

National Symposium

in observance of
The International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Title of Presentation

Building Inclusive
Pathways to Decent Work
and Livelihoods for Persons
with Disabilities in
Chattogram, Bangladesh

Thematic Areas

*Decent Work, Sustainable
Livelihood, Social
Protection,*

Young Power in Social Action (YPSA)



(An Organization for Sustainable Development)
[Organization in Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council
(UN ECOSOC)]

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YPSA's Overview: 40 Years of Empowering for Community Development

Inception

- Sparked by **UN Youth Decade (1981–1990) & International Youth Year 1985**
- Founded as **“Young Power”** on 20 May 1985, Sitakunda, Chattogram
- Transformed into **Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) in 1992** — a non-profit driving sustainable development

Disability & Livelihood Focus

- Builds **inclusive training centers & accessible workplaces**
- Strengthens **economic empowerment** & workforce participation of **PwDs**
- Advances **SDG 8 (Decent Work) & SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)**

Collaboration & Impact

- Partners with **government, NGOs, and the private sector** to create inclusive employment systems
- Evidence-driven: leveraging **field insights, stakeholder interviews, and case studies**

Geographical Reach

- Active across **Chattogram Division**: Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Bandarban, Khagrachari, Feni, Noakhali, Cumilla, and Chandpur and Dhaka District.
- Engages **coastal communities, urban migrants, indigenous populations, youth, PwDs, and disaster-prone households**



Key Achievements and Good Practices for Persons with Disabilities Initiatives

Successful Inclusive livelihood models

- Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) has implemented several successful inclusive livelihood models for Persons with Disabilities in Chattogram, Bangladesh. These models integrate multiple programmatic approaches:
- *Inclusive Finance,*
- *Inclusion Works,*
- *Development Initiatives for Social Change (DISC), and*
- *ICT & Resource Center on Disabilities (IRCD)*



Key Achievements and Good Practices of *the* *Inclusive* *Finance* *Program*

Inclusive Finance Program

Intervention

- Formation of Self-help groups
- Strengthening of OPDs
- Awareness Session
- Savings services
- Training (Business and entrepreneurship & Leadership)
- Assistive devices support
- Soft loans support
- Physiotherapy
- Medical support
- Grants for livelihood activities
- Market linkage
- House visit and follow up



Key Achievement and Good Practices of *Inclusive Finance Program*

Recognition

Received international recognition from the **Zero Project** for its **innovative and inclusive micro-enterprise model**

Major Achievements (as of October 2025)

Target **5,000** and reached **2760 PwDs** across **eight districts**

Skills training provided: **540 PwDs**

Leadership training: **491 PwDs**

Assistive devices distributed: **216**

Physiotherapy services: **2,379**

Grants provided: **606**

1642 PwDs are actively running their own business



Key Achievement and Good Practices *Inclusion Work Program*

Interventions

- Expands **employment and livelihood opportunities** for PwDs.
- Provides **vocational training, mentoring, and workplace sensitization**
- Collaborates with **local businesses, government institutions, and NGOs** to promote **inclusive hiring**
- Reduces workplace stigma through advocacy and awareness
- Offers **market-aligned training** in:
 - Tailoring
 - Handicrafts
 - Food processing
 - Entrepreneurship
 - Service-sector skills
- Supports employability through **soft-skills development**
- Links PwDs with **microcredit, savings services, and social protection schemes**

Achievements

- Increased employability of trained PwDs in both **formal and informal sectors**
- Improved workplace acceptance through **sensitization sessions** with employers
- Enhanced confidence, communication, and social participation among PwDs
- Strengthened partnerships with the **private sector** for inclusive recruitment
- Enabled more PwDs to start **small businesses** or engage in **home-based income activities**
- Facilitated access to financial services and safety nets, improving **economic resilience**



DISC Program – Interventions & Achievements

DISC (Development Initiatives for Social Change)

Interventions

- Address stigma and attitudinal barriers at the community level.
- Build advocacy, communication, and leadership skills for PwDs.
- Enable participation in local governance (union councils, community forums, development committees).
- Conduct awareness campaigns and community engagement.
- Collaborate with families and local leaders to create a supportive environment.

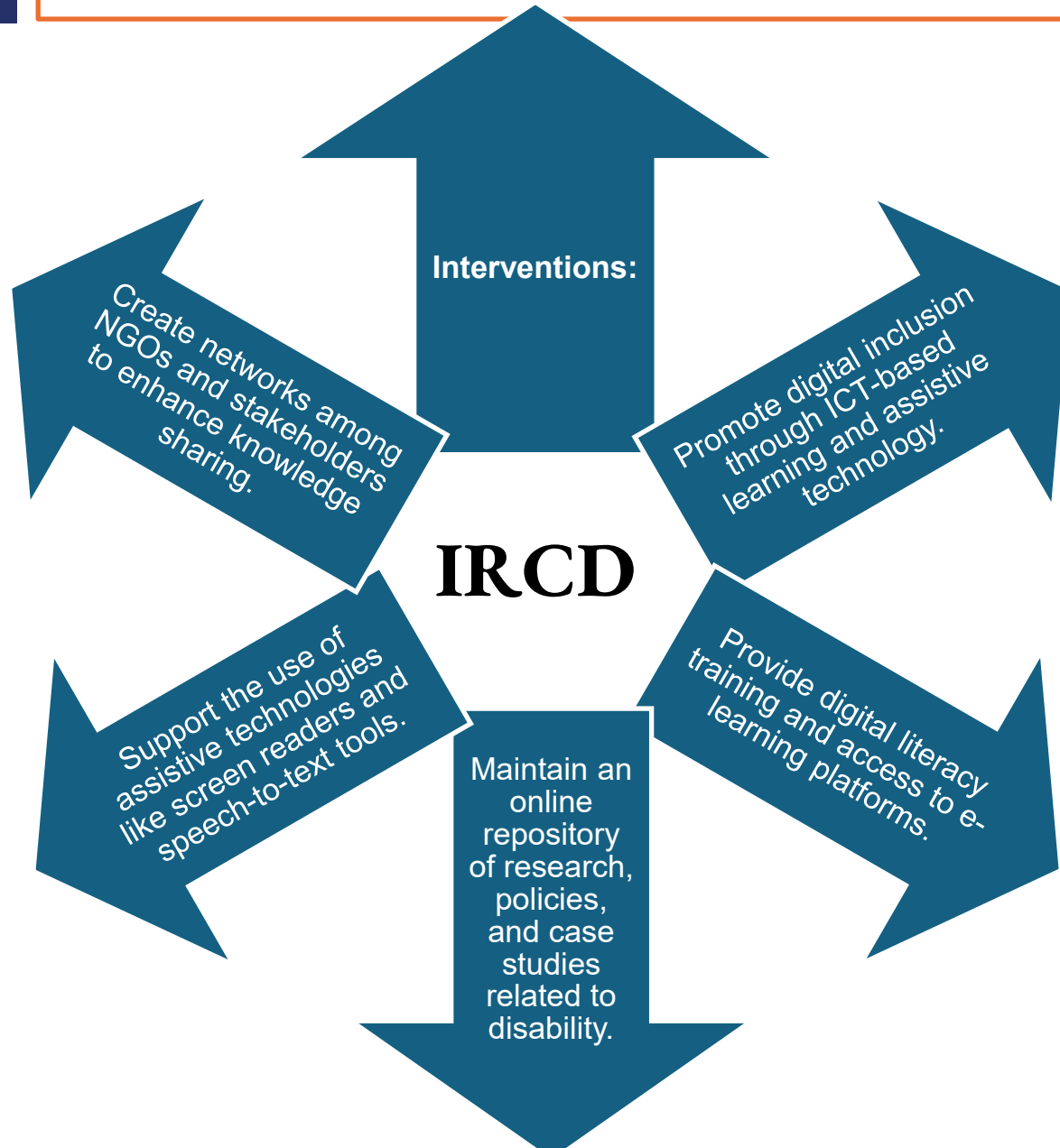
Achievements

- PwDs actively participate in social and community development activities.
- Increased community awareness and positive attitudes toward disability.
- Strengthened advocacy and leadership skills among PwDs.
- Enhanced social inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in Sitakund.



IRCD Program – Interventions & Achievements

ICT & Resource Center on Disabilities (IRCD)



Achievements:

- 445 PwDs received ICT skills training.
- Increased access to online education and income-generating opportunities.
- Strengthened empowerment and socio-economic participation for PwDs.
- Youth with disabilities are doing job in different institute after completing ICT Training.
- Improved digital skills and knowledge sharing among disability stakeholders.
- Digital Talking books are used by primary, secondary, college, and University students



Key Learnings and Challenges

Key Learnings:

Integrated support (finance + skills + inclusion + ICT + advocacy) creates stronger, sustainable outcomes.

Self-help groups improve confidence, leadership, and financial discipline.

Accessible financial products (soft loans, grants, assistive devices) boost business growth and stability.

Market-oriented skills training leads to higher employment and entrepreneurship success.

Digital inclusion expands opportunities for education, remote work, and online income.

Key Challenges

- **Social stigma** from families, employers, and communities' limits participation.
- **Poor accessibility** in workplaces and public facilities restricts mobility and employment.
- **Limited access to finance** as banks/MFIs hesitate to lend without collateral.
- **Economic instability** (inflation, market shocks) affects PwD-led enterprises.
- **Digital divide** persists, especially in rural areas, reducing ICT engagement.



Collaboration & Partnership

YPSA's disability-inclusive livelihood model thrives on multi-stakeholder collaboration:

- **Government:** Implement inclusive policies & link PwDs to social protection (SDG 8 & 10).
- **NGOs & Donors:** Mobilize resources, share best practices, expand inclusive finance initiatives.
- **Private Sector:** Promote accessible workplaces, job placements, and internships.
- **OPDs & Communities:** Strengthen self-help groups, leadership, and reduce stigma.
- **Tech & Education Partners:** Enhance digital literacy, assistive devices, and remote work access.

Forward	Way Forward
Boost	Boost market linkages for PwD entrepreneurs
Foster	Foster inclusive employment & workplace accessibility
Expand	Expand assistive technology & digital skills
Strengthen	Strengthen social protection & disaster resilience
Reach	Reach rural communities via mobile & satellite services