



Job assurance for trained disabled get

Trained persons with disabilities got the assurance of employment in an exceptional inclusive job fair held at Institute of Diploma Engineers Bangladesh, Kakrail, Dhaka on 13 December 2014. In the fair, trained disabled persons got the opportunities to meet with the employers from the different organizations directly. Dhaka Ahsania Mission in association with Promotion of Social and Environmental Standards in the Industry (PSES), GIZ organized the fair. At the inaugural President of Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Selima Ahmed and Executive Board Member of Disability Council International-Geneva Monsur Ahmed Chowdhury were present as guests of honor. Secretary of Ministry of Labour and Employment Mikail Shipar was present as chief guest while

Director General of Department of Technical Education Md. Shahjahan Mian was present as special guest. Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) President Kazi Rafiqul Alam presided over the opening ceremony. Project Director of PSES GIZ Magnus Smchid delivered the welcome address. Following the opening ceremony, a seminar was organized over the existing problems and its possible solution. The seminar was presided over by DAM Executive Director Dr. M. Ehsanur Rahman. Among others Magsaysay Awardee AHM Noman Khan was present as the specialist discussant. The discussants informed that skilled manpower would be the precondition of implementing the module to turn the country as a middle income one. This is why persons with disability should be skilled.

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Winter Clothes distributed among the cold hit people



Dhaka Ahsania Mission has distributed winter clothes (sweater) among the 200 ultra poor cold hit people through its regional office Chikajani

Setubandan Community Resource Centre of Dewangonj Upazila under

Jamalpur district on 22 December 2014. Dewangonj Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Mohammad Saiful Islam Chikajani UP Chairman Momtaz Uddin Ahmed were present on the occasion. UNO Saiful Islam said, Dhaka Ahsania Mission comes forward in all disastrous time and accountability and transparency always remain at the core their work.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission Area Manager Mohammad Asadullah, Area Coordinator Nitai Chandra Ray, Chikajani Setubandan Community Resource Centre President Md. Anwar Hossain Makko, Technical Officer Md. Ziaur Rahman and USO Md. Younus Ali were present during the distribution. US Akram Hossain assisted to complete the whole program.

Art Competition for Survivors

Dhaka Ahsania Mission has been working for the trafficking adolescent girl and women through Shelter home in Jessore. After the rescue of the trafficked victim, she is served for mental and physical peace. The victims want to get rid of their past distressed life by accompanying with a people of normal behavior. Relating to this activities an Art Competition was held

among the victim at Shelter home Jessore on 25th November to create awareness and increase physical and mental condition.

All survivors residing at the Shelter home took part in the Art Competition. Shelter home Manager Shahana Khandaker distributed prize among the 1st, 2nd and 3rd winner of the competition. Later survivors thanked Dhaka Ahsania Mission for arranging such a competition.



Human Rights Day observed in Jessore Shelter Home

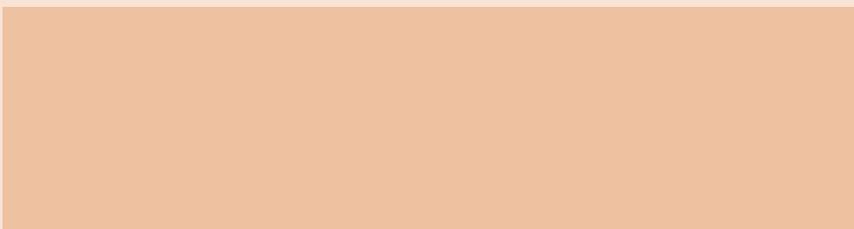
With the theme of Human Rights 365 in developing the lifestyle of the youths-Dhaka Ahsania Mission has observed World Human Rights Day on 10th December 2014 in Jessore like other countries in the World. Jessore District Administration and various Human Right based non-government organizations including Dhaka Ahsania Mission jointly took out rally to mark the day. Discussion meeting and cultural programs were organized at the Shelter Home of Jessore. Survivors presiding at the centre and regional officials and employees of Shelter Home took part in those programs.



Youth Leader Awarded

The annual sharing and prize distribution program of Barisal Every One Project was held at the Muladi Auditorium of the Upazila on 21st December 2014. Muladi Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md. Israil Hossain was present as chief guest while Muladi Upazila Health and Family Plan Officer Dr. S.A Razzak deliver the special guest's speech. Upazila Secondary Education Officer Md. Abdul Jalil presided over. Certificates were distributed among 30 youth leaders of 10 Secondary High School and 5 youth leaders got prize for their special contribution and assistance to the Every One Cam-

paign Project. Md. Jahangir Hossain Project Coordinator of the project delivered the welcome address and the district coordinator Md. Shafiqul Islam facilitated the program. Moreover students, guardians of Muladi Upazila Secondary High School, NGO representatives, journalists, restaurant owner association, businessman and other respected people of the society were present on the occasion. The speakers said, Dhaka Ahsania Mission will assist to reduce the rate of maternal and child death as they have taken such an activity.



World AIDS Day Observed

Various projects of Dhaka Ahsania Mission observed World AIDS Day like other parts of the World. AMIC-Ahsania Mission Urban Primary Health Care Delivery project Comilla PA-1 and Uttara DNCC PA-5 observed World AIDS Day on 1st December 2014. Under the supervision of Comilla District Health Division a rally was brought out from the Comilla town hall ground and parading the different roads of the city it ended at civil surgeon office where a discussion meeting was arranged. Comilla Deputy Commissioner Hasanuzzaman Kallol inaugurated the rally and was chief guest in the discussion meeting. Police Superintendent Tutul Chakrabarty was present as special guest while Deputy Civil Surgeon Dr. Azizur Rahman and



DAMs representative Md. Mosharaf Hossain spoke on the occasion. Dr. Mozibur Rahman presided over the discussion meeting on the other hand AMIC-Dhaka Ahsania Mission Urban Health Care Services Delivery Project Uttara DNCC PA-

5 observed the day through organizing rally, discussion meeting and setting up stall at the Bangabandhu International Centre on the same day. The project officials and employees from both places took part in the day celebrating program.

Bhutan representative visit Gazipur AMIC Centre

A 10-member health representatives from Bhutan visited Ahsania Mission Drug Addicted Treatment and

Rehabilitate Centre in Gazipur on 5th December 2014. DAM Deputy Director Iqbal Masud accompanied them. He described the activities of the centre and he moved at every places of the centre to show them. He said in this perspective, we want to popularize our activities through making the centre more dynamic and modern. This time during the visit the representatives exchanged greeting with the staffs and under going medicated patients of the centre.



Mahfuja Weaves Her Dreams in Sewing



Human destiny changes with the passage of time. The change is far difficult for those who continuously struggle to sustain their existence. Mahfuja has grown in such a destitute family that she was married off by her parents after she finished her SSC. Fate was not helping her though her husband was trying to make a living through agriculture and cloth business. By the time 03 daughters and 02 sons have

added to their family. Consequently, the household cannot manage itself by the income derived from her husband. Her husband's income went down as his expenses increased due to enlarged family and the investment in his business decreased. The family completely fell into poverty. Two stressful situations have overpowered her: her husband's unemployment and her sons' closure of studies. Mahfuja has received a month long training from a sewing training center in order to change her destiny. In addition, she with the help of a relative managed to have an opportunity to work for her husband in a dyeing factory.

Mahfuja Begum's husband did not like to take loans or be a member of the association because of prohibition from his family. However, understanding the situation and discussing with her husband, Mahfuja has decided to earn money doing sewing activities at home. She knew from a field worker of Dhaka Ahsania Mission that the institute has a micro credit group in her village Balapur. The ROJGAR group of Dhaka Ahsania Mission through the financing assistance of SGS Bangladesh implements micro credit program to alleviate poverty of rural poor women under 'ROJGAR-II Project'. Being a member of ROJGAR-II

Project, Mahfuja took a loan of BDT 20,000 to finance her sewing activities. She started her tailoring works, buying sewing machine and necessary garments/clothes efficiently. Her fame as an expert tailor spread over the neighboring area. Now she gets order of 05-07 dresses in a day. She can earn from two sectors now: her wage for sewing and selling the sewn/designed dresses.

In this way, Mahfuja Begum's life has changed through a long time. Bad, struggling days have disappeared. Now, her 03 children have started again their education and got enrolled in schools. Her youngest daughter Anika Rahman (Hashi) has achieved golden A+ in PSC exam, 2014. Mahfuja's work sphere is increasing day by day. She firmly believes that if men-women work together, the village shall develop and no poverty will be there.

Now Mahfuja dreams that she will have a mini garments factory in her house where poor people specially village women shall find work. She has also planned to provide sewing training to poor homemakers and unemployed women and run a training center of tailoring and sewing. Really, the Dhaka Ahsania Mission's 'ROJGAR-II Project' has opened a new door of opportunities for Mahfuja Begum.

AMCC observes Victory Day



Ahsania Mission Children City observed 44th Victory Day in Panchagarh to sensitize the children with the spirit of liberation war. Marking the day, various programs including rally, discussion meeting, art competition and cultural competition were chalked out before the Day. According to the plan and schedule, a victory day rally started from Ahsania Mission Children City ground and ended at the Panimach Pukuri High School of Hafizabad Union. Students of Panimach Pukuri High School, Darikamari Government Primary School and the children of AMCC jointly attended an assemblage. At the Art competition, a total of 15 children of Ahsania Mission Children City took part. Upholding the significance of the Day a discussion meeting was organized. Later a cultural competition was organized where 6 of the AMCC children got prizes.

Film Show for awareness build up

A Film Show (Drama) was screened at the member's ground of Kawlabazar in Barisal on 4th December 2014 to create awareness on Tuberculosis. Urban Primary Health Care Services, Centre-4 project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) organized the program along with slum dwellers, rickshaw/van pullers and local shoppers. Monitoring and Evaluation Officer of UPHCHDP Amena Khatun upheld the Primary Health Service, Clinic Introduction, Tuberculosis disease and its prevention.

Amena also urged the onlookers to take the service of Tuberculosis disease from the near rainbow marked city health centre. Local Member Shafiuddin Mollah Ponu also requested everybody to send the patient of Tuberculosis to the near rainbow marked city health centre. DAM is implementing this activities under ESP program.

Let us protect women from drug addiction

Bangladesh faces many challenges, including drug that has become an issue due to its geographical location, poverty and illiteracy. Although there is no precise figure of the drug dependant people, but is estimated around 4.0 million people mostly youths are dependant to some from of drugs, and increased trend among all kinds of people is alarming. Comparing to this situation there is still very few treatment and rehabilitation facilities in the country.

Suelakha Zaman (not her real name), aged 17, student of class IX of a school at Mohammadpur in the Dhaka city, became addicted to drug due to peer pressure. The orphan girl, who is the lone child of her mother, had started smoking cigarette when she was just a student of VII. Later, she was involved in modeling when she started using wine and Shisah, which worried her mother.

The girl admitted that she took the path of drug due to peer pressure. She could not avoid the peer pressure. The girl had not to pay for drugs, her friends managed it. So, it was no money problem for her, she said, adding that, many teenage girls and boys of the school are addicted to drugs. They at first take drugs for enjoyment, later they become addicted, which hampered their studies.

Many students smoked cigarettes and took wine on the school premises, but the school authority took no steps for its prevention, said the girl. She said she realized that drug addiction is not good, but she failed to come out of the world. The situation turned so acute that even she ignored her mother who forbade her not to resort to drugs.

The girl has a boy friend who was also a drug addict, but he tried to prevent his girl friend from taking drugs, but it went in vain.

Taking the matter seriously, the girl's mother forcibly took her to a rehabilitation centre, run by Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), at Mohammadpur.

The girl said she at first declined to be admitted to the centre. After admission, she realized that her mental condition is improving due to physical treatment, psycho-social education and other services at the centre. Her body developed breathing problem while she was a drug addict, now, it has improved after taking services at the centre.

“The girl had not to pay for drugs, her friends managed it. So, it was no money problem for her, she said, adding that, many teenage girls and boys of the school are addicted to drugs. They at first take drugs for enjoyment, later they become addicted, which hampered their studies.”

The girl is not alone. There are many girls and married women, who have become drug addict, posing a severe social problem.

Jahanara Khan, 32, (not her genuine name), a resident of Konabari in Jatrabari of Dhaka city, is a married and she has a son, aged 12, and her husband is a motor parts trader in Dhaka city.

As her husband is living separately, she feels

loneliness. In a bid to remove the loneliness, she at first smoked cigarettes and later took phensidyl. She faced no problem in managing the drugs as one of her maternal uncles provided her drugs. Her relative was also a drug addict.

Seeing her devastating condition, her relatives admitted her to the Ahsania Mission rehabilitation centre in Mohammadpur where she is improving now. The housewife, however, regretted taking drugs.

According to Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), a NGO working for management of female drug addicts, tendency of taking drugs among our women is increasing day by day. The matter of using drugs by female is more complex than male. Females are physically risky and they are also victims of social discrimination. Besides, female drug addicts do not easily admit their guilt compared to male addicts who easily admit their crime.

“A female drug addict is affected both mentally and physically. Many of them lose their moral and mental values due to addiction for a long time. Their families also suffer from severe frustration”, said Jannatul Ferdous, counselor of AMIC programme of DAM.

There is inadequate and improper treatment facility for female drug addicts in our country.

Drug addiction is social problem in our country. There has been no remarkable research on situation of female drug addicts in our country so far.

According to a survey report by ICDDR,B (carried out several years ago), 20.6% women are drug addicted.

According to a survey of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 2014, a total of 176 women drug addicts were interviewed in Bangladesh and most of them, who were in the age range of 28, were addicted to yaba and heroin.

According to DAM, most female drug addicts, aged below 20 have been found taking yaba while most middle aged female drug addicts found taking sedative drugs.

Female took to the path of drug addiction due to different reasons than males. Peer pressure, frustration, economic cause, imitation of western culture, complexity over love relations and family background of taking drugs are mostly the causes for which women take to the path of drug addiction. Besides, wrong parenting style and early marriage are two other important causes. Many women resorted to drugs due to mental diseases, said DAM.

Taking the matter into consideration, DAM took an anti-drug initiative starting providing treatment to drug addicts since 1990. In a bid to provide proper treatment to female drug addicts and rehabilitate them properly, DAM established treatment and rehabilitation centre 'Addiction Management and Integrated Care (AMIC)' in Mohammadpur in the capital.

The centre is aimed at changing behavioral pattern of female drug addicts, imparting them moral education and building them in such atmosphere so that they can solve their own problems of life along with medical treatment. There are other programmes taken up for improving relations between the addicts and their family members.

Different research studies showed that only medicine-dependent treatment system played little role in keeping drug addicts from drugs. The behavior and thought pattern of female drug addicts change due to addiction, hence measures should be taken for changing the behavior and thought patterns. The issue of behavioral change has been considered as important along with treatment at different parts of the world.

At the DAM-run centre, affected women are provided with psychological counseling along with treatment as per decision of physicians.

The issue of drug is a mental and habitual problem. When a woman falls in the trouble, she loses her life skill. Psycho-social education is one of the processes by which she can come out of the problem. Such education is provided at the centre by counselors.

A female drug addict has to stay three months at the centre. In some cases, the complex patient can stay more than that.

The families of female drug addicts are affected in different ways. In Bangladesh's current social system, families of drug addicts are judged negatively. Hence, family meeting is held to raise awareness among the affected family members, to enhance skill of the drug addicts and provide them psychological support along with treating the addicts. This is an important matter for treating the drug addicts. Family counseling and participation in the meeting is an urgent matter for the family members, said Jannatul Ferdous.

Counselors do the counseling works in such a manner so that drug addicts can take right decision and improve their mental situation after correcting their mistakes and they can improve relations with their family members.

Whatever be the causes of drug addiction among females, necessary steps are imperative to protect them. Strong roles by families, by the government and all other concerned can play an important role in protecting our females from the social vice. Social awareness about the issue is also an urgent need.

Report on School Dress



School dress is a major element for a model or good school. That is why Dhaka Ahsania Mission has taken a good initiative for ensuring 100 percent school dress at DAM-QPE (SIP) supported forty primary school, 340 SBK and 40 Pre-school.

There were only 48% school dresses in 2011 at forty primary schools and no school dress probation in any SBK. Most of the school authorities like teachers, SMC, PTA, parents and CBO didn't believe that it was possible to ensure dress in village's primary school or community based SBK completely. Besides, school authorities could not realize the importance of school dress. Though in some schools, dress was 70% and

lack of cleanliness, it was not habitual.

It's a matter of joy that at present the school dress progress status of forty primary schools is 98% and regular 95% from grade one to five. School authority and community people now believe, it is a part and parcel for a school. On the other hand, it's a very significant for creating cool environment in school.

Process followed:

- * To sensitize primary school and community stakes about school dress. Like-Parents, CBO, SMC, PTA and union
- * Ikha Unnayan Committee.
- * To arrange parents meeting and discuss with inspiration
- * To discuss SMC and CMC meeting with funding source
- * Small group functioning and follow up by student council
- * Regular follow up at classroom and assembly
- * School visit and embarrassed by Sikkha Unnoyan Committee
- * To keep up school dress agenda at monthly staff meeting of DAM-QPE

Feelings of people:

Some CBO members, SMC members & school teachers said, "Surroundings of schools have changed with same color dresses." The people of SUC and student said, "We do not realize who are rich & poor but we think all are equal. This is why, we are very proud." For ensuring school dresses, especially head teacher thanked DAM staffs. Although it's organized by school teachers and SMC it was contributed by parents with local donors.



DAM IN FRAME

Few photographs of Shelter Home, Jessore

