under the Project Ending Child labour in Bangladesh has observed this day with the following activities.

Poster Campaign

To observed World Day Against Child Labour 2018 in Bangladesh; BSAF, with the financial support of Terre des hommes Netherlands, and Global March Against Child labour brought out a colorful poster containing the message **#NoChildLabour** and the theme of this year **“Generation Safe and Healthy”** translated in Bangla theme **“Projonmer jonno Nirapattya O Sushastho”**. This poster has been distributed among all the 269 MNGOs of BSAF, Local administration and other stakeholders to disseminate the messages.

Through the poster campaign BSAF has tried to popularize the following demands among the people that were claimed to the government:

- Ratification of ILO Convention 138 for determining the minimum age.
- Ratification of ILO Convention 189 for the better work place of Domestic Workers.
- Inclusion of Child Domestic Work into the Hazardous Job list.



Postcard Campaign by Working Children

To observe World Day Against Child Labour (WDACL) 2018 BSAF organized an orientation program of postcard Campaign on 07 June 2018 at the Peace Home of LEEDO, Dhaka. The orientation session has been attended by 20 disadvantaged children who are withdrawn from worst form of child labour. These 20 children were involved in domestic work, waste picking, newspaper selling, flower selling, begging and baggage carrying etc. But now, with the support of BSAF's member NGO 'LEEDO'; they are studying in different schools including English Medium. BSAF's staff Halima Akter has conducted the session and described the overall child rights and child labour situation in Bangladesh. The children have shared their experience of work place, about their health and hygiene situation in schools and what facilities they desire from state. After getting the orientation they claimed their rights to the duty bearers through writing post cards.

They practiced how to claim their rights through postcard. After getting the orientation these 20 children has motivated and oriented about 300 children to write



their demands on the post card. BSAF has sent those post cards to the concern ministries i.e. Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE), Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA), City Corporation and police etc through postal service.

Press Conference on World Day Against Child Labour 2018

Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum with the support of Terre Des Hommes Netherlands and Global March Against Child Labour has organized a press conference on the occasion of World Day Against Child Labour titled “Child Labour Situation in Bangladesh: Way Forward” on 11 June 2018 at Dhaka Reporters Unity, Dhaka.

Mr. Kazi Reazul Hoque, Honorable Chairman, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) was present at the press conference as child guest while Mr. Abdus Shahid Mahmood has presented the briefing paper at the event. Mr. Emranul Huq Chowdhury, Chairperson, BSAF has moderated the event with the presence of a number of media and CSOs. In the press briefing paper, MR.



Mahmood said that according to the child labour census conducted by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2013; there are 3.4 million working children in the country. Among them, 1.7 million are engaged in child labour. Nearly, 1.3 million children are involved in hazardous child labour from the total child labours in Bangladesh. He discussed about every sector of hazardous child labour where the government should give extra care for elimination. He talked about the steps that government has taken how much the government has achieved towards its target to eliminate child labour within 2025. Finally Mr. Mahmood has given a 15 clause recommendation to the Government of Bangladesh to eliminate child labour.

The chairperson of NHRC, Mr. Kazi Reazul Hoque opined that, many children are being forced to involve in child labour before the age of 14 because many families are dependent on the earning of these children. It happens because the children may have faced family crisis or maybe he is an orphan. Considering this situation Justice Iman Ali approved children to be involved in light works under special condition. But sadly after a long time has gone, these light works is yet to be defined.

Activate Upazilla Child Welfare Board using child helpline in 15 Upazillas

BSAF under the project “Ending Child Labour in Bangladesh” has been working to activate Upazilla Child Welfare Board (CWB) in 15 Upzilla of 14 districts. During the reporting period 01 CWB was formed at Sonargoan Upzilla of Narayanganj district and 07 quarterly meeting of the CWB have been hold at Sadar Upzilla of Meherpur district, Paba Upzilla of Rajshahi district, sadar upzila of



Patuakhali district, Sadar and Sharankhola Upzilla of Bagerhat district, Sadar Upzilla of Natore district and Savar Upzilla of Dhaka district. All the meetings have been chaired by the Upzilla Nirbahi officers of respective regions.

A total of 77 CWB members have participated in these meetings. In these meeting the members has discussed about child rights situation on their respective regions and quarterly action plan for next 3 months along with responsibilities of the members. Emergency decisions have also been taken in these meetings.

State of Child Rights in Bangladesh – (January-June) 2018

Major Incidents of Child Rights Violation- 2018 (Jan-Jun)	January - March 2018	April - June 2018	Total: January - June 2018
Rape	171	180	351
Murder	106	110	216
Death by Road Accident	176	130	306
Drowning	57	176	233
Suicide	87	83	170
Missing	73	59	132
Found Murdered after Missing	28	35	63
Kidnapped	53	28	81
Rescue after Kidnapping	26	43	69
Corporal Punishment	52	17	69
Killed by Brutal parents	12	20	31

In the first six months of 2018, a total 2119 children have been subjected to various types of unsafe situations and violence including murder, rape and torture. Among them 216 children have become the victims of murder, 351 children were raped, 170 children committed suicide, 358 died from road accident and 233 children lost their life by drowning in the water. In this period, 81 children have become the victim of kidnapping, among them 69 children rescued later. On the other hand, 133 children have gone missing in 2018 but 62 children found murdered after missing. A number of 69 children have become the victim of corporal punishment.

United Development Initiatives for Programmed Actions (UDDIPAN)

Admission Campaign of UDDIPAN TVET Center:

UDDIPAN TVET Center has conducted an admission campaign in Electrical, Electronics, welding and fabrication for 7th batch & industrial sewing garments and leather trade for 8th batch. 20 students enrolled in 7th batch of each Electrical, Electronics, welding and fabrication trade on January 2018, and 20 students enrolled in 8th batch of each swing garments and leather trade on April 2018.



UDDIPAN TVET trainee evaluation test:

Quarterly evaluation test of electrical, electronics, welding and fabrication trade and final evaluation test of industrial sewing garments & industrial sewing leather trade were taken on 17-19 March, 2018. The test method



was included written test; verbal test and practical test. Final evaluation test of electrical, electronics and welding & fabrication trade and quarterly evaluation exam of industrial swing garments and industrial swing leather has held on 24-26 June 2018.

Stakeholder Meeting of UDDIPAN TVET Center:

A dialogue conducted on 15 March 2018 at UDDIPAN TVET center with the stakeholders. The session was moderated by UDDIPAN TVET focal D. SM Shahidullah. Former managing director of Gazi Wares Limited, Jaan-e-Alam was the chief guest of this program. Community leaders, NGO representatives, religious leaders, and representatives of vocational institutions were present in this dialogue.

Objectives of this Meeting were:

- Confirming the representation of influential persons of the society;
- Explaining the activities of TVET to the influential persons of the society;



- Ensuring public participation as well as development of program through cooperation with each other.

D. SM Shahidullah, Focal of UDDIPAN TVET has put the activities of the UDDIPAN TVET program in the beginning of the dialogue. He mentioned, So far 391 students have been graduated from TVET. Among them 356 students have jobs, 23 students have started business by their own investment and 5 students are doing business by taking loan from UDDIPAN. Total 384 students have become employed. After getting training from UDDIPAN TVET, 98% of trainees have become financially solvent and increased social dignity.

Exposure Visit of UDDIPAN TVET Center:

On 25 March, UDDIPAN TVET center went for an exposure visit in Khagrachari Technical School & college, Khagrachari Technical training center, Khagrachari Ananda vocational training center. Principal of UDDIPAN TVET, community mobilizers, trainers and accounts & admin officers have attended this visit. Sharing trade based experiences and observing the



activities of established TVET center has helped UDDIPAN TVET personnel to apply the best practices, knowledge, skill and experience into UDDIPAN TVET center, development of relationship and build a network with other TVET centers and that was the main objective of this visit.

Recreation and Class Party of UDDIPAN TVET Center:

UDDIPAN TVET center arranged some recreational activities for creating a friendly environment for study. For example: new-year celebration, class party etc. This



year a cultural program has been arranged by the students of UDDIPAN TVET center for celebrating new-year 2018.

Internship and Job Placement by UDDIPAN TVET Center:

On January 2018, 60 students of Electrical, electronics and welding & fabrication trade have gotten the opportunity of three months long internship in many organizations. Their employment scopes were created after the completion of internship. Besides, 39 students of industrial sewing garments and industrial sewing leather trade also got the opportunity of internship. They have been working in the respective positions since 1 July, 2018.



Village Education Resource Center (VERC)



Child Labour in Bangladesh Programme has talked about social protection of children in the dialogue. Members of union council, CPMC members, CLO members, and local influential persons have attended this meeting. Public representatives and women & children welfare committee on family dispute resolution agreed on to do necessary works for child protection. Chairmen and municipality mayor of each council has thanked VERC and donor agency TDH-Netherlands for working on child labour.

Socialization (picnic) with underprivileged, Child Laborers and Child Domestic Workers:

Child Protection Monitoring Committee (CPMC) by the support of local influential people of Majidpur and Dagarmora has organized a picnic for underprivileged, child labour and child domestic workers under Ending Child Labour in Bangladesh programme. A total 140 underprivileged children, president of Upzilla CPMC, Mrs. Rokeya Haque, Child Led Organization (CLO) members and officers of Ending Child Labour in Bangladesh Programme of VERC have attended the picnic. The daylong event finished by the prize given ceremony of the children and cultural performance of local artists.

Discussion between VERC and public representatives of Savar area on child Protection:

Three dialogues held between VERC's Ending Child Labour in Bangladesh Programme and public representatives of the working area on 13 May 2018 at Tetuljhara, 2 June 2018 at Pathalia and 5 June 2018 at Dhamshona Union council's meeting room. Chairmen and municipality mayor of each council moderated these meetings. 22 persons in Tetuljhara, 19 in Pathalia, and 23 in Dhamshona union council's male and female members, members of Child Protection Monitoring Committee (CPMC), Child Led Organization (CLO) members and local influential people attended in these dialogues. Mr. Babul Morel, project manager of Ending

Meeting of Child Rights Journalist Forum

Half yearly meeting of Savar upzilla Child Rights Journalist Forum held on 18 March 2018 at Savar press club meeting room. Situation of committees' activity, annual work plan, steps to prevent child rights violation and ways to create child journalist were discussed in this meeting. Members of the Forum and VERC representatives were present at this meeting.



Discussion with Formal school teachers about child protection

On 27 March 2018, a dialogue held between teachers of formal schools. 12 teachers of 11 schools and officers of Ending Child Labour in Bangladesh programme attended in this meeting.

Dialogue with Trade Union Leaders and Employers about Child protection

On 23 May 2018, VERC organized a dialogue on child protection with the trade union and owners. 15 trade



union and owner representatives and officers of ending child labour project attended this meeting.

Half yearly meeting with the Factory Owners

A total 10 quarterly meetings have been arranged on April 2018 with the employers and guardians (226 in



total) of 24 NFPE centers. Present condition of school, half-yearly exam, monthly evaluation test, and punishment against children, torture, and discrimination and child rights were discussed on these meetings.

UNCRC Orientation, Life skill training for psycho-social support and half yearly meeting for Child Led Organization:

On 14 March 2018, half yearly meeting of progressive child council of Savar upzilla held at VERC's head office. There were 10 progressive child council committees in



Savar upzilla. Orientation, training and meetings are arranged for these committees regularly. On 10-24 March, orientation and quarterly meeting held and life skill & psycho social protection related training held on 16-27 April. From 12-23 May, quarterly meetings have taken place for all the committees. Md Jamal Hossain Kulin, assistant director of advocacy & capacity building of VERC, facilitated the orientation sessions

Basic Training on Teaching Learning Method for ECD & NFPE Teachers

From 17-20 February, 2018, ECD & NFPE Teachers' foundation training has taken place in VERC's head office at Savar. 40 teachers and 3 programme organizers from ECD and NFPE have participated in this training. The main features of this training was: children and characteristics of children, child early development and necessity, when, what and how children learn, child friendly environment for education, way for child's development and multi talent, teacher's duty and responsibilities, class decoration, national anthem and vow, life skill and it's elements, importance of class room with friendly environment, strategies of operating guardian meeting etc. Md Jamal Hossain Kulin, assistant director of advocacy & capacity building, Babul Morel, project manager of ECLP and Suvash Chandra Saha, director of training and communication section of VERC were the facilitator of the program.

Orientation on CRC for the area based CPMC and Half yearly meeting with Upzila CMPC

Quarterly meeting of Savar Upzilla child protection monitoring committee (CPMC) held on 6 March 2018 at VERC's head office. The meeting was moderated by CPMC's president Rokeya Haque. The members of the committee and the officials of ending child labour in Bangladesh programme of VERC attended in this meeting. There are 10 area based local CPMCs under the supervision of Savar upzilla central CPMC. Half Yearly meeting and child rights violation and protection orientation program held on 27 February 2018 and 15 March 2018 in these area based local CPMCs.



Vocational Training for Child Labourers

A vocational training was arranged for withdrawing child laborers from hazardous jobs. This year 75 children will get training under ending child labour in Bangladesh project through various trades. Already 40 children have received this training.

Training on Life skill, household management, personal and menstrual hygiene for CDWs

VERC organized training on household management, personal and menstrual hygiene training for child domestic workers in Bhaat para, Bank town, Dagormora, Anandpur and Talbagh of Savar upzila from 7-12 May 2018. Priyota Khandkar, program coordinator and Khadiza Akter, programm organizer of ECLP were the facilitators of these trainings.



Dialogue between Labor Inspector and CLO

A dialogue between Labor Inspector and CLO held at Savar on 20 March 2018. In this dialogue, Upzila CLO members and Labour Inspector of Department of Factories Inspection and Establishment (DIFE), Sakhi Shef was present in this meeting. The problems children face while working in the factory and what types of challenges CLO face while working were shared with Labour Inspector. Then Labour Inspector promised to cooperate with the children to their effort of ending child labour. Beside this, she gave a helpline number where the children can complain against the factory owners.

Children Are On the Way of Building New Path and New Dream

Different areas of Savar are operating 20 NFPE Center Under the Ending Child Labour in Bangladesh programme. 700 children are studying in grade 1 to grade 5 in these 20 centers. These children are somehow involved in different jobs and most of them were involved in hazardous jobs. ECLP gives the children different awareness campaigns and life skill and vocational trainings. This project is working for improving Children's lifestyle and including them and their guardians in many awareness program. For this reason,

the guardians are becoming aware and children are being inspired to get formal education. As a result, 94 children get back to the schools and resumed their formal education between January-June 2018. Besides, 21 children successfully passed the primary school certificate exam (PSC) in 2017. These 21 children are now studying in grade 6 in many schools of the village. Currently they are not involved in any kinds of labour. For building a new life, now they have a new dream.

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