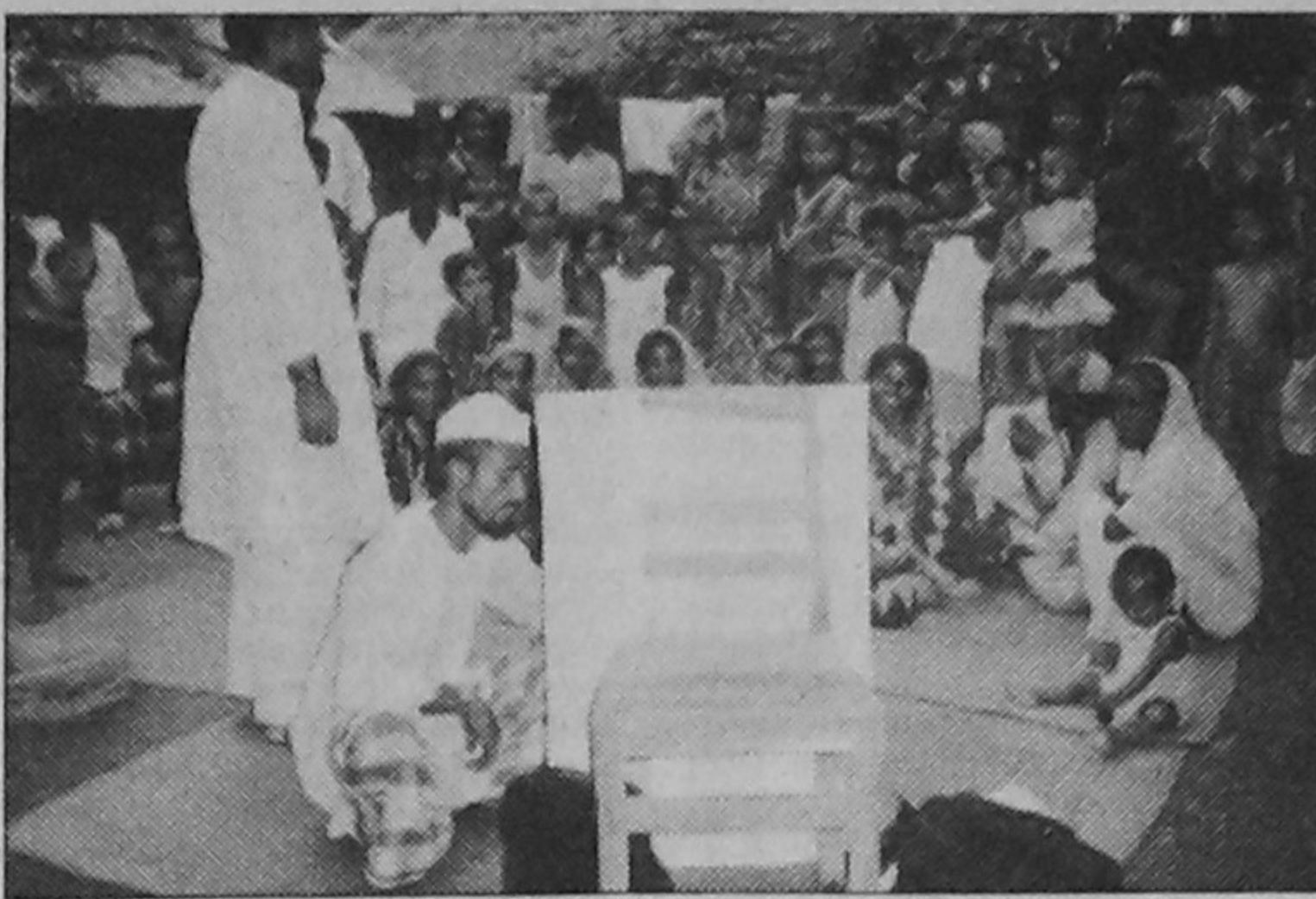


"All citizens are equal before law and are entitled to equal protection of law" Article 27 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Facilitation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Effectiveness of the Community Resource Persons

by M. Farhad Hossain



Community participation is of the essence in promotion and protection of child rights.

THE Child Access to Right, through Development (CARD) Project of Save the Children Australia (SCA) has a provision for building human resource base in the community for promoting child rights for sustainable impacts on the lives of the target children in the project intervention areas of Tangail district. To facilitate this process, SCA planned to involve various stakeholders of the community for promoting and establishing child rights in the light of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC). Subsequently, as a process of building human resource base, SCA identified 27 potential resource persons to be trained as the Community Resource Persons (CRPs). After receiving Training of Trainers (ToT) at SCA Tangail Resource Centre in October 1999, these CRPs conducted orientation sessions among the school teachers, Union Parishad chairmen and members, the local social leaders and elite. They started community based CRC promotion sessions from October 1999. These sessions are still being conducted by the CRPs among different walks of people of the society both in the rural areas and in the town ship.

SCA Bangladesh decided to evaluate the effectiveness of the role played by the CRPs among the rural and township people. The purpose of the evaluation is to assess the effectiveness of orientation sessions conducted by the CRPs and their involvement and activities for social mobilization towards the establishments of child rights in the light of the provision of UN CRC in the program intervention areas of Tangail district.

The open group discussion was the methodology that was adopted to evaluate the effectiveness of the CRPs who had ToT on UN CRC conducted by SCA. Group discussion meetings were arranged with the CRPs and they narrated their experiences, the usefulness and effectiveness of their role as CRPs. Out of 27 trained CRPs, 25 took part in the group discussion meetings. Eight group discussion meetings were held with 25 CRPs at the offices of the partner organizations at the field level. The meetings were held in a cordial and reciprocal manner. The evaluation team was comprised of two professionals - one was the project coordinator (partnership) and another was the communications consultant of SCA.

Findings

The findings of the group

discussion meetings are quite interesting and encouraging. The community resource persons have responded to questions and queries made by the evaluation team. All of the CRPs who have participated in the evaluation meetings took part in the ToT organized by SCA. The following are the core findings of evaluation meetings with them.

While having group discussions with the CRPs they have revealed that they did not know anything about CRC before they attended the ToT on CRC. After having ToT on CRC, they have been able to convince teachers, guardians and social leaders to take steps for the development of children. They have observed that, earlier, nobody thought about the children in the light of CRC. The CRPs have unanimously agreed that the programs taken for child development are quite good. They are highly satisfied with their own responsibility of child rights promotion and establishment. During the group discussions, they have told that the results of the child rights advocacy are quite impressive in the areas of sports, education and other social programs.

The CRPs have been able to judge the changes that have occurred in the light of CRC. But they have said that the public representatives or political leaders have not shown their interests in the CRC. Religious obstructions in the villages are observed. However, after the introduction of CRC through the CRPs, students' attendance in the school and interest in studies have been grown to a considerable level.

The CRPs are increasingly being invited to address at the rallies, gatherings, meetings, of primary school students, teachers, etc. After introduction of CRC advocacy work, child participation in the different national programs has increased. As a result, children are getting chances to participate in different socio-cultural programs. Even they have started to write plays by themselves. The society is being served by the CRPs after the introduction of CRC. They have revealed that after the introduction of CRC, behavioral changes are being observed among the children. The CRPs have informed that the interests of the local Union Parishad leaders, the elite and social leaders have been found. Acceptance of the social elite by the society has been increased.

The schoolteachers have been encouraged to provide good teaching to their students. The CRPs have received a widespread response from the society.

During the exchange of opinions with the guardians and teachers, they were enthusiastic and spontaneous regarding implementation of CRC. Many of the CRPs are hopeful that changes might occur among the guardians and teachers through introduction of CRC. One of the CRPs has implemented some provisions of CRC with the orphans or distressed children and he has observed positive behavioral changes and mentality among those children. Many of the CRPs have informed the evaluation team that the ToT has been a good opportunity for them to learn about the provisions of CRC and to serve the society accordingly.

The CRPs have got an opportunity to make behavioral changes among the social leaders. Apart from these, village shalishes (village meetings for resolving family or other disputes among the rural people) are the places where the provisions of CRC were raised. After having ToT on CRC, the CRPs have become well known in their localities. They have been able to have influence on children, guardians and teachers regarding improving school attendance. The CRPs have also been able to influence the school teachers to attend meetings on CRC.

Now the people have positive attitude towards child development activities. Every member of the society is committed to child development. Such orientation on CRC may play an important role in changing the society.

As a result of the orientation on CRC, the schoolteachers are also applying CRC methods/child rights in their teaching. It has been learnt from the CRPs that teachers are pleased and encouraged to have such orientation courses on CRC. The teachers believe that it will have positive impact on both the teachers and students.

The CRPs have even contacted the conscious people of the society and these people hope that such activities will help to change the decadent society.

One of the CRPs has quoted from the Holy Hadith of the Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) and said that it is a work of religious reward. Another CRP has

said that conscience to serve the distressed and the society inspire them to work for the children. They have further said that it is their moral duty to help bring up children in proper way. They have opined that the CRC program would help the children to carry forward their careers. Due to CRC orientation workshops, consciousness is being raised among the schoolteachers. Due to advocacy on CRC, some working children are being sent to school instead of collecting and selling polythene bags, by their parents.

Some of the CRPs have felt that advocacy work on CRC is a good step to change the society and a lot of problems. One of the CRPs has reported that CRC orientation conducted for the primary school teachers has been 100% successful and an assistant thana education officer has also attended it. The same CRP has told that CRC orientation with the UP members has not been very successful. But, the teachers have been encouraged and inspired by the CRC orientation.

While talking to the general public at market places, such orientation initiatives on CRC have been widely appreciated. Due to CRC advocacy, teachers are promising not to punish their students. One of the CRPs has mentioned a case of the British children as an example. He has said that the British children met their Prime Minister and demanded to amend the British Act of 1860 of punishment to children. In response of that demand, the Act was amended.

One of the lady CRPs has said that she has talked to her adult daughter regarding CRC orientation. She has mentioned that her neighbors have paid attention and appreciated to what she had said to them on CRC. The above mentioned lady CRP has felt that it is necessary to work for a longer time on CRC orientation. Another lady CRP has said that she is hopeful that she would be able to do some social service to the society. Two lady CRPs, who are schoolteachers, have agreed that punishment should be abolished from schools. They are totally against it. It has been reported by the CRPs that progress has been made in the area of birth registration as well.

The findings mentioned above, show that tangible and laudable changes have taken place in the program intervention areas. Some of the findings may sound repetitions, but it is due to similar observations/comments made by different groups of CRPs. All the findings are received from each separate group of CRPs.

The above findings are very positive, appreciable and self analytical. It is clear from the findings that the CRPs are a very effective and influential mode of delivering core messages on CRC to the society as a whole. They are playing a very important role to change the existing social attitude to the

children. They have feelings that the objectives of the CARD project may be both expanded and replicated in other places of Tangail district as well as in Bangladesh. The present number of CRPs is very meagre one, because only a total of 27 can never reach the target beneficiaries of the whole areas of the project.

It has been found that each CRP is greatly motivated and inspired to do the job without any material benefit. Their only benefit is their self satisfaction and social honor and recognition. They are the leaders/elite of the society, considered as the instrument for changing the society. Only these people can be trusted with this responsibility.

Recommendations

A number of valuable recommendations/suggestions/comments have been received from the CRPs while evaluation team have gone to meet eight groups of them at the partner NGOs offices. Every recommendation made by the CRPs is encouraging and praiseworthy. The recommendations so far received are given below.

The SCA evaluation team has had a discussion meeting with the CRPs of PKS, Kalihati. They have recommended that the CRC orientation should be done more extensively. It is their opinion that taking assistance from the rich people may expand this work. Such CRC orientation meetings should be organized with the school managing committee, school teachers, and the head masters to convince them to implement the CRC at the grassroots.

The evaluation team has had another group discussions with the CRPs of FRIDAY, Gopalpur.

One of the CRPs has opined that a seminar on religious fundamentalism with the local religious priests/leaders should be held to promote CRC and its necessity. Side by side, assistance to household work and farming has been suggested. Another one has opined that it would not be wise to hold a seminar for the religious priests/leaders. It is hoped that an overall change might occur if CRC is introduced and implemented widely. More training sessions on CRC are necessary to expand the CRC activities. The CRPs have suggested that areas of CRC activities should be expanded. Child volunteers should be trained up to spread the provisions of CRC among other students.

among other students.

The evaluation team has met the CRPs of FCWC, Modhupur. Their recommendations have been known through discussion. They have recommended that if such a program on CRC is carried forward, it will have greater impact on the society. The teachers' training course may have component of CRC to promote good teachers and teaching. The continuation of CRC orientation must be maintained to have long-term impact on the society. Village shalishes are other places where CRC may be raised. Debates or meetings on CRC might be arranged among the students, schoolteachers, social and religious leaders/elite to promote it. The distressed children might be helped with educational materials or clothes. Discrimination may be eliminated through promotion of CRC. The basis should be created at villages among the people for human resource development (CRPs).

The team has had group discussion with the CRPs of GUP, Kalaha Bazaar, Kalihati. They have suggested that the parents' mentality should be changed through introduction of CRC. Mothers and fathers should be included into the *uthan balthak* / meetings on CRC. It is their recommendation that more CRC orientation workshops need to be held for making new CRPs in future.

As a part of the process of evaluation, the team has had a discussion meetings with the CRPs of JJS and REDO, Elenka and Bhuapur. One of the CRPs has suggested that the child artists at Union Parishad level should hold different cultural programs to promote the CRC. The CRPs will attend such cultural meetings for the promotion and establishment of CRC. One of the CRPs has proposed that the members of the child clubs and their parents should replicate the CRC program and carry forward it at village level.

The evaluation team has had group discussion with the CRPs of SSS, Tangail.

Direct supervision by SCA has been suggested by one of the CRPs to see how they work. The youth and teachers may be motivated to work as CRPs in the society. The CRC program needs to be comprehensive and should be for a long term to have wider impact. The CRC orientation courses provided to the teachers should be followed up among them to see whether the de-

sired/committed works are done. The CRC program needs to be expanded.

It was suggested by one of the CRPs that the village youth clubs and elite should be involved in the CRC orientation process. The workers of other NGOs and social workers might be involved in the process as well.

The team has met the CRPs of UPAMA, Tangail to discuss the effectiveness of CRC orientation and the role of the CRPs.

They have recommended that attention should be paid to the children and teachers for the promotion and establishment of CRC. To replicate the CRC program, frequent arrangement of CRC orientation sessions has been suggested. The teachers and students should be motivated along with the youth of the society. According to their recommendations, the CRC orientation should be done more extensively to reach greater number of children and their parents. If possible, the rich people of the society may be involved in this advocacy with financial assistance from them to expand this work. It is a convincing proposal to organize CRC orientation meetings with the school managing committee, schoolteachers and the headmaster to persuade them to implement the CRC at grassroots levels.

It is apparent from the discussion meetings held with the CRPs that the effectiveness of the community-based UN CRC orientation program facilitated by the community resource persons has made progress and momentum in the program intervention areas of Tangail district. To further carry out this program and consolidate and sustain it, the base and number of the CRPs should be increased. It is an appropriate recommendation made by the present CRPs that the teachers' training courses should include CRC to have wider impact on the students, teachers and guardians. It was recommended that, to replicate the CRC program further, frequent arrangement of CRC orientation sessions should be made. The teachers and students should be motivated along with the youth of the society.

Finally, the recommendations/suggestions should be further reviewed by a team of specialists and appropriate steps need to be undertaken to expand the CRC extensively among the rural and urban people.

The writer is the Communications Consultant of Save the Children, Australia-Bangladesh.

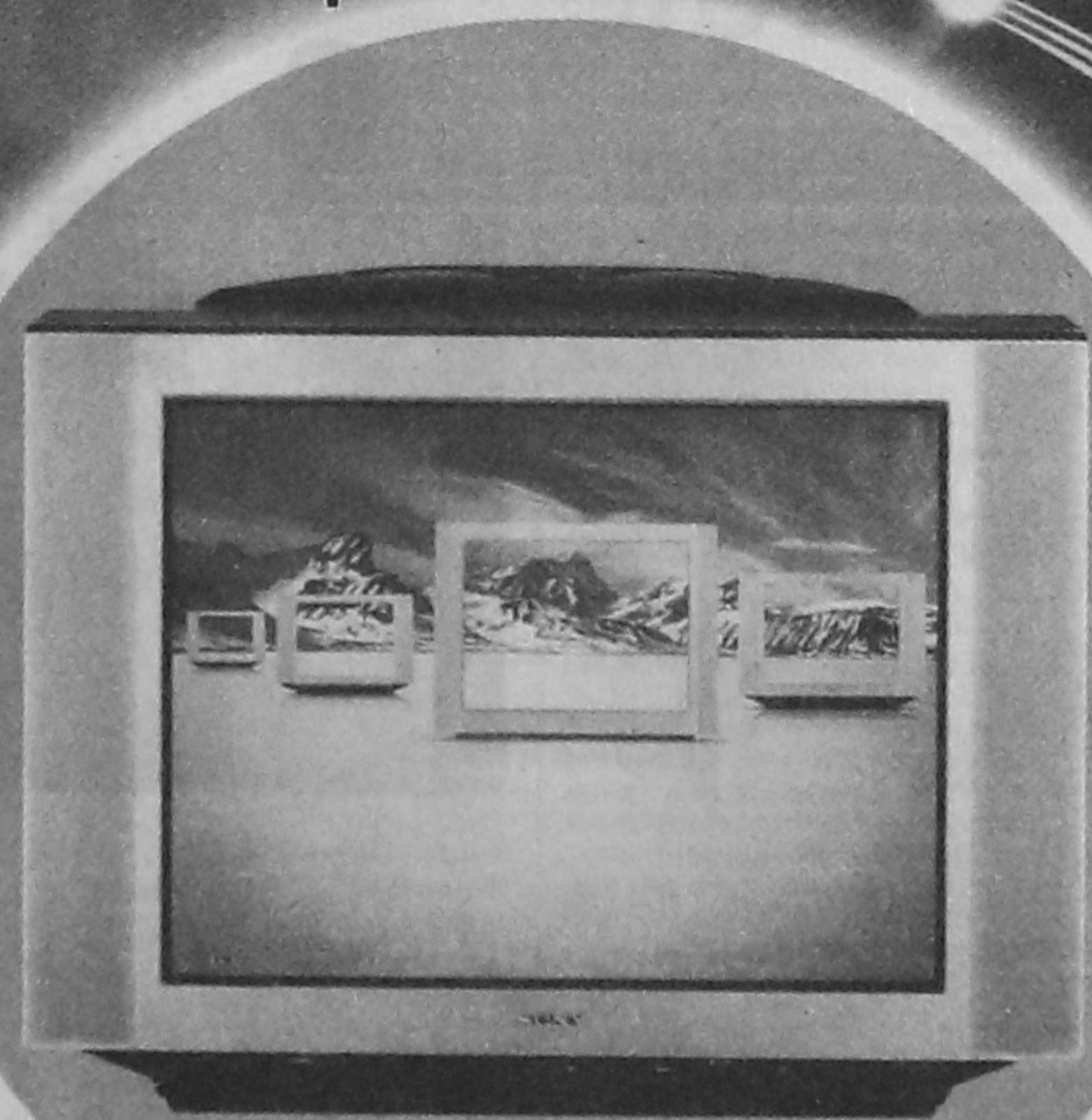
SONY®

WEGA FD Trinitron Color TV

- 1. Self Diagnosis System :** স্বয়ংক্রিয় পদ্ধতিতে ত্রুটি নির্ধারণ করার ক্ষমতা।
- 2. Digital Picture :** WEGA টেলিভিশনটিতে আছে সর্বাধুনিক প্রযুক্তির ডিজিটাল কম্ব ফিল্টার (comb filter) যা ছবিকে করে তুলবে একবারেই স্পষ্ট, নিখুঁত এবং জীবন্ত।
- 3. Intelligent Volume :** WEGA TV-র এই আধুনিক স্বয়ংক্রিয় শব্দ প্রযুক্তি বিভিন্ন অনুষ্ঠানের তারতম্যকে দূরীভূত করে শব্দের মাত্রাকে কাঙ্ক্ষিত অবস্থায় নিয়ন্ত্রণ করে শ্রোতাকে দেয় অনুষ্ঠান উপভোগ করার এক অপূর্ব অনুভূতি।
- 4. High Tension Aperture Grille :** WEGA-র High Tension Flat Aperture Grille-এর কারণে WEGA-র ছবি হয় Brilliant Colour এবং High Resolution সমৃদ্ধ। আর এ সুবিধার জন্যই WEGA TV কে Computer Monitor হিসেবে সহজেই ব্যবহার করা যায়।
- 5. Intelligent Picture :** WEGA TV-তে আছে Built-in Intelligent Picture System ফলে Weak ব্রডকাস্টিং সিগন্যালগুলোকে স্বয়ংক্রিয়ভাবে Strong করে নেয় এবং পুরো স্ক্রিন জুড়ে দেয় High Quality Image.
- 6. Favourite Channel :** কেবল লাইন-এ অসংখ্য চ্যানেল থাকে। WEGA TV-র Favourite Channel সিস্টেমের মাধ্যমে ৬টি পর্যন্ত পছন্দের চ্যানেলকে ইচ্ছামত ধারাবাহিক ভাবে একই ফ্রিকুয়েন্সি সাজিয়ে রাখা যায়, ফলে নির্দিষ্ট বাটনে একবার Push করেই পছন্দের চ্যানেলে সহজেই পৌঁছানো যায়।
- 7. Child Lock :** WEGA TV-তে আছে এমন একটি সফটওয়্যার যার মাধ্যমে ১০০টি চ্যানেলের প্রত্যেকটি গোপনভাবে বন্ধ করে দেয়া যায়, ফলে বাচ্চারা আর এ সব চ্যানেলে ইচ্ছা করলেই ঢুকতে পারবে না।
- 8. PIP (Picture-in-Picture) :** এই পদ্ধতির মাধ্যমে WEGA ২৯ ইঞ্চি এবং ৩৪ ইঞ্চি টিভিতে একই সাথে দুটো প্রোগ্রাম উপভোগ করা যায়।
- 9. Picture Rotation :** WEGA TV-তে সহজেই Picture Position কে TV Screen এর সমান্তরাল ভাবে স্থাপন করা যায় কিংবা ঘুরানো যায়।
- 10. FD Trinitron Picture Tube :** এর বৈশিষ্ট্য হলো Flat Trinitron Picture Tube. আর তাই এর স্ক্রীনও সমতল। SONY-র সম্পূর্ণ নিজস্ব টেকনোলজির সাথে আছে SONY-র নিজস্ব উদ্ভাবনকৃত Trinitron কোশল। কাজেই একমাত্র SONY-ই বিশ্বকে দিতে পারে সম্পূর্ণ Flat FD Trinitron WEGA-তে Digital Picture উপভোগ করার স্বপ্নীয় অনুভূতি।
- 11. Auto Frequency Control (AFC) :** এতে আছে AFC ডিভাইস। ফলে টিভি টি টিভি স্টেশনের কাছেই থাকুক কিংবা অনেক দূরেই থাকুক WEGA-র ছবি বা শব্দের গুণগত মানের কোনই পরিবর্তন হবে না। AFC স্বয়ংক্রিয়ভাবে Weak Frequency-কে পর্যাপ্ত ভাবে Strong করে TV-র অভ্যন্তরে পাঠিয়ে দেবে আর তাতে ছবি ও শব্দ হয়ে উঠবে নিখুঁত এবং স্পষ্ট। সাধারণ TV-তে যা কল্পনাই করা যায় না।

FD Trinitron WEGA PROMOTION 2000

Up to 30th June



Screen Sizes:
21", 25", 29", 34"

DRC
Digital Reality Creation

ব্যাপক ইলেকট্রনিক্স লিমিটেড

SONY RANGS শৌ-রুম :

ঢাকা সোনারগাঁও রোড ফোন : ৯৬৬০৫৫৬, বিজয় সরণি ফোন : ৮১১৮৮০-৮১, ক্রিস্টল সেন্টার ৩৬ হোশাবাদ রোড (পুরানা পল্টন মোড়ে পুলিশ বস্তুর বিপরীতে) ফোন : ৯৫৫৫৫১৯, ৯৫৬৬৬৩৩, গুলশান ফোন : ৮৮১১৫৭৬, ৯৮৮০৫১৬, উত্তরা ফোন : ৮৯১১৯৭১, মিরপুর বেগম রোকেয়া সরণি ফোন : ৯০০৫৮৪৩, দারুস সালাম রোড মিরপুর-১ ফোন : ৯০১০৮৭৮, ইব্রাহিমপুর ঢাকা ক্যান্টনমেন্ট ফোন : ৯৮৭১৯৩৯, মালেক প্রজা খিলগাঁও রেলস্টেশন ফোন : ৯০৪৮৩০৩, লালমারিয়া রক-এ ফোন : ৯১১৮৩২৮, মোটাক ২৪০ আউটার সার্কুলার রোড ফোন : ০১৭৬৯৭৩৯৪, লালবাগ ৭৫ হরনাথ ঘোষ রোড ফোন : ০১৭৬৮৮৫১৭, পলওয়েল সুপার মার্কেট ফোন : ৯০৪৬০৮৪, সোলাইরপাড় যাত্রাবাড়ী ফোন : ০১৭৫৩৩১১, ফিলজিয়া বাল রোড (হাউস) ফোন : ০১৭৫৫১২৬, সাভার ফোন : ০১৭৫৩৭২২৪, নারায়ণপল্লী : চাষাড়া ফোন : ৯৭৫৬৬৬৬, চাট্রাম গরাদা কর্ণার ফোন : ৬১১৩৩৪, ৬২১৭৩৯, আদাবাদ ফোন : ৭১২৮১০, ৮৪ সি ডি এ এডিনিউ, মুরাদপুর ফোন : ৬৫৬৬৪৫৫, বান্দরবান : হোলেট পুরী ফোন : (অনু) ০৩৬১-৫৩১, তাঁরা মজিল ৭২৪ ফোন : ০৩২১-৪০০৭, কলকাতার ফোন : ৪২০১, পুন্না ফোন : ৭২২৬০৫, সাতক্ষীরা ফোন : ২৪২৪, যশোর ফোন : ৭২২৬৪, ০১৭৬৯৬৮০, রাজশাহী ফোন : ৭৭৪৬৭৫, ৭৭৫৮৬৪, নাটোর ফোন : ৬৯১৬, পাবনা ফোন : ৬২২৭, ঈশ্বরদী ফোন : ৩০৬, ০১৭৪৯৫১৬৬, কুষ্টিয়া ফোন : ৫৫২০৬, সিরাজগঞ্জ ফোন : ৭৩০৪১, বগুড়া নবাববাড়ী ফোন : ৪৯০৪, ৭২৪৪৪, দহাবাড়ী ফোন : ৬৫৭৭, জয়পুরহাট ফোন : ৩১৭, নগদা শহীদ কবীর মুন্সুরী পৌর মার্কেট ফোন : ২১০৯, সিলেট ফোন : ৭১০১৭, শেখ হাসিনা বাজার ফোন : ৫৩৩০৭, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়ীয়া ফোন : ৫২৭৯৯, ৫২৫৮৯, ময়মনসিংহ ২৯ রামবাবু রোড ফোন : ০১৭৬৮৮৪৭৫, বরিশাল ১৮ হোমোয়ডউদীন রোড ফোন : ৫৪৬৩৩, ঝংস টেন রোড ফোন : ০৫২১-২১৪১, কুমিল্লা ৬৮৬/৬৮৮ গ্রাম কান্দিরপাড় বাউলতা ফোন : ০১৭৭৯৬৭২৮

এ সুযোগ আমাদের ডিলারদের কাছেও পাবেন