



Editorial

Light House always putting key people in front for their development following the strategic plan of it. It takes multi-faced initiatives to empowering key peoples including youth and young people irrespective their gender identity. Light House published it focused progress report of activities Regularly for development partners, stakeholders and project participant as well as social media viewers.

This edition of the Light House E-bulletin (October -December 2022) Highlighted Shukhi Jibon project activities on 16 days of activism Against Gender-based violence, policy advocacy linked to SRHR issues of Young Transgender, Young Talk, success of promoting peace and justice project activities of Bogura, Tangail and Meherpur and advocacy initiatives of HIV project.

This e-bulletin is our sincere effort to transparently present major activities among hundreds of similar activities. We are welcoming feedback for further development of our effort.

Md. Harun-Or-Rashid
Chief Executive,
On behalf of Editorial panel.

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Observance of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based violence 2022

Light House has been observing 16 Days of Activism on Against Gender-based violence since it is declared by the UN. Like earlier It has observed these Days during 25th November to 10th December 2022 with highest priorities across the working areas of Light House. Under the initiative of Shukhi jibon project, Light House taken several initiatives e.g. printing of leaflets, organized colorful rally, Media advocacy, Hosted TV talk show at the leading TV channel, Organized Cultural event, Hosted online seminars etc. participated in the joint rally and other event organized by other leading 50 NGOs. These events were mostly organized in Dhaka north, Dhaka south and Gazipur city corporation and upazila level of Gazipur district. The event details are:

Rally:

Shukhi Jibon Project, Light House organized a colorful rally for observation of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence 2022" with the close collaboration of Nari Pakkah a feminist coalition. The Rally took place at Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi Dhaka to Manik Mia Avenue, Dhaka (in-front National Parliament bhaban). The rally brings festoon, Masal, leaflet for distribution.

Women led Song, slogan, dance with bamboo stick was performed during the rally. The rally starts on 5.15 pm and end 7.30 pm. Md. Harun-or- Rashid, Chief Executive, Light House along with coalition leaders were join the rally.

After rally a discussion meeting held at Manik Mia Avenue (in-front of National Parliament bhaban) focusing the importance of the Day. Leader of the coalition were discussion about the theme of the day including announcing the demand to the Government, parliament members and members of the civil society. The rally demands the women's participation in the decision making process equally in the family as well country's policy and law making.



Cultural show:

The Shukhi Jibon Project, Light House organized a cultural program at the both City Corporations of Dhaka. One is at Ershad School playground, Karail, Banani, Dhaka and other one is at Manik Mia Avenue (in-front of National Parliament building), Dhaka.

The cultural team comprised a group of Transgender/Hijra people including RJ and dancing performer. Before starting the cultural program Mr. Harun-or- Rashid, Chief Executive of Light House inaugurated the event. He delivered his speech citing the importance of the Day and how we can prevent GBV at the family as well in the society. He told to the gathering that violence against women and girls are increasing day by day. He said, we must stop this if we want to a happy life as well family and society.

The cultural team performed their performance aiming for created awareness on Early / Child Marriage, Early pregnancies, Family Planning, Gender Based Violence (GBV) etc. The entire program was taken in video and boosting up at the Light House YouTube and Face book channel for reach more people. At least 74,275 people reach the program through You Tube and Light House face book channel and 55,323 viewer watched those. 1,000 people (estimated) watched this cultural show directly.

You tube link : https://youtu.be/_o-1Vbipbl8

Face book link: <https://fb.watch/h8Anb3f0iz/>





Talk show:

Part of 16 days of activism program, a television program (Tale discussion) was arranged. Talk show was recorded and telecasted at the ATN Bangla Television channel on 9th December 2022. In the talk show the following resources person attended as guest and panelist for discussion;

- * Ms. Farida Pervin, Director General, Department of Women Affairs, MOWCA, Bangladesh
- * Mr. Md. Mahbub-ul -Alam, Country Director, Pathfinder International
- * Md. Ahsanul Wahed, Deputy Program Manager (Climate Change)- Manusher Janna Foundation;
- * Md. Harun-or-Rashid, Founder & Chief Executive, Light House- as moderator

During the Tele discussion, all guest focused on climate change and it's effect to the women vulnerabilities. They urge to the international communities, policy makers and activists of Bangladesh to the issues on priority basis.

Light House Shukhi Jibon project organized a Policy dialogue:

As part of making Functional of the adolescent and youth friendly health services in the catchment area of Light House Shukhi Jibon project (Dhaka and Gazipur) , Light House arrange and conducted a Light House: Young Talks (TV show) and broadcast through ATN Bangla on 29th October 2022 at 6.20 pm. The title of the show is "বাংলাদেশে ট্রান্সজেন্ডার কমিউনিটি -হিজড়া জনগোষ্ঠীর সুস্থতা, বাস্তবতা ও করণীয়"

The Tele discussion had 2 parts. Problem of hijra community in terms of living, social safety net, job etc. is to brief was in the session -1 and discussion of how to solved it or way out by panel members was in the part-2.



In the talk show the following resources person attended as guest and panelist for discussion;

1. Dr. Mokter Hossain (deputy secretary), Director-Social safety net program, Department of Social Service, Ministry of Social Welfare, Dhaka.
2. Dr. Shamima Pervin, Gender Manager - Pathfinder International Bangladesh
3. Ms. Rani Chawdhury- Hijra Representative
4. Md. Harun-Or-Rashid, Chief Executive, Light House facilitated the program

Beginning of the TV show a report which taken by the ATN Bangla at the different part of Dhaka city describing the problem and opportunity of hijra community. After presentation of hijra community voice and opinion the panel member discussion the policy and law related with Hijra community. The panel member thanks the government for passing a law for them.

The TV program boosted up in the Light House face and You tube pages. The link is mention below;

Face book <https://fb.watch/gAD6fAhLxW/>

You tube; <https://youtu.be/5nI5UPDq4j8>

A total of 58,247 people reach and 32,103 number of people watch the saw on the television program.

Rabia Basri Mim received her Dower and Maintenance Money

Rabiya Basri Mim (22) daughter of Md. Abdur Rashid of Khiali Uttarpara village under Gobindapur union in Dhupchanchia Upazila of Bogura district married Md. Amjad Hossain (28) son of Md. Suroz Ali of Asunja village under Gobindapur union in Dhupchanchia Upazila of Bogura district. Dower of married was TK.2, 50,000, 00 (two Lac fifty thousand). Their conjugal life they were blessed with one daughter. But Md. Amjad Hossain and Rabiya Basri Mim was separated due to Amjad Hossain's relationship with other women. Since then Rabiya Basri Mim is living with her parents and her daughter stay in their father. Md. Amjad Hossain would have given maintenance cost to Rabiya Basri Mim, but over the past 6 months he does not pay maintenance cost. Rabiya Basri Mim complained to the local representative about the matter but did not get any remedy. Rabiya Basri Mim did not know about the government legal aid. The Promoting Peace and Justice-Bogura project courtyard meeting has been arranged in her village on 06.07.2022, from where her mother attended courtyard meeting and knows about government legal aid. Rabiya Basri Mim's mother approached PPJ-Bogura Project Upazila Coordinator regarding this issue, Upazila Coordinator take them along to Government Legal Aid Office on 22/09/2022 after hearing from her then took the case. Finally, the District legal aid officer through ADR one time collected her dower and maintenance money at Tk. 2, 30,000.00 (two lac thirty thousand). Rabiya Basri Mim thanks to PPJ-Bogura for getting dower and maintenance money. (Case Re. No-130/2022, ADR stalled Date: 04.10.2022)

E-dialogue arranged by PPJ Tangail:

During the October to December 2022 Light House organized 3 e-dialogues at Union level of Tangail District under Promoting Peace and Justice -Tangail. The e-dialogue was organized in collaboration with Mogra, Atia and Gazaria Union Parishad under Tangail Sadar, Delduar and Shakhipur Upazila of Tangail district. The purpose of the virtual e-dialogue was to provide legal advice and information among to the justice seekers to get access government legal aid services from the district legal aid office of Tangail. The Union Digital Center provided technical assistance to the participants to connect with the District Legal Aid Officer. Monika Khan, District Legal Aid Officer and Assistant Senior Judge of Tangail joined the e-dialogue from her office by virtually she carefully listened justice seekers problem and provided one to one legal advice and information to the justice seekers. Besides that she also invited as justice seekers in her District Legal Aid Office to taking legal support for free of cost. The e-dialogue was an opportunity for the poor helpless men and women to seek legal advice and information to access formal justice system. The issues the justice seekers discussed with the district legal aid officer were related to Land dispute, Maintenance and legal aid services. A total of 52 justice seekers (Female-26 & Male-26) joined in the virtual e-dialogue.



Sathi Khatun got her child back with the help of Lighthouse without filing case:

Sathi Khatun, Gangni Upazila, Meherpur alleged that she was living separately from her husband due to family problems. Her husband is not returning her the 4-year-old son. Earlier Legal Aid Office assisted Sathi Khatun to file a criminal case against her husband Tamim Islam on 17.08.2022 under CRPC Section-100 and in the case Sathi Khatun got full custody of her son. Case number LIT-MEH-20220817-0000033. On October 25, 2022, her husband took the son but refused to return the son even after the deadline and gave a condition to Sathi Khatun that he would not return the son unless the case was withdrawn. Sathi Khatun informed the DLA Officer about the above in the quarterly coordination meeting organized by the Light House. The DLA Officer wants to know whether the court has been informed about this through his lawyer. Sathi Khatun said that it has been informed but the lawyer has not taken any action. The DLA Officer gave assurances to bring back the son and directed the office assistant to contact Sathi Khatun's husband. Asks her husband to follow the court's instructions. If not, a case will be filed against him.



The Office Assistant called her husband as per the instructions of the DLA Officer and informed the instructions of the DLA Officer. He also informed that a case will be filed against him if he does not follow the instructions. Sathi Khatun's husband told the legal aid office that he would return the son to his mother as soon as possible and he returned the son to Sathi Khatun within 7 days as promised.

Sathi Khatun said that I never thought that my son would be recovered in such a quick time because the court case process is a long time consuming matter. He expressed his gratitude to the lighthouse for getting his son back at the earliest.

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

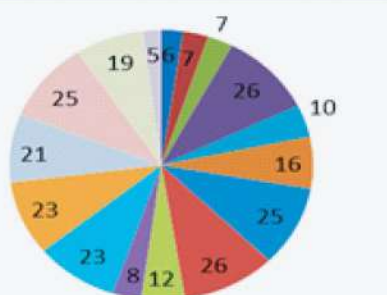
Light House has been implementing "Prioritized HIV prevention and treatment services for key populations in Bangladesh" project from 1st April 2021 under the Global Fund Project, icddr,b in 19 districts of Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna, Barisal and Dhaka division. The Project is expected to reach a number 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 foster the social inclusion, where a sustainable behavior change can be ensured through capacity development.

During the October -December period of 2022, the project has executed 12 sensitization meetings with 259 stakeholders from health service provider, religious leader, lawyer, journalist, law enforcement agency and CBO representatives. Achievements were 92.50%.

Outcome from SM:

- * The stakeholders grown the positive mentality into the project and committed to support the Light house such kinds of activities.
- * Sensitized local administration & their officials
- * Our staff works at field without any barrier
- * Reduced violation and harassment with the MSM & Hijra population.
- * Enhanced acceptance of MSM & Hijra population in the society.

Sensitization meetings conducted successfully as per project plan. Government officials and others stakeholders have given time to the meeting during their busy schedule. Resource person & participants very actively participate the meeting. All participants were committed to help & health service provides to MSM & Hijra population for continuing cooperation with us. Finally, we can say that objectives of the Sensitization meeting with health service provider, religious leader, lawyer, journalist, law enforcement agency and CBO representatives achieved successful.



Orientation on grievance redresses system (GRS) in Dhunat upazila of Bogura district

With the financial support of FCDO and overall supervision of MJF, the Light House is conducting Piloting GRS intervention program in Dhunat Upazila with the aim of making the common people aware about the grievance redressal procedure of Bangladesh Government. As part of the program, a day-long orientation was organized on 19 October-2022 to inform the government officials of Dhunat Upazila about the GRS intervention project.

Dhunat Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mr. Sanjay Kumar Mahanta presided over the orientation. Mr. Md. Ziaul Haque, Additional Divisional Commissioner (General), Rajshahi Division was present as the chief guest. Among others, heads of different departments of the upazila, journalists, members of the Light House GRS Committee and representatives of the Light House were present. A total of 36 participants were present in the orientation out of which 05 are female and 31 are male.

Some decisions:

- * It was decided that as a government official everyone would give advice on informing the general public about GRS.
- * In any department, if there is a complaint in GRS, the heads of the respective departments will be responsible and address the complaints.
- * As a government official, it is decided to give full cooperation in redressal of public grievances. and to use GRS online software in establishing justice in the state.



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