

# Final Evaluation Report

**On**

Development of the Children with Disabilities  
Through  
Care and Education

Project Implementing Organization:

**Protibandhi Shishu Shiekkha O Paricharja Samity  
(PROSHIPS)**

Project Assisted by:

**Manusher Jonno Foundation**

*Prepared By*

Md. Shariful Alam

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This report has been prepared to evaluate the project performances and assess the extent of success of ensuring rights of women and children at the grass root level through preventing and ending all forms of violence at the end of its implementation.

I am immensely thankful to MJF for undertaking such a project which has aim to improvement of Children with Disabilities through Care and Education at the grass root level of Bangladesh. I would like to express our earnest gratitude to Mr. Rafiqul Islam, Executive Director, and Ms. Begum Rokeya Sarder of PROSHIPS for their overall supports to carry out this final evaluation. I am also extremely indebted to Coordinator of this project, and other field staffs for providing all kinds of project related information and assistances to carry out the evaluation report.

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Consultant



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## ACRONYMS

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PROSHIPS	- Protibandhi Shishu Shikkya O Paricharja Samity
WHO	- World Health Organization
CWD	- Children with Disability
SMC	- School Management Committee
GO	- Government Organization
NGO	- Non Government Organization
MJF	- Manusher Jonno Foundation
BBS	- Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
CBC	- Community Based Clinic
PPP	- Public Private Partnership

# CHAPTER 1

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

### INTRODUCTION

Over the decade, in the development arenas of Bangladesh the concept 'disabilities' and 'rights' have taken a great attention in promoting rights of the physically challenged people and reducing their vulnerabilities. In Bangladesh people with disabilities or physically challenged are the most vulnerable segments and they are frequently regarded as unfortunate, inactive and tarnished. In fact they have been receiving very little development assistances where the leading practices remain rehabilitation, treatment, charity etc. Bias and non-transparent development philosophy and practices of the country has been compartmentalised human being into different categories in the face of human rights perspectives which causes for the sufferings in the lives of persons with physically challenged people. Disability is a social issue now, not clinical agenda anymore. Approximately 10% of the total populations are disabled (12 millions). Bangladesh Pratibandhi Kallayan Samity (BPKS) records disability prevalence rate at 7.8%. Another sample survey by NGOs indicate that around 90% people with disabilities have no access to educational institutions, and 68.9% of people can not seek medical assistance due to economic hardship. The sample survey also presents that 80% people with disabilities are living in the rural areas where inadequate service supports and information lacking are caused to create multiple burdens for them. Action Aid Bangladesh cites that approximately 7 million people (8% of the total population) require some form of immediate service due to disability related issues.

People with disabilities are often among the poorest of the poor. Moreover, the problems surrounding disabilities are complicated mainly by the intolerant attitude of the non-disabled actors within the society, which is rooted with our cultural history of imposing an invisible slavery on children and the poor, prehistoric caste system, notion of colour and beauty and perfectness that used to depict body as imperfect/

defective. Disability as an issue embraces those all concepts to understand the layers crafted over the historical periods, which is obvious while we analyse the multiple level of discriminations and exploitations in the lives of persons with disabilities. They, and sometimes also their families, are often excluded both from their communities and from development initiatives. Among them the most vulnerable are women and children with disabilities. For example, girl child are not usually welcome in poor families in the country. It seems to be burden on them and if girl child are born with disability or become disabling in childhood, they will face all kinds of difficulties from their very beginning.

People with disabilities are out of development due to structure and agencies reluctant behavior. In one hand majority of disable people are not much more aware about their fundamental rights (agencies shortcoming) on the other hand state and respective organizations are not responsive to assist disabled person. Moreover their negative outlooks strongly influence badly on their lives& living. The Constitution of Bangladesh guarantees human right and equal protection for all her citizen and it also forbids any discrimination among citizens. This statement claims that people with disabilities have equal rights and to enjoy equal opportunities like other advantage groups in Bangladesh. However, due to resource constraints, institutional inefficiency, increased of disabled people, lack of available resource and inadequate government and non-government initiatives disable person are not able to ensure their legal and human rights. Still now, potential people with disability are ignored from negative outlook of office management not accessible working environment.

Last two decades a good number of efforts have been made for the development of different physically challenged persons in different locations of Bangladesh. PROSHIPS, is a local non-profit development organization, has been providing various supports to promote rights of the Children with Disabilities (CWD) through care, education of them, awareness raising, capacity building, ensuring services of GO and NGOs and facilitating advocacy initiatives. The development goal of this organization has been framed to see the world where all people with disabilities are able to enjoy their rights, fulfill their responsibilities and obligations and barrier free environment



for the Children with Disabilities (CWD). Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), a human rights and governance institution, has been providing supports to PROSHIPS to achieve the ultimate goal of its organization and the current project. As partner of Manusher Jonno Foundation, PROSHIPS has been implementing a project titled 'Development of the Children with Disability through Care & Education' from April 2007 which has been completed on 31st March 2010. And it is the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the mentioned project. Goal of the project is mainstreaming of CWD for ensuring care, education, participation with dignity, employment creation, enhance mobility, access to services, and create friendly environment in the society.

### **OBJECTIVE OF THE EVALUATION**

MJF entered into a partnership agreement with PROSHIPS in 2007 with a view to supporting the activities outlined by PROSHIPS. In order to assess the performance of the project after the completion of the project, there is always a need for situation analysis (baseline information) on the expected project outputs. As part of the partnership agreement, PROSHIPS commissioned out a base line survey in the early period of project cycle. Following this baseline study, a Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) was carried out in December 2008, just after the completion of 8<sup>th</sup> quarter of three-year project cycle as per the agreement between MJF and PROSHIPS. The MTE focused on the overall achievements of the on going project.

As the duration of the project is over, it is essential to realize to what level the project activities accomplished so far have resulted in achievements as well as made impacts at various levels with various dimensions. While the MTE lied highlighting on the achievements and outcomes, this study as final evaluation will shed more light on the impacts of project interventions. Therefore, the principal objectives of this evaluation are (a) to assess the impact of project interventions; (b) to figure out the sustainability pathways drawn from the project interventions; (c) articulate major learning, insights and oversights from this intervention; and (d) formulate strategic directions for futuristic interventions of PROSHIPS. The specific objectives as set forth in the (Terms of Reference) ToR document include the followings:

- a. Results achieved against original plan;
- b. Constraints faced by the project to achieve targeted plan;
- c. Process, strategy, or methodology of implementation.
- d. Efficiency and adequacy of project implementation, including timelines of the project activities and its progress, overall performance of the project management.
- e. Assess and measures the changes in the lives of 'direct beneficiaries' due to nurture under the project;
- f. Effects of the project at beneficiary level, community level and/or macro level (depending on nature of project)
- g. Evaluate overall impacts (direct/indirect/positive/negative) of the project on Poverty, Gender, environment and policy level;
- h. Assess and measures project sustainability for taking decision further;
- i. Sketch out practical recommendations to strengthen project;
- j. Assess quality of MJ capacity building support to PNGO and recommend how it can be strengthened;
- k. Strengths and weakness of the project (derived in a participatory manner from all stakeholders).
- l. Capacity of PNGO to deliver project objectives.

## OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT

PROSHIPS has been initiated by a group of young, committed and dedicated social workers to reconstitute the productive potentials of the Children with Disability (CWD) by transforming them into human resources and integrating them into mainstream society to uphold the basic human rights for them through education and care. Since the beginning, the effort of upholding the human rights has been inherent in their working process. At last, the spirit of commitment has been tuned into the programmatic intervention of the organization which has eventually led to the formulation of a 3-year project entitled *Development of the Children with Disabilities through Care and Education* in 2007.

### **PROJECT GOAL**

Create enabling environment for the children with disabilities and promote their rights with dignity in the community.

### **PROJECT OBJECTIVE**

Initially, the project set objectives with an overarching goal of promoting child rights, basic human rights and opportunities for the disabled children. Later on, both the goal and objectives were subsequently revisited considering the changing context. They included the followings:

- To increase awareness of different stakeholders (student, Local Government Representative, Community People, School Teacher, Civil Society, NGOs) on the right of Children with Disabilities (CWD);
- To organize the Children with Disabilities and provide them with information and skill they needed;
- To promote child rights and opportunity for Children with Disability (CWD).

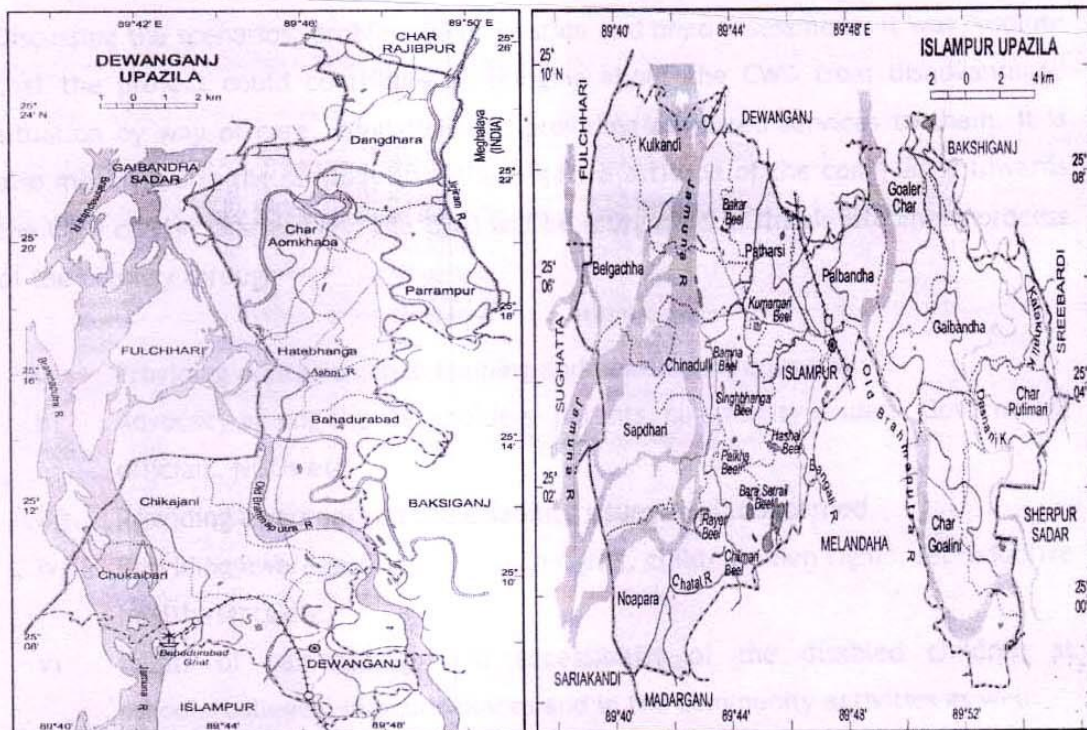
Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), established for support and take initiatives at local and national levels for spreading the voices of the poor and strengthening their capacity to claim of their rights, has been the right place for support to implement the above objectives. In other words, the mission and the activities of MJF supportive role for promoting human rights of the poor are well harmonizing with these objectives in the sense that the project is premised with the CWD who are the poorest of the poor, become the victim of any human rights violation as first instance.

### **PROJECT DURATION**

The Project period is scheduled for the duration of three years starting from April 2007 until 31 March 2010.

## PROJECT LOCATION

The project is implementing in five unions under Islampur and three unions of Dewanganj upzilla under Jamalpur District in Bangladesh. The unions are Islampur Sadar, Polabandha, Patharshi, Kulkandi and Belgasha at Islampur upzilla and Dewanganj Sadar, Chikajani and Cukaibari at Dewanganj upzilla. It is mentioned in the project proposal that there are different categories of Children with Disabilities



(CWD) in these areas. 97 villages are included in the project and there is total number of 334 CWD under the project. Among these, 146 physically disabled 68 Speech and hearing impaired, 55 mentally retarded/intellectually disabled and 65 visually impaired. Jamalpur is on of the most disadvantage and poorest district in Bangladesh. The general situation of the project area is also a matter of concern. Socio-economic and cultural condition of the project area is extreme below the optimum condition of living. The maps of Dewanganj and Islampur upzilla shows that the project locales (unions where the project has been accomplished) are enclosed by rivers and the project area is the victim of repeated erosion of rivers and flood

effected every year. For that the socio-economic state of much people is far below to live on. The overall situation of the project area is most substandard than the other part of the district.

## PROJECT STRATEGY

Discussing the scenarios, problem identification and need assessment, it was resolute that the project could contribute in bringing about the CWD from disadvantaged situation by way of care, education and providing advanced services to them. It is also mentioned in the strategy that the negative attitude of the community towards the CWD can be changed and the CWD will be integrated in the development process of the country through

- i) Providing education, skill training and health care education
- ii) Advocacy among the stakeholders- parents, community leaders, Government officials, NGOs etc.
- iii) Providing awareness on the disability issues to all concerned
- iv) Providing awareness on the human rights, child/ women rights, reproductive health rights etc.
- v) Rights of participation and accessibility of the disabled children at schools/colleges, in public places and in the community activities as well.

On proper implementation of the project, it is believed that the knowledge on primary health care and awareness towards the disability will be raised and the rights of the children will be promoted in the community level and other non-disabled children will also be sympathized, motivated and supportive to them. And as such the skills and knowledge on the disability rights at different corners will be improved. Besides, the mobility and accessibility of the CWDs will be increased through the utilization of assistive devices.

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## ASSUMED RESULT AT THE END OF THE PROJECT

On conclusion of the project, it is believed that the knowledge and awareness towards the disability will be raised to a great extent and the rights of the children will be promoted in the community level. As an immediate effect of the discussions and orientation meetings, other non-disabled children will be sympathized, motivated and supportive to them. Secondly, the knowledge on the disability rights issues for the parents, care givers, school teachers will be improved. Thirdly, the mobility and accessibility will be increased through the utilization of different type of assistive devices. Last but not the least, the school teachers as well as the school management committees will come forward with the supportive role in getting admission in the existing schools.

PROSHIPS has a firm believe that at least 334 children with disabilities of six unions under the project would find themselves in a better situation. All the parents of the CWDs will be quite aware of the rights of their children. At least 100 children will get preference in getting admission in the existing schools and the meritorious children will get access in different jobs after educating and training at different institutions. Other stakeholders will come forward with the assistance and extend coordination in different development activities for the children with disabilities



## CHAPTER 2

### METHODOLOGY

The evaluation has been followed by qualitative approach and therefore the methods for data collection have been qualitative in nature. However, the evaluation has generated some quantitative data from the already existing documents for their cross-matching with qualitative information or further improvement of data. Followings are some of the major activities done in this respect:

- **Document Review**, which includes review of project documents, baseline report, quarterly Progress report, yearly report, brochures, related materials, newsletters, newspaper clipping and other project and disability concerning documents were reviewed for this evaluation.
- **Group Discussion**, In order to crosscheck validity of information and to minimize indifferent feelings from any outstanding data FGD are conducted with the targeted primary stakeholders. A group of CWD having relative homogeneity within them and who are from the same community is selected for the FGD. The evaluator himself led all the FGD. FGD participants were limited to 8 to 10 persons only.
- **Key Informant Interview**, In order to capture issues and views of the right bearer stakeholders *Informal discussions and/or Key informant Interviews* were conducted with the Teachers from different educational institutions, Community Leader (Chairman, Member), Lawyers, Journalists, NGO/Social Organization's representative, Upzilla level Doctor/Physicians, Govt. Representative (Social & Youth welfare) These interviews were face-to-face, and checklist administered.
- **Case Study** were used to know, why and how do they (CWD) become a part of the project, how many and what types of activities they are involved, what kind of injustice and violence and project problems they are facing, by

following what process they are fighting to reduce the injustice & violence, what kinds of technical supports they have got from the project, what are their perceptions about this project and their level of satisfaction regarding to the project performances and what are their future expectation from this project.

- **Before After** method was carried out in this evaluation process for assessing changes (impacts) of CWD's lives that related to these issues and in establishing their legal, social and human rights. A non-equivalent control group design is found to suitable for this study where general members of this locality were considered as control group members and group members under this project were considered as experimental group members. In this process evaluator was very care to select control group members where control group members were selected based on the same age, education background and same socio-economic position in the community.
- **Observation** was deployed finally in the fields to be familiar with awareness on disability & human rights based issues, their actions against CWD and their perception about implement project and its performances.

In order to administer these instruments, a detailed checklist has been followed in the evaluation.

## **EVALUATION PROCEDURE**

The following process and procedures were followed to do this evaluation. The procedure of evaluation has been organized in mostly two stages.

### **Stage One:**

1. Reviewing the Project documents (Project Proposal, Organizational Profile, budget, quarterly report, yearly report, disability issue related documents etc.)
2. Develop methodology and analytical framework
3. Data collection instruments developed

4. Turn out a extensive field visit plan
5. Group and individual sharing\discussion with project beneficiaries (CWD, Parents/Caregivers of CWD, Teachers from different institution, Local Govt. & NGO Representative, Community peoples, Local Elites involving with project etc.)
6. Conference with Project staffs and PROSHIPS management about the findings and future guideline.

#### Stage Two:

1. Field visit data and information interfaced with primary data.
2. Produce a draft report
3. Sharing the report with PROSHIPS and MJF
4. Finalize the Final Evaluation Report

### METHODOLOGICAL PREFERENCES & ALTERNATIVES

As the project is undergoing final stage of evaluation, it is imperative to formulate the evaluation design in such a way so that its methodological foundation becomes viable, reliable and ensures validity of the findings. As the impact of PROSHOP programmatic intervention is the central to the evaluation, two alternative evaluation designs could be used for measuring these impacts (a) before-after design and; (b) with-without design. In case of the former one, baseline data is a pre-requisite for measuring the impact and accordingly putting value on the activities accomplished over the period of 3 years. In case of latter one, the project impacts need to be compared between those people/community or participants who are receiving direct support from the project operations and those who are out of the net of project interventions.

Given the fact that a baseline study report is available, the findings of the study has not been found to be well aligned with the *post facto* comparators/parameters because of the non-availability of indicators of bench mark. Besides, the baseline study, being exclusively founded on qualitative approach, has been found to be

hardly usable in that the data presented in the study is neither absolutely quantitative nor is it exclusively qualitative in nature. Some of the findings found irrelevant with the temperament of the project.

Thus, out of the above two methodological choices, the evaluation was left with the option two i.e., **with and without** criteria.

### **MAJOR ISSUED TO BE OBSERVED**

In the light of debriefing and the ToR developed subsequently, the evaluation has covered broadly the following areas in order to ascertain the objectives of evaluation mentioned above.

- Structure, composition and process of the project activities.
- Social actions/disability movement and self empowerment actions.
- Sensitization of the community people, local govt. and other influencing groups.
- Access to services, institutions and local resource.
- Knowledge about local resources and access to local resources.
- Network and linkage with other development agencies.
- Policy advocacy, local government responsiveness.
- Translation of capacity building into movement and programmatic development.
- Sustainability pathways and path breakings in self-sustained growth of PROSHIPS.
- Clinical/therapeutic service and claiming potentials.
- Additive, diffusive and multiplicative value addition.
- Stories of change in the lives of project participants.-

## CHAPTER 3

### PRINCIPAL FINDINGS & GAP ANALYSIS

#### PROJECT THEME

The project titled as “Development of the Children with Disabilities through Care and Education” implied by PROSHIPS was designed to improve physical, mental and most importantly social status for the marginalized CWD, and illustrate the trust of their family to them by ensuring bridging fund from Manusher Jonno Foundation. This is a comprehensive project with focus on disability dimension, adjustment with current situation/physical & mental state of the CWD, community sensitization and harmony, care and justice. If we move our eyes critically over the project themes than we should recognized the above-mentioned thematic importance. However, the project management should realize the time factor about whether it is manageable or not to implement this type of time bearing assignment regarding the step up of the CWD and community awareness buildup towards them. And accomplished an elevated quality targeted outputs and outcomes with in a short timeframe. The review reflects that due to time pressure the project has fulfilled the quantitative activities in due course but not to ensure the excellence work and the ultimate results of the project. In many sense the project has succeed to show logical sequences among the project activities, outputs, objectives, and goal. For example, one of the important component's of the project is to increase awareness of different stakeholders (Parents, Students, teachers, Civil Societies) for exploitation free community for CWD and but when the evaluator is giving concentration on this activity has been implemented regarding this project in the field which has ensured a quite noticeable result to the families having a person of CWD, not in the community. We know that it is also very hard making such change on a society in a short time but the Project management should amend their thematic strategy of awareness buildup approach and advocacy regarding the entire stakeholder so that the project would be run more efficiently.

## **PROJECT MONITORING & SUPERVISION**

A formal monitoring and evaluation system is required for any development interventions. Through a monitoring and evaluation system, the project management can get scope to have continuous control over the progress and find required measures to achieve the targeted objectives. Further a standard M&E system needs appropriate MIS to manage required information through a computerized system. It has noticed that, PROSHIPS did not develop any systematic M&E system or framework rather they were following very informal process in collecting, gathering and analyzing information at output and impact levels. The project did not able to show the benchmark data without the 'produced quarterly reports' as well as they have some proficient project personnel margins to frame the targets. Moreover, they worked hard to accomplish their project activities and gave concentration to collect quantitative information but not qualitative. Project process level monitoring and data collection were done with informal procedures. Due to absence of above mentioned drawback, qualitative process and system, it was difficult for the project management to tracking the project performance and to show the tangible result of the project interventions in a qualitative sense. Moreover it was seen that project staffs were not so skilled in M&E issues. It is recommended that to develop M&E system for the organization and for the project.

## **PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

Project management skills are essential for making strategic decision and ensure its implementation, requiring planning and assessing options, and organizing activities and resources to deliver a result. Organizationally, project management of PROSHIPS sintered to go after the project goal, objectives, and methodologies in managing and implementing project activities. However, it has noticed that the project management of PROSHIP had some lacking in managing the project more effectively that were printed down in project proposal. Meeting and consultation with project staffs reveal that the capacity of project staffs were not up to the mark though it is establish that they have worked hard to complete their day-to-day work. The

majority of the staffs were not enough sound to conceptualize project themes holistically to emphasize produce qualitative outputs and outcomes rather than quantitative. So it is recommended that professional competency should grow among the responsible project personnel that affect project targets.

One of the main strategic objectives of the project was to develop an effective Project M&E system to manage project interventions and information so that ultimately the project can contribute perfectly to ensure the people's capacity to manage risks and social empowerment for justice at household and community level. But it was evident that the project management did a few to establish any systematic and reliable PM&E system.

The strategy and approaches of the project and their inferences:

Strategies and Approaches	Inferences/ Implications
<b>Identifying</b> the Children with Disabilities (CWD)	From invisible stage to visibility
Establish learning centers for CWD which is involuntarily <b>Formation of groups</b> among the CWD.	From segregation to confederacy
Again voluntarily <b>Group formation with parents;</b> specially mothers of the CWD, guardians of the CWD, neighbors, relatives of CWD, teachers and elite persons of that locality.	Inclusiveness in Unity
<b>Advocacy</b> with teachers and SMC for integration of CWD in mainstream schools, community people, Union members, civil society to promote rights of Children and Disabilities (CWD)	Facilitating development and promoting human rights agenda
<b>Knowledge development of staffs</b> through training (help of MJF) namely Gender & Disability, Communicating for Advocacy, Governance & Local Govt. and Monitoring & Evaluation	Capacity building of the mentors/ facilitators
<b>Knowledge development of the beneficiaries</b> (CWDs) through training namely education and essential daily need based training to develop Leadership & Skills for including the mainstream Society	Building a political perspective of the rights-holders

Knowledge development through training namely Gender, Disability & Local Govt. to UP Representatives and The Community Members	Sensitizing the duty-bearers
<b>Building Alliances</b> with right-holders and right-bearers to promote rights of CWDs	Constituency building for a greater social movement
<b>Communicating with different organizations</b> to mainstream disability in their work	Promotion of inclusive development

**Activities Implementation Status in Project phase (Up to December 2009)**

Sl	Name of Activities	Project Period Targeted	Achievement Status with in December 2009
01	Orientation with School student	72	66
02	Teachers and SMC Orientation	12	11
03	Upazilla level Advocacy meeting	12	11
04	District Level Advocacy Meeting		04
05	Observe National and International Day of PWDS	6	05
06	Child Rights Week Observation	3	03
07	Parents of CWDs and Care givers Training /Orientation	12	11
08	Information Dissemination on News letter Publish Sign-Board sets with Disability information Regular Court yard Meeting	3000pcs	1000pcs 8 Pcs 1482
09	Coordination strengthening with different hospital for Referral services	Regular	76 CWDs
10	Operate Learning Centre for CWDs.	01	14 Centre
11	Therapeutically Rehabilitation Centre	Regular basis	14 Centre
12	Necessary assistive and mobility devices would be given to the Children with disabilities.	46	22 + 10 CWDs up to in March 10
13	Student Inclusion in Existing Community School	100	55

The evaluation found the solid effort of the project personnel and PROSHIP management to follow the activities due to the time frame describing in the proposal and quarterly report prepared for MJF. It is furthermore mentioned that the total activities are moderately numerous within the project period. The project activities also integrated bridge CWD with different service oriented bodies like local gov.,



NGOs etc. The community workers and caregivers of the project has unmitigated their services by reaching the door of the CWD to create the demand to the community.

### **QUALITATIVE OUTCOMES:**

We all be acquainted with that three years is not an adequate time to make iconic change for a social development project in rural community where most of them are struggle for their daily needs. But the irony of the evaluation of a donor driven project is that we have to attempt to find out the quality outcome or changes occur due to the project implementation.

#### **A hope for the Children with disability:**

As an Organization; PROSHIPS begin a hope for the CWD (and their family) to take them to the world they dreamed every night. The sincerity and effort to take care of the CWD is beyond any question. Both Mr. Rafiq and Ms. Rokeya have a long been practiced and passionate with the special needed children by their profession. But it is now beyond a profession rather than passion for the couple. They describe it "Return back to their own community they belong to and the community people have the right to their expertise, they need it now". They influence even the project staffs and they think it is a noble work for them. Children (CWD) are enthusiastic to attend at learning center every day though one group is allocating three days per week. They are also learned the extra-curricular activities such as singing songs flock dance and so on. Children's (CWD) of the projects didn't get such service and approach (Physically and psychologically) before the project start. They had neither mobility, nor express themselves in a better way. PROSHIPS is the only organization in the project area where they get the therapy for the betterment of their life and this organization has the only school where teachers teach in Braille method. Before combing the umbrella of PROSHIPS, many of the CWD known as a 'mad' not even in the community, in their homes also. Parents of the CWD express their high graduate to the PROSHIPS when the evaluation going on and they gathered to share their

experiences. But here the project implemented by PROSHIPS-MJF reduced their children from being burden of them and re-establish their life.

#### **Removing the education barriers of the CWD:**

Till January 2010, PROSHIPS has ensured over 130 CWD in mainstream primary education system. A group of other CWD is preparing for the next year. This achievement has made by PROSHIPS, Teachers of the institutions, SMC and Local Government bodies. We can describe it as an outcome of the awareness program initiate by PROSHIPS.

Under the evaluation process, the evaluator visit several school teachers, headmasters and SMC in Islampur and Dewangonj. They told that they will include the CWD in future who can adopt their environment. They are starting to believe that they can make difference with their unending limitations. PROSHIPS is becoming the hub of the CWD and the Primary Education System in the project areas.

#### **Minimizing the gap between Duty Bearers and rights demander:**

A social development project has to be connected with external factors and project will never reach the aspiration without enabling it. They are Local Political gigs, Elite, Teachers of different institution, Local government bodies, Health service providers, Education Service Administration, Transport authorities, NGOs and so on. The realization of the rights of CED depends on the role of the listed duty bearers and authorities. PROSHIPS has been playing a simulating advocacy role at the project areas and get success a certain level.

#### **A Strong Disability and Development Programme:**

The project appears like a mainstream development programme, rather merely a compartmentalized welfare-oriented disability programme, which has presented a unique example replicable for other actors who are striving to develop a development model on the issues of disability.

### **Greater participation of persons with disabilities:**

Children with disabilities are visible in public spaces, which is an exclusive case in the remote rural contexts. Their participation in the project activities is a tangible change that PROSHIP has materialized in a short span of time that the project offered it.

### **Established Greater Solidarity:**

Community groups consist of parents, local leadership and respected personalities are playing significant roles to change the dominant mindset of the community, which used to believe CWD as a curse and a burden of the family as well as society resulting to cultural exclusion and non-participation of CWD in regular social life. Ownership of the community is very prominent to strongly claim their community CWD as their 'own people with potentials', which they used to refuse previously. Strong motivation and influence of PROSHIP including its leadership was pointed out.

### **LEADERSHIP:**

PROSHIP'S decision making executive believes freedom always build a healthy environment and workforce within a social development project staffs. They have practiced it in the project and as a result the project staffs enjoy and practice freedom in decision making and deliver it. For the reason, decentralized operation of two (Islampur & Dewangonj) areas are smoothly running by two area coordinators without having any major fault and they have always compete for better performance. In the evaluation time, it has quite interesting to observe the healthy combat.

### **BOLD RECOGNITION:**

It is always important to make an acceptance among the community, civil & political society and last of all; bottom line of the targeted stakeholders in a project implementing locales for several reason. i) Is it operated/managed by locally, regionally or nationally accepted persons ii) Does this project really needed to them iii) Is it mischief any communal harmony and last of all iv) Is the project making any

profit /positive return for their life. In all four written direction, the stakeholders of the project express their positive narration towards PROSHIPS during the evaluation periods. When the evaluation met with the mother's of the CWD and some aged local people who knows about the acts of PROSHIPS, they told that no other organization work with the people with disability in the area and *"it (PROSHIPS) is still now the only hope of the children with disabilities"*.

## **CHALLENGES, LEARNINGS AND LIMITATIONS**

### **Designing development as rights in Bangladeshi context**

Bangladesh has not a Westminster Democracy; therefore designing a project from a rights-based perspective still remains foggy to most of the development agencies. As a result, withdrawal of all sorts of services that a community-based organization could have provided to the people that contributes towards their greater empowerment remains as a debate. This is evident in this case as well while we found that providing an assistive device to ensure participation of a child with disability (who cannot afford it) in a school remains an issue of discomfort. Also like, supporting a child with a stipend while there is either no support by the government or it is limited as an offer, remains under debate.

### **Gender issues**

Participation of father/male person of CWD family is not that visible and even in case they participate, it remains very passive. Mothers/grandmothers always do speak on their behalf.

### **Protection issues**

Staff members could not mention whether there is any case of violence and abuse against CWD and specially girls or against any person with disability. This is, as they mentioned it, probably because of lack of conscious focus in the project framework.

## **Local Government's Initiatives**

We understand the fact that the level of commitment resulted out of the engagements with the local government is sometimes beyond imagination as the Chairpersons remain busy with so many agenda and priority. However, the UP Chairman, Local Mayor and the elected body of local government are well acknowledged about the activity of PROSHIPS and they always try to allocate their limited services (Disability allowance, relief materials etc.) to the CWD family that may appear to be very good at first instance.

## **Staffing matters**

Intangible clarity on the implementing staff members is the elementary needs for a project to meet the goal; otherwise it would end up the journey like start-and-end. Interaction with project staff from various capacity and maturity levels reveal the fact that the issues of human right-based approach, human rights model of disability, inclusive education, inclusive society etc. are not explicable of most of them. Those who are familiar with the terms find it smoky, indistinguishable. Staff Training barely takes place. Project staff should go through training/workshop on an accepted basis. PROSHIPS should takes care the issue for the betterment and quality of such like right-based social development project. Now-a-days disability is a burning discourse in development arena. So it would be a good investment to educate staff to implement such type of project/program.

## **Project Documentation**

Project documentation is another area of limitation where both Donor and Partner organization should more focus in upcoming. Project staff worked hard and it seems to be mechanized, they hardly focus on, to write on what they learnt from their everyday experiences of change efforts. Thus, the history of change from a disability point of view is remaining undocumented apart from some official reporting, where the evaluation miss the breath of the project. This issue would not be continuing in upcoming.

## CHAPTER 4

### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 1. PROGRAM INTERVENTION STRATEGY SHOULD BE RESTRUCTURED FOR RISING OUTREACH AND DEEPENING PROGRAM QUALITY

At the moment, the structure of service delivery operates through two Centers for PROSHIPS development interventions. Although the CWD exists at the village level and the key human resources mostly center based, the programmatic support and infrastructural set up are not obtainable. Those who live in distant places do not visit upazila centre for therapeutic or other services. As a result, program support does not reach out to those who live in far distant places. In order to further increase the program outreach, PROSHIP should further decentralize the structure up to Union level so that the disabled people are exhaustively covered through PROSHIP program interventions and the resources are sufficiently 'filtered down to the deserving people. While introducing this decentralized structure of program operations, the structure of responsibility should also be considered in order to keep optimum activity-staff ratio which is presently imbalanced.

#### 2. EXPANDED AWARENESS CAMPAIGN SHOULD BE CONTINUED FURTHER WITH THE RE-PRODUCTION / UPDATING OF AWARENESS MATERIALS

Based on the review and updating of training, production and reproduction of training and awareness camion materials should be ensured for expanded awareness among relevant stakeholders.

#### 3. COMMUNITY BASED CLINIC SHOULD BE INTRODUCED AT THE UNION LEVEL OF PROJECT LOCATIONS

In line with the restructuring of programs operations as well as the immense need articulated by the communities, PRPSHIPS should initiate Community Based Clinic (CBC) in its project areas. Initially, CBC could be launched in some selected areas on

a pilot basis. It is to be noted here that this kind of set up is mainly the responsibility of the government. On the other hand, both practically and strategically, it is not possible for PROSHIPS to establish lots of CBC. Therefore, after successful piloting of CBC, PROSHIPS should approach government to upscale the initiative adopting a certain model of Public Private Partnership (PPP) or GO-NGO partnership whereby the role of community should be fundamental in terms of operational management of CBC.

#### **4. PARTICIPATION OF FATHER'S OF CWD**

PROSHIPS should encourage the active participation of father's of CWD. Mothers association should be inclusive of fathers as well as ensure their sensitization of their children (CWD) and disability issues. So that they also take responsibility if their children not only the mother.

#### **5. STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING**

Staff capacity building should be given a special priority on the issue of conceptual clarity on disability issue, local level advocacy, development writing and documentation in right-based approach. Training on specialization to some extent is also important so that staff members can contest the experts suggesting wrongly designed devices and designs.

#### **6. NETWORKS, ALLIANCES & COALITIONS SHOULD BE FURTHER STRENGTHENED**

As per observation, PROSHIPS has built up Community Linkage about the CWD and other mind liked people in all the project areas. In order to create further momentum for strong micro-macro linkage, this linkage should be strengthened further by forming organization among the CWD and strategic linkage among them.

#### **7. INCLUSIVE EDUCATION**

It is an emerging potential area, which should be prioritized in the future journey of the project. PROSHIPS should take it as a priority in future as the seeds are already sowed awaiting stimulating results if provided with inclusive schooling support.





## 8. DISABILITY ASSESSMENT, GRADING AND FOLLOW UP

Assessments, grading, follow up, re-grading, referral do not take place on a regular basis. Staff members and centers preserve old, sometimes outdated records on disability status of the CWD. Therefore, even if there is any effort by their family members for improvement those are not counted during any follow up. Home visits for follow up regarding technical aspects does not take place on a regular basis mainly for two reasons: staff members do not have any technical know-how and time constraints.

## 9. QUANTITY VS. QUALITY

The target that the project sets for the staff members to accomplish did not consider the quality input needs for healthy growth of the initiatives. As a result, good examples did not come as much as desire. There should be a conscious effort to look at the issues of quality in future rather than targeting the number. There should be an analysis on: what came out as the best, what was the reason behind, which are the external and internal factors supported for better accomplishments etc.

## 10. ORGANISATION BUILDING

A sense of solidarity needs to be promoted within the CWD. Motivation, sacrificing mindset, understanding exclusion and injustice in their lives from a social perspective is important before they are facilitated to form in greater alliances.

### CONCLUDING REMARK:

Through out this study it is clearly identified that disability is socioeconomic phenomenon. The disability issues should be disseminate to the marginalized segments of the society and in terms of coverage of the implementing organizations as well as they should device plan with care and attention to focus on these vulnerable segments. These implementing should be turn into a strong platform for the CWD as the socialization process of these segments is missing. To uphold the rights of the CWD in rural context, a concerted effort is a must. Mere taking some initiatives in particular organization is not enough, inclusion of CWDs in the various program, satisfactory service assurance, considerable amount of contentment from

multi stakeholders are most pressing and inevitable part of the whole process. Finally, it is to be remembered if the financial ability and challenges of the family of CWDs and their social status, attitude of the society, family, cultural values and belief is not considered then the implementation of program concerning CWDs would not be successful and effective. Therefore, PROSHIPS would prepare a comprehensive plan to address all these issues, aspects and challenges to uphold the rights of the CWD.

## Development of the Children with Disabilities Through Care and Education

Project Implementing Organization:

Protibandhi Shishu Shiksha O Paricharja Samity  
(PROSHIPS)

Project assisted by:

Manusha Jyoti Foundation

Proposed by:

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