



The audio kit raises awareness among the Rohingyas about dowry, child marriage, violence against women and various health issues at the Rohingya camp in Saluethak, Hakimpura.

PHOTO: KENNEDY NATHAN

The sound of Rohingya camps

How an audio kit helped prevent violence against women

The alleys of the Rohingya camps were ringing with the sound of music in the Rohingya language. A tiny Bluetooth audio kit was playing in the restaurants and could be heard even from the bamboo-fenced houses of the Rohingyas.

Many such audio kits can be found in the world's largest Rohingya camp in Kutupalong of Cox's Bazar.

The Rohingyas people shared that the purpose of this sound is to raise awareness among the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals about dowry, child marriage, violence against women and various health issues.

Twenty-one-year-old Bibi Fatima (pseudonym) shared that this audio kit plays seven days a week for five to nine hours each day.

"Women were considered voiceless in our society. Rohingya men made all the decisions, and the role of women was to only take care of family members," said Fatima, sitting in her house.

"I got married when I was only 16 years old. I was not aware of child marriage and its dangers. But Oxfam gave us knowledge on the dangers of child marriage," she added.

Oxfam started working with the Rohingya people in 2018 to create awareness on various social issues and held several awareness sessions with Rohingya women. However, that too was suspended when the Covid-19 pandemic hit the country.

"During the initial days of the pandemic, women were blamed for the spread of Covid-19.