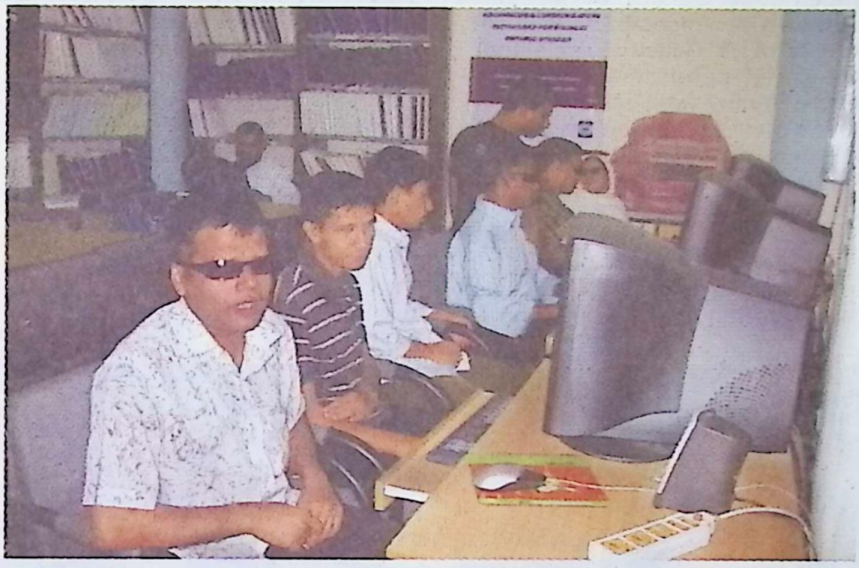
Empowering Visually Impaired Persons through ICT

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NFORMATION and Communication Technology (ICT) has been a driving force for economic and social development, and continue to spur the globalization process. However, benefits of ICT have spread unequally, especially between the disabled people and the non-disabled people.•@Like other developing countries, in Bangladesh Visually impaired persons have also been continuously left behind in the development of ICT. To address this issue, Sightsavers International with Dhaka University Central Library has taken initiative to train 36 existing VI male and female students of Dhaka University on ICT. The training is being conducted by Young Power for Social Action (YPSA) a partner organization of Sightsavers, from 2 November 2008 to March 2009 at the resource centre of Central Library of Dhaka University in three batches.

ICT is one of the best solutions to empower Visually Impaired Persons if they are able to utilize such technologies. The objectives of the training is to acquaint VI students to computer screen reading software, speech synthesizers, self-voicing software, using Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint with JAWS (Job Access With Synthesizer), using DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System) Talking Book, visual impairment friendly Electronic Books, Policy and Legislations regarding disability and ICT. The training is conducted in three batches.

It is to be mentioned that Sightsavers supported to establish the resource centre for visually impaired students of Dhaka University in 2007 at Dhaka Central Library which is equipped with computers with Jaws software. Braille printers. The Central Library also recruited personnel to run the centre on its own.

Brain Teasers

· If you are in a dark room with a candle, a wood stove and a gas lamp, and if you only have one match, what do you light first?
Answer: The match.

·Would you rather a crocodile attack you or an alligator?
Answer: I would rather the crocodile attack the alligator. Read the sentence again to see the double meaning.

· If 5 cats can catch 5 rats in 5 minutes, how many cats do you need to catch 100 rats in 100 minutes?
Answer: 5.

· Look at the following sentence quickly and only once, how many times can you find the letter F?
Furry foxes of far origin often come of age far before scientific study forecasts.
Answer: There are 10 letter Fs. Many people fail to see them all on the first reading, especially if this sentence is read aloud.

· A man is trapped in a room. The room has only two possible exits: two doors. Through the first door there is a room constructed from magnifying glass. The blazing hot sun instantly fries anything or anyone that enters. Through the second door there is a fire-breathing dragon. How does the man escape?
Answer: He waits until nighttime and then goes through the first door.