

Celebrating women in comics: “Girls Do Comics” exhibition launched



“Girls Do Comics” – a landmark comic book exhibition created exclusively by 27 Bangladeshi female artists – opened on January 25, 2025, at the EMK Center, Gulshan 2, Dhaka. The event celebrated the creativity and storytelling talents of women, offering a fresh perspective on contemporary issues through comics and visual narratives.

Supported by EMK Center and Adhunika Foundation, and spearheaded by Cartoon People, the exhibition showcased two

anthologies – *Porichoy* and *Lines And Dreams* – featuring over 200 pages each. These anthologies explore compelling themes such as identity, mental health, beauty standards, family dynamics, self-awareness, and our connection with nature.

The event was inaugurated by renowned fashion designer and cultural icon, Bibi Russel, Bangladeshi music director and singer-songwriter, Armeen Musa, and cultural activist and singer, Warda Ashraf.

Frobel Play School organises seminar to address the need for an equitable education system

Frobel Play School Dhaka, launched in August 2023, organised a seminar titled “Taking Bangladesh Towards Inclusion - No Child Left Behind” on January 25, 2025. The seminar aimed to address the need for an equitable education system in Bangladesh, focusing on integrating neurodiverse children into classrooms.

The seminar brought together educators, policymakers, and reformers to advocate for systemic changes, including raising awareness about hidden disabilities and the importance of early identification. Held at Frobel Play School Dhaka, the event sought to reform education in the 21st century and build bridges toward inclusion.

Md Mahbubur Rahman Billah, Director of Monitoring and Evaluation at the Directorate of Primary Education, Bangladesh, was the Chief Guest. Key objectives of the seminar included promoting the inclusion of neurodiverse children, emphasising the need for special educators, and introducing specialised courses in universities on learning disabilities.

The seminar on inclusive education in Bangladesh featured distinguished guests and experts. Insiyah Zohair Ali moderated the session on “Reforming Education for the 21st-Century Inclusive Classrooms”. The panelists included notable figures such as Prof. M Nazmul Huq, former Professor of Education, Institute of Education and Research - Dhaka University (IER-DU), Munia Islam Mozumder, CEO, Teach for Bangladesh, and Maryam Noor Yunus,



Academic Advisor, Bangladesh Cambridge University Press and Assessment. The Guest of Honour at the event was Prof. Dr Syed Md Golam Faruk, Member of the Public Service Commission of Bangladesh. John Ekaju, Education Manager, UNICEF Bangladesh, also participated in the discussions.

In the second panel, moderated by Aouana Marzia Monadi, discussions focused on “Building Bridges: Toward Inclusive Education in Our Schools”. Panel members for this discussion included Md Saidul Huq, Executive Director, Blind Education and Rehabilitation Development Organization (BERDO), Ayesha Mahmood, Lecturer, BRAC Institute of Educational Development

(BRAC IED), and Dr Geet Oberoi, Founder and Special Educator, Orkids Foundation. Md Abdullah Al Mamun, Education Officer at the Directorate of Primary Education, was also part of this panel.

Mahbubur Rahman Billah presented key insights into advancing inclusive education. Local presenter Aouana Marzia Monadi and Key Presenter Dr Geet Oberoi also shared their expertise, with Huwra Tehseen Zohair Ali, Founder and Principal of Frobel Play School, presenting her vision on the topic.

After the seminar, a workshop titled “Invisible Disabilities in the Classroom” was conducted by Dr Geet Oberoi and was attended by 40 educators from

various schools.

Frobel Play School Dhaka

Frobel Play School Dhaka, launched in August 2023, is the only inclusive preschool in the city, integrating neurodiverse children into mainstream classrooms. Building on the legacy of its Chattogram branch, it promotes a holistic education rooted in Froebel's philosophy.

The school emphasises a play-based, nature-driven curriculum that fosters emotional, academic, and social growth. Values like “Engage, Enquire, and Empower” guide the learning experience, with an emphasis on hands-on, interactive activities.

The school caters to children between the ages of two and six, offering specialised programmes in early childhood education and special education services to support diverse learners. A team of trained educators provides personalised attention, ensuring every child reaches their full potential.

The curriculum balances academic learning with social skill development, offering an inclusive environment for all abilities. Class days are structured to balance exploration and play, with diverse class options and therapy sessions. Under the leadership of Huwra Tehseen Zohair and Insiyah Zohair, the school has flourished, bringing fresh ideas while preserving its core educational values. Their commitment fosters a creative and supportive community for both students and parents.



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