



GRRIPP

Gender Responsive
Resilience and Intersectionality in
Policy and Practice

TOWARDS HUMAN RIGHTS AND ITS VIOLATION EXPULSION

INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENT DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (IEDS)

Netrokona, BANGLADESH

Context

Discrimination against women and girls starts from birth. In rural Bangladesh, the birth of a girl child is often not welcomed by the parents, as many hope to have a boy child. Recent studies reveal that boys have better access to food, clothing, education and other basic rights compared to girl children. Many parents in rural areas view their boy child as an asset and a girl child as a liability. The boy child is supposed to take care of his parents in old age; girls are to be married-off as early as possible and their ultimate destination is a husband's home.

As a result, parents prepare girls to be brides from a young age. At home, girls are mostly taught skills needed at the household level (e.g. cooking, sewing, etc.). Boys enter formal education and are supported to develop skills required for economic independence.

Against this backdrop, this project aimed to bring about a positive change in women's rights and opportunities in the target area through the following interventions.

Objectives

- To raise awareness among women and men regarding responsibilities, legal rights, and protection against abuse and violence, particularly for women and children.
- To raise parents' awareness about the negative impact of child abuse on the physical and mental development of children.
- To raise awareness among local village leaders about women and children's rights in relation to abuse and violence.
- To educate high school students on human rights and their violation.
- To raise community awareness about women and child rights and to reduce violation of these rights through the installation of colourful billboards containing pictorial messages on the subjects. These were to be placed in strategic places within the project area.

Mrs. Basonti Rani Saha-Headmistress of Gujirkona Girls High School, Durgapur, Netrokona and Mohammad Asaduzzaman- Monitoring Office IEDS distributing leaflets to introduce the project to pupils. 7 March 2022.

Credit: Shamim Kabir, IEDS



Activities

The project focused on raising awareness in the project area about women and men's rights and responsibilities in general, as well as women and children's specific legal rights and protection from abuse and violence. This was to be achieved through a 3-day long training as well as extending institutional support.

Activities also targeted parents to raise their awareness regarding the negative impact of child abuse on the physical and mental development of children.

A workshop was conducted at local level for village leaders on "Women and children's rights in relation to abuse and violence". And training sessions were organised for local teachers to provide them with education materials developed following a meeting between the project team and school authority.

Lastly, awareness campaigns also targeted high school students based in the project area, informing them about human rights and their violations using 60,000 leaflets, 7,000 posters & 5 billboards.

Impact

Awareness has been raised through conducting training, workshops, a video show programme, leaflet distribution, and putting up posters and billboards displays. These trainings and education tools contained information on women and child rights, and issues of domestic violence, sexual harassment, child protection, dowry, child labour, and early marriage.

Programme participants and the wider community now talk about their learning and practice it in their own families, with neighbours, community leaders, friends and IEDS staff.

With wider community participation, the impacts of the implemented programmes are spreading both inside and outside of the local project area.

Through observation and interaction with pupils at a school in the project area, as well as at home – and in cooperation with teachers and parents – IEDS also increased project knowledge about pupils' attitudes and behaviours to human rights after they attended the training or watched the video. IEDS conducted 'Sewing Training' as 2-months course with 25 vulnerable women in the project areas. Most of the participants are now able to do sewing commercially as an income generating activity to earn money for their family maintenance. This financial independence contributes to enhanced dignity.

A poster created to raise awareness on women and girls' human rights, and displayed in schools in Durgapur, Bangladesh.

Towards Human Rights and its Violation Expulsion

Intergrated Environment and Development Society (IEDS)

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