

Girl Power Project of BCHRD in partnership with Aparajeyo-Bangladesh

Bangladesh Centre for Human Rights and Development-BCHRD organized and also participated different campaigns activities in partnership with Aparajeyo-Bangladesh (AB) as Civil Society Organization and with the financial and technical assistance from the plan international Bangladesh to AB, The Girl Power Project (GPP) is being implemented in 5 Zones of Dhaka South City Corporation. This project has successfully completed its 4 Years & 6 months journey. Under this project, Aparajeyo-Bangladesh has worked in collaboration with 25 Civil Society Organizations (CSO), 60 duty bearers, 45 local communities to improve the standard of living and reduced gender based violence perpetrated against girls and young women (GYW).

GPP is moving ahead strengthening civil society organizations, building the capacity of girl children and young women, creating awareness among them about their rights and setting up a protection mechanism so they do not suffer from gender based violence.

GPP is working at four levels-**individual, socio-cultural, institutional and civil society organizations**. The said 4 levels major activities included karate, life skills, livelihood trainings and providing self employment assistance to girl and young women, dissemination of information through theatre for development, training on child protection, child rights and gender training to CSOs, local elites, government officials, organizing advocacy workshops and forming child protection groups and creation of girl forums.

In addition, other activities include forming CSO networks, organizing CSO network meeting, media advocacy etc. GPP also concerned itself to the prevention of child marriages in their working area.



Chairman of National Human Rights Commission Dr. Mizanur Rahman participated as chief guest in the event of National Press Club to celebration of child rights week-2012.

Major Achievement:



- *AB has given the Aparajeyo Honour Award -2013-2014 to 6 journalists for write ups about preventing violence against women. GPP has organized the event.*



- *Collaboration with local government settings e.g. ward councillor, clubs and locally very influential community people and leaders, 2 communities at Gopibag railway colony & Gonoktuly-Lalbag city colony respectively have been motivated and declared as a child marriage free community. Combined efforts are working to declare child marriage free community/zone.*



- *With the help of help line 1098, 64 child marriage cases were prevented with the collaboration of CPG, GYWF members and CSO member organization.*

- To prevent child marriage (CM) and gender based violence (GBV) against Girls and Young Women (GYW), Aparajeyo-Bangladesh is the part and member of Bangladesh Girl Power Alliance (BGPA)



- 3 Theater for Development (TFD) Groups have been developed in 05 zones to raise awareness on child marriage (CM) since it is the major problem in GPP targeted communities. 32 TFD show were organized in the target communities.



- 100 GYW got a scope to learn karate under GPP and now they are more confident to protect themselves if any adverse situation faced. 4 GYW got advanced karate training and they determined to spread their knowledge and skill. They are doing job as an instructor in this field.



- 100 GYW got vocational training, 64 out of 100 placed with jobs and self employment opportunities.





▪ *The major progress is that 25 CSO are actively engaging and influencing public decision making forums to include voices and visibility of Girls & Young Women. Gender Based Violence issues are more reported by media and reached mass population as public awareness. A MOU have been signed between AB & local level likeminded CSO member's organizations.*



5 Child Protection Group (CPG) and 5 Girl and Young Women Forum (GYWF) have been acted and responsive in 5 zones. 2 Child Protection Groups have been linked with the DSCC child protection committee under the direct supervision of zonal executive officer of Dhaka south city corporation, zone 2 & 3.



Girl Power Project(GPP) have been formed community level child protection taskforce committee in which Girl & Young Women Forum (GYWF) members are the committee members and playing active role. Being the child rights sensitized, girls' and their parents' attitude changed positively.



Conclusion speech:

These are some of the major achievements. Hope with strong partnerships with plan, CSO, local government, the GPP can unfold a new environment to ensure that a positive factor of working Collectively in cooperate ion and ushering in a new era of relationships.