

Impact of COVID-19 of Persons with Disabilities:

COVID-19 and the government and healthcare responses to this crisis are having a significant impact on the lives of people all over the world. It is vital that governments and health officials ensure that human rights are part of this response. Department of health service in Bangladesh has prepared a guideline on the health caring in COVID- 19 Pandemic; Government incorporate how people with autism will take care in home through maintain health hygienic in the guide line but overlooked other 10 types of people with disabilities specific information on taking care in home through maintain health hygienic. DRR policy and Act have provision to include people with disabilities in relief program and priority to rescue them immediately as well as Sendai Framework mentioned about disability. Though now people with disabilities especially women with disabilities are suffering more than other marginalized group. Access to information is really hard for people with Disabilities. Government open a board casting brief on corona information about Affected, cure and death no including the suggestion on health and social destinations etc; but at the beginning of Government broadcasting overlooked access to information of hearing impaired people then through DPOs Advocacy. But nothing mentioning about people with disabilities on life saving in the pandemic. As usual they forget to give information about people with disabilities. Just one week before After the statement of UN Secretary General Secretary Guterus “about considering the people with disabilities in health and life saving initiatives” Department of Health service Bangladesh mentioned to take care of people with disabilities.

In particular, they must ensure that the rights of people from marginalized communities those who are most likely to see their livelihoods evaporate, their healthcare and employment needs go overlooked, and their lives upended during a crisis are the top priority.

Bangladesh has been listed as one of the 25 high risk countries. Hence, to stem the spread of COVID-19, Government of Bangladesh has declared the countrywide shutdown from 26 March and the duration of shutdown has been extended step by step due to stemming the spread of Covid-19. Consequentially, low income People with Disabilities lost their means of daily income, due to the ongoing shutdown situation. 15% of population are people with disabilities who are extremely vulnerable in this covid 19 situation.

The present situation and especially the lockdown has put a large portion of population including Persons with Disabilities in a precarious situation. A study report has published 74% People with Disabilities are already suffering from malnutrition in covid 19 . Especially Women with Disabilities and they're leading in humanitarian lives.

3 youth with disabilities are died with corona symptoms which broadcasting From Media. No is very low; as all the area do not come under the Corona testing. Even in the Capital all people are not get opportunity to test corona even those who have symptom. Most of the people with disabilities are nervous and facing difficulties to get health service those who need to take regular physiotherapy. Some are living in highly risk situation who are in urban slum.

Most of the sub-district and district hospital, community clinic, Mother health care service center are not providing regular service to people, so Women with disabilities couple are not getting long term method for family planning. The field visitor also not allowed to go door to door for provide service, reproductive health care service is not available except the pill and short term method which is available in near by pharmacy.

Due to financial crisis Women with disabilities and their family members are not active in their mobile which make another challenge to field worker of WDDF. We find out that 60-80% women with disabilities has deprive from their basic needs which is related to daily hygienic and health care for menstruation.

We also get report from women with disabilities are facing domestic violence such as physical and physiological torture etc. 4249 women has reported domestic violence against them in April, 4 women raped among them. There also report on madder cases. 1029 Women has faced domestic Violence first time in their life. 456 child has faced violence. 3 girls and women with intellectual and hearing disabilities has raped in 3 district in April.

According to long time working experience of WDDF, most of Persons with Disabilities are living under poverty line and they're working in informal sectors as garment workers and daily wage earners, e.g. hawkers, day labourers, rickshaw-pullers, van-pullers, transport workers, hotel workers, roadside tea stall owners and due to this shutdown situation they become workless and they've no income to meet up the daily needs of their family so they're living in extreme poverty and insecure lives.

The financial or food support are overlooked to people with disabilities according their needs; through lots of Advocacy from WDDF Government now allocate money 300,00,000 (3 crore BDT) on 4 April and Then 1 (crore BDT) on 12 April for people with disabilities including the poor, and unemployed. Most of the People with Disabilities yet to get this support from Government.

District Authority for relief distributions has clearly mentioned only disability Card holder and except disability allowance receiver will get this support from government which is less than 1% even whom are in government survey. So more than 14.5% of total population and 99% of People with Disabilities of Bangladesh are deprived from Government support at the moment.

WDDF has worked with DPOs and Coordinating many ways!

- WDDF has distributed this circulars and take initiatives to received support from government offices in respective.
- WDDF is coordinating with DPOs to prepared list as per condition of people with disabilities for different donor who are interested to support to people with disabilities.
- WDDF has also conducted a short survey of people with disabilities how they suffering due to shutdown situation through i2i.
- WDDF is collecting local and international donor to support People with disabilities especially Women with disabilities across the country.
- WDDF participate international survey and published joint statement of people disabilities situation with National and regional CSOs.

But Most of the Area DPOs are not working so people with disabilities suffering a lot. Some youth with disabilities Reported to get misbehavior from Government officials in their area. Almost one thousand garment factories have been opened within locked down situation and garment workers without disabilities are going to be joined in their work through enormous struggle but it is impossible for Persons with Disabilities so they're going to lose their job. Furthermore, in order to abridge economic loss during

shutdown situation, a large number of companies/factories will terminate staffs and in most cases, Persons especially Women with Disabilities will become victim of this termination.