

Report

On the Record Notes
Of the Meeting with Centre for Disability in Development (CDD)



Centre for Disability in Development (CDD)

10.30 am to 04:30 pm
Wednesday, 30 January 2019
Savar, Dhaka

Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme
Cabinet Division and General Economics Division of Planning Commission



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BACKGROUND

The Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme is being implemented to enroll the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) in Bangladesh to establish an enabling environment of effective social protection mechanism for all. The NSSS has been providing utmost effort to uphold social security to protect people from vulnerability and poverty. Persons with disabilities are most vulnerable among all the people in risks. As a result, the NSSS is envisioned to create an enabling environment for persons with disabilities along with other marginalized peoples. Moreover, the SSPS programme has planned to conduct a situation analysis on disability to identify the challenges and opportunities of disability inclusive social protection and to explore scopes of collaboration among GO and NGO to create a national platform for the government. The situation analysis report will recommend a way out for creating a sustainable platform for advocacy and to create collaboration among government and non-government organizations in this regard. It's very important to develop a platform that will work as a thinktank for the government to design disability inclusive development and social protection for persons with disabilities in the country.

Considering the situations, a daylong meeting was conducted with Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) a prominent non-profit organization working on disability. Issues on disability and potential scopes of opportunities to work through SSPS programme were key subject during the meeting between SSPS programme team and CDD management. The meeting was successfully identified some common interest of future working on disability and made some important recommendations.

OBJECTIVE

The meeting was conducted with some specific objectives. Some of the specific objectives are as follows:

1. Share existing provisions, scopes and challenges of social protection on disability.
2. Identify common scopes of working on disability on social protection especially to conduct a situation analysis on disability.
3. Discuss prospects and collaboration opportunities between SSPS programme and CDD on disability inclusion and social protection.

OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Jahangir Alam, Coordinator and Thematic Expert of Disability & Inclusive Development (D&ID), Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) welcomed the representatives from the Social Protection Policy Support (SSPS) Programme. He apprised that this meeting would begin a collaboration between CDD and SSPS programme of GED and Cabinet Division for disability inclusion in social protection and future programming on disability inclusion in collaboration with GED, Cabinet Division and UNDP as well.



SSPS team and CDD management in a meeting on disability inclusion in Social Protection.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Jahangir Alam, Coordinator and Thematic Expert of D&ID opened the floor for the presences after round self-introductions. Representatives of the Social Protection Policy Support (SSPS) Programme shared their opinions and queries on different issues on the disability inclusion and social protection programme on disability. Some of the major discussions are as follows:



CDD management shared different issues on disability to be considered in Social Protection

Mr. Aminul Arifeen

Project Manager

Social Protection Policy Support Programme

Mr. Aminul Arifeen, Project Manager, Social Protection Policy Support Programme provided a short description on the background of the SSPS programme and objective of the visit to CDD. He shared some innovative ideas to work on disabilities to reduce the challenges and barriers of person with disabilities and other issues related to social protection programme and the NSSS. Mr. Arifeen said that the SSPS project is being implemented by the GED and Cabinet Division to enroll the NSSS aiming to include all the peoples under the social protection umbrella including person with disabilities. He shared some of his observations and experiences on disability, issues on ambiguity of data and information on disability and organizations working on disabilities. He emphasized on the necessity of an institutional platform as thinktank for disability inclusion in favor of the government. He also shared his views on the importance of developing a well-documented situation analysis on disabilities.

He stated that a guideline should be developed to track the existing disability inclusion activities and identify gaps among activities of the concerned stakeholders. He stressed to establish a platform for advocacy on disability issues with the government. He rejoined with Mr. A H M Noman Khan that all government mechanism on disability is in place which is not functioning properly. He stated that GED can play a vital role as a platform for knowledge, evidence and planning whether the Social Welfare Ministry is to play the coordinating role.

He also shared the some of the gaps and challenges on data and information validity on disability especially the percentage/prevalence of disabilities which is being used by most of the disability organization (NGOs) . He mentioned this issue should be taken into actions and need to consider in policy formulation for further designing of disability database/research or survey. He emphasized on a consolidated and well-defined scales for disability identification and data collection and to develop well trained human resource on the screening of disability.



SSPS team observed different interventions on disability and met some person with disabilities at CDD.

PRESENTATION

A presentation was shared with some basic ideas on the activities and interventions of the CDD.

(Appendix A)

OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. A.H.M. Noman Khan

Executive Director

Centre for Disability in Development (CDD)

Mr. A.H.M. Noman Khan, Executive Director of CDD welcomed and thanked SSPS programme team for showing interest to disability and CDD as well. He recalled some of the previous conditions of persons with disabilities, challenges and current notable changes in disability sector. He then appreciated present development trends on disability inclusion and initiatives of different GO and NGO. He also provided a brief description of national and international activism on disabilities and government obligations for working on disabilities. He said that Bangladesh government has ratified UN convention on the disability rights that's a great milestone for us. He added Bangladesh also adopted a well-defined act in 2013 on disability though its implementations are questionable in some respect. He mentioned the SDG is sufficiently covered with disability issues so all development activities including social protection programmes should consider disability. He rejoined with Mr. Aminul Arifeen that it's time to establish a government mechanism to play an advisory as think-tank role on disability inclusion for the government. Finally, Mr. Noman assured that CDD will cooperate with the SSPS programme to conduct joint situation analysis on disability and provide their utmost support to any research, studies and programme on disability.



Persons with disabilities working in a workshop at CDD.

Mr. Nazmul Bari

Director

Centre for Disability in Development (CDD)

Mr. Bari, Director of Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) welcomed all the representatives in the meeting and expresses his interest to work in collaboration with SSPS team. He added that Washington Group Set of the questionnaire is often used both national and international organizations for disability identification now a days. He said that recently BBS had used this questionnaire for their disability identifications in 2016. He also added that world bank conducted a generic survey on disability in 2004 so far and there are some cluster focused studies and researches on disability but it's not enough as its required.



Person with disabilities sharing their experiences with SSPS team

Mr. Mohammad Khaled Hasan

Social Protection Specialist

Social Protection Policy Support Programme

Mr. Mohammad Khaled Hasan, Social Protection Specialist, Social Protection Policy Support Programme shared some of his observations on the data and information on disability. He mentioned that there is a categorical diversity among persons with disabilities like: some of the people with disabilities need no social protection but a big group of them need the social protection for their wellbeing and empowerment. Mr. Hasan requested CDD to consider the socioeconomic segregation and status of persons with disabilities in their studies and researches they conduct. He also mentioned that it is very important to identify the socio-economic status of persons with disabilities in terms of designing social protection programmes and policy making.

IDENTIFIED CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS ON DISABILITY

The meeting was well discussed by the participants that helped to identify some of the challenges and barriers on disability inclusion. The discussant also made some valuable recommendations to overcome the challenges on disability. Some of the major challenges and barriers are as follows:

CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS

1. Concerned government departments and institutions on disabilities are in place but they are not functioning effectively to facilitate disability inclusion.
2. Policies, laws, acts, provisions and mechanisms have been installed but the actions are not sufficiently taken in different level in some respects.
3. Technical persons and government officials have very less or no orientations on disability in both local and national level like: local officers, doctors, nurses, union parishad chairman and members, community health workers, community clinic staff etc.
4. National Coordination Committees and concerned organizations have no or less involvement or engagement in disability facilitation like: Functioning of National Committees, Focal Point on Disability by Ministry of Social Welfare (as per the disability act-2013).



SSPS team visiting Artificial Limbs workshop at CDD

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Planning Commission should play a strong role for planning, research, evidence and as a knowledge platform to facilitate disability inclusion in development plans and social protection systems.
2. Ministry of Social Welfare should play an effective and meaningful role for coordination and to constitute a think tank organization/platform for disability inclusion for the government in association with GO and NGO collaboration.
3. A common platform should be developed for disability advocacy, plan, research, and policy support for the government.
4. National Coordination Councils on disability should function well and play proactive role for disability coordination and facilitate disability inclusion.
5. Regular meeting of the National Coordination Councils should be held, and functioning of the Focal Point should be ensured.
6. Personnel from local government agencies and all other concerned line ministries, divisions and departments should be oriented on disability and implementation of disability action plans.
7. Government Medical Officers should be collaborated with Local Rehabilitation Councils to identify disabled peoples and reduce wrong identification of disabilities.
8. Challenges and barriers on the information, database, survey, identification on disability and scales for prevalence and percentage measurement of disability should be a point of discussion in national policy.

SCOPES OF OPPORTUNITIES WITH CDD

1. SSPS programme and CDD will work on a joint situation analysis on the disability.
2. CDD will share their reports, study tools and situation analysis reports on disability with SSPS programme.
3. CDD will share report and other evidences of the study on the injury prevention and retentions in work of RMG labor.
4. CDD will share best practices and case studies on successful disability inclusion with SSPS programme.
5. SSPS programme may recommend publishers to print report and IEC materials from CDD.
6. SSPS programme may develop partnership with CDD for piloting national insurance scheme on injury prevention for the labor in RMG sector.

PARTICIPANTS

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