

"END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRL CHILD"

16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence

On the 5th of December, The Daily Star and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) jointly organized a policy-level dialogue at the Mollika Restaurant, Mohila College Road, Patuakhali. The title of the discussion was "End Violence against Women and Girl Child: 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence". Participants at the roundtable included representatives from NGOs, law enforcement agencies and policy makers. The Chief Guest was Deputy Commissioner, Amitav Sarkar and the roundtable was moderated by Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed who gave a brief on the main topic - gender based violence.

Fathema Sultana, Gender Officer from UNFPA, presented the keynote paper discussing issues such as the prevalence of gender-based violence and typologies of violence, ranging from emotional to physical and sexual violence. She highlighted the vicious cycle of violence that a girl experiences starting from the womb (female infanticide, lack of nutrition and health care) to various stages of adolescence (child abuse, malnutrition, rape, forced prostitution), to adulthood (dowry killings, intimate partner violence, domestic violence) till old age (widow abuse).

Status quo of gender based violence indicated that 56% of women entered their first marriage before they were 18 years old and 87% of women had experienced some form of violence at the hands of their current husbands. Incidences of physical and sexual violence experienced by married women where the perpetrators were their husbands stands at 65% and 36.5%, respectively and only 77% of women had reported violence at the hands of their husbands in the last 12 months. compared to urban areas, the prevalence rate of such incidences is higher in rural areas.

In rural areas 43% of unmarried adolescent girls are sexually harassed on their way to school, college or social visits (Alam, Roy, and Ahmed 2009). As this brings forth the question of the safety and security of girls, many including their own parents consider discontinuing with their education.

Effect of such violence also leaves a mark on children of women who experience abuse. They may exhibit behavioral problems, poor school performance and increased likelihood of experiencing and perpetrating violence as adults. In general, families are likelier to have impaired family functions and

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE:
• Students and their parents should be made aware of the consequence of GBV and Child Marriage.
• Teacher should be informed about when or where students face eve teasing or sexual harassment on the roads.
• Law enforcers need to be more responsible in taking action against eve teasers.
• Opening of a GBV Complaint book so that action can be taken on the basis of complaints
• Girl students need to be empowered with some laws so that they can protect themselves.
• The initiative taken by UNFPA and The Daily Star should be replicated in all districts
• Change of male mindset is required.
• Removal of inequality between men and women.
• Security has to be ensured.
• Reduction of poverty.
• Girls should be made economically independent.

suffer economically. Therefore, on a macro level, violence against women costs 2% of the GDP in Bangladesh (study on Cost of Violence by CARE Bangladesh, 2012).

Unequal gender norms, stereotyped perception, poor investment in youth and adolescents, lack of social safety and the culture of silence and impunity all contribute to the increase of incidences of gender based violence. The only way to break through these barriers that hold back girls and women is by introducing Comprehensive multi-sectoral programmes that fulfill girls rights to health, social, and economic resources. Girl-centered programs need to be introduced that ensure safe neighborhoods and safe school environment (in school and way to/from school). Schools need to retain girls from dropping out or delay the process until they have finished at least the 12th grade. This contributes to the delaying of marriage, in other words child marriage. Increase in accessibility to information regarding gender based violence and sexual reproductive health services are needed to prevent and reduce incidences of early child-bearing and violence. The youth should be provided with life-skill based and employable livelihood training that includes financial literacy for out of school children.

In the discussion session, Patuakhali District Commissioner Amitav Sarkar commented that eve teasing has become a social ailment nationwide. Some girls were forced to commit suicide following excessive teasing and harassment, he informed. He mentioned that to discourage the eve teasers now police personnel in plain clothes patrol areas near schools and colleges.

Shahed Ali Khan, AFP (Police) observed that unless there is change of mindset and self-realization amongst the male population, it would be difficult to stop such activities. He hopes students and their parents would become more aware of the consequence of GBV. District Education Officer Ruhul



PARTICIPANTS

Grid of participant photos and names: Amitavh Sarkar (Deputy Commissioner, Patuakhali), Shaheb Ali Pathan (Senior ASP, Patuakhali), Afroja Akbar (Executive Director, Adarsha Mohila Sangstha), Hafej Abdul Quader (Imam, Muslipara Jam-E-Mosque), Syeda Akhlimunnesa (Panel Chairman, Patuakhali Municipality), Md. Zafor Ahmed (Principal, Govt. Women College)

Amin Khan suggested when a girl will face teasing or sexual harassment on the roads she should immediately inform the head teacher or the class teacher. He observed that similar seminars and meetings should be held in educational institutes from time to time for greater awareness.

JOURNALIST On many occasions members of the police force harass girls/women by asking embarrassing questions when they are found walking with male

friends. He wanted to know whether this is banned in the country. Police administration should look into the matter seriously, he commented.

Some adolescent students expressed themselves openly as they hardly get such opportunity every day. A girl of class VII of a local school divulged that some corrupt elements of their school place secret camera in the washrooms and capture images of girls and upload them in internet and mobile phones. In some schools, some people in the committee use tricks to exploit some

girls thereby destroying their future. She suggests school authorities should be stricter about such things.

A college student asked why she has to be forced into marriage when she wants to study and not marry before she turns twenty. Parents should be made aware of the consequences of child marriage, she commented.

A girl student said that when boys tease them on way to school or home, elderly persons watch but do not protest and come to their rescue. She wants senior citizens to come forward to help the helpless girls. Another girl described how boys take their image on mobile phones and upload them on internet. This makes the victims face unpleasant situation at home and also in the educational institutes. They need protection from such menace so she appeals to the administration to take action against such boys who take images of girls on mobile phones.

A college girl raised the point that when a student leader or someone belonging to a powerful political party teases a girl and if he is arrested by the police following complaint, top political leaders call the police officers and get the eve teaser released from custody. In such cases, the perpetrators come back to take revenge on the girl. Her question is who will protect the victims? Adding to this college girl's concern, a male student of BBA second year said that the recent trend of incidence of eve teasing shows that it is happening more on the campuses of educational institutes than on the roads. It is more rampant in government colleges he said. Most eve teasers are connected to some political leaders/parties and as a result it becomes difficult to take action against such persons. He wants the police force to be more responsible in taking action against the eve teasers.

Another student suggested opening a GBV Complaint book so that action can be taken on the basis of complaints. A female school student said that when they become victims of harassment in the hands of an elderly man, a family member or a teacher

they cannot fight it alone. She thinks strict laws and their implementation are important. She also wants girl students to be empowered with some laws to take action themselves.

A male student of Patuakhali Govt. College believes that the incidence of psychological abuse is more than that of physical abuse in society. When a boy or a girl does not do well in examinations, they are verbally abused by teachers, parents and relations. As a result, the student loses interest in continuing education. He thinks it would be better if everyone encourages a student who might have done poorly in an exam. A girl student of a college narrated her story drawing the attention of the police official who was present in the Roundtable. She said that one day during class break she along with a female friend went out to buy some snacks when a police van approached and asked them what they were doing there. A policeman checked their mobile phones as well. She wanted to know why they should face such embarrassing situation, especially in the hands of the members of the law enforcing agencies. A male student who lives in a student dormitory said that often politically connected people take various kinds of drugs inside the dormitory. Good students feel helpless as they have no voice to protest. He terms this as mental torture. He questions why the administration cannot take any action against them.

A student of Patuakhali Govt. College offered the following recommendations for the organisers. He said that people know why child marriage takes place and the consequences of such marriage. He believes that education will drive away the lingering superstitions and help end such malpractices in society. He further believes that replication of the if the initiative taken by UNFPA and The Daily Star in all districts and upazilas, will have profound impact on the minds of the common people.

Syeda Aklimun Nesa, Commissioner of Patuakhali Pourashova (Municipality) felt that the change of mindset was necessary along with ensuring security for girls. The removal of gender inequality and poverty is necessary as is providing girls with proper education and to be economically independent.

(The names of the students have not been mentioned to avoid any untoward incidence once the report is published)

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
পরিচালক (পুলিশ সুপার) এর কার্যালয়
ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল পুলিশ-৪, নারায়ণগঞ্জ
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি
উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০৮/২০১৫-২০১৬
তারিখঃ ২২/১২/২০১৫খ্রিঃ
এতদ্বারা "পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন-২০০৬ ও বিধিমালা-২০০৮" তদীয় সংশোধিত-২০১১-এর বিধি মোতাবেক, ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল পুলিশ-৪ নারায়ণগঞ্জের জন্য ২০১৫-২০১৬ অর্থবছরের নিম্নবর্ণিত কাজের ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী অভিজ্ঞ ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারীর নিকট হতে নিজস্ব প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাডে সীলমোহরকৃত মুখবন্ধ খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Department of Land Records & Surveys (DLR&S)
28, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Sharani
Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208
Invitation for Tender
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
1. Ministry/Division: Ministry of Land (MOL).
2. Agency: Department of Land Records & Surveys (DLR&S).
3. Procuring entity name: Department of Land Records & Surveys (DLR&S).
4. Procuring entity code: 4637
5. Procuring entity District: Dhaka.
6. Invitation for: Procurement of Package No. GR3
7. Invitation Ref. No. 31.03.2692.004.007.23.15-547
8. Date: 23-12-2015.
KEY INFORMATION
9. Procurement method: Open Tendering Method (OTM).
FUNDING INFORMATION
10. Budget and source of funds: Non-Development Budget and GOB.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION
11. Programme code (if applicable): Not selected.
12. Programme name (if applicable): Not applicable.
13. Tender package No.: GR-3
14. Tender package Name: GR-3 Procurement of Electronic Total Station (ETS) with its related accessories & training for DLR&S.
15. Tender publication date: Between 24-12-2015 and 26-12-2015
16. Tender last selling date: 10-01-2016 at 03:30pm.
17. Tender submission date & time: 11-01-2016 at 02:00pm.
18. Tender opening date & time: 11-01-2016 at 04:00pm.
19. Name & address of the office(s): Department of Land Records & Surveys, 28, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Sharani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.
Selling tender document (principal): Department of Land Records & Surveys, 1st Floor, Room No.-217, 28, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Sharani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.
Selling tender document (others): 1) Secretary, Land Appeal Board, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000. 2) Deputy Land Reforms Commissioner (Admn), Land Reforms Board, 141/143, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. 3) Office of the Commissioner, Dhaka Division, 1st 12 Storied Government Building, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.
Receiving tender document: 1) Department of Land Records & Surveys (DLR&S), 1st Floor, Room No-219, 28, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Sharani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208. 2) Deputy Land Reforms Commissioner (Admn), Land Reforms Board, 141-143, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. 3) Office of the Commissioner, Dhaka Division, 1st 12th Floor Government Building, Segunbagicha, Dhaka. 4) Secretary, Land Appeal Board, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.
Opening tender document: Department of Land Records & Surveys (DLR&S), 1st Floor, Room No.-219, 28, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Sharani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.
20. Pre-tender meeting (optional): Not applicable.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER
21. Eligibility of tenderer: As described in the tender document(s).
22. Brief description of goods or works: Do
23. Brief description of related services goods or works: Do
24. Price of tender document (Tk): Price of the hard copy of tender document is Taka 1000.00 (one thousand) only (non-refundable). Tender document can be viewed and downloaded from the website of DLR&S (www.dlrs.gov.bd). Money receipt for purchasing the tender document must be submitted with the tender.
25. Package No.: Identification of package: Procurement of Electronic Total Station (ETS) with its related accessories & training for DLR&S. Location: Department of Land Records & Surveys, 28, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Sharani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208. Tender security amount (Taka): Tk. 4,00,000/- (four lac). Completion time: 90 days from the date of issuing NOA.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS
26. Name of official inviting tender: Md. Anower Hossain.
27. Designation of official inviting tender: Director of Surveys.
28. Address of official inviting tender: Department of Land Records & Surveys, 1st Floor, Room No-219, 28, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Sharani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.
29. Contact details of official inviting tender: Tel. 8170480, Fax. 9122849, e-mail: ds.dlrs09@yahoo.com
30. Special instructions: The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or accept the tender proceedings.
GD-3974 Md. Anower Hossain Director of Surveys