



POPULATION SERIES

International Youth Day



Tap into youth potential

INTERNATIONAL Youth Day (IYD), commemorated on the 12th of August every year, gives an opportunity to celebrate young peoples' views and initiatives. It recognizes the importance of youth participation in political, economic and social life. This year, 16 years after the (IYD) was first declared by the UN General Assembly, we have all the more reason to celebrate youth and their role in political, economic and social development – both globally and in Bangladesh.

Globally, the youth population, those between the ages of 15-24 is 1.2 billion strong in 2015. In Bangladesh, if we look at the same age group, it is approximately 29 million strong. If we apply the Bangladesh definition of youth, those between the ages of 18-35, the figure is at a staggering 52+ million youth. This is more than the entire population of some countries and it is one which presents Bangladesh with a tremendous opportunity to ensure the country's overall development. This opportunity, however, will be realised only if the Government of Bangladesh makes the right investments, especially in health, education, skills development and employment generation for its adolescent and youth population. To reap the benefits coming from having a young population the country needs to equip youth with the appropriate set of skills to participate in the labour market and trigger innovation and development in the country.

Youth Civic Engagement is one of the main



International Youth Day 2015: Youth Civic Engagement

What is Youth Civic Engagement? It is a process through which youth are provided with opportunities to engage in democracy, social and political issues, governance structures and community mobilisation – so that they can become agents of change and valuable resources who can contribute to the overall development of their community.

Recognizing the importance of youth:

In order to recognize the role youth can play in achieving long-term social change in Bangladesh and the importance of their engagement in civic life, the United Nations, established a UN Youth Advisory Panel (UNYAP) in July 2014. This group of highly talented youth, consisting of 26 Bangladeshis from all parts of the country, represent 19 networks linked to the development sector and civil society organizations. The UNYAP is a structured mechanism from which youth can voice their opinions and viewpoints on development matters relevant to their lives and communities. They support UN agencies in their work by providing a youth perspective and bringing in fresh and innovative ideas that can be used by the UN. The UN supports these young people, for example, by inviting them to policy development platforms, linking them with training opportunities and exposing them to international youth conferences.

goals of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Youth, and the UN, seeks to promote young people's effective inclusive civic engagement at all levels. It is important to note there is increasing attention and policy and programming focus on youth civic engagement by governments, UN entities, regional and multilateral organizations, CSOs, youth and researchers. Globally youth movements and student groups are becoming increasingly involved in governance structures, policy planning, community mobilisation and national programme implementation efforts.

What is more important, however, is that they are challenging traditional power structures and calling for their engagement in decisions which will, in the long term, affect their lives. There is however still a long way to go: only 1.6 per cent of parliamentarians worldwide are young people, most of whom are men. Young people rarely join political parties, and the majority do not vote in elections. Young people need to be provided with opportunities to fulfil their potential. To achieve this young people's rights need to be recognized and granted, including the right to accurate information and services also in relation to sexuality and reproductive health. Only if they are empowered with knowledge and skills to protect themselves and make informed decisions, they can realize their full potential and contribute to economic and social transformation. Special attention needs to be paid to adolescent girls as they are often burdened by child marriage, sexual violence and unplanned pregnancies, preventing their full civic engagement.

Youth are a force for change and they are asserting themselves as agents and partners, with powerful voices in the public – be it in Bangladesh or elsewhere. It is important to appreciate the fresh ideas and proactive roles youth have played in development processes and, as we get closer to the finalisation of the Sustainable Development Goals, ensure youth are empowered and their capacities strengthened to participate in civic life, claim their rights and realise their aspirations in the new development agenda.

SOURCE: UNFPA.

Getting engaged – for adolescent sexual and reproductive health rights



Bijoy



Shilpy

Amena Akter Shilpy and Bijoy Hossain are two young peer trainers of BAPSA (Bangladesh Association for Prevention of Septic Abortion), both in their teens and are studying in a school in Mirpur. While we talked to them recently we could detect enthusiasm twinkling in their eyes about the work they were doing. They thought it was necessary to engage young trainers to talk about serious issues such as sexual and reproductive health and rights and adolescent reproductive health and rights because, in their words, "Young people do not feel comfortable to open up before seniors."

Amena said that even adolescent girls feel shy to talk about these issues with elderly women, including their mothers, but they soon start talking freely with her.

They talk with adolescent boys and girls separately about early marriage, risk of early pregnancy, causes of child and maternal mortality and other adolescent health related issues, which are generally kept hidden from the young generation.

What about boys? Do they also feel shy to talk about sexuality and rights? Bijoy replied, "Yes, they do feel shy in the beginning but they gradually overcome their shyness after going through a complete counseling session and they respond very positively in the end."

Why do you think such knowledge is important? How will it help them in future? Replying to this, Amena said, "Our

objectives are to remove ignorance about adolescent health and rights; help change the attitudes of parents and guardians; help remove misunderstandings about sex and sexual relationship; help make a friendly relationship between parents and their sons and daughters. Yes, the knowledge will help them in future when they will want to marry. They will not marry a minor girl. They will take care of their wives during pregnancy. They will not have too many children. They will learn the importance of family planning and so on. So, I think peer training is very useful."

We wanted to know the hurdles they face while doing their jobs. "We face challenges both from home and outside the home. Initially our parents' attitude towards us was negative because they thought we might go astray if we would take part in such discourse with other young boys and girls. But the situation has turned in our favour when parents were invited to some of our meetings. Now the scenario is totally different when you observe that the young generations are more conscious of their health?"

What advice would you like to give adolescents?

Both Amena and Bijoy said, "Please discuss your problems and take advices from the health experts of the nearby health NGOs or clinics. Try to be open-minded to live a better and safe life."

INTERVIEW BY SOHEL RANA.



ঢাকা পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড
DHAKA POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LTD.
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Memo No.: DPDC/PSEIIIP/AFD/2015/39

Date: 06/08/2015.

Invitation for Bids

Date	6 August 2015
Invitation for Bid No.	DPDC/PSEIIIP/AFD/2015/39
Loan No. & Title	CBD 1000 01 M, Power System Expansion and Efficiency Improvement Investment Program (Tranche 2)
Project Name	Construction of New 132/33 kV & 33/11 kV Substations under DPDC
Deadline for Submission of Bids	30 September 2015.

1. The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a loan from the Agence Française de Développement (French Agency for Development - AFD) towards the cost of Power System Expansion and Efficiency Improvement Investment Program (Tranche 2) and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for which this Invitation for Bid (IFB) is issued. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Agence Française de Développement.

2. The Chief Engineer, Development & Project Director, Dhaka Power Distribution Company Ltd.(DPDC), House No.47, Road No. 135, Gulshan 1, Dhaka 1212 invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the procurement of the following works:

Lot No.	Description	Price of Bid Document	Bid Security
Lot 1	Design, Manufacture, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 7 nos. new 132/33 kV GIS Sub-stations at Char Sayedpur, Fatullah, Jigatola, Kazla, Motijheel, New Ramna and Postogola on Turnkey basis.	BDT 60,000 or USD750	USD 11,10,000
Lot 2	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 7 nos. new 33/11 kV Substations at B.B Avenue, BSMMU Hospital, Dhaka Udayan, Green Road Dormitory, Monipurpara, P&T and Segunbagicha on Turnkey basis.	BDT 24,000 or USD 300	USD 2,90,000
Lot 3	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 132 & 33 KV Underground Cable on Turnkey basis	BDT 48,000 or USD 600	USD 8,90,000
Lot 4	Survey, Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 132 kV Overhead Transmission line on Turnkey basis.	BDT 10,000 or USD 125	USD 70,000

3. International Competitive Bidding (ICB) will be conducted in accordance with AFD's Single-Stage: Two-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries.

4. The Bid consists of four lots. Bidders can participate in any individual lot or more. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the following office and inspect the bidding documents during normal office hours (from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) on all working days:

Chief Engineer, Development, DPDC, House No. -47, Road No. 135, Gulshan 1, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh.

5. A complete set of bidding documents for any lot may be purchased by any interested eligible bidders on the submission of a written application to the office of the Chief Engineer, Development, DPDC, House No. -47, Road No. 135, Gulshan 1, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh and upon payment of a non-refundable fee as mentioned above only during normal office hours on all working days. The Mode of Payment will be cash or bank draft. The document may be sent by surface mail or courier service. Interested Bidders who are requesting international courier dispatch should pay an additional fee of USD 100.00. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery.

6. A Pre-Bid meeting will be held at Office of the Chief Engineer, Development, DPDC, House No. -47, Road No. 135, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh at 11:00 am BST on 9 September 2015.

7. Bids must be delivered to the office of the Chief Engineer, Development, DPDC at or before 12:00 hours on 30 September 2015. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security as mentioned above in favor of the "Chief Engineer, Development, DPDC, House No. -47, Road No. 135, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh" in the form of (a) an unconditional bank guarantee; or (b) an irrevocable letter of credit; or (c) a cashier's or certified check. Late Bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders or his representatives who choose to attend at the address above 14:00 hours on 30 September 2015.

8. The Chief Engineer, Development, DPDC will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of the bids.

9. The Invitation for Bids (IFB) will be available at the DPDC, CPTU and AFD Procurement Web Site (www.dpdc.org.bd, www.cptu.gov.bd and <http://tenders.afd.dgmarket.com/index.do>).

10. The Chief Engineer, Development, DPDC reserves all the rights to accept any bid or to reject any or all bids without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Dilip Kumar Sen
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