



Day observation: International Father's Day, 2022

A large number of people attended the rally (standing) for observing IFD, 2022

Celebration of International Father's Day 2022: Light House took initiative to celebrate International Father's Day for creating awareness among the fathers and the parents on the role of males and fathers to strengthen Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) education for their adolescent boys and girls. To mark this day, Light House conducted several events in Dhaka North, Dhaka South, Gazipur City Corporation and five upazilas of Gazipur district. Among other events, colorful rallies, cultural programs, Media Advocacy, TV talk show were organized in the above mentioned areas. A brief description of mentioned events has given as follows:

1. Rally:

A standing rally held at Basabo playground. The rally led by Mr. Md. Harun-or- Rashid CE Light House. Local Ward counselor of DSCC, Police officer of Basao thana attended the rally. The rally started at 3.45 pm and ended at 4.15 pm.



2. Cultural Programs:

Light House's "Shukhi Jibon" arranged two cultural Programs (Gomvira) on the occasion of International Father's day.

- a) Basabo Playground, Dhaka
- b) School field of Ershad Shishu Niketon, Karail. Banani, Dhaka.

3. Media Advocacy:

As part of media advocacy, "Shukhi Jibon" Project, Light House organized in person media advocacy at Bangladesh Shishu Kalyan Parisad on 18th June and 20th July, 2022 for observing International Father's Day and World Population day, 2022 where 34 journalists participated. The meeting details mentioned below;
Name of Day: International Father's Day



Mr. Iqbal Sobahan Chowdhury, Former Press advisor to the Hon'ble Prime Minister along with others were present in the meeting

Chief guest: Mr. Iqbal Sobahan Chawdhury, former press advisor to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, editor Bangladesh Observer and DBC news Channel (TV Channel)

Discussion: Mr. Harun-or -Rashid, Chief Executive of Light House welcomed all. He was the chair of the meeting and presented key note / press release highlighting the historical background and context of International Father's Day, 2022.

Chief guest Mr. Iqbal Sobahan Chawdhury focused on the father's role in the family as well in the society. He narrated how fathers shoulders the responsibility of a family and try to make all happy in the family as well as in the society. Mr. chief guest also opined that "a father is equivalent to 100 teachers". Sixteen print and electronic media journalists joined the meeting.

4. Television talk show:

Light House Organized a TV talks at ATN Bangla television and the show was telecast on 19 June, 2022 at 1.10 pm. Dr. Md. Zubayer Miah, Assistant Professor (Psychiatrists Department)- Shahid Sohrwardi Medical College, Dhaka, Ms. Zakia Akhter- Deputy Director- Directorate of Family Planning (DGFP), Dhaka, Md. Harun-or- Rashid, Chief Executive, Light House, Mr. Mahbulul Alam Tara beloved father of national cricketer Musfiquar Rahim(online) joined the TV talk show.

The title of the talk-show was "Awareness of adolescent health" and Role of Father's (কিশোর কিশোরীদের স্বাস্থ্য সচেতনতায় বাবার ভূমিকা)"



Md. Harun or-Rashid , CE- LH, (from left)
Dr. Md. Zubayer Miah, Assistant Professor,
Shahid Sohrwardi medical College,
Ms. Zakia Akhter- Deputy Director-
Directorate of Family Planning (DGFP),
Dhaka, along with facilitator
Mr. Hassan Ahmed Chowdhury Kiron

Public Hearing at Bogura

Public hearing held on 23 June, 2022 at Malancho union Parishad field under Kahaloo Upazila of Bogura District. Bogura District Legal Aid and Light House jointly organized this event where a total of 210 people participated. On the occasion, the "Institutional Public Hearing on Providing Legal Aid at Government Expenditure" was held.

Implemented by: Democracy International
Financial Cooperation: USAID.

The event was presided over by the Chairman of the Legal Aid Committee of each Union. The National Legal Aid Act 2000 was discussed in detail. Mr. Shariful Islam, District Legal Aid Officer was present as the keynote speaker, representatives of the Light House, representatives of the Union and Upazila Legal Aid Committees, other public representatives, and dignitaries from the area were present in the public hearing.

Mr. Shariful Islam, District Legal Aid Officer, who was the keynote speaker at the discussion, said how the poor and helpless people can get free legal aid from the government - and gave direct advice to the participants. He further said that three activities are being implemented through District Legal Aid. One of them is to provide legal advice to everyone. The second is to settle alternative disputes especially to resolve disputes between people in the society through various means so that the common man does not suffer from financial loss by going to court whenever any dispute arises. Another good aspect of this is that the case does not get tangled up in the court. And the third issue is to provide legal aid to those who are unable to handle the case due to lack of money in court. At the end of the program, National Legal Aid Hot Line No. 16430, Police Hotline 999 and Women and Child Abuse Hotline No. 109 were provided so that people can directly call and get the required assistance.

Participants asked questions in the Public Hearing Program at Malancho Union Parishad under Kahaloo Upazila of Bogura District. In the event, a total of 21 participants (Male-10, Female-11) sought assistance. In the public hearing session, the issues that the justice seekers discussed with the district legal aid officer were related to land dispute, dowry, and violence against women at the hearing session.



School Debate Competition

Promoting Peace and Justice (PPJ) project, Bogura provided important messages for delivering Govt. Legal Aid service in many ways. Light House, PPJ Project team organized 04 School debate competitions on 26, 28, 29 and 30 June' 2022 with a view to making aware and improving understanding of legal rights and responsibilities among the students, guardians, and the community people.

As a part of Promoting Peace and Justice-Bogura project activity, 04 School debate competitions with video show organized at Gobindapur High School under Dhupchanchia Upazila, Debkhundo Reyazul High School under Dhupchanchia Upazila, Boyra High School under Sonatala Upazila and Sukhanpukur Girls High School under Sonatala Upazila of Bogura district. The purpose of this debate competition with video show was to inform about the



project's goal, objectives and activities so that the school students, teachers and their families can be aware of government legal aid services. Debate competition was held between 4 groups of the students of class nine and ten of the above mentioned schools. The subject of the debate competition was "Government legal aid is good for the common people." In the debate competition, four teams spoke in favor it and another four teams talked against the topic. Finally, the all team members were awarded by the project.. After the end of the debate competition, the students and participants entertained a documentary drama related to government legal aid service. Official communication from the project has been made with the concerned academic institutions provided them with the available information to build the capacity of the student for setting logic and anti-logic from their own perspectives. It will help the other students (audience) to learn about pros-and-cons of legal services in a realistic way.

The honorable Chief Guest Mr. Fazlul Haque, Upazila Chairman of Dhupchanchia Upazila in Bogura District, said that most of the cases referred from Upazila to the District Legal Aid Office have been resolved. So, we should make the general public aware of the government legal aid services so that they can avail these services when they need it.

Public Hearing in Tangail

On June 2022 Tangail District Legal Aid Committee and Light House jointly organized 5 "Institutional Public Hearing" at Union level for raising awareness among mass people on government legal aid services and to connect with the Legal Aid Committee with the financial assistance by USAID and technical support by Democracy International under Promoting Peace and Justice project-Tangail. This public hearing event was participated by 630 people (Male-470 and Female-160). This event were presided over by the Chairman of the Legal Aid Committee of each Union. The District Legal Aid Officer Monika Khan was present as a Chief Guest in two Public Hearing and Panel Lawyer; Advocate Rawshon Ara Siddique of District Legal Aid Committee (DLAC) was present as a resource person in 3 Public Hearing. Besides that, the representatives of the Light House and representatives of the Union and Upazila Legal Aid Committees also participated in the programs.



The District Legal Aid Officer Monika Khan and Panel Lawyer Advocate Rawshon Ara Siddique, of District Legal Aid Committee had discussed on the National Legal Aid Act 2000. They also discussed how the poor and helpless people can get legal aid in free of cost from the government - and gave direct advice to the participants. They also informed that three tasks are being implemented through District Legal Aid Office. One of them is to provide legal advice to everyone. The second is to settle alternative disputes and especially to resolve disputes between people in the society through various means so that the common man does not suffer financial loss by going to court whenever any dispute arises. Another good aspect of this is that the case does not get tangled up in the court. And the third

issue is to provide legal aid to those who are unable to handle the case due to lack of money in court. They also provided Hotline number -01700784287 of District Legal Aid Office and National Legal Aid helpline No. 16430. Participants asked questions to the District Legal Aid Officer and Panel Lawyer during the Public Hearing. The District Legal Aid Officer and Panel Lawyer listened carefully to the people's problem and provided legal advice to them. During the 5 public hearing sessions a total of 46 (Male 30, Female-16) justice seekers discussed their problems with the district legal aid officer and panel lawyer on land disputes.

Maina got the family back from the courtyard meeting of Light House



In 2005, Maina's (32), father died. Maina's father's name was Alek Chad who was from Union- Pirojpur, Upazila-Meherpur Sadar, Meherpur. After the death of her father, Maina got married with Md Sahabul (40) who was from Union- Pirojpur, Upazila- Meherpur Sadar, Meherpur. After marriage they had two children. One is a girl and the other one is a boy. Their family was very happy.

Due to the financial hardship in the married life, Sahabul put pressure on his wife to bring money by selling her father's property. Maina sold the property she got of her father's house and gave the money to her husband Sahabul. Selling her father's wealth worsens the relationship between Maina and everyone in his father's house. After spending the money, Sahabul again started pressing for money with Maina. Maina took loan of Taka 5000/ from her aunt (Kajal) next door and gave it to Sahabul. After a few days, he again started pressuring Maina for money and also started physical torture. No one from Myna's family visited her. Maina, unable to do anything, took loan 50,000 BDT from the society (NGO) with the help of her mother. When Maina asked to pay the money back of the society (NGO), she was beaten and thrown out of the house. In such a situation, Maina did not have shelter in her father's house and nor her husband's house.. Then Maina took shelter in her aunt's (Kajal) house. Sahabul threatened to beat up Maina's aunt and asked her to throw Maina out of the house.

Maina was disappointed and sought justice to various influential people of the society but she did not get justice. Then one day Mayna's aunt (Kajal) appeared in a courtyard meeting organized by Light House PPJ-Meherpur in Eidga Para (Afroza Upper Bari) of Ward No. 01, Pirojpur. Hearing the discussion of the courtyard meeting, Maina's aunt (Kajal) realized that Maina can apply for a free remedy at the Meherpur District Legal Aid Office and she will not have to spend any money on it. Without delay, Myna's aunt (Kajal) went to Meherpur District Legal Aid Office on 13 June, 2022 with the help of Light House PPJ Meherpur-Sadar Upazila representative along with Maina and Maina's mother. On 23 June, 2022 her husband was summoned by a legal notice. Complaint number APP-MEHAR-20220613-0000645. After filing the complaint, her husband Sahabul threatened her in various ways to withdraw the complaint. Maina boldly informed Sahabul of her decision not to withdraw the complaint.

In such a situation, Sahabul became a little depressed and tried to get the cooperation of various people to withdraw the complaint and promised Maina that he would not cause any trouble in future. Sahabul promised to marry Maina and requested Maina to go to the Legal Aid Office to settle the complaint. Maina came to Legal Aid Office-Meherpur and withdrew her complaint. Maina is currently living in her husband Sahabul's house.

Citizen receiving information through the applying RTI form



Ms. Shewely Akter is receiving information from the Office of Women's Affairs, Kahaloo, Bogura.

Although RTI act has been enacted in 2009, citizens especially the grassroots people hardly know that information can be sought using the RTI application form. Apart from other regular intervention of the project, Light House (LH) used to do campaign on popularizing the RTI act and accomplished the RTI application process during social audit process. It was observed that citizens support group members are very keen to get the public service related information applying through RTI application. To the contrary, it is observed that duty bearers are not inclined to ensure prompt response providing information against any RTI application as they took it as administrative glitch. Hence, they are more comfortable to provide information informally. To overcome such ideological bottleneck, LH has provided training to the LG representatives on service process simplification at Kahaloo and Dhunat Upazila of Bogura on 18-19 September, and 25-26 September in 2021. Besides this, the celebration of 'Right to know day' on 28 September of every year has created a cordial bridging between the service providers and the service recipients. Nowadays, the duty bearers accept RTI application form to provide relevant information to the applicants.

However, the citizen support group members verify this information especially the public service entitlement related data and do subsequent advocacy to address the anomalies. So far, a total of 115 RTI application have been submitted to the relevant departments to know the actual entitlement process of different public services. For instance, Mst. Shewely Akter (28), a citizen of Kalai union of Kahaloo Upazila submitted an RTI application form to Upazila Women Affairs office on 26 February 2022 to know whether the selected beneficiary list of maternity allowance by the LG representatives remained same or changed at upper tiers. She got the information very easily and smoothly from Bipul Chandra Mohanta, Trainer at Upazila Women Affairs office, Kahaloo.

Nazim (24), a citizen support group members went to the Upazila agriculture office, Kahaloo has submitted an RTI application form on 2 March 2022 to know about the eligibility criteria and modality of agriculture. Md. Moinul Haque Sarkar, Upazila Agriculture officer has given him a clear concept about the issue.

Sensitization meeting with health service provider, religious leader, lawyer, journalist, law enforcement agency and CBO representatives at DICs and Sub DICs of LH

Light House has started to implement the "Prioritized HIV prevention and treatment services for key populations in Bangladesh" project from 1st April 2021 under the Global Fund Project, icddr,b in 19 districts of Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna, Barisal and Dhaka division. The Project is expected to reach a number of KPs in this quarter and aims to increase their knowledge on HIV and AIDS including utilization of health care services. It is also expected that active participation of different stakeholders will ensure the social inclusion, where a sustainable behavior change can be ensured through capacity development.

In order to meet the project objective, it has to maintain working relation with health service providers, religious leaders, lawyers, journalists, law enforcement agencies and CBO representatives and other state and non-state actors/stakeholders in implementation of activities. Most of the stakeholders have very limited engagement with sexual minority's rights due to less access to information and knowledge which sometimes create problems implementing project activities as well as impose stigma and discrimination against sexual minorities. At the same time, it was found that HIV and AIDS was not their priority list of action to save people from it. Under this circumstances, the project kept plan to execute the sensitization meeting with those stakeholders.

Light House 14 SCs had planned to conduct SM in their working area. They had communicated with civil surgeon office and fixed up a date. Due to GoB activities some civil surgeon office shifted the date. According to the approved plan the project has executed 14 sensitization meetings upon the target of 14 with respective stakeholders where targeted participants were 280 but 305 people attended.



Local GOB higher authority i.e. DC/ADC, SP/ADSP, CS/DCS, UH&FPO participated as chief/ special guest and honorarium was provided to the guest speaker/resource person, if required. In that case, resource person had practical experience and professional knowledge about HIV/AIDS, MSM & Hijra & Human Rights, local context, legal issues & others. Mayor, Chairman, Ward counselor, other Local Elected Bodies (LEB) , Editors/Journalist/ from electronic and print media , Human Rights Activist, lawyer , NGO representatives , CBO leader Project relevant , religious leaders from different religions , University/ college/ High school teachers , Local elite/influential person, Service providers/Physicians/consultant STI/HIV/TB also participated in the meeting and gave their opinions.

Outcome:

- * The stakeholders show commitment to support the Light House activities
- * The stakeholders shown positive mentality about the project activities
- * Stakeholders know the updated situation of HIV/AIDS.
- * Sensitized local administration on Hijra and MSM issues
- * Enhanced acceptance of MSM & Hijra population to the society

Sensitization meeting found very effective way to inform stakeholders about the HIV/AIDS situation, activities and their role in the prevention of it considering the local context. Government officials and others stakeholders had given their valuable time to the meeting despite their busy schedule. All stakeholders represented their communities. As local guardian, they can sensitize the society. Their continuous support is really appreciated.

ANC service in near to hands

Light House is trying to ensure health services to the poor and ultra-poor's through the Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project-II in the remote areas under Rangpur City Corporation. A satellite team visit to remote area for providing health services including Antenatal care (ANC) especially for poor pregnant women. As per the recommendations at least four times health checkup is mandatory for a pregnant woman but in some cases it was found that poor women are not willing to visit the hospital or other health care center for their regular checkup due to various reasons like; poverty, rickshaw fare, far distance, unawareness and ignorance of the ANC services, etc. Women living with poverty usually suffer from anemia, pre eclampsia, eclampsia and malnutrition during their pregnancy period. Considering the current situation, Light House Primary Health Care Centers are operating the satellite clinic at the doors of poor for providing basic health service including Antenatal care (ANC).

World safe motherhood day-22

Light House observed "World safe motherhood day on 28 May-2022" under the Urban Primary health Care services delivery project-II in Rangpur City Corporation. Around 30 eligible females and adolescents attended the discussion. Participants received overall knowledge on safe motherhood related issues & activities from this discussion meeting. Dr. Shabnam parven, Clinic Manager, CRHCC delivered her speech on safe motherhood, how we should help a pregnant mother to save her



life, how to prevent maternal mortality and still birth, what the danger signs of pregnant women are, why institutional delivery is important, the importance of ante-natal and postnatal care (PNC) etc. Government has taken a lot of initiatives to prevent the maternal death but it is not fully functional due to lack of information and unawareness among mass populations in our country. Increasing mid-wife position and skill birth attendant for institutional delivery is very important to make the delivery safe Comprehensive reproductive health care centre (CRHCC) and Primary health care centres (PHCC) celebrated this day separately. Each centre conducted awareness session among the adolescent girls and eligible couples in each area and provided day long services to mothers and Children.

Interpersonal Communication-IPC and Counseling

17 May-2022, Light House organized a training on "Interpersonal Communication (IPC) and counseling" under the Urban Primary health Care services delivery project-II at Rangpur. Around 23 participants attended this training and they gained practical knowledge and techniques on overall issues related to Interpersonal Communication and counseling & activities. After attending the training, participants became more confident. From now on, our project staff will provide the counseling support to the clients at field level and work station with more confidence. Light house UPHCSDP-II arranged this training for those who are directly performing and supervising these types of activities at field and office level. At the end of training, the participants were able to understand about basics of IPC, good Counseling, techniques of counseling, ethics of counseling and how to maintain inter personal communication with patients and relevant stakeholders for achieving the project goals and objectives. Counselors, , paramedics, Lab-technicians, Field supervisors, Family welfare visitors, Service promoters and family welfare assistant (FWA) also received this training.

Interpersonal Communication-IPC and Counseling



On 14 May 2022, training on Management Information System (MIS) was held Under Urban Primary health care services delivery project phase-II. Participants gained practical knowledge and expertise on overall issues with Management Information System (MIS), data collection and reporting systems, reporting on BCC and health related issues. Trainer organized a demonstration session with participants during this training. Participants understood the main challenges of data collection procedure and maintain the accuracy and validity.

During demonstration session, participants showed that they would be able to operate the MIS to collect required information very easily and confidently. Trainees were very confident during the session and they will produce accurate and reliable report for project requirement. We do hope that, we will see the immediate result of this training while performing their regular duties at work. Counselor, Paramedic, Lab-technician, receptionist, Family welfare visitor and Field supervisor's also received the Management Information System (MIS) Management Training.



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