

Tales of Darkness



A Baseline Study on Child Labour among Children with Disabilities

**A Baseline Study on
Situation of Child Labour and
Potential to be Child Labour among
Children with Disabilities**

Conducted by:

**CENTRE FOR SERVICES AND
INFORMATION ON DISABILITY (CSID)**

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Save the Children Sweden-Denmark

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Centre for Services and Information on Disability (CSID) in partnership with Save the Children Sweden (SCS) initiated a project titled "Community Based Rehabilitation of Street and Working Children with Disabilities" since 2001. Prior to commencement of the project Save the Children Sweden supported CSID to conduct two studies (i) "Situation Analysis and Need Assessment of Street and Working Children with Disabilities" in 1999 and (ii) "Possibilities to include Street and Working Children with Disabilities in to mainstream development process" in 2000. On the basis of findings of those studies the above mentioned project had been designed and implemented. Later Save the Children Sweden and Save the Children Denmark have been amalgamated and became one organization naming "Save the Children Sweden-Denmark (SCSD)". After amalgamation the organization changed its themes and country strategies and accordingly the project shifted from "Non-discrimination" Theme to "Child Labour" Theme.

As the project's theme has been changed accordingly project's design also needed to be changed, and both CSID and SCSD felt necessity of conducting a study to find out the baseline information on situation of children with disabilities engaged in child labour and at risk to be engaged in labour, which would help appropriate designing and planning of the project.

CSID like to express its hearty gratitude to SCSD for providing financial support and consultation to conduct this baseline study and make it a success.

CSID followed a participatory approach and an eight member Consultative Committee of children representatives from different types of disability groups worked closely with the study team. The Research Team like to put on record sincere appreciation to the "Children Consultative Group" for time to time consulting with during the process of the Research and also data collection.

The study covered both urban (Dhaka & Sylhet City) and rural area (Sadar Upazila of Barisal district). The project office staff of CSID in Dhaka, Sylhet and Barisal did a tremendous job in collecting data from the field and without their help it wouldn't have been possible to complete the study. The study team acknowledges their contribution with great appreciation.

The study team would like to express sincere thanks and gratitude to all the respondents such as- Children, Family members, Community people, Different professionals, Government Officials, NGO leaders and Employers for their time and cooperation at the time of conducting Interview and FGDs.

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Research Team

CONTENTS

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|----|
| Acronym | : | 05 |
| Executive Summary | : | 06 |
| Chapter – I: | | |
| Introduction | : | 13 |
| Rationale of the study | : | 14 |
| Chapter - II | | |
| Study design | : | 16 |
| Chapter – III | | |
| Analysis of Documents | : | 19 |
| Chapter – IV | | |
| Key findings and Interpretation- | | |
| • Interview with Children | : | 23 |
| • Interview with Employers | : | 44 |
| • Interview with Key Informant | : | 48 |
| • Findings from FGDs | : | 56 |
| Conclusion | : | 68 |
| Recommendations | : | 68 |
| Case Studies | : | 71 |

ACRONYMS

| | | |
|--------------|---|--|
| BBS | : | Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics |
| CSID | : | Centre for Services and Information on Disability |
| CWD | : | Children with Disabilities |
| CRC | : | Convention on the Rights of Children |
| CPM | : | Child Protection Movement |
| CRPD | : | Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities |
| CBR | : | Community Based Rehabilitation |
| CEDAW | : | Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women |
| DSS | : | Department of Social Services |
| ILO | : | International Labour Organisation |
| NPA | : | National Plan of Action for Children |
| NGO | : | Non-Government Organisation |
| NFOWD | : | National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled |
| NCLS | : | National Child Labour Survey |
| PRSP | : | Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper |
| SCSD | : | Save the Children Sweden-Denmark |
| SARPV | : | Social Assistance and Rehabilitation of Physically Vulnerable |
| TWC | : | Together with Children |
| UN | : | United Nations |
| WFP | : | World Food Programme |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In partnership with Save the Children Sweden-Denmark (SCSD) CSID was implementing a project titled "Community Based Rehabilitation of Street and Working Children with Disabilities" since 2001 under the theme of Non-Discrimination. CSID was working focusing the discrimination issues along with other problems and issues in previous phase for the last few years. From January 2009 CSID has been included in the Child Labour thematic programme of SCSD and implementing a project for working children with disabilities titled "Reducing Child Labour among Children with Disabilities and Rehabilitation".

As the project's theme has been changed accordingly project's design also needed to be changed, and both CSID and SCSD felt necessity of conducting a study to find out the baseline information on situation of children with disabilities engaged in child labour and at risk to be engaging in labour, which would help appropriate designing and planning of the project.

Objectives of the Study:

- Explore overall poverty and socio-cultural condition of the project participants, their families.
- Explore the cause-effect relationship of child labour among CWDs.
- Explore the overall rights situation of Children with Disabilities in the project area including rights violation, causes and duty bearer analysis.
- Explore the overall situation of the access to service provider institutions of the project participants.
- Assess the degree of awareness on rights based issues among CWDs, their family, various groups and relevant stakeholders.
- Assess the need of project participants and their expectation from the project.
- Identify key opportunities, constraints and development initiatives need and recommendation for promoting rights of CWDs.

Methodology and Approaches:

A combination of methodology was used to collect information/data for the research which are: Focus Group Discussion; observation; In-depth interviews; Collecting Case Studies Review of available Policy documents. A total of 5 set questionnaires used, which were combination of closed and open-ended questions. The research used participatory approach in the whole process. A children consultative group was directly involved in consultation process and data collection.

Area Coverage:

The study covered both urban and rural areas. Urban areas were Dhaka and Sylhet City, and the rural area was – Sadar Upazila of Barisal district.

Time frame:

January to December 2009.

REVIEW OF NATIONAL POLICIES, LEGISLATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS

Legislation

Article 28 of the Constitution make special provisions for the benefit of children. According to the Labour Act (2006) the minimum age for admission to work is 14 years and 18 years for hazardous work. Further, light work for children between the ages of 12 - 14 years is defined as non-hazardous work that does not impede education. Other laws that define the rights and protections due to children are: The Children Act (1974) and the Children Rules (1976); The Bonded Labour Act, 2006; The Suppression of Violence against Women and Children Act (2000); and The Compulsory Primary Education Act, 1990.

ILO and UN Conventions

Bangladesh has ratified: UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (No. 182), ILO Night Work of Young Persons (Industry) Convention, (No. 6), ILO Night Work of Young Persons (Industry Revised) Convention (No. 90), ILO Minimum Age (Trimmers and Stockers) Convention (No. 15), ILO Minimum Age (Industry Revised) Convention (No. 59), ILO Forced Labour Convention (No. 29), ILO Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (No. 105).

National policies and programmes

The child labour problem was however, first identified in the second National Plan of Action for Children (1997 - 2002). In March 2001, the Government ratified ILO Convention No. 182 and that year, the Ministry of Labour and Employment initiated the development of National Policy on Child Labour. The Third National Plan of Action for Children (2005 - 10) addresses the issue of the worst forms of child labour and provides information on planned interventions for the next five-year period.

In the National Children Policy 1994 recognised that due to economical hardship and meeting needs of families many children are engaged in different types of labour in both urban and rural areas. As per estimate of Bureau of Statistics, among total labour in the country at least 12% is child labour. It has been revealed in a survey conducted in 1990 that 2900000 children under 15 are engaged in labour only in urban areas due to extreme poverty. But in the implementation plan of the Children Policy there is no action for reducing or addressing the child labor.

National Plan of Action 2005-2010:

Action regarding child labour in the National Plan of Action for Children 2005-2010: Take immediate and effective measures to eliminate the worst forms of child labour as defined in International Labour Organisation Convention No. 182, and elaborate and implement strategies for the elimination of child labour that is contrary to accepted international standards. Under sub-section - Prosecution of perpetrators (6.5.4) the NPA says that – *In order to protect the child victims of abuse, and violence, the following interventions are required to confront their perpetrators:* (1) Prosecute and penalise all perpetrators inflicting torture and other cruel, inhuman, degrading, or damaging acts; (2) Prosecute and penalise, all perpetrators of sexual abuse and exploitation for sex work, trafficking, and forced labour.

For the governance and management of the NPA the following bodies/institutions are exists: Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, National Children's Council, Inter-Ministerial CRC

Committee and Bangladesh Shishu Academy. To make the governance and management more effective and appropriate in the NPA it has been proposed and suggested to form/develop the following institutions: Directorate of Children Affairs, Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs; National Children's Task Force; Independent Commission for Children.

01.3.3. Draft National Child Labour Policy- 2008:

The Government of Bangladesh has formulated and declared the Draft National Child Labour Policy – 2008. Government officials, Officials from Save the Children Sweden-Denmark, Representatives from Civil Society, NGOs, Employers and Employees were participated in the process of formulating the draft. The objectives of the Policy are: (i) To identify the strategy of protecting and eliminating child labour in Bangladesh; (ii) Time bound and short terms programme initiative on elimination of risky and hazardous child labour in formal and non-formal sectors and (iii) To undertake steps to eliminate all forms of child labour in Bangladesh.

Objective wise Key Findings:

General Information:

The study interviewed 300 disabled children, 100 Employers, and 45 Key Informants. FGD conducted 7 with Disabled children, 7 with Parents Group and 6 with Community People.

Profile of children interviewed: In both the urban and rural area among the children with disabilities engaged in labour and at risk to be engaged, percentage of boys is higher 68% than the girls 32%. It also revealed that among disabled children engaged in work 52% are with physical disability which is highest, 20% is visual impaired & the third bigger portion is Hearing and Speech impaired 15%. The percentage of children with Intellectual and Multiple disabilities are 6.33% in each group.

Causes of Disability found: The highest portion 48.33% is congenital (by birth) and the second highest is disease 25%. It indicates poor health practice of this marginalised group of families and inaccessibility to health services.

Status of using Assistive Devices: Only 30.33% use different types of Aids and Appliances. However, at least 65% children need some kinds of aids or appliances; this low rate of using Aids & Appliances is due to unawareness of usefulness and availability among families and in many cases, they cannot afford due to economical hardship.

1. Overall poverty and socio-cultural condition of the project participants and their families.

a. Status of living places: The bigger portion 56.45% is living in different slums in urban area where only 25.33% in rural area. Ten children (3.33%) living on the street and among them 7 with families and 3 children do not have families and any shelter for stay at night. 63% respondents informed that their living places including toilets and water source are some how accessible and 38% informed inaccessible.

b. Socio-economic status of families: *Causes of migration:* Total 74% among 300 families are migrated in cities and among them only 12 in Barisal rural area. The major causes are economical hardship e.i. having jobs and raising income to meet the family needs (30.63% & 37.40%). Eight families 3.60% migrated for river erosion. A significant number 22.52% living in cities generation after generation and they do not know when and why their ancient generation migrated.

Family size: The maximum families are 5 members family (26%). Second bigger number is over 8 members families (15.67%) and third bigger number is 4 & 6 members families (14.33% each). 3 children have no families (1%) and they live on the street.

Principal income earning member of the families: Father is the principal income-earning member in maximum families 52.33%; next Mother and Disabled Children themselves (15.33% each). 73% among 300 families are unable to cover the cost of living by the income of Principal income earning member. Among those families, earning members are 2 – 7 including the disabled child. This information indicates the economical vulnerability and hardship of living condition of the families.

Income range of the families: The highest 45% family's income range is within Tk. 3001 – 6000 per month and the rate is about equal in both urban and rural areas 44.44% & 46.67% respectively. Second highest income range is over 6000 (20.33%) and this range is higher in urban area than rural area. Mostly the beggars group earn this income.

Range of family expenditure per month: Its worth noted that though 5.33% families in urban and 4.00% in rural area earn up to Tk. 1,000.00 per month, their expenditure is much more than the earning as there is no families found whose expenditure is within the range of Tk. 1,000.00. Among other ranges many of the family's monthly expenditure is over their income. This difference between income and expenditure made them marginalised and the families exploiting children with disabilities to compensate this income difference.

Source of income of the families: The family members of disabled children are engaged in 23 different professions. There are some differences in nature of occupations between urban and rural areas in accordance with the situation and availability of opportunities. The occupations of the family members according to the majority are- Day labourer 18.66%, Small business 17.66%, Rickshaw & Van puller 14.33% and then Begging 10%.

c. Education status of the children: It has been found that only 20.33% children are engaged in education among 300. The levels they are studying are Pre-Primary – class xi. Among 61 children 6 children studying in pre-primary level, 10 in class- i, 15 in class- ii, 10 in class- iii, 4 in class- iv, 6 in class-v, 3 in class- vi, 1 in class- vii, 2 in class- viii, 1 in class- ix, 2 in class- x and 1 in class- xi.

2. Explore the cause-effect relationship of child labour among CWDs.

Among 300 families 74% migrated in cities and the major cause of migration is economical hardship. Work opportunities and income is higher in cities than rural area so, the families migrated to cities. Again living cost is much higher in cities than rural areas so, the income the families earn in the cities is not enough to maintain the families so, they engaging children even though children got disability to compensate the deficit of income. The study revealed that 77% of the families of working children with disabilities are dependent on the income of the children. This dependency is one of the major causes of engaging disabled children in income earning activities even through begging no matter how risky and hazardous is the work.

As the disabled children being engaged in income earning activities from the very child hood it impeding sound physical and mental development. and they are losing opportunity of education as well, for which the children can not build their future in a descent way and they are whirling round in the circle of poverty. If children engage in work- inferiority complex develop within them, they deprive from education rights, they lose their potentiality and create barrier in future development and sound growth. Child labour protects sound physical and mental growth.

Child labour situation:

Occupation: Among 300 children 79.33% are engaged in 36 different types of works and 20.67% are in high risk to be involved in work. 78.67% are engaged in child labour in Dhaka City; 64% engaged in Sylhet City and 96% are engaged in rural area of Barisal. This information indicates that, percentage of disabled children engaged in labour is higher in rural area than the urban area.

39.08% children with disabilities working willingly recognising there is no alternative where 60.92% children do not like to be engaged in work rather like to be engaged in education, playing with other children but the families by force sending them to work.

Income range of working children with disabilities: The income range per month is higher in urban areas than rural area, and this is one of the major causes of migration to cities from rural areas. For survival of the families, this income of the disabled children contributing a lot, so the families use children as source of income rather engaging them in education.

Dependency of the families on income of disabled children: 77% of the families of working children with disabilities are dependent on the income of the children and 23% are not. This dependency is one of the major causes of engaging disabled children in income earning activities even through begging no matter how risky and hazardous is the work.

Self-control over own earnings is a right and matter of dignity for all. The table shows 48.32% of disabled children have at least some extent of control over their income. But 51.68% do not have any control.

Timing of works of children: 77.73% disabled children work at daytime, which is maximum in number; 21% work in shifting ie; some times at daytime and some times at night. Only 2 children work at night.

Working hour: 53.36% children work 6–10 hours, which is highest. Percentage of children work over 10 hours is second highest 19.35%. Percentage of working over 10 hours is double in urban areas than rural area. 18.90% children work 1-5 hours and 8.40% children do not have any specific working time, they have to work as per employer's requirement.

Leave option: According to the responses of 128 wage employed children 107 (83.59%) children get leave facilities in different manners.

Status of wages: Among the 238 disabled children engaged in work, 128 children are engaged in wage employment, and other 110 children are engaged in different self-employment activities and begging. Among these 128 children 53.91% reported receive equal wages and rest 46.09% are being discriminated.

Allowing time for schooling: 15 children from Dhaka, 3 from Sylhet and 13 from Barisal informed employers allow them time to attend school. Others do not get any time consideration for education and or recreation.

Punishment by the employers: Among wage-employed children, 55.47% informed they are victim of punishment by employer. 110 children those are self-employed and engaged in begging are controlled by the guardian/family members. All most all of these children reported they are being punished by the families if they do not want to go for work and or cannot earn targeted income each day. The punishment types are: Scolding, beating, not giving food etc.

Abuse: 21% children engaged in wage employed informed that they have been victim of abuse in workplaces and outside home. 47% of total children informed they have been assaulted physically, 33.33% got verbal, 15.88% said they have been punished psychologically and 3.17% informed about sexual abuse.

3. Explore the overall rights situation of Children with Disabilities in the project area including rights violation, causes and duty bearer analysis.

Discrimination: 95% members of the all groups responded that girls and disabled children are being discriminated in the families. The families do not listen to disabled children; they do not get equal food, cloths, care and dignity comparing to non-disabled children. They are being deprived from education, recreation and social activities, Government services; do not have right to give opinion. Disabled children are also being discriminated within the community.

Participation status: Among 300 children 65% responded they are not having opportunity to participate in decision-making process in the families. Concerning opportunity to give personal opinion in terms of choosing food, dresses and any other matter 69% opined that their opinion in even personal likings is being ignored. From the responses of other key informants it has been revealed that participation status of children is very much poor.

Torture and Abuse/Exploitation: All most all respondents agreed that disabled children are in high risk of abuse and exploitation in comparison with non-disabled children. It can happen at home, outside home and at work places. They mentioned- Due to physical weakness they cannot defend, some children cannot see, some cannot speak and another group cannot understand what is happening due to intellectual disability. The criminals/ofenders take this opportunity.

Concerning torture and abuse, children have their own concept which is very interesting and learning for all. The children mentioned "forcibly making bound to do anything and or imposing anything against our wills is torture/abuse". We adults are unaware of and totally ignore this psychological aspect of children in terms of torture.

4. Overall situation of the access to service provider institutions of the project participants.

Govt. services: Concerning availability of services for disabled children in Government sector 48.67% informed they are aware of the services. From all three areas, 26.67% children are receiving some sorts of services from Government sectors.

NGO services: About NGO services 55.67% children are aware. 56% responded that they are receiving different services from NGOs. This information indicates that disabled children are receiving services from NGOs much more than Government.

5. The degree of awareness on rights based issues among CWDs, their family, various groups and relevant stakeholders.

51% Children; 50.67% urban and 52% rural employers; 71% NGO; 50% counsellor; 60% Media professional; 75% Govt. Official; 22% Religious leader; and 75% Family members informed that they have heard that children and disabled children have some rights.

6. Need of project participants and their expectation from the project.

The children with disabilities described their dream and aim of life. Despite their disability and barriers, obstacles they are facing in everyday life they also have dream for future life like all other children without disabilities.

Majority 48.34% children like to be self-dependent by different commercial activities, trade, and second majority 37.33% children like to be educated and professions like- Teacher, Doctor, Engineer, Auditor, Journalist etc. and dream to be engaged in dignified jobs. Some children like to be technical persons (8.67%) and some Singer, Film actors and Players. They expect from the project all possible support to fulfil their aim of life.

7. Key opportunities, constraints and development initiatives need for promoting rights of CWDs and recommendation.

The opportunities are there are National Policies, Legislation and Action Plan; International Conventions ratified by the Government, which ensures rights of disabled children and Government have Ministries, agencies and mechanism to implement those. There are many civil society organisations/NGOs working to promote and protect rights of the children including disabled children. The present Government is committed to improve lifestyle of persons with disabilities in accordance with the UN CRPD. Save the Children formed a forum titled Together with Children (TWC) and there are many child clubs including Self-Advocacy Groups of Disabled children formed by CSID and a Child Led organisation Child Protection Movement (CPM) active in child rights movement in the country.

But the constraints are disabled children are not getting importance in the policies and action plans; policies, action plans are not being properly implemented due to lack of interest of implementing agencies and lack of budgetary allocation.

Recommendation

- Mass awareness raising programme initiative is needed.
- Government is to amend law against child labour including issues relating to children with disabilities and implement effectively.
- Child labour issue should be included with the (PRSP) and Poverty Reduction programme.
- Government and Civil Society coordination and Inter ministerial cooperation and coordination are to be established.
- Government need to establish Inclusive Education, Health service and Vocational skill training free of cost to disabled children.
- Undertaking Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Programme by the Government formulating an effective policy.
- Sensitising families and employers and introduce code of conduct for employing disabled children.
- Ensuring financial support including access to micro-credit for families of Disabled Children to raise their income.
- Establishing Shelter Home for street children with disabilities.
- Encouraging law enforcement agencies for prompt and active intervention against any violation of child rights and child labour law.
- Extensive population control programme initiation to reduce poverty.
- Engaging children in work according to their age, education, physical capability and ability with appropriate adaptation.
- Increasing social security services for children prioritising disabled children.
- Disability and Child labour issues needed to be included in the textbooks from primary level.
- Regular monitoring of child labour and rights situation of disabled children.
- Formation of Self-Help and Advocacy groups of disabled children and support them.

CHAPTER- I

Introduction

Centre for Services and Information on Disability (CSID) is a non-government organization, registered with the NGO Affairs Bureau working for the development of Persons with Disabilities since December 1997. In partnership with Save the Children Sweden-Denmark (SCSD) CSID was implementing a project titled Community Based Rehabilitation of Street and Working Children with Disabilities since 2001 under the theme of Non-Discrimination. CSID was working focusing the discrimination issues along with other problems and issues in previous phase for the last few years. From January 2009 CSID has been included in the Child Labour thematic programme of SCSD and implementing a project for working children with disabilities titled "Reducing Child Labour among Children with Disabilities and Rehabilitation". From 2009 the major focus of the new project has been Child Labour and the project is addressing the rehabilitation and mainstreaming issues as well.

There is no significantly reliable statistics on the prevalence rate of disability in Bangladesh. There are a number of sources, providing conflicting prevalence rate. The WHO's global estimate predicts approximately 10% of the world's population have a disability of one kind or another. Some sources quote a higher disability rate in rural Bangladesh in view of the overpopulation, extreme poverty, illiteracy, lack of awareness, and above all, lack of medical care and services. Action Aid-Bangladesh and Social Assistance and Rehabilitation for the Physically Vulnerable (SARPV) put the disabled population at 8.8% of the total population. Bangladesh Protibandi Kalayan Samiti records 7.8%, while in another survey ActionAid Bangladesh (1996) records 14.04% people suffered from some form of impairment. The study, however, was based on a survey with relatively low coverage. Furthermore, the Government of Bangladesh surveys in 1982, 1986 and 1998 estimated the national prevalence rate at 0.64%, 0.5%, and 1.60% respectively.

The National Forum of Organisations working with the Disabled (NFOWD) and Handicap International (HI) jointly conducted the largest ever survey in Bangladesh in terms of volume and coverage in the year 2005. This survey has been found that 5.6% people in Bangladesh have a disability of one kind or another. Among the people with disabilities, the percentage share of different types of impairments is as follows: visual 32.2%, physical 27.8%, hearing and speech 22.5% (18.6% hearing; 3.9% speech), intellectual 6.7%, and multiple (more than one type) 10.7%. In this survey the Deaf-Blind and Autistic people had been excluded so including those types of disabled people the prevalence rate should be higher than 5.6%. The available national survey carried out by Sight Savers International on age-specific visual disability found that among people with disabilities, 25.86% of the sample suffered from visual impairment.

The situation of children with disability in Bangladesh is completely far below the average of any section of people. In the context of our society the children with disabilities are considered as burden for the family and society. The children with disabilities create extra pressure on the families in terms of time and economy as the family members need to give extra time for their care and the specific treatment, assistive devices etc. cause extra burden for family economy. As a result they are being ignored and in poor families being used as source of income.

The children with disabilities are excluded from most governmental and non-governmental development programs/ services. A large number of disable children are engaged in different types of hazardous job and also in forced begging where their rights are highly violated. Children who are working in different informal sector suffer from a number of violations. They are exploited by traffickers, working for long hours with limited or no control over their incomes, experience physical and verbal abuse, and sometimes sexually harassed. Working

children with disabilities also stay from their families for long periods and live in poor and dangerous conditions. In this circumstances both Save the Children Sweden-Denmark and CSID realized that to reduce child labour among Children with Disabilities and bring about positive change in their lifestyle a baseline study is needed to know the actual situation and the level of rights violation is taking place so that the project can be designed and implemented effectively.

Rationale of the Study:

Child Labour Situation in Bangladesh:

In 2002 - 03, the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) conducted the second National Child Labour Survey (NCLS)¹. This survey has been designed and conducted in the context of the commitments made by the Government of Bangladesh, following the ratification of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182) 1999. According to the survey, there are 4.9 million working children² - 14.2 per cent of the total 35.06 million children in the age group of 5-14 years. The total working child population between 5 and 17 years old is estimated at 7.9 million.

- The proportion of boy and girl child workers, in the age group of 5-17 years, is 73.5 per cent and 26.5 per cent, respectively;
- The total number of working children aged 5-17 years in rural areas is estimated at 6.4 million as against 1.5 million in urban areas;
- As many as 93.3 per cent of all working children in the age group of 5-17 years operate in the informal sector. Agriculture engages 4.5 million (56.4 per cent children), while the services sector engages 2 million (25.9 per cent), and industry, 1.4 million (17.7 per cent);
- A total of 1.3 million children are estimated to be working 43 hours or more per week. More boys than girls are engaged in this form of child labour across all age groups.

Parallel to the National Child Labour Survey, an establishment survey and five baseline surveys on the worst forms of child labour in five segments (welding, automobiles, street children, battery re-charging, and transport) have also been conducted under the supervision of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics with technical and financial support from the ILO. The final reports of the establishment survey and the baseline surveys are now available. The factors that generate child labour in Bangladesh can be summarized as follows:

- Extreme forms of poverty play a crucial role. Child labour is part of a vicious cycle, with poverty as a main cause as well as a main consequence. This implies that child labour cannot be addressed in isolation. Among factors contributing to child labour are rapid population growth, adult unemployment, bad working conditions, lack of minimum wages, exploitation of workers, low standard of living, low quality of education, lack of legal provisions and enforcement, low capacity of institutions, gender discrimination and traditional arguments in favour of child labour. One or more of the above contribute to the large numbers of children working under exploitative or hazardous conditions.

¹ A first study was carried out in 1995 - 96 with the support of the ILO

² This figure does not include economically active children who are unemployed.

- There is a direct link between child labour and education. Nearly 50 per cent of primary school students drop out before they complete grade 5, and then gravitate towards work, adding to the number of child labourers. The high drop-out rates are correlated with the low quality of public primary education, low adult literacy, low awareness of the importance of education, teacher-student ratio (sometimes this goes up to 1 per 100), non-availability of didactic and learning materials, and the cost of education. Basic primary education is free as far as direct costs and school books are concerned. But many indirect costs are involved as well, such as transport, uniforms, pens, pencils, and notebooks.
- Bangladesh has only limited provision for pre-vocational/vocational skills training and there are related constraints such as the quality of the skills training, market and employment linkages and certification. While this could be an attractive option to working/disadvantaged children and their families, neither the Government of Bangladesh nor many of the non-governmental organizations have the institutional capacity and technical expertise required to deliver skills training facilities effectively;
- Finally, the level of awareness on the issue of child labour and laws prohibiting it is still low. Society in general has a rather indifferent attitude towards the problem. In many cases, it is not realised that the children who are employed in, for example, domestic service, often have no access to education or medical care.

In Bangladesh population under eighteen years is 55.77 million (2001 Census). As no nationwide survey on prevalence and situation of Disability had been conducted yet and reliable data is not available, we do not have any alternative to accept the estimate of WHO (10% prevalence rate). Then among 55.77 million under 18 years; at the rate of 10% the number of disabled children in Bangladesh is 5.58 million, which is not at all negligible. It is recognized that Poverty and Disability is interrelated. Poverty is one of the major causes of disability and on the other hand Disability is one of the major causes of Poverty. At least 80% disabled children living in the low income families and the families use them as source of income just for survival of the families. Most of the disabled children of the low income families are being forced to beg on the street or do hazardous work for earn income.

It is worth mentioning that none of the above mentioned surveys or studies on child labour covered disabled children. This group of most vulnerable children is often being excluded from mainstream development plan or programmes related to children in both Government and Non-Government sector.

CSID in partnership with Save the Children Sweden-Denmark initiated a project titled "Community Based Rehabilitation of Street and Working Children with Disabilities" since 2001. Prior to initiation of the project a study titled "Situation analysis and Need Assessment of Street and Working Children with Disabilities" had been conducted. The study revealed that the disabled children are being forced by the families to work and if any day the child did not go for earn income the family do not give them food for that day.

The project was under the non-discrimination theme of SCSD. Addressing child labour among the target children was one of the many components of the above project. As the SCSD brought changes in their programme strategies and revised themes; from 2010 the project has been shifted under Child Labour Theme. Addressing child labour among disabled children will be the main focus of the project now. So, to gather detail baseline information and authentic data in order to prepare an appropriate and effective plan and design of the project this Baseline study was essential.

CHAPTER- II

1. Study Design:

1.1. The objectives of the Study were:

- Explore overall poverty and socio-cultural condition of the project participants, their families.
- Explore the cause-effect relationship of child labour among CWDs.
- Explore the overall rights situation of Children with Disabilities in the project area including rights violation, causes and duty bearer analysis.
- Explore the overall situation of the access to service provider institutions of the project participants.
- Assess the degree of awareness on rights based issues among CWDs, their family, various groups and relevant stakeholders.
- Assess the need of project participants and their expectation from the project.
- Identify key opportunities, constraints and development initiatives need and recommendation for promoting rights of CWDs.

1.2. Time frame:

The stipulated time frame of the Research was 1st June to 30 November 2009. Within this time frame the study team got to do the preparatory work like developing questionnaires, Focus Group Discussion (FGD) guidelines, selection of areas, forming Children Consultative group and consultation, recruitment and orientation of data collectors, field test of questionnaires and finalisation etc. So, the actual time the Research Team got to collect information/data covering 3 areas (Dhaka, Barisal and Sylhet) from 1st August – 15th November 2009.

1.3. Geographical area coverage:

The research covered both urban and rural area. The urban area was Dhaka and Sylhet City and the rural area was Sadar and Babugonj Upazila of Barisal district. Due to resource and time constraints there was no option to covering wide range of areas and conducting adequate number of interview/ FGDs with different stakeholders.

1.4. List of area covered:

| Geographical area | Coverage |
|-------------------|--|
| Urban area | Dhaka and Sylhet City |
| Rural area | Sadar and Babugonj Upazila of Barisal district |

1.5. Nature and Approach of the Study:

The Nature and Approach of the study was participatory. One 8 members' children consultative committee was formed and involved consisting of one girl and one boy from each 4 categories of disability to ensure participation of children in the study process. The Study Team time to time consulted with this group and they participated in the information gathering process throughout the study activities as well. The study approach was qualitative by nature and an inherent capacity-building component was in the process.

1.6. Methodology used:

A combination of methods has been used for gathering data/information e.g.

- *Individual Interview/Interaction* with working children with disabilities.
- *Focus Group Discussion* with groups of working children with Disability.
- *Focus Group discussion* with parents of Children with Disabilities.
- *Individual Interview and FGD* with Employers.
- *KII - In-depth interviews* with the Policy level people of Government, NGOs, Media professionals, Religious Leader, Public representatives etc.
- *Collecting Case Studies* of Working Children and young people with Disabilities.
- *Review of available Policy documents/ literature and web search* to gather secondary information from national, regional and International Organisations/ Networks on relevant issues.

A total of 6 sets of questionnaires and FGD guideline for 3 categories of stakeholders have been developed for collection of information considering different issues and types of stakeholders. The questionnaires were combination of closed and open-ended questions.

1.7. Selection of respondents

The respondent had been selected as random basis in considering the information needed to attain the objectives of the study. Importance has been given to maintain the equal balance among girls and boys and diversity of disabilities. Categories of respondent have been shown in the following paragraphs of Interview and FGDs.

1.8. Interview and individual interaction:

The numbers of interviews conducted with the different categories of stakeholders selected by the Study Team are as follows:

| Sl. # | Category of Stakeholders Interview conducted with | # of Respondent | | | |
|-------|--|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | Dhaka | Sylhet | Barisal | TOTAL |
| 01. | Children with disabilities | 150 | 75 | 75 | 300 |
| 02. | Employers | 50 | 25 | 25 | 100 |
| 03. | Key Informants | 19 | 20 | 06 | 45 |
| | TOTAL: | 219 | 121 | 106 | 445 |

1.9. Focus Group Discussions (FGD):

The study conducted numbers of Focus Group Discussions with Children with Disabilities, Parents groups and Community People to gather information. The category wise number of FGD conducted has been shown in the following table:

| Sl. # | FGD conducted with | # of FGDs | | | |
|-------|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | Dhaka | Sylhet | Barisal | TOTAL |
| 01. | Children with disabilities | 03 | 02 | 02 | 07 |
| 02. | Parents groups | 03 | 02 | 02 | 07 |
| 03. | Community people | 02 | 02 | 02 | 06 |
| | TOTAL: | 08 | 06 | 06 | 20 |

1.10. Collection of case studies:

The study team collected 10 case studies and analysed for gathering information on the basis of the objectives of the study.

1.11. Secondary data analysis:

The Study Team collected available documents on National Policy, Laws, and Studies on Child labour issues. In addition Regional and International commitments and conventions etc. have also been collected and reviewed. The list of documents has been given as Bibliography.

1.12. Limitations:

It was difficult to interview Government Officials. Except Officials of Department of Social Services other Departments were denied to give interview. The Employers didn't want to give adequate time for interviewing. The Ward Commissioners of Dhaka City and Sylhet City were unavailable and due to political reason some were reluctant to answer questions. As most of the children's father and mother both are working, it was difficult to organize FGDs with parents and some FGDs needed to organize in the evening while they returned from work. The children and also parents were reluctant to answer some questions such as relating to abuse/torture etc.

1.13. Study population- those Children who are disabled between age group 0-18 years.

Exclusion criteria:

1. Disabled Children who lived in outside of project area
2. Children who are not disabled

CHAPTER – III

REVIEW OF NATIONAL POLICIES, LEGISLATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS WITH REGARDS TO CHILD LABOUR

Analysis of Documents:

01. National Legislation and Policies against Child Labour in Bangladesh

01.1. Legislation

Article 20 of the Constitution refers to work as a right and a duty and a matter of honour of revere citizen who is capable of working. Article 28 of the Constitution empowers the State to make special provisions for the benefit of children.

The Government of Bangladesh through the Ministry of Labour and Employment has reviewed all fragmented laws related to child labour with a view to fixing a uniform age for admission to work and to prohibit their engagement in hazardous occupations. According to the Labour Act (2006) the minimum age for admission to work is 14 years and 18 years for hazardous work. Further, light work for children between the ages of 12 - 14 years is defined as non-hazardous work that does not impede education.

Other laws that define the rights and protections due to children are:

- The Children Act (1974) and the Children Rules (1976);
- The Bonded Labour Act, 2006;
- The Suppression of Violence against Women and Children Act (2000); and
- The Compulsory Primary Education Act, 1990.

01.2. ILO and UN Conventions

Bangladesh has ratified:

- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).
- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).
- ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (No. 182).
- ILO Night Work of Young Persons (Industry) Convention, (No. 6).
- ILO Night Work of Young Persons (Industry Revised) Convention (No. 90).
- ILO Minimum Age (Trimmers and Stockers) Convention (No. 15).
- ILO Minimum Age (Industry Revised) Convention (No. 59).
- ILO Forced Labour Convention (No. 29).
- ILO Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (No. 105).

01.3. National policies and programmes

As a result of various research studies, there was awareness of child labour in the 1990s within the Government and civil society and several initiatives to combat the problem were taken by the Government of Bangladesh. In 1990, Bangladesh became a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the ensuing Summit Declaration and Plan of Action. In the same

year, Bangladesh passed the Primary Education Act and, in 1993, it established the compulsory primary education system for children aged 6 years and above. At the same time, the Government adopted the National Children Policy and formulated the first National Plan of Action for Children (1991 - 96). The child labour problem was however, first identified in the second National Plan of Action for Children (1997 - 2002).

In collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP), the Government started the Food for Education Programme in 1993 with the aim to attract poor children and their families to primary education. With the setting-up of the Primary and Mass Education Division in 1992 and the Directorate of Non-Formal Education in 1996, the Government introduced another initiative to tackle the high drop out and low attendance rates in the formal school system.

In March 2001, the Government ratified ILO Convention No. 182 and that year, the Ministry of Labour and Employment initiated the development of National Policy on Child Labour. The Third National Plan of Action for Children (2005 - 10) addresses the issue of the worst forms of child labour and provides information on planned interventions for the next five-year period.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment has also implemented a USAID funded project aimed at the Eradication of Hazardous Labour in Bangladesh. Interventions under this project, which covers areas in Dhaka and Chittagong Municipal Corporations, included non-formal education and skills training for working children and micro-credit support to their guardians/parents.

01.3.1. National Policy for Children:

In the National Children Policy 1994 it has been described that due to economical hardship and needs of families many children being bound to engaged in different types of labour. Children are engaged in labour in both urban and rural areas. As per estimate of Bureau of Statistics, Govt. of Bangladesh among total labour in the country at least 12% is child labour. This estimate includes only the children engaged in registered industries and children engaged in informal sector are excluded. So, the actual number of child labour including informal sector will be much more than the estimate. It has been revealed in a survey conducted in 1990 that 2900000 children under 15 are engaged in labour only in urban areas due to extreme poverty. Though child labour is band by the existing national law, just for survival many children are being bound to engage in child labour. But in the implementation plan of the Children Policy there is no action for reducing or addressing the child labor.

01.3.2. National Plan of Action 2005-2010:

National Plan of Action for Children 2005-2010 in the Para Introduction (6.1) under action on "Protection from Abuse Exploitation and Violence (6)" stated that: The constitution of Bangladesh reiterates the state's responsibility to protect children's well-being and rights. In accordance with CRC, CEDAW and the constitution of the country, the Government has committed itself to adopting a rights-based approach to prevent abuse, exploitation, violence and discrimination. The Millennium Declaration emphasizes the need for protection of children and women from abuse, exploitation and violence. The Plan of Action of the UNGASS, titled, A World Fit for children provides broad goals to be achieved by 2010.

In the summary of goals, action regarding child labour has been given as:

- Take immediate and effective measures to eliminate the worst forms of child labour as defined in International Labour Organisation Convention No. 182, and elaborate and

implement strategies for the elimination of child labour that is contrary to accepted international standards.

- Improve the plight of millions of children who live under especially difficult circumstances, it should be noted that child protection is a complex phenomenon owing to the many forms of abuse, exploitation, violence and discrimination that children face, and the resulting need for multiple programming approaches. (*This para includes disabled children also*)

Situation Analysis

In the Situation Analysis (6.2) part of the document says- *The NPA for Children (2005-2010) recognises that all children, particularly those who are vulnerable, have the right to protection from abuse, exploitation and violence. While this NPA covers the main aspects of child protection, it also utilises the policies of existing NPA against the Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children including Trafficking.*

With regards to Child Labour it says – *With the Government's ratification of the ILO's Convention on Worst Forms of Child Labour (C 182), special attempts are being made to identify and eliminate forms of child labour that are intrinsically hazardous or damaging.*

In the sub-section *Ratification of international and regional instruments* under the section Current Activities – *it says Bangladesh has also embarked on a Time Bound Programme (TBP), which is a plan of action to eliminate the worst forms of child labour within a prescribed time frame. This is a follow-up to the ratification of ILO Convention 182.*

This NPA analysed the Gaps and Constraints as below:

Lack of adequate awareness about the rights of children, prevention and decay of traditional values and attitudes towards children and women. Besides, absence of a separate Department of Children Affairs to exclusively deal with the child related issues attributed to be one of the major constraints.

Under the Section Major Intervention (6.5) in the sub-section Protection (6.5.2) of the NPA with regards to Child Labour it says that - *Take immediate and effective measure to protect child labourers, and eliminate the worst forms of child labour, with particular focus on child domestic workers, migrants, refugees and other vulnerable groups (which includes disabled children also).*

Under sub-section - Prosecution of perpetrators (6.5.4) the NPA says that – *In order to protect the child victims of abuse, and violence, the following interventions are required to confront their perpetrators:*

1. Prosecute and penalise all perpetrators inflicting torture and other cruel, inhuman, degrading, or damaging acts.
2. Prosecute and penalise, all perpetrators of sexual abuse and exploitation for sex work, trafficking, and forced labour.

For the governance and management the following bodies/institutions are exists:

- i) Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
- ii) National Children's Council
- iii) Inter-Ministerial CRC Committee
- iv) Bangladesh Shishu Academy

To make the governance and management more effective and appropriate in the NPA it has been proposed and suggested to form/develop the following institutions:

- i) Directorate of Children Affairs, Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs.
- ii) National Children's Task Force.
- iii) Independent Commission for Children.

Despite all the above Policy, Laws and Action Plan there is no significant intervention by the Government has been seen to address the child labour issue. Further more the issues relating to Children with Disabilities with regards to child labour is completely missing in the above mentioned Policy, Laws and Action Plan. In the Non- Government sector some initiative/intervention exists towards protection of worst forms of child labour but disabled children are totally excluded from all those programmes.

01.3.3. Draft National Child Labour Policy- 2008:

The Government of Bangladesh has formulated and declared the Draft National Child Labour Policy – 2008. Government officials, Officials from Save the Children Sweden-Denmark, Representatives from Civil Society, NGOs, Employers and Employees were participated in the process of formulating the draft.

The objectives of the Policy are:

- i) To identify the strategy of protecting and eliminating child labour in Bangladesh.
- ii) Time bound and short terms programme initiative on elimination of risky and hazardous child labour in formal and non-formal sectors.
- iii) To undertake steps to eliminate all forms of child labour in Bangladesh.

In this draft policy it has been mentioned that “An Action Plan will be undertaken for Disabled children, Children in difficult circumstances, Street children and Underprivileged children”. This is may be the first time in the policy directly mentioned about disabled children.

The Government of Bangladesh ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and its Optional Protocol as well. Article 7 of UN CRPD ensures the rights of Children with disabilities. It states that:

- i) States Parties shall take all necessary measures to ensure the full enjoyment by children with disabilities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children.
- ii) In all actions concerning children with disabilities, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.
- iii) States Parties shall ensure that children with disabilities have the right to express their views freely on all matters affecting them, their views being given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity, on an equal basis with other children, and to be provided with disability and age-appropriate assistance to realize that right.

Government is fully accountable to ensure disabled children’s right as they ratified CRPD.

There is no previous data or situation analysis is available regarding Child Labour among children with disabilities. To design any programme or undertake any action, information on base line situation is pre-requisite. This study findings and recommendations may be useful to prepare the appropriate and effective action plan in favour of disabled children.

CHAPTER - IV

KEY FINDINGS OF THE STUDY AND INTERPRETATION

This section reflects the findings that the Study Team learned through different method used in gathering information throughout the study process:

A. INTERVIEW WITH CHILDREN

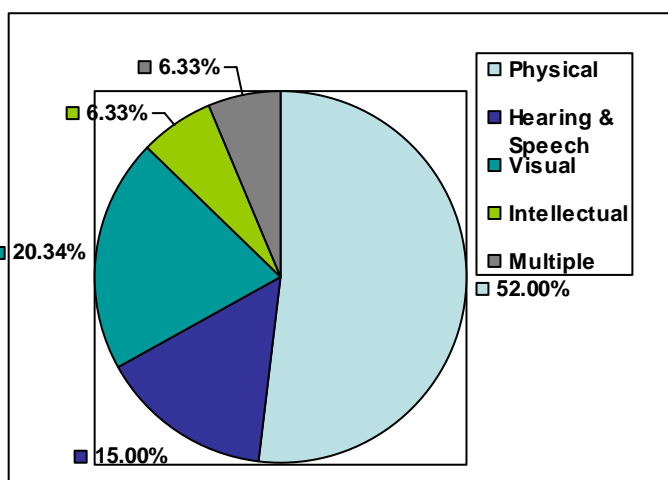
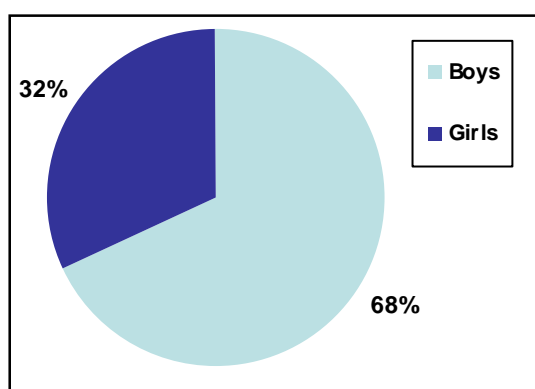
The study interviewed total 300 children with different types of disabilities using a set of questionnaire. The interview mainly focused on the following issues:

01. GENERAL & DISABILITY RELATED INFORMATION:

01.1. Profile of children interviewed

Table – 01:
Area, Types and Gender wise number of children interviewed

| Type of Disability | Area | | | | | | Grand Total | Row % |
|--------------------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|---------------|
| | Urban | | | Rural | | | | |
| | Boys | Girls | Total | Boys | Girls | Total | | |
| Physical | 93 | 36 | 129 | 20 | 07 | 27 | 156 | 52.00 |
| Hearing & Speech | 16 | 12 | 28 | 13 | 04 | 17 | 45 | 15.00 |
| Visual | 26 | 18 | 44 | 10 | 07 | 17 | 61 | 20.34 |
| Intellectual | 10 | 00 | 10 | 06 | 03 | 09 | 19 | 6.33 |
| Multiple | 10 | 04 | 14 | 02 | 03 | 05 | 19 | 6.33 |
| TOTAL | 155 | 70 | 225 | 51 | 24 | 75 | 300 | 100.00 |



The table and graph shows that in both the urban and rural area among the children with disabilities engaged in labour and at risk to be engaged, percentage of boys is higher 68% than the girls 32%.

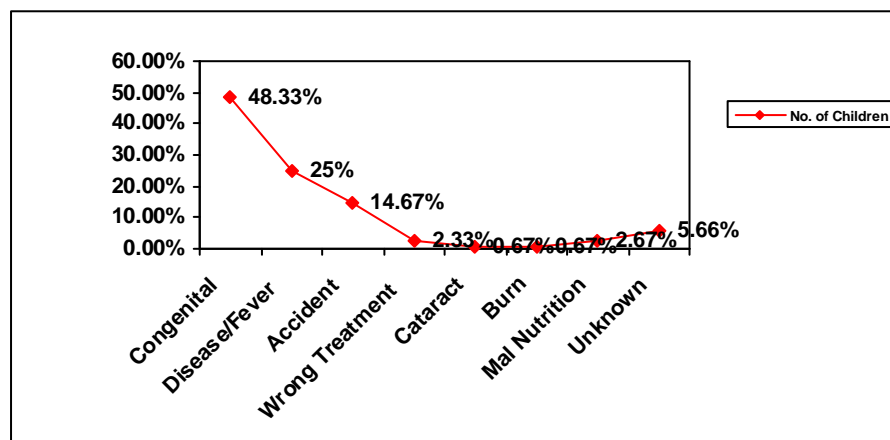
It also revealed that among disabled children engaged in work 52% are with physical disability which is highest, 20% is visual impaired & the third bigger portion is Hearing and Speech impaired 15%. The percentage of children with Intellectual and Multiple disabilities are 6.33% in each group.

**Table – 02:
Types, age group, gender and area wise list of children interviewed**

| Types of disability | Age Group | Urban area | | | | | | Rural area of Barisal | | | Grand Total | Row % |
|---------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|---------------|
| | | Dhaka | | | Sylhet | | | Boys | Girls | Total | | |
| | | Boys | Girls | Total | Boys | Girls | Total | | | | | |
| Physical | 00 - 05 | 02 | 03 | 05 | | | | | 01 | 01 | 06 | 3.85 |
| | 06 - 12 | 20 | 07 | 27 | 04 | | 04 | 06 | 04 | 10 | 41 | 26.28 |
| | 13 - 18 | 37 | 16 | 53 | 30 | 10 | 40 | 14 | 02 | 16 | 109 | 69.87 |
| Total | | 59 | 26 | 85 | 34 | 10 | 44 | 20 | 7 | 27 | 156 | 100.00 |
| Hearing & Speech | 00 - 05 | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| | 06 - 12 | 05 | 01 | 06 | 01 | | 01 | 06 | 01 | 07 | 14 | 31.11 |
| | 13 - 18 | 04 | 05 | 09 | 06 | 06 | 12 | 07 | 03 | 10 | 31 | 68.89 |
| Total | | 9 | 6 | 15 | 7 | 6 | 13 | 13 | 4 | 17 | 45 | 100.00 |
| Visual | 00 - 05 | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| | 06 - 12 | 05 | 07 | 12 | | | | 02 | 02 | 04 | 16 | 26.23 |
| | 13 - 18 | 08 | 09 | 17 | 13 | 02 | 15 | 08 | 05 | 13 | 45 | 73.77 |
| Total | | 13 | 16 | 29 | 13 | 2 | 15 | 10 | 7 | 17 | 61 | 100.00 |
| Intellectual | 00 - 05 | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| | 06 - 12 | 02 | | 02 | | | | 01 | | 01 | 03 | 15.79 |
| | 13 - 18 | 07 | | 07 | 01 | | 01 | 05 | 03 | 08 | 16 | 84.21 |
| Total | | 9 | | 9 | 1 | | 1 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 19 | 100.00 |
| Multiple | 00 - 05 | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| | 06 - 12 | 03 | 01 | 04 | | | | | 01 | 01 | 05 | 26.32 |
| | 13 - 18 | 07 | 01 | 08 | | 02 | 02 | 02 | 02 | 04 | 14 | 73.68 |
| Total | | 10 | 2 | 12 | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 19 | 100.00 |
| Grand Total | | 100 | 50 | 150 | 55 | 20 | 75 | 51 | 24 | 75 | 300 | |

According to the age group, it has been found that only 6 children aged 0-5 among physical disability are engaged in income earning activities and this age group is absent in other types of disability. These 6 children are mainly engaged in begging on the street; their mothers or any family members bringing them on the street and beg showing the children to seek sympathy of people. On average about 75% children among all types of disability engaged in labour is within the age range of 13 – 18, and 25% are within the age range of 6 -12.

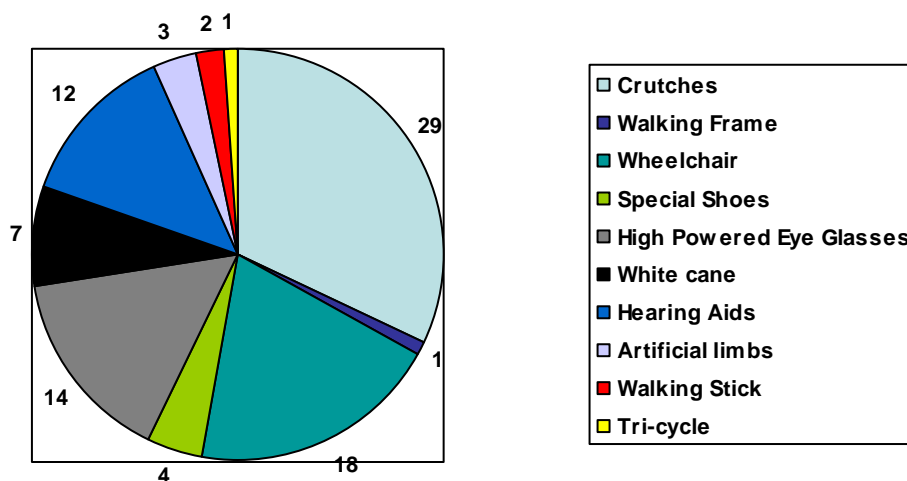
01.3. Causes of Disability found



If we look at the causes of disabilities- the highest portion 48.33% is congenital (by birth) and the second highest is disease 25%. It indicates poor health practice of this marginalised group of families and inaccessibility to health services.

The interview and FGD revealed that the families are unable to attain proper treatment while get sick due to lack of proper information and economical hardship. The highest cause 14.67% is Accident. It is because children of these marginalised families are prone to be victim of accident as they are living in careless and risky environment such as slums adjacent to railway truck, roads etc.

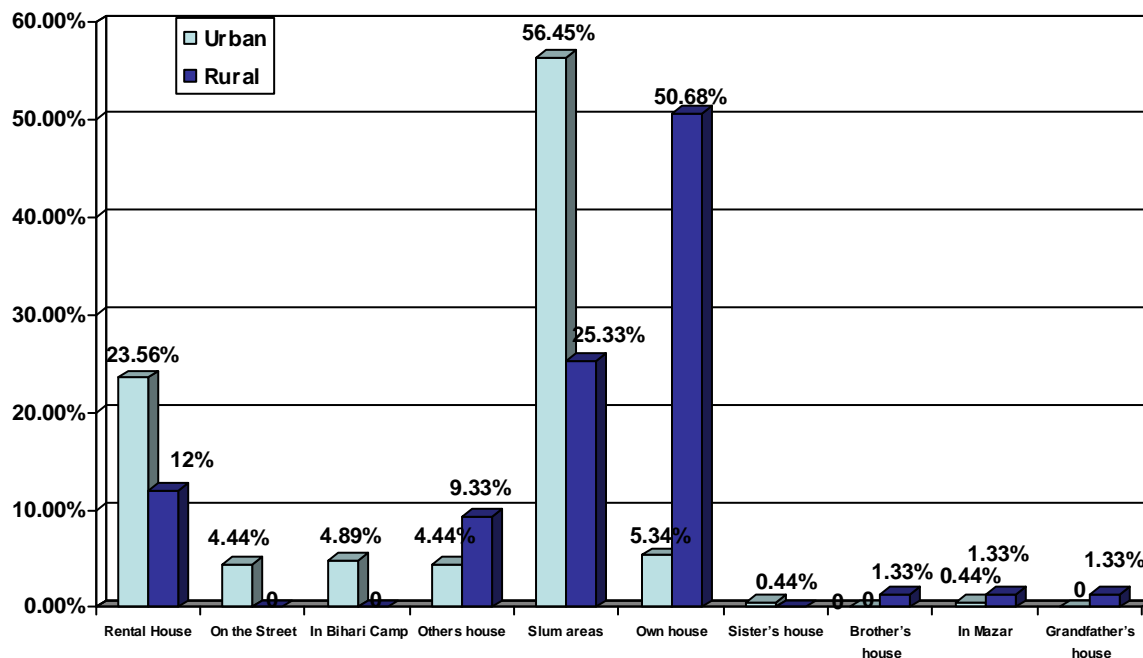
01.4. Status of using Assistive Devices



Among the 300 children interviewed only 91 (30.33%) use different types of Aids and Appliances shown in the above chart, others are not. Study found that though at least 65% children need some kinds of aids or appliances; this low rate of using Aids & Appliances is due to unawareness of usefulness and availability among families and in many cases, they cannot afford due to economical hardship. Those who are using assistive devices most of them responded that, the devices are provided by Government and or NGOs free of cost.

2. STATUS OF LIVING PLACES:

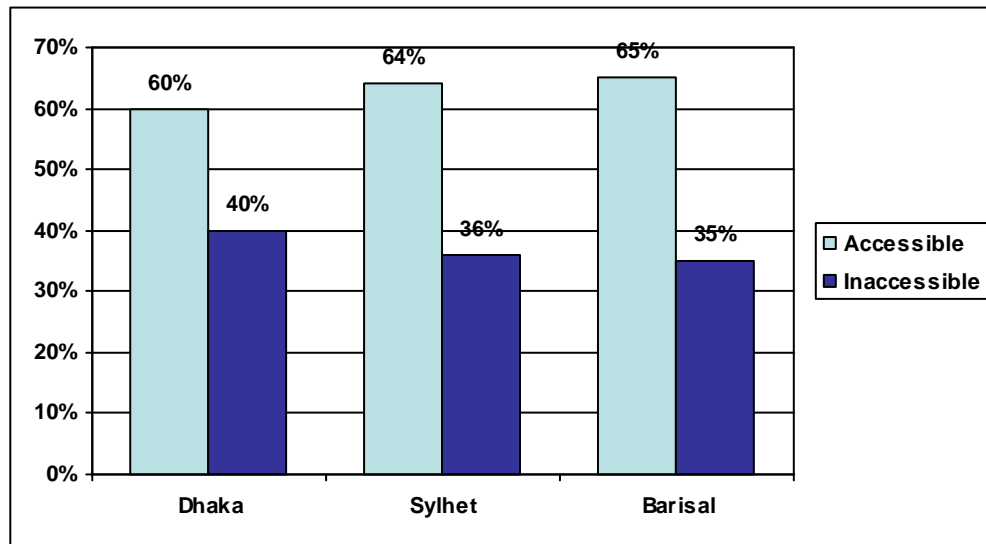
The children with disabilities engaged and at risk to be engaged with child labour interviewed are living in different places in different situations including on the street. Area wise status of living places shown in the following chart:



The bigger portion 56.45% is living in different slums in urban area where only 25.33% in rural area, and they are living within the suburb areas adjacent to Barisal City. Percentage in living own houses is far higher in rural areas (50.68%) than urban areas (5.34%). Conditions of rented houses also like slum as the families do not have ability to rent good houses. Ten children (3.33%) living on the street and among them 7 with families and 3 children do not have families and any shelter for stay at night.

Accessibility situation in living places

The study tried to find out the accessibility situation for children with disabilities at houses they live in. The following chart shows the quantitative data regarding accessibility:



60% respondents from Dhaka, 64% from Sylhet and 65% from Barisal rural area informed that their living places including toilets and water source are some how accessible and rest informed inaccessible. In case of inaccessibility, their mothers, sisters, parents, help them for toileting and washing/bathing; and some informed they use open spaces for toileting. Those are living on the street informed that they use open spaces, parks and public toilets.

3. SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF FAMILIES

3.1. Causes of migration

Most of the families of Dhaka and Sylhet City are migrated in the cities due to different causes, which have been shown in the following table:

Table – 03
Causes of Migration

| SI # | Causes | Area wise # of respondents | | | Total | Row % |
|------|--|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| | | Dhaka | Sylhet | Barisal | | |
| 1 | Lack of job opportunity | 43 | 22 | 3 | 68 | 30.63 |
| 2 | For raising income range due to economic problem | 43 | 34 | 6 | 83 | 37.40 |
| 3 | River erosion | 7 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 3.60 |
| 4 | For treatment of disabled children | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0.45 |
| 5 | For business | 4 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 2.70 |
| 6 | Transfer of father | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0.45 |
| 7 | Thrown out of home by families | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0.90 |
| 8 | Living in cities from last few generation | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1.35 |
| 9 | Do not know the cause | 42 | 8 | 0 | 50 | 22.52 |
| | TOTAL: | 143 | 67 | 12 | 222 | 100 |

Total 222 among 300 families are migrated in cities and among them only 12 in Barisal rural area. The major causes are economical hardship e.i. having jobs and raising income to meet the family needs (30.63% & 37.40%). Eight families 3.60% migrated for river erosion. A significant number 22.52% living in cities generation after generation and they do not know when and why their ancient generation migrated.

3.2. Family size

Table – 04
Family size

| # of Family members | Number of families | | | | Row % |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| | Dhaka | Sylhet | Barisal | TOTAL | |
| 2 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 12 | 4 |
| 3 | 17 | 10 | 6 | 33 | 11 |
| 4 | 24 | 6 | 13 | 43 | 14.33 |
| 5 | 41 | 14 | 23 | 78 | 26 |
| 6 | 26 | 8 | 9 | 43 | 14.33 |
| 7 | 13 | 17 | 11 | 41 | 13.67 |
| 8 + | 19 | 16 | 12 | 47 | 15.67 |
| No family | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| TOTAL | 150 | 75 | 75 | 300 | 100 |

The maximum families are 5 members family (26%). Second bigger number is over 8 members families (15.67%) and third bigger number is 4 & 6 members families (14.33% each). 3 children have no families (1%) and they live on the street. It has been revealed that the maximum families have 3 to over 8 members and due to this bigger family size the income they earn become inadequate to manage the families.

3.3. Principal income earning member of the families

Table – 05
Principal income earning member

| Principal income earning member | Urban area | | | Rural area | | Total | Row % |
|---------------------------------|------------|-----------|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
| | Dhaka | Sylhet | Urban % | Barisal | Rural % | | |
| Children himself | 33 | 7 | 17.78 | 6 | 8.00 | 46 | 15.33 |
| Father | 76 | 37 | 50.22 | 44 | 58.67 | 157 | 52.33 |
| Mother | 27 | 11 | 16.89 | 8 | 10.67 | 46 | 15.33 |
| Uncle | 2 | 0 | 0.89 | 4 | 5.33 | 6 | 2.00 |
| Brother | 10 | 15 | 11.11 | 12 | 16.00 | 37 | 12.33 |
| Sister | 1 | 1 | 0.89 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0.67 |
| Grandmother | 1 | 0 | 0.44 | 1 | 1.33 | 2 | 0.67 |
| Grandfather | 0 | 2 | 0.89 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0.67 |
| Brother in law | 0 | 2 | 0.89 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0.67 |
| TOTAL | 150 | 75 | 100.00 | 75 | 100.00 | 300 | 100.00 |

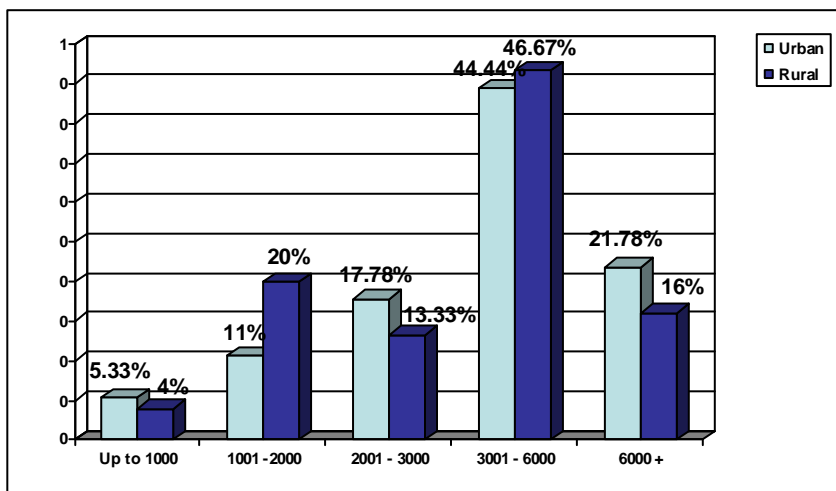
Father is the principal income-earning member in maximum families (52.33%); next Mother and Disabled Children themselves (15.33% each). This information indicates the dependency of families on the income of disabled children and this dependency is more in urban areas (17.78%) than rural area (8%). Income of one person is not enough to maintain the families. It has been found that in many families more than one members need to work and earn income meeting everyday needs. The following table shows the number of members earning income in families:

Table – 6
Number of family members engaged in income earning activities in one family

| Number of earning member | Urban area | | | Rural area | | Total | Row % |
|--------------------------|------------|-----------|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
| | Dhaka | Sylhet | Urban % | Barisal | Rural % | | |
| 1 | 42 | 21 | 28.00 | 18 | 24.00 | 81 | 27.00 |
| 2 | 68 | 37 | 46.67 | 37 | 49.33 | 142 | 47.33 |
| 3 | 25 | 12 | 16.44 | 17 | 22.67 | 54 | 18.00 |
| 4 | 9 | 5 | 6.22 | 3 | 4.00 | 17 | 5.66 |
| 5 | 2 | 0 | 0.89 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0.67 |
| 6 | 2 | 0 | 0.89 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0.67 |
| 7 | 2 | 0 | 0.89 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0.67 |
| TOTAL | 150 | 75 | 100.00 | 75 | 100.00 | 300 | 100.00 |

According to the responses, it has been revealed that 219 (73%) among 300 families are unable to cover the cost of living by the income of Principal income earning member. Among those families, earning members are 2 – 7 including the disabled child. This information indicates the economical vulnerability and hardship of living condition of the families.

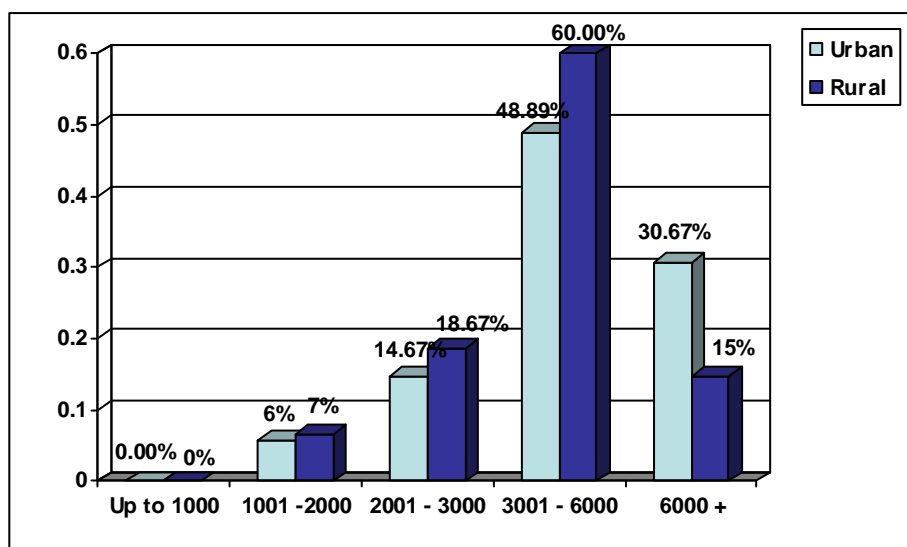
3.4. Income range of the families



The chart above shows income range of the families of disabled children, which the study found, the highest number of family's income range is within Tk. 3001 – 6000 per month and the rate is about equal in both urban and rural areas 44.44% & 46.67% respectively. Second highest income range is over 6000 (average 18.90%) and this range is higher in urban area than rural area. Mostly the beggars group earn this income. Third highest range is 2001 – 3000 which is higher in urban area (17.78%) and fourth is 1001 – 2000 and this range is higher within families of rural area (20%), where in urban area is only (11%). This income range of families includes income of disabled children and other family members.

However from the responses of interview and FGD it has been found that- *presence of disabled children in a family effect two ways; one is for taking care of disabled children the family members need to spend extra time and loose income and on the other hand the families need to spend extra money for treatment and other cares for disabled children, which become burden of the low income families.*

3.4. Range of family expenditure per month



Its worth noted that though 5.33% families in urban and 4.00% in rural area earn up to Tk. 1,000.00 per month, their expenditure is more than the earning as there is no families found whose expenditure is within the range of Tk. 1,000.00. Among other ranges many of the family's monthly expenditure is over their income. This difference between income and expenditure is found both urban and rural areas and made them marginalised and the families exploiting children with disabilities to compensate this income deficit engaging them in to hazardous work including begging.

3.5. Source of income of the families

The study found out that the families of disabled children earning income through 24 different professions/occupations.

Table – 7
Source of Income of the families

| Sl. # | Occupation | Number of Families | | | TOTAL | Row % |
|-------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|---------------|
| | | Urban | | Rural | | |
| | | Dhaka | Sylhet | Barisal | | |
| 1. | Day labour | 21 | 11 | 24 | 56 | 18.66 |
| 2. | Small business | 15 | 23 | 15 | 53 | 17.66 |
| 3. | Karchupi work | 16 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 5.33 |
| 4. | Grocery shop | 3 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 1.66 |
| 5. | Rickshaw & Van puller | 21 | 9 | 13 | 43 | 14.33 |
| 6. | Night Guard | 5 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 2.00 |
| 7. | Making Plastic Bag | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0.33 |
| 8. | Signboard/Banner writing | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0.33 |
| 9. | Auto Rickshaw driver | 5 | 3 | 3 | 11 | 3.75 |
| 10. | Service | 6 | 5 | 6 | 17 | 5.66 |
| 11. | House mate | 12 | 7 | 3 | 22 | 7.33 |
| 12. | Boat man | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0.33 |
| 13. | Tea stall | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1.65 |
| 14. | Street Hawker | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1.00 |
| 15. | Bidi labour | 0 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 2.00 |
| 16. | Garments worker | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1.33 |
| 17. | Arabic Teacher | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0.33 |
| 18. | Workshop worker | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0.33 |
| 19. | Farmer | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1.33 |
| 20. | Electrician | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0.33 |
| 21. | Seasonal worker | 5 | 4 | 0 | 9 | 3.00 |
| 22. | Mason | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1.33 |
| 23. | Beggar | 23 | 7 | 0 | 30 | 10.00 |
| | TOTAL | 150 | 75 | 75 | 300 | 100.00 |

The family members of disabled children are engaged in 23 different professions. There are some differences in nature of occupations between urban and rural areas in accordance with the situation and availability of opportunities. The occupations of the family members according to the majority are- Day labourer (18.66%), Small business (17.66%), Rickshaw & Van puller (14.33%) and then Begging (10%). This 10% family members chosen begging as profession because income from begging is more than other professions they can avail at their level and no capital is needed or expenditure is involved with this profession. Many of them responded, they do not like to be engaged in begging like non-dignified profession but there is no alternative in front of them to earn adequate income for survival of the family.

4. EDUCATION STATUS OF THE CHILDREN:

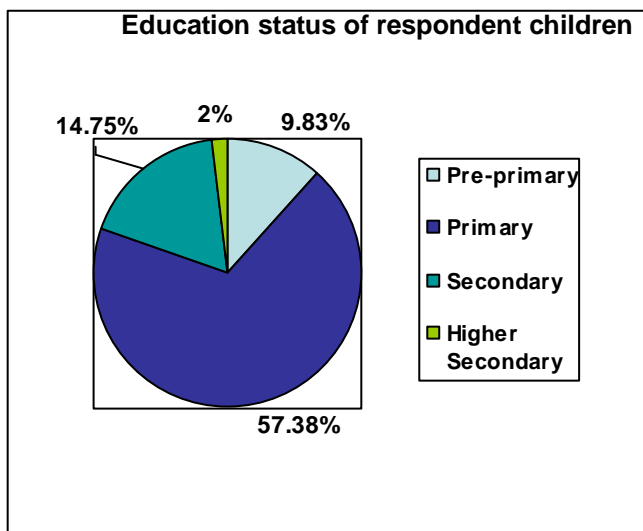
The study tried to find out the education status of interviewed children, which has been given in the following table:

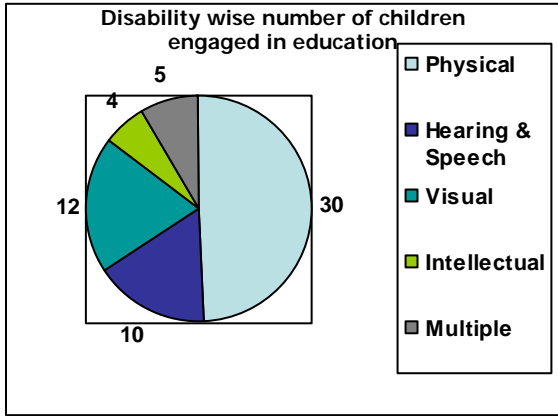
Table – 8
Education status

| Types of Disability | Area & Gender | No. of children participating in education | | | | | | | | | | | Not going school | TOTAL | | |
|---------------------|------------------|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|------------------|------------|-----------|--|
| | | levels | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | i | ii | iii | iv | v | vi | vii | viii | ix | x | xi | | | Pre-Prim. | |
| Physical | Dhaka | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Boys | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 50 | 64 | |
| | Girls | 0 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 25 | |
| | <i>Sub-total</i> | 3 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 68 | 89 | |
| | Sylhet | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Boys | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 32 | 35 | |
| | Girls | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 | |
| | <i>Sub-total</i> | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 39 | 42 | |
| | Barisal | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Boys | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 17 | |
| | Girls | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 6 | |
| | <i>Sub-total</i> | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 23 | |
| TOTAL | 5 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 124 | 154 | | |
| Visual | Dhaka | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Boys | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 14 | | |
| | Girls | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 18 | | |
| | <i>Sub-total</i> | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 32 | | |
| | Sylhet | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Boys | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 12 | | |
| | Girls | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | | |
| | <i>Sub-total</i> | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 15 | | |
| | Barisal | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Boys | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 10 | | |
| | Girls | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 7 | | |
| | <i>Sub-total</i> | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 17 | | |
| TOTAL | 1 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 45 | 57 | | | |
| Hearing & Speech | Dhaka | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Boys | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 9 | | |
| | Girls | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 6 | | |
| | <i>Sub-total</i> | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 13 | 15 | | |
| | Sylhet | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Boys | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 7 | | |
| | Girls | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 6 | | |
| | <i>Sub-total</i> | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 13 | | |
| | Barisal | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Boys | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 13 | | |
| | Girls | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 4 | | |
| | <i>Sub-total</i> | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 17 | | |
| TOTAL | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 35 | 45 | | |

| Types of Disability | Area & Gender | No. of children participating in education | | | | | | | | | | | Not going school | TOTAL | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|--|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------------|------------|------------|----------|--|
| | | levels | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | i | ii | iii | iv | v | vi | vii | viii | ix | x | xi | | | Pre-Prim. | | |
| Intellectual | Dhaka | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Boys | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 8 | |
| | Girls | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| | <i>Sub-total</i> | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 8 | |
| | Sylhet | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Boys | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | |
| | Girls | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| | <i>Sub-total</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | |
| | Barisal | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Boys | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 6 | |
| | Girls | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 4 | |
| | <i>Sub-total</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 4 | |
| | TOTAL | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 13 | | |
| Multiple | Dhaka | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Boys | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 10 | | |
| | Girls | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | |
| | <i>Sub-total</i> | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 9 | 12 | | |
| | Sylhet | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Boys | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| | Girls | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | | |
| | <i>Sub-total</i> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | | |
| | Barisal | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Boys | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | | |
| | Girls | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | | |
| | <i>Sub-total</i> | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | | |
| | TOTAL | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 13 | 18 | | |
| GRAND TOTAL | | 10 | 15 | 10 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 233 | 294 | | |
| | | 61 | | | | | | | | | | | 233 | 294 | | | |

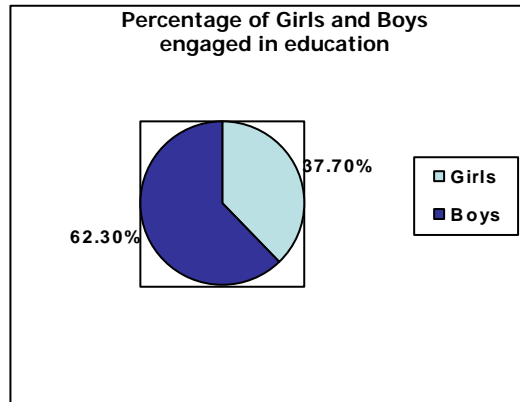
It has been found that only 61 (20.33%) children are engaged in education among 300. The levels they are studying are Pre-Primary 9.83%, Primary 57.38%, Secondary 14.75% and Higher Secondary only 2%.





Number of children engaged in education among children with physical disability is 30, which is higher the second highest is visual 12; third is Hearing & Speech 10 then multiple 5 and Intellectual 4. Enrolment of physical disabled children is higher because, the facilities in our existing education system allows mild degrees of physical disabled children to be enrolled but it is difficult for inclusion of other types of disabled children in the mainstream schools due to lack of facilities and skills of teachers.

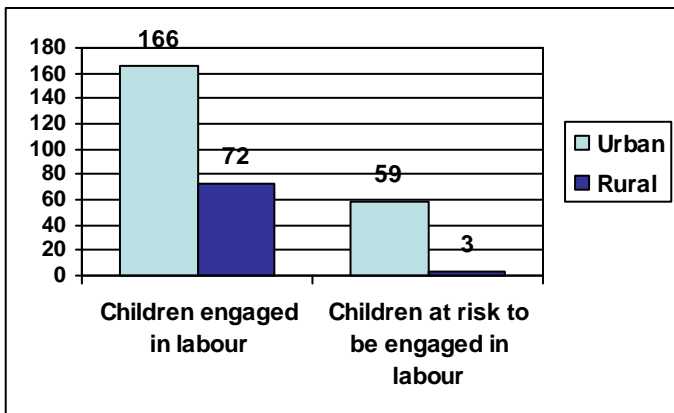
The percentage of boys is 62.30%, which is higher than the girls 37.70% among the children engaged in education. This difference indicates that, girl children among children with disabilities are having less importance and being discriminated within the families.



The lion portion of interviewed children 80% is not engaged in education, which is alarming. The diverse causes for this exclusion the respondents mentioned are – School authority refused to enrol; Parents were not interested to enrol them in schools; Enrolled but due to unfavourable environment they left schools; Family can not afford the cost of education; Transport problem; Can not walk long to attend school etc.

5. OCCUPATION AND INCOME STATUS OF CHILDREN

5.1. Occupation:



The study found that among 300 children 238 are engaged in 36 different types of works. Information on occupation, disability and area wise number of disabled children is given in the chart. The details are given in the following table:

**Table – 9
Occupation**

| Sl.# | Occupation | Urban | | | | Rural | | TOTAL |
|---|--------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| | | Dhaka | | Sylhet | | Barisal | | |
| | | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | |
| 1 | Karchupi | 7 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15 |
| 2 | Embroidery work | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 3 | Garment Factory | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| 4 | Service in NGOs | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| 5 | Small business | 5 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 18 |
| 6 | Begging | 34 | 22 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 69 |
| 7 | Domestic work | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 9 |
| 8 | Tokai | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| 9 | Shop helper | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 7 |
| 10 | Tailoring | 1 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| 11 | Bidi Factory | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 12 | 17 |
| 12 | Handicrafts | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| 13 | Day labourer | 5 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 2 | 18 |
| 14 | Carpenter | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 15 | Restaurant boy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| 16 | Selling Chatpati | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 17 | Workshop helper | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| 18 | Poultry & Dairy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| 19 | Prickle Factory | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 20 | Rickshaw repairing | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| 21 | Hawker | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 22 | Van driver | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 23 | Making Paper bag | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 24 | Sell Newspapers | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 25 | Electronics Repair | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 26 | Pan Cake selling | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 27 | Agriculture work | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 28 | Photocopy shop | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 29 | Cable line worker | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 30 | Shoe Polish | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 31 | Pea nut selling | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 32 | Popcorn selling | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 33 | Flower selling | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 34 | Fan Factory worker | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 35 | Bakery helper | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 36 | Automobile Garage | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| TOTAL | | 79 | 39 | 37 | 11 | 49 | 23 | 238 |
| TOTAL | | 118 | | 48 | | 72 | | 238 |
| Children not engaged but at risk to be involved in child labour | | 32 | | 27 | | 3 | | 62 |
| GRAN TOTAL | | 150 | | 75 | | 75 | | 300 |

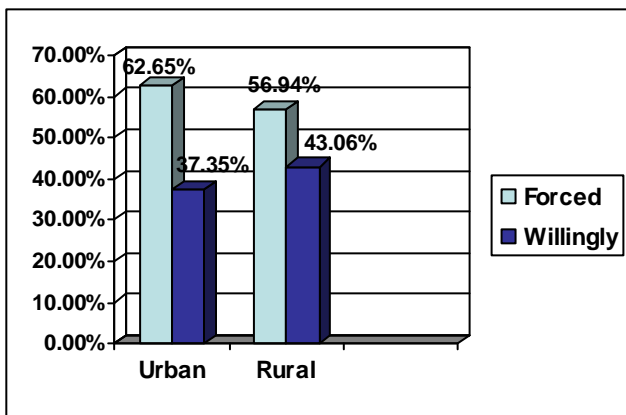
Among 150 children, 118 (78.67%) are engaged in child labour in Dhaka City; among 75 children 48 (64%) engaged in Sylhet City and among 75 children, 72 (96%) are engaged in rural area of Barisal. This information indicates that, percentage of disabled children engaged in labour is higher in rural area than the urban area.

Many children are engaged in begging as profession. In Dhaka City 47.45%, in Sylhet City 16%, and only 1.33% children are engaged in begging. Trends to take begging as a profession, is high in urban areas than rural area. Among 238 working children, 128 (53.78%) are engaged in

wage employment and 110 (46.22%) are engaged in self-employment such as- vending, small business etc. and begging.

Among 300 interviewed children, 238 are engaged in work and 62 are in high risk to be involved in work as the families stated that they are thinking of engage them in income earning activities due to economical hardship.

5.2. How Disabled Children get involved in work:



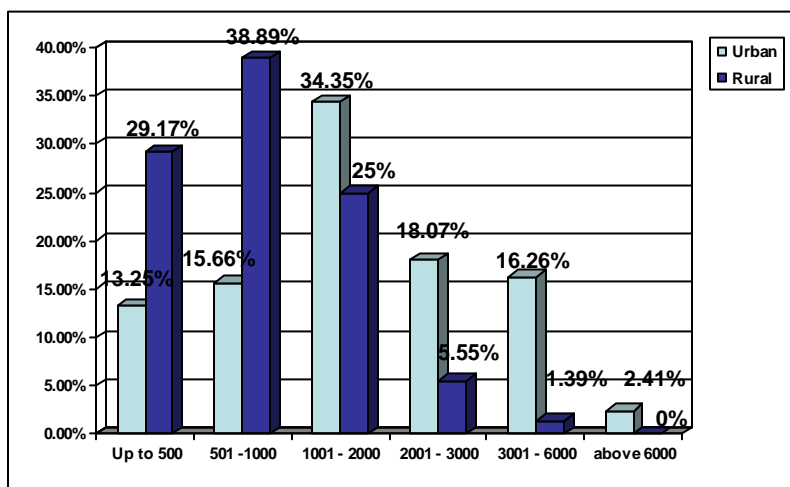
The study tried to find out whether the children work willingly or they have been forced to work for earn income. Among the working children 62.65% of rural area and 56.94% of rural area responded they are being forced to be engaged in work and rest children informed the are working willingly as there is no alternative.

The study revealed that the number of children with disabilities working willingly is less than number of children are forced to work. The children working willingly reported they recognising there is no alternative. Children do not like to be engaged in work rather like to be engaged in education, playing with other children but the families by force sending the highest number of interviewed children to work. Some children informed if they did not go for earn income the families do not give food for that day. For some children families giving them ceiling of amount to bring at home at the end of the day and if they could not bring that amount of money they families scolding even assaulting them.

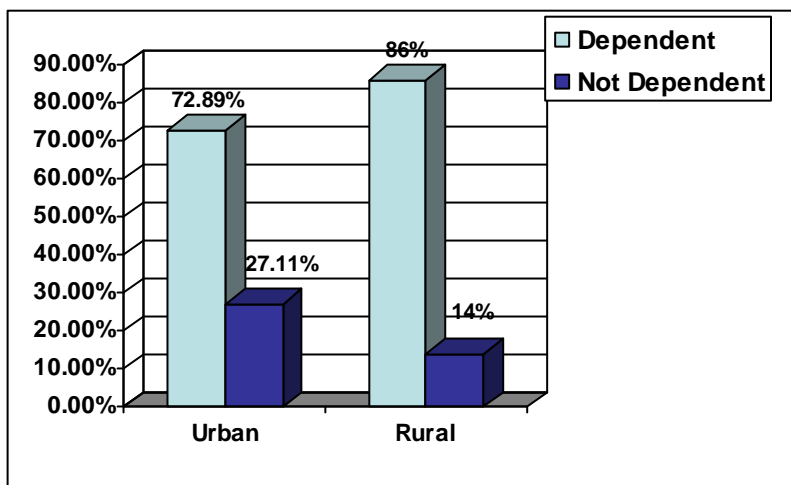
5.3. Income range of working children with disabilities

The income range of the working children found:

The chart indicates that, the income range per month is higher in urban areas than rural area, and this is one of the major causes of migration to cities from rural areas. For survival of the families, this income of the disabled children contributing a lot, so the families use children as source of income rather engaging them in education.



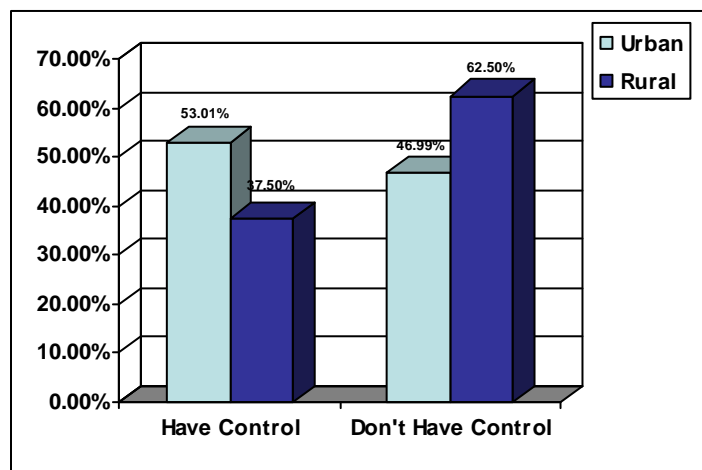
5.4. Dependency of the families on income of disabled children:



The study revealed that 72.89% families of working children with disabilities of urban and 86% of rural area is dependent on the income of the children. This dependency is one of the major causes of engaging disabled children in income earning activities even through begging no matter how risky and hazardous is the work.

6. CONTROL OVER OWN INCOME

The study intended to find out how much control the children have over their income and freedom to spend the income. The disabled working children responded as follows:

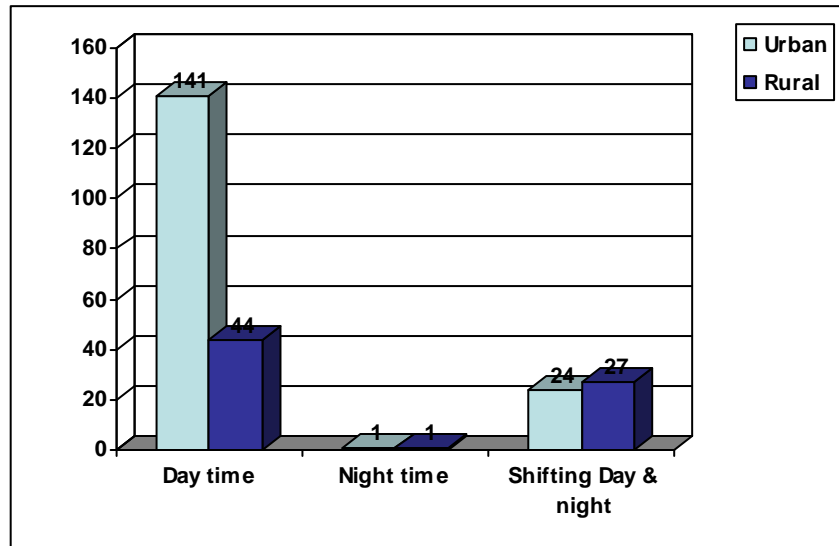


Self-control over own earnings is a right and matter of dignity for all. The chart shows 53.01% of urban and 37.50% of rural children have at least some extent of control over their own income. But 62.50% disabled children of rural and 46.99% of urban area do not have any control over their income. This information indicates that in rural areas disabled children are more neglected than urban areas.

According to the responses of children, Fathers and Mothers are mainly making decisions how to spend the income of disabled children. In some cases guardians of the children such as; Uncle, Grandmother, Brother etc. are taking decisions how to utilise children's income.

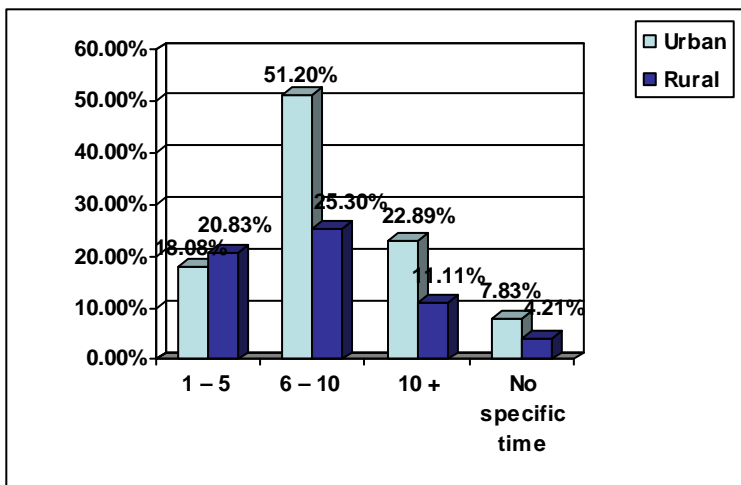
7. FINDINGS ON WORK ENVIRONMENT

7.1. Timing of works of children



144 disabled children in urban and 44 in rural area work at daytime, which is maximum in number. Only one in each area work at night and others do shifting duty. Some the children has to work in night shift also.

7.2. Working hour



Number of children work 6–10 hours is highest. Percentage of children work over 10 hours is second highest. It has been found that, percentage of working over 10 hours is double in urban areas than rural area. 18.90%. Some children do not have any specific working time, they have to work as per employer's requirement.

This information indicates that about 73% children among 238 have to work 6–10 hours and over, which is one kind of hazard and torture to the children and violation of law.

7.3. Leave option

According to the responses of 128 wage employed children 107 (83.59%) children get leave facilities in different manners given in the following table:

Table – 10
Leave option

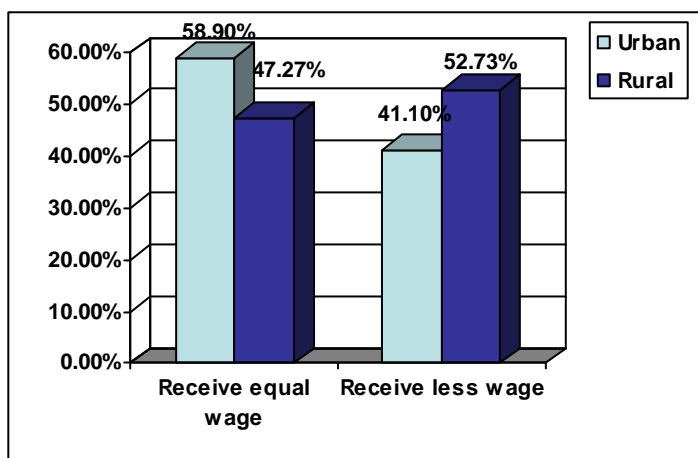
| Leave category | Number of children | | | | % |
|--|--------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| | Dhaka | Sylhet | Barisal | TOTAL | |
| Weekly one day | 17 | 17 | 25 | 59 | 55.14 |
| Weekend and Government holidays | 7 | 0 | 4 | 11 | 10.28 |
| No regular leave but if require employers allow | 3 | 6 | 27 | 36 | 33.65 |
| When employer can not provide work due to off season | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0.93 |
| TOTAL: | 28 | 23 | 56 | 107 | 100 |

Among those 107 children, majority 55.14% children have weekend and 10.28% enjoys weekend and government holidays. Second highest 33.65% cannot enjoy regular weekend or leave but leave is depend upon employer's discretion. Rest 21 wage employed children cannot enjoy any leave; they have o work 7days in a week without any day off.

110 children those are self-employed or involved in begging have no leave option. They have to work everyday for earning and if they could not earn the targeted amount everyday the families punish them and some times do not give them food.

7.4. Status of wages

128 children (73 in urban and 55 in rural areas) engaged in wage employment. Many of them responded that employers do not pay usual wages and pay less than other workers pay, as they are disabled children.



Among the 238 disabled children 128 children are engaged in wage employment, and other 110 children are engaged in different self-employment activities and begging. Among these 128 children in urban area maximum number receive equal wages and in rural area maximum receive less wages i.e. the employers are paying less wage to them in comparison to other non-disabled employee.

This less payment creates dissatisfaction and often they need to change the work for better income. At the time of interview with employers, it has been proved that some employers are paying less wages and they have mentioned this is one of the cause of employing disabled children that they can hire them against low wages.

7.5. Allowing time for schooling

15 children from Dhaka, 3 from Sylhet and 13 from Barisal informed employers allow them time to attend school. Others do not get any time consideration for education and or recreation.

7.6. Punishment by the employers

Among 128 wage-employed children, 71 (55.47%) informed employers give them punishment if they did any wrong in work. The type of punishment is given in the following table:

Table - 11

| Type of punishment | Number of children | | | | % |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| | Dhaka | Sylhet | Barisal | TOTAL | |
| Scolding | 13 | 12 | 13 | 38 | 53.52 |
| Assaulting | 8 | 2 | 4 | 14 | 19.72 |
| Deduct wages | 8 | 7 | 4 | 19 | 26.76 |
| TOTAL: | 29 | 21 | 21 | 71 | 100 |

110 children those are self-employed and engaged in begging are controlled by the guardian/family members. All most all of these children reported they are being punished by the families if they do not want to go for work and or cannot earn targeted income each day. The punishment types are: Scolding, beating, not giving food etc.

7.7. Abuse

63 children informed that they have been victim of abuse in workplaces and outside home. The means of abuses is given in the following table:

Table – 12

| Type of abuse | Number of children | | | | % |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|------------|
| | Dhaka | Sylhet | Barisal | TOTAL | |
| Physical assault | 22 | 5 | 3 | 30 | 47.62 |
| Psychological | 8 | 2 | 0 | 10 | 15.88 |
| Sexual | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3.17 |
| Verbal | 12 | 4 | 5 | 21 | 33.33 |
| TOTAL | 44 | 11 | 8 | 63 | 100 |

47% informed they have been assaulted physically, 33.33% got verbal, 15.88% said they have been punished psychologically and 3.17% informed about sexual abuse. This number of sexual abuse should be more than 3.17%, but girls and their family members do not disclose it due fear to be victim of social stigma. It is mentionable that abuse is less in rural area than urban areas.

Only 22 among 63 children informed they have protested and made complaints and asked for justice to social leaders. Among 22 children, 12 got justice by local community leaders but other did not. 41 children responded they did not protest and asked for justice, as the causes the mentioned:

Table - 13

| Cause of not protesting and complaining | Number of children |
|---|--------------------|
| Fear of further torturing | 10 |
| Ashamed | 5 |
| Scared that mother will punish | 7 |
| Think no one will believe and nothing will happen if make complaint | 14 |
| Don't know who to make complaints | 5 |
| TOTAL | 41 |

7.8. Problems facing in the workplaces and transportation

Many children responded that they are facing problems in transportation and at workplaces and the problems are:

In transportation:

- Buses are inaccessible
- Problems in getting in Rickshaws
- Problem in walking long with crutches and propelling wheelchair long way.
- Problems in crossing Bamboo Bridge.
- Problem is crossing the road.

In workplaces:

- Due to hearing problem difficult to understand instruction of employers.
- Employers give threat for termination.
- Difficult to operate machine long time as cannot stand long due to weakness of legs.
- Due to visual problem cannot see small objects.
- Problem to enter into shop and close the shutter.
- Difficult to hold anything by one hand.
- Police some times beating and asking money (those are begging and vending on the street).
- People tease and humiliate on the way.

These problems are relating to and composition of impairments of children, attitude/behaviour of employers, inaccessible work environment and transport. Therefore, to plan/design any intervention for reducing hazardous work among disabled children it is important to consider the issues of availability/supply of assistive devices for children and ensure accessibility in transports including workplace adaptation.

8. PARTICIPATION STATUS

8.1. Participation in social and recreational activities

Among 300 children 105 (35%) informed that they are having opportunity to participate in social and recreational activities. 195 (65%) children mentioned they do not having that opportunity.

8.2. Participation in family decision-making

126 (42%) children responded that families ask their opinions in decision-making process and 174 (58%) said families do not ask their opinion in making any family decision.

8.3. Opinion in personal choices

Concerning opportunity to give personal opinion in terms of choosing food, dresses and any other matter 92 (31%) informed that they are having that opportunity and 208 (69%) opined that they can not give any opinion in even personal likings.

The above situation indicates that how disabled children are being ignored and discriminated though they are contributing to the families financially by earning income.

9. AWARENESS STATUS ON RIGHTS

Awareness about child rights

Among total 300 children 153 (51%) informed that they have heard that children and disabled children have some rights. Rest 147 (49%) never heard and very unaware of their rights.

Concerning child labour policy and law only 52 (17.33%) children responded that they have heard about it but do not know the details. Rest 248 (82.67%) the bigger portion of the respondent answered they never heard that there is a policy or law to protect child labour.

About the National Disability policy and law, only 46 (15.33%) children informed that they are aware of those and rest 254 (94.67%) the major portion of the children never hear about the policy and law.

Among 300 children only 37 (12.33%) know about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and others never heard about it.

Regarding involvement with any children group/club 89 (29.66%) children informed that they are involved with Disabled Children's Self-advocacy group formed by CSID and only 1 child said he is involved with class met group in his school.

The children responded, they have been informed about their rights from different sources such as- CSID, Save the Children Sweden, Radio, TV, Friends, and Schools etc.

It is worth mentioning that most of the children are informed about their rights those are beneficiaries of NGOs and a very few children with disabilities informed through Radio/TV programmes and other sources. Where there is no NGO programme i.e. within the uncovered areas of NGO activities huge number of children with disabilities totally unaware of their rights.

10. STATUS OF ACCESS TO GOVT. & NON-GOVT. SERVICES

Awareness of available Govt. services

Concerning availability of services for disabled children in Government sector 146 (48.67%) informed they are aware of the services and rest 154 (51.33%) responded they do not know.

From all three areas, 80 (26.67%) children informed that they are receiving some sorts of services from Government sectors, which are:

Table - 14

| Sl. # | Services | Urban area | | | Rural area | | Row total | Row % |
|-------|----------------------|------------|-----------|--------------|------------|--------------|-----------|---------------|
| | | Dhaka | Sylhet | Area % | Barisal | Area % | | |
| 1. | Disability allowance | 29 | 13 | 93.33 | 10 | 13.33 | 52 | 65.00 |
| 2. | Education stipend | 1 | 0 | 0.39 | 18 | 24.00 | 19 | 23.75 |
| 3. | Vocational training | 1 | 1 | 0.39 | | 0 | 2 | 2.50 |
| 4. | Medical treatment | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 9.33 | 7 | 8.75 |
| | TOTAL | 31 | 14 | 56.25 | 35 | 43.75 | 80 | 100.00 |

Percentage of children received Government services is higher in urban area than rural area. It is because information access is better in urban area and the people living in urban area are

advanced than rural area so they have been able to seek the facilities. In the grassroots level, people are not aware of Government services as information on the service provisions are not being circulated adequately and there is no provision of identification of beneficiaries/service recipients by Govt. agencies.

Awareness of available NGO services

About NGO services 167 (55.67%) children informed that they are aware and 133 (44.33%) are not aware. All 167 responded that they are receiving different services from NGOs, which are as follows:

Table – 15

| Sl. | Services | Urban area | | | Rural area | | Row total | Row % |
|-----|--|------------|-----------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|---------------|
| | | Dhaka | Sylhet | Area % | Barisal | Area % | | |
| 1. | Medical treatment support | 59 | 9 | 47.23 | 9 | 39.12 | 77 | 46.11 |
| 2. | Therapy service | 2 | 0 | 1.39 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1.20 |
| 3. | Education support | 8 | 4 | 8.33 | 6 | 26.09 | 18 | 10.78 |
| 4. | Assistive device support | 15 | 11 | 18.05 | 6 | 26.09 | 32 | 19.16 |
| 5. | Psycho-social counselling | 4 | 0 | 2.78 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2.40 |
| 6. | Income Generation/ job placement support | 4 | 5 | 6.25 | 1 | 4.35 | 10 | 5.98 |
| 7. | Vocational skill training | 0 | 23 | 15.97 | 1 | 4.35 | 24 | 14.37 |
| | TOTAL: | 92 | 52 | 86.23 | 23 | 13.77 | 167 | 100.00 |

This information indicates that disabled children are receiving services from NGOs much more than Government. The number of children receiving services from NGOs in urban area (86.23%) is greater than rural area (13.77%). In urban area, many NGOs are working but in rural area number of NGO programmes are less; especially in Barisal, very few NGOs are working with children with disabilities so recipients of NGO services are higher in urban area. Another cause is, as the NGOs are identifying beneficiaries and some times conduct door-to-door survey the target group know about them and the NGOs can cover large number of beneficiaries, which is absent in Government services.

11. AIM OF LIFE OF THE RESPONDENT CHILDREN

The children with disabilities described their dream and aim of life. Despite their disability and barriers, obstacles they are facing in everyday life they also have dream for future life like all other children without disabilities. The responses of the children concerning their aim of life are listed in the following table:

Table – 16
Aim of life

| Sl. # | Aim | # of Children | Row % |
|-------|---|---------------|---------------|
| 1. | To achieve Higher education and acquire good employment (to be teacher, auditor, social worker, Doctor, Engineer, computer operator, Garments worker, Journalist, Police man etc.) and live descent lives | 112 | 37.33 |
| 2. | Like to be businessperson and self employed (Bakery factory, Handicraft producer, Automobile Garage, Barbershop, Poultry/ Dairy Farm, owner of a Bidi Factory, Fish Cultivator etc.) | 145 | 48.34 |
| 3. | To be Tailor, Electrician, Mason, auto-mechanic etc. | 26 | 8.67 |
| 4. | Cultural profession- Singer, Film Actor, player | 10 | 3.33 |
| 5. | To be a Rickshaw puller | 5 | 1.67 |
| 6. | To be a beggar | 1 | 0.33 |
| 7. | Want to find out my Parents | 1 | 0.33 |
| | TOTAL | 300 | 100.00 |

Majority 48.34% children like to be self-dependent by different commercial activities, trade, and second majority 37.33% children like to be educated and professions like- Teacher, Doctor, Engineer, Auditor, Journalist etc. and dream to be engaged in dignified jobs. Some children like to be technical persons (8.67%) and some Singer, Film actors and Players. In many cases the family member's professions, socio-economic condition and the environment the disabled children live in influenced to set their aim of life.

This information indicates that despite all the deprivation, neglect and discrimination they face, like children without disabilities children with disabilities also have dreams and ambitions.

B. INTERVIEW WITH EMPLOYERS:

The study team interviewed 100 different types of employers in both urban and rural areas, who employed disabled children; among them 50 from Dhaka 25 from Sylhet and 25 from Barisal (please see the table below for details).

Table - 17

| Sl. # | Types of Employers | Urban | | Rural | TOTAL |
|-------|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| | | Dhaka | Sylhet | Barisal | |
| 01. | Grocery shop owner | 04 | 02 | | 06 |
| 02. | Tea Shop owner | 03 | 01 | 02 | 06 |
| 03. | Garments Factory | 03 | | | 03 |
| 04. | Bakery owner | 02 | | | 02 |
| 05. | Land lord | 04 | 03 | | 07 |
| Sl. # | Types of Employers | Urban | | Rural | TOTAL |
| | | Dhaka | Sylhet | Barisal | |
| 06. | School authority | 01 | | | 01 |
| 07. | Medicine shop owner | 01 | | | 01 |
| 08. | Tailoring shop owner | 01 | 04 | | 05 |
| 09. | Freeze & Electronics repairing shop owner | 03 | | | 03 |
| 10. | Scrap materials shop (Bhangari) owner | 05 | | 01 | 06 |
| 11. | Newspaper supplier | 01 | | | 01 |
| 12. | Automobile Garage owner | 02 | 01 | | 03 |
| 13. | Thread Factory owner | 01 | | | 01 |
| 14. | Children's Organisation (Ichchey) | 01 | | | 01 |
| 15. | Karchupi factory owner | 08 | | | 08 |
| 16. | Restaurant owner | 02 | | 03 | 05 |
| 17. | Prickle factory owner | 02 | | | 02 |
| 18. | CD & Mobile phone shop owner | 01 | | | 01 |
| 19. | Stationary shop owner | 01 | 01 | | 02 |
| 20. | Fish Hatchery owner | 01 | | | 01 |
| 21. | Spices Crashing Mill owner | 01 | | | 01 |
| 22. | Metal Workshop owner | | 03 | 02 | 05 |
| 23. | Bidi (Hand made Cigarette) Factory owner | | | 05 | 05 |
| 24. | Poultry/Dairy Farm owner | | 02 | 01 | 03 |
| 25. | House owner | | | 01 | 01 |
| 26. | Building/Road Construction authority | | | 02 | 02 |
| 27. | General Store owner | | 03 | 02 | 05 |
| 28. | Fruit shop owner | 01 | | 01 | 02 |
| 29. | Hand loom factory owner | | | 01 | 01 |
| 30. | Rickshaw owner | | | 01 | 01 |
| 31. | Photocopy & Computer Compose shop owner | | | 01 | 01 |
| 32. | Cable network owner | | | 01 | 01 |
| 33. | Bids ornament shop owner | | | 01 | 01 |
| 34. | Disability Hospital & Rehabilitation Centre | | 02 | | 02 |
| 35. | Fish business owner | 01 | 02 | | 03 |
| 36. | Cloth shop owner | | 01 | | 01 |
| | TOTAL | 50 | 25 | 25 | 100 |

Findings from the responses of employers:

1. Employers of Urban areas:

In Dhaka and Sylhet City a total of 75 employers interviewed.

Responding to the question whether these types of disabled children should involved in work or not- the 33 (44%) employers said yes and 42 (56%) answered no. Those said yes; they justified their opinion that the children should work because-

- They need to learn and gather experience for better income in adulthood.
- Children need to earn income for helping family.
- Family don't send them in school so it is better to engage in work rather than sitting idle.
- Through earning income, they would be self-dependent.

The justification given by the employers who opined disabled children should not be involved in work but employed children are as follows:

Table - 18

| Sl. # | Opinions | # of employers |
|-------|--|----------------|
| 01. | The income will help the family to survive so we employed them | 19 |
| 02. | The child need to gather experience for future | 03 |
| 03. | We do not agreed but the families requested and pushed us to employ them | 05 |
| 04. | We can pay them less wage than an adult worker | 03 |
| 05. | Children are sincere in work than adult | 04 |
| 06. | Did not respond | 08 |
| | TOTAL | 42 |

Among employers those agreed children should not engage in work/labour a contradictory responses and attitude has been found. Some mentioned they employed children to help/support the families and children and some acknowledged that they employed disabled children as children are sincere at work than adult and they can pay less wages, which in the other way make higher profit. They never felt it is one kind of rights violation and also crime.

Satisfaction regarding performance of children:

Responding the question of satisfaction with the children's work/performance 58 (77.33%) said they are satisfied and other 17 (22.67%) expressed their dissatisfaction. As the causes of dissatisfaction they mentioned: (a) children are unable to understand the work; (b) unable to achieve target of sale; (c) can not give full concentration on work etc.

Time for education/schooling:

20 (26.67%) employers said they give time to children for schooling but other 55 (73.33%) employers do not allow time for education or schooling.

Making special arrangement/adaptation for disabled children:

In case of making special arrangements/adaptation for disabled children, only 7 (9.33%) employers said they have made some special arrangement such as; providing wheelchair, skill training, given privileges and special consideration in terms of time and workload, provided

medicine support etc. Other 68 (90.67%) did not make any special arrangement to compensate their disability.

This information indicates that most of the employers using disabled children for their own interest but not considering the age and disability as concern.

Awareness of child rights:

Among 75 employers 38 (50.67%) responded that they have heard about child rights and other 37 (49.33%) never heard about child rights. The information on child rights they have received by different sources, which are given in the following table:

Table - 19

| Sl. # | Source of information | # of employers | Row % |
|---------------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 01. | Television, Radio & Newspaper | 30 | 78.95 |
| 02. | From CSID | 05 | 13.16 |
| 03. | No response | 03 | 7.89 |
| Total: | | 38 | 100.00 |

Answering the question regarding what rights the children have 26.30% could not say anything and the others mentioned about the five basic rights and a very few mentioned specific child rights such as Survival, Protection, Participation, education etc. It was observed that no one have clear idea or knowledge about specific child rights. This lack of awareness on child rights causing violation, abuse and exploitation against children.

It has been found that 57 (76%) employers of urban area among 75 do not know and never heard about Child Labour Law and 18 (24%) employers answered they have heard of it from television, newspapers, from Policeman, from CSID. But while it has been asked to tell about it only 6 respondents said under 16-18 years old children should not engaged in work, only 3 employers answered child labour is a offence against law and accusable crime and 1 said risky and hazardous work for children is restricted.

Recommendations the employers given on reducing child labour are given below:

- Mass awareness raising programme initiative is needed
- Support to increase income of families
- Light work and opportunity of education is needed to be given to children.
- Wages should be equal to adult worker
- More Government and NGO initiative is needed
- Government is to formulate and implement law against child labour
- Child labour can be reduced through Poverty Reduction programme
- Quality education should ensure
- Government and Civil Society coordination is needed
- Government need to provide Education, health and vocational skill training free of cost
- To eliminate child labour Government need to provide allowance to children

2. Employers of Rural areas:

The study interviewed a total of 25 employers of rural areas under Sadar and Babuginj Upazila of Barisal district. 4 (16%) employers said disabled children should work and 21 (84%) said they should not. Those said yes; they justified their opinion that, the children should work because-

- Engaging in work is good for physical condition of disabled children.
- Family don't send them in school so it is better to engage in work rather than sitting idle.
- For helping survival of families they need to work.

The justification given by the employers who opined disabled children should not be involved in work; answering the question "if you think they should not work then why you employed them" they responded:

- To reduce unemployment
- To help poor families and meeting their needs
- To reduce their social and economical problems
- The child is orphan, has no shelter.
- Family requested

The answers are more or less same as employers of urban areas. But there is one difference and that is some employers of urban areas mentioned they employ disabled children as they can pay less wages than usual, and that intention is not found in rural employers.

Satisfaction regarding performance of children:

Responding the question of satisfaction with the children's work/performance 23 (92%) said they are satisfied and other 2 (8%) expressed their dissatisfaction. As the causes of dissatisfaction, they mentioned: (a) The children are not punctual and (b) Cannot work properly. The rate of employers satisfaction is higher in rural area than urban area.

Time for education/schooling:

6 (24%) employers said they give time to children for schooling but other 19 (76%) employers do not allow time for education or schooling. It is found that both rural and urban area most of the employers do not allow time to children for education.

Making special arrangement/adaptation for disabled children:

In case of making special arrangements for disabled children, only 2 (8%) employers said they have made some special arrangement such as; skill training and provided eye glasses. Other 23 (92%) did not make any special arrangement to compensate their disability.

Awareness of child rights:

Among 25 employers 13 (52%) responded that they have heard about child rights and other 12 (48%) never heard. The information on child rights they have received by different sources, such as television newspaper and radio. It is mentionable that in urban area some employers responded they have heard about child rights form NGOs. As in rural area NGO services are not adequate and in many areas absent, the employers are not been addressed by any NGO. Answering the question regarding what rights the children have the answer was just like employers of urban areas. They mentioned all basic rights and a very few mentioned specific one or tow rights such as- Education, Survival, Recreation etc.

It has been found that 20 (80%) employers among 25 do not know and never heard about Child Labour Law and 5 (20%) employers answered they have heard of it from television and newspapers. While they have been asked to tell what they know about child labour law? No one could answer it. So, it has been revealed that, awareness of child rights and restriction on child

labour and its legislative implication is lack very much in the community and among both urban and rural areas employers, which is a major cause of increasing child labour. These employers never faced any question and been monitored by anybody for employing and exploiting children, which encourage them to employ children and make benefit from it.

Recommendations the employers given on reducing child labour, which is more or less same as employers of urban area, are given below:

- Mass awareness raising programme initiative is needed
- Sensitise families and employers
- Economical support to increase income of families
- Proper Policy formulation and implementation.
- More intensive programme for education by Government
- Government and Civil Society joint initiative to protect child rights
- Implementation of Inclusive Education and make people aware of existing laws
- Increasing services and support in Government and NGO sectors

C. FINDINGS FROM THE RESPONSES OF KEY INFORMANTS:

The study interviewed 45 different levels of key informants. The category wise number of respondents is given in the following table:

Table – 20

| Sl. # | Category of respondents Interviewed | # of Respondent (Kil) | | | |
|-------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | Dhaka | Sylhet | Barisal | TOTAL |
| 01. | Govt. Official | 12 | 03 | 01 | 16 |
| 02. | NGOs | 02 | 04 | 01 | 07 |
| 03. | Media professionals | 03 | 02 | 02 | 07 |
| 04. | Religious Leader | 00 | 09 | 00 | 09 |
| 05. | Counselors/Ward Commissioners | 02 | 02 | 02 | 06 |
| | TOTAL: | 19 | 20 | 06 | 45 |

1. Responses from NGOs:

Among 7 NGOs 5 have programmes for disabled children with the components of Education, Health, Recreation, Therapy, Assistive devices support etc. 2 NGOs said they have activities on reduction of child labour.

Education of children with disabilities:

They believe only physical disabled children are able to participate in mainstream education but special school is needed for Intellectual disabled children. The problems they identified in education of disabled children are: Teachers are not trained; Inaccessible buildings; Non-cooperation, teasing and ignorance from fellow pupil; Teacher's negative attitude; Disregard and discrimination from society; Inaccessibility in transport system etc.

To solve those problems they suggest it is needed to:

- Change the attitude of Government, Teachers, Students and community people.
- Include disability issues in teachers training.
- Raising Mass awareness.

- NGOs can provide support for tuition fees, education materials, conveyance and establish a model for demonstration and advocacy with Government.
- They also suggest schools can be established in Slum and remote rural areas for poor disabled children with trained teachers.
- GO-NGO coordination is important they mentioned.

Child Labour:

Concerning Child Labour- the NGOs responded that Economical hardship/poverty, unawareness, family needs for survival etc. are the main causes of child labour. All of them opined that the environment of work places is not child friendly. All the NGOs said engaging children in work is crime, families should not send children with disabilities to do any work or begging. To protect child labour their suggestions are as follows:

- providing employment or economical support to the families so that they can increase their income and don't engage their children in work;
- making families and people aware and
- joint monitoring by local Government representatives and NGOs.

Discrimination:

All the respondent NGOs believe disabled children are being discriminated within families and also in community. They don't get equal care, food, dresses etc. in the families. They are being deprived from recreation and social activities, do not have right to give opinion. They are being neglected due to their disability.

To eliminate this problem the NGOs said it is needed to:

- Making families and community people aware.
- Disseminate information on the rights of disabled children and positive examples through mass media.

Participation:

The NGOs opined that disabled children are not getting opportunities of participating in decision-making process even regarding their own life. The families do not ask their opinion while taking any decision; do not take them in to any social and or religious function. Very few disabled children are involved with any club or group where any NGO is working but all other is totally deprived from participation right.

Awareness regarding rights of children:

5 NGOs responded they are aware of National Disability Policy and Law and 4 said they know about child labour policy. 2 NGOs said they know the specific rights of disabled children according to CRC and 4 said they have heard about it but do not know details of it. The NGO's opinions on role of NGOs in promoting child rights can be:

- Mass awareness raising.
- GO-NGO cooperation and collaboration.
- Advocacy with the Government.
- Creating equal opportunity and equal participation in all aspects.
- Organising People's movement.

Humiliation and Abuse/Exploitation:

All the respondent NGOs think children usually are being suppressed in the families and in case of disabled children; it is more than the non-disabled. The disabled children are being tortured, abused and exploited in the families, work places and within the community.

All the NGOs opined disabled children are much more vulnerable than non-disabled children in terms of abuse and exploitation. Because the blind, hearing and speech impaired and intellectual impaired children are unable to protect and even explain about the incident.

To reduce or protect from abuse/exploitation the NGOs suggested to:

- Making people and families of disabled children aware.
- Ensuring hard punishment of accused/offenders.

They gave recommendations to reduce child labour as follows:

- Build capacity of family members.
- Economical support to poor families.
- Establishing Shelter Home for disabled children.
- Proper implementation of existing policy and laws.
- Active initiatives of law enforcement agencies.
- Joint and coordinated intervention of GO-NGOs.
- Inter ministerial cooperation and coordination.
- Employment of family members of disabled children.

2. Responses of Ward Commissioners/counsellor:

2 counsellors from Dhaka, 2 from Sylhet and 2 from Barisal had been interviewed.

Awareness on Child rights and child labour:

3 counsellors answered they are aware of National Disability Policy and Law; 2 said they are aware of International convention and declaration and 3 responded they heard about CRC. Only first 3 counsellor know details about disability policy and law, but others said they know about existence of the documents but don't know the details of it.

Data/Information regarding disabled people:

Every counsellor said there is no data and information in City Corporation Office about the number and situation of disabled children/persons within their constituency.

Disability issues/services and budget in the Local Government Policy:

The study got a conflicting answer regarding inclusion of disability issues in Local Government Policy. 3 counsellor said in the local government policy disability issues are included and 3 said no. Among the 3 counsellors who said local government policy is inclusive of disability, only one said the policy ensures Treatment service, Employment and Economical support to make them self-dependent. But other 2 could not say what service provisions are in the policy.

Every one said there is budget allocation in the City Corporations for disability services. Only counsellors of Sylhet City mentioned they provide disability allowance to 180 disabled persons within 27 wards. Others said Department of Social Services provide Disability allowance and credit support for economical development i.e; City Corporation does not provide any service.

Every one opined that City Corporation should have budget, the budget is not adequate and it should be increased. They all will work for increasing the budget.

Answering a question they all said there are many working and street children with disabilities but no one know the number or prevalence. Only one counsellor from Sylhet mentioned they have services for working and street disabled children, which is providing allowances, but no other said any.

In response to question about possibility to undertake programme/services for working and street disabled children by City Corporation only one counsellor from Sylhet said there is possibility and rest of the counsellor said they didn't thought about it yet. One counsellor from Dhaka City mentioned he will raise the issue in the next general meeting.

The recommendations on how to reduce child labour the counsellor given are as follows:

- Proper Implementation of Law.
- Quality education and provision of 100% stipend for disabled children.
- Providing financial support to families.
- Arranging Vocational Skill Training.
- Mass awareness raising.
- Coordination among GO-NGOs.

3. Responses of Media professionals:

A total of 6 media professionals (TV – 2, Newspapers – 4) had been interviewed by the study team. Among them 2 from Dhaka (TV), 2 from Sylhet (Newspaper) and 2 from Barisal (Newspaper).

Awareness on Child rights and child labour:

3 persons said they know about Disability Policy and Law, 3 mentioned they are aware of International Convention/declaration regarding disability and 4 said they are aware of Child Labour Policy and 1 said he is aware of CRC but do not aware of specific rights of disabled children. Among all only one person have been able to specify some of the service provision of national disability policy and one mentioned about the Labour Law of 1965 regarding recruitment of employee that no employer can employ children aged under 14. It indicates that no one has clear idea on the National and International rights instruments.

Disseminating information regarding disabled children:

Responding a question every one said they telecast and publish news, information related to disabled children. The news/information disseminating are mainly regarding Observation of different disability and child rights day, case story of successful disabled persons, rights of disabled children etc.

Answering a question, they all said they have intention and future plan to disseminate information/news on Causes of disabilities, Treatment facilities, documentary on their life, education and employment, social status and existing situation of disabled children etc.

Role of Medias in developing condition of disabled children:

All responded Medias can contribute a lot to promote rights and developing lifestyle of disabled children/persons through broadcasting/publishing different information on disability issues, awareness programmes/materials, work and service provisions of Government and NGOs, successful case study etc.

Cause of Child Labour:

Most of the media professionals mentioned the same cause of child labour such as:

- Poverty.
- Many families do not know there are opportunities for disabled children to participate in education.
- For many families maintaining cost of education for disabled children is not affordable and they engage the children in begging for earn income for survival of the families.

Negative consequences of child labour on disabled children:

Different perception has been found in this issue. One person see child labour in a positive manner and his justification is – If a child work, his mental strength increase, he feels economically and socially self-dependent. But other said if children engage in work- inferiority complex develop within them, they deprive from education rights, they loose their potentiality and create barrier in future development and sound growth. Child labour protects sound physical and mental growth.

They recommended for reduction of child labour it is needed:

- Ensuring rights of disabled children.
- Proper implementation of Policy and Law.
- Ensuring Judicial action and punishment for employing children as labour.
- Increasing use of mass media for awareness and information dissemination.
- Providing support for economical empowerment of families.
- Raising awareness among families.
- Engaging children in work according to their age, education, physical capability and ability.
- Increasing social security.

4. Responses of Government Officials:

The study interviewed 16 Government Officials. Among them form Dhaka- 12, Sylhet -3 and Barisal -1.

Awareness on Child rights and child labour:

Among 16 respondents 12 answered they are aware of National disability policy and law, 11 said they are aware about Regional/International declaration/convention regarding disability, 12 answered they know about Child Labour Policy and 10 said they are aware of CRC.

They opined that though there is National Policy and Law on disability its enactment is limited. There are many weak points in the law so, it is needed to be amended to make it appropriate and improve as per demand of time. They don't have detail knowledge on CRC and Child Labour Law.

9 Officials said they have programmes for addressing disability issues and also budget allocation in their department to support disabled persons; and all of them are from Department of Social Services (DSS). The programmes they have include- Pre-vocational Training, Special and Integrated education, Education stipend, Teachers Training College, Vocational skill training and rehabilitation, Disability Allowance, Interest free credit etc. Others do not have programme or budget for addressing disability issue. 6 officials from DSS said they have awareness programme on reduction of child labour.

Education:

All the 16 officials' responded children with mild and moderate degrees of disabilities can participate in mainstream schools and for severe degrees of disability special school is needed. As barriers of Inclusive Education they mentioned: Lack of trained Teachers, Transportation problem, General pupils do not accept disabled children easily, Lack of adaptive education materials, School environment is not friendly for disabled children, Social, economical and security problem etc.

They mentioned existing Government initiatives are: Establishment of special and integrated schools, Providing stipends, Education for All programme.

To ensure education rights of disabled children they opined:

- The Government should implement Inclusive Education System.
- Promote existing special schools up to Secondary level.
- Proper implementation of Disability Policy and Law.
- EFA programme implementation.
- Ensure availability of adaptive and appropriate education material.
- Increasing number of schools and residential arrangement.
- Ensuring enrolment of disabled children in to primary schools of remote areas and appoint 2/3 resource teachers in each school.
- Undertake appropriate intervention assessing the situation and needs of disabled children.
- Increasing seats in schools.
- Making school environment accessible and friendly for disabled children.

Causes and protection of Child labour.

As the major cause of child labour, all of them mentioned Poverty and Illiteracy. All 16 Government officials responded children including disabled children should not engage in any work, they should go to schools.

To protect or reduce child labour they mentioned following suggestions:

- Economical support to families.
- Ensuring employment of family members.
- Scholarship for disabled students.
- Increase rate of Disability allowance.

- Awareness raising.
- Extensive programme assessing the needs.
- Undertaken Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Programme
- Make education compulsory for disabled children up to class-viii and economical support.
- Increase services and opportunity by Government.
- Vocational skill training and rehabilitation.
- Create access to micro-credit services.

Discrimination:

Among 16 officials 9 agreed that the disabled children are being discriminated in Government programmes. As the causes of discrimination they mentioned: Negative attitude towards disability; Financial limitation; Lack of sensitisation.

They opined that to eliminate this discrimination the following initiative is needed:

- Increasing awareness among Government Officials.
- Undertaking advanced and appropriate initiative at Government level.
- Mass awareness raising on rights of disabled children.
- Awareness and proper implementation of disability law.

Humiliation and Abuse/exploitation:

Responding to the issue all officials opined that children are being abused and exploited within the families and community as well. The rate is higher among disabled children than non-disabled are.

The cause they mentioned as:

- The disabled children cannot protect and protest.
- Families and community people do not give attention and importance.
- Due to their physical and intellectual limitation.
- Due to social negative attitude.
- Disabled children are not being regarded as equal to non- disabled children.

The overall recommendations of Government officials to protect/reduce child labour among disabled children are as follows:

- Coordination among GO-NGOs and extensive programme intervention.
- Employment based Education programme.
- Sensitisation of family members and mass people on negative consequences of hazardous work.

5. Responses of Religious Leaders:

Interview has been conducted with 9 religious leaders from Sylhet.

Regarding disability:

7 among 9 respondents said due to presence of disabled child a family face multiple problems and the child also face different problems; such as-

- The family face Social and Economical problem due to extra cost of caring disabled children.
- Family need to provide extra time and manpower for taking care of disabled child so, they loose income.
- As the disabled children have functional limitation the society/community people disregards them.

They said the problems can be solved following the way given below:

- Need to build positive attitude towards disabled children.
- Raising awareness on disability issues.
- To increase movement and functional ability of disabled children assistive devices are to be provided.
- Cooperation of families, neighbours and community members is essential.

Education:

All the 9 respondents opined that disabled children are able to participate in education system. Among 9 religious leaders 5 said disabled children can participate in mainstream education system and 4 said they can not.

The problems disabled children face in education they identified is:

- All disabled children can not follow the general curriculum.
- The fellow pupils disturb and tease the disabled children.
- The teachers and students of schools ignore and disregard them.
- They face movement and transport problem to attend school.

Their suggestion to minimise the problems are:

- Community people need to be made aware.
- Initiative by Government and society is needed.
- The expenses of education of disabled children can be provided by Government and or NGOs.
- Establishing schools in remote areas and near to residence of disabled children.

Child Labour Issue:

The religious leaders opined that the families engage disabled children in work to earn income due to economical hardship or extreme poverty. All of them think disabled children should not be engaged in work.

The respondents opined that families will not use disabled children as source of income if:

- Easy opportunity of education is created.
- The families made sensitised on the negative consequences of child labour.
- Ensured provision of scholarship and disability allowance.
- NGOs organised sensitisation meeting with families and employers.
- Facilitated disabled children to receive all possible services by Government and Non-Government sector.
- Made mass people aware.

Participation issue:

Opinion of the religious leaders in this regard is the disabled children get very poor opportunity to participate in family, social, cultural and religious activities/functions. Their opinions are not being asked in any decision making process. It is because the disabled children are being disregarded and neglected by the families and society.

Awareness on Child rights:

Only 2 religious leaders responded they heard about the National Policy and Law regarding disability but do not know what it is; and 7 said they never heard. No one of them hear or aware of International convention/ declaration on disability, CRC and Child Labour Law.

Humiliation and Abuse/exploitation:

The religious leaders opined that usually children are being abused, exploited and humiliated within many families and community. Disabled children are much more vulnerable and at risk than non-disabled children to be abused and exploited. As the causes of this vulnerability they explained as: the disabled children are being treated and consider as weak and unable to protest so people tease, and abuse them.

They mentioned – Raising mass awareness and implementing law properly can remove this problem of abuse and exploitation.

Recommendations to reduce child labour the religious leaders given are:

- Raising awareness among families and community including sensitisation on the importance of education.
- Need sensitisation to employers.
- Economic support to the families by Government and non-Government sectors.
- Provision of allowances for education and recreation facilities.

D. FINDINGS FROM FGDs

1. FGD with Family members:

The study conducted total 7 FGDs with Family members; among those 3 in Dhaka 2 in Sylhet and 2 in Barisal. 12-15 family members of disabled children engaged in work and at risk to be child labour participated in each FGD.

Information gathered on the following issues from FGD with family members:

1. Awareness on disability.
2. Use of Assistive devices.
3. Education of disabled children.
4. Health practice.
5. Situation of Child Labour among Children with Disabilities.
6. Discrimination against disabled children.
7. Participation of disabled children.
8. Awareness on Child Rights.
9. Humiliation, abuse and exploitation.
10. Lastly recommendations for reducing child labour.

Awareness on Disability:

It has been found that most of them are in some extent aware of Disability. They defined disability as: Who has weakness or absence of hands and legs; problems in movements and need help from others; who can not see, can not hear and speak; who has intellectual limitation; who is unable to work for earn income those people termed as disabled.

As the causes of disability the family members mentioned: By birth- Trauma and heavy work at the time of Pregnancy, Accident, Lack of vitamin, High Fever, Polio, Physical and humiliating torture, Marriage with blood relations, If not immunised against diseases, Lack of nourishment, Diarrhoea etc. Some responded Solar and Lunar eclipse is cause of disability. Therefore, it is found that in our society still there is belief in superstitions regarding disability.

They have learned about disability from CSID, other NGOs, TV, Newspaper, Radio, Doctors, Kaviraj and neighbours.

The families always being anxious about care and security of the disabled child. One family member need to accompany the disabled child all the time, which is difficult, as they need to do domestic and income earning activities. The respondents said in most of the cases mothers are the principal caregiver of the disabled child. Therefore, the mothers who work for family needs loose income or they got to leave the disabled children alone at home in high risk of security. Some times, they feel disabled child as a burden. Again the family facing social stigma, which is a great suffering and painful to them.

The problems faced by the children with disabilities in their everyday life as per responses of the family members are: Limitation in movement and functional activities and difficulties in Activities of Daily Living such as; Feeding, Toileting, Dressing, Washing & Bathing etc; Can not Communicate with others; Can not participate in education, recreation; Can not have dignified jobs; being teased and disregarded by community people.

Responding how the problems can be solved- in Barisal, all most all the participants of two groups said they do not have any idea. In Dhaka and Sylhet City family members said: Mass

awareness raising is needed; Disabled children should have opportunity for education, vocational training and self-employment; Need to ensure Therapy services; Disabled children should not be ignored or disregarded they should have proper care; Government and NGOs need to undertake appropriate service delivery programmes.

Use of Assistive devices:

Concerning Assistive Devices/Aids & Appliances, most of them are aware and know some devices like: wheelchair; crutches, walking stick/frame; hearing aids; powered eyeglasses; white cane etc. as their children use those. Those live in Dhaka and Sylhet cities know where those are available but families of Barisal rural areas do not know the information.

Education of disabled children:

Some respondents among all groups said they are sending disabled children to school and others did not enrol their children.

As causes of not enrolling disabled children they mentioned: Didn't think of it; children can not read (hearing & speech impaired); child is engaged in work; want of money/can not bear the cost; can not afford private tuition cost; schools denied to enrol due to disability; and some family members did not respond regarding the cause.

All most all the respondents think disabled children can participate in mainstream schools but for some disabled children according to the disability special schools area needed.

Concerning problems, the children facing in schooling among enrolled children most of the respondents raised a common issue that the disabled children are being teased and humiliated by fellow pupils in the schools and neighbouring children as well. Among other problems, they mentioned- Negative attitude of teachers; though enrolled the school authority suggest transferring the child to special schools; as the classroom is in first floor, it is difficult to attend the class; transportation, school is too far from home so it is difficult for the children who have problem in walking.

The family members opined that, Government initiative in education of disabled children lack very much; some NGOs like CSID are helping and providing support to enrol disabled children in to schools.

To solve the above problems the respondents of FGDs suggested- Raising Mass awareness; Sensitisation of school authorities and teachers training; Government to formulate and implement policy and law; Families needed to be encouraged, making aware and sensitised; Family members needed to try increase income instead of engaging children in to work.

Health practice:

The study tried to find out the health practice of the families of disabled children as causes of disability is very much related to health.

More or less 50% of the respondents from all the areas informed when they get sick they go to private doctors, Government hospitals and NGO clinics for treatment. Among others, many of them especially participants of rural areas of Barisal go to kaviraj and medicine shops. Concerning quality of health services most of them informed that as poor people they do not get honour and being disregarded in hospitals and to private doctors. For better treatment, need

huge money and they cannot afford it. In the general hospitals, treatment for disabled children is not available.

In the rural areas, the families received treatment of disability of their children from Kaviraj and village doctors, some participants informed from CSID. Participants from Dhaka and a portion of Sylhet informed they went to specialised hospital for disability treatment and many from Sylhet went to Kaviraj, local private doctors and medicine shops as well.

Concerning drinking water respondents from rural areas of Barisal informed they use drinking water from Deep Tube well and tube well; a portion of respondent from Sylhet city also use tube well water and all of them said, there is no problem of water supply. All from Dhaka City and a portion of Sylhet City informed they use drinking water from supply of WASA. Those use supply water informed they face problem because the supply is irregular and they need to stand long time in queue to collect water. A very few families boil water before drinking.

Respondents of Barisal rural areas informed that most of the house hold have their own sanitary latrine a very few reported Kacha latrine. A few from Sylhet City reported Kacha Latrine and all families in Dhaka and rest of Sylhet city reported they use Pakka latrine. However, one group from Dhaka informed 13 families using one latrine.

Situation of Child Labour among Children with Disabilities:

Among the respondents from Barisal 16 families, from Dhaka 32 families and from Sylhet 16 families reported their disabled children are engaged in different works including begging.

Answering *why they allowed/send disabled children to work* most of the families (95%) informed one common cause that is- Due to poverty, they cannot maintain families, so for the survival of the families they send children to work or beg on the street for earning money. Few respondents informed the children are not interested in education and to make them self-dependent in future they engaged their disabled children in work.

All most all respondents answered that the work environment of the disabled children is not favourable. The problems they identified in respect to work of children are- Employers pay fewer wages and scolding if children did any wrong, sometimes assault both physically and verbally; deduct money from wages; terminate from work. Children them-selves face problem such as- cannot stand long due to weakness and pain of legs; cannot attend at work on time due to movement/walking problem; do not like to go for work regularly etc.

Maximum respondents informed employers do not give any privileges or relax working time and load considering disabled children.

All most all the respondents informed children love to go to schools instead of work. All except five family members agreed that children should not work in this age and go to schools; they feel guilty doing this unjust act engaging children in work. Only five members said they never thought of it. Despite understanding all that and knowing children love to going schools and are being tortured in the work places, the families send them to work and the cause they mentioned they do not have alternative, as they need money for survival.

Most of the family members informed they did not think about and do not have any plan for future of disabled children. A few members said we want to make them, self-dependent so that when we will die they can live their life.

Discrimination against disabled children:

The responses concerning discrimination found contradictory among different groups of different areas. In respect to having equal importance and in case of giving good dresses and toys and priority to meeting demands among disabled and non-disabled children within the families, 90% from Barisal rural area and all from Dhaka informed disabled children get less importance. All respondents from Sylhet City and 10% from Barisal rural areas said they get equal importance.

Concerning discrimination within the families the respondents from all areas agreed that disabled children are being discriminated, families are doing unjust act and it is one kind of offence. They could not respond to the question- how to remove/reduce this discrimination.

Participation of disabled children:

Most of the families responded they do not ask any opinion of disabled children in respect to taking any family decision even their choices regarding dresses and food. 50% respondent from all areas informed that the disabled children participate in family, social and cultural functions and 50% said no. Maximum families responded that disabled children do not play with neighbouring children and not involved with any child clubs or groups. Only a few numbers those are the beneficiaries of projects of CSID have engagement with children's self-advocacy groups.

Awareness on Child Rights:

All most 75% respondents informed they are aware of child rights. TV, Radio, Newspapers and different NGOs including CSID have informed them about child rights. In respect to initiatives/services to ensure child rights by Government, NGOs and civil society, most of the respondents are not aware. They only responded Government is giving importance on education of children and NGOs like CSID is providing different services for the development of disabled children.

In respect to role of families in promoting child rights, respondents from Barisal said- families should ensure enrolment of disabled children in to schools and listen from children what they want to say. Respondents from Dhaka informed they do not have time to think about rights due to extreme poverty and work for survival of the families. Response from Sylhet was families could make community people aware on child rights.

Concerning children's role in promoting child rights the respondents did not answer except Barisal; they said through self-advocacy groups and support from CSID/NGOs children can perform advocacy and awareness programme to promote their rights.

Humiliation, abuse and exploitation:

All respondents from 3 areas agreed that disabled children are being tortured, abused and exploited within the families and community. Families torturing them, scolding, assaulting physically and verbally, girls are being sexually abused by closed relatives/neighbours, giving physical and mental punishment, engaging in risky/hazardous work, do not give food if did not work etc. Within the community they are being teased and disregarded, which make them depressed and cause of humiliation.

In case of abuse in outside home most of the families did not make any complaints or undertake legal action. A very few said they made complaints to the families of offender and ensures punishment by that family.

All families responded disabled children are in high risk of abuse and exploitation in comparison with non-disabled children. It can happen at home, outside home and at work places. As the causes, they mentioned- Due to physical weakness they cannot defend, some children cannot see, some cannot speak and another group cannot understand what is happening due to intellectual disability. The criminals take this opportunity as who cannot see he/she would not be able to recognise who abused; who can not speak would not be able to name who did the occurrence; who is intellectually disabled he/she is unable to explain the incident. Therefore, the risk is much higher than non-disabled children are.

To reduce the risk and protect them from abuse and exploitation the families suggested the following interventions- Raising mass awareness; make children aware and sensitise explaining the risk and introducing the possible offenders; Not to leave disabled children alone at home and ensure security all the time; engaging disabled children in education rather engaging in work.

The overall recommendations of the family members with respect to reducing child labour and promoting rights of disabled children are as follows:

- Food for Education programme initiation.
- Giving opportunity for education to working children.
- Increasing income of families.
- Creating employment opportunities.
- Ensuring enrolment of disabled children in schools.
- Creating vocational skill training opportunities.
- Population control to reduce poverty.
- Family sensitisation.
- Mass awareness raising.
- Coordination among Government and NGOs.

2. FGD with Community people:

2 FGDs had been conducted in each Dhaka City, Sylhet City and Barisal rural area. The FGDs focussed on the issues of:

1. Awareness on disability.
2. Education of disabled children.
3. Situation of Child Labour among Children with Disabilities.
4. Discrimination against disabled children.
5. Participation of disabled children.
6. Awareness on Child Rights.
7. Humiliation, abuse and exploitation.

Awareness on disability:

The respondents have a general idea on disability. They answered those can not move or have problem in movement, need help from others in Daily Living Activities, can not hear and speak, can not see and have intellectual deficiency are disabled.

They have been informed about disability from CSID and Other NGOs, TV, Radio, Newspapers, Bill Board, Friends, Community leaders etc.

As the causes of disability, they described some common causes from all 3 areas are- Disease, Accident, Mal Nutrition, By birth, Fever, Ignorance, Heredity, Iodine and Vitamin deficiency etc. In the rural area of Barisal one different cause they believe is God gifted, which indicates that in rural areas people are still superstitious.

Education:

All the groups from three areas opined disabled children should participate in education. They said the children those have severe degrees of disability need special education and all other those have mild and moderate degrees of disability can take part in mainstream education.

Problems for disabled children within the existing education system the respondents outlined are- Some schools are reluctant to enrol them; Teachers are not trained; Negative attitude and ignorance of teachers and fellow pupil; Transport problem; Schools are not accessible and curriculum is not friendly for all types of disabled children.

They opined that Government initiative in bringing disabled children in education is limited only circulated order to primary schools enrolling children those have mild degrees of disability. However, no other facilities or support is giving. NGOs initiatives on education of disabled children are better than Government; they provide all support to retain in education.

To ensure education rights of disabled children they suggested- Attitude needed to be changed; School authorities should be more cooperative; Government should formulate and implement laws; Special classes should arrange for special need children; Alongside the general education, vocational education is needed to arrange.

Situation of Child Labour among Children with Disabilities:

Community people from all the areas responded that disabled children are engaged in labour within all the community in different types of work including begging.

All the community groups answered the same cause of child labour among disabled children and which is – Meeting the everyday needs of families. Families send disabled children for working and begging for survival of the families.

Disabled children are facing different problems in workplaces all the groups said. Employers are torturing them also, they mentioned. The environment (physical and attitudinal) is not child friendly. Employers pay less than the normal wages; do not relax time and workload considering disability; often assault physically and verbally if children do any wrong, they cut the wages and even terminate in many cases.

All the respondents opined that children should not engage in work rather they should engaged in education. Despite knowing and understanding all the above facts, the families engage disabled children with labour due to extreme poverty and survival of the families the respondents mentioned.

The respondents suggested families will not use the disabled children as source of income if their income can be raised; Government ensured education opportunity for disabled children and made it compulsory; made the families aware of negative consequences of child labour.

Discrimination against disabled children.

All most all the group members responded families give less important to the disabled children in comparison to non-disabled children. Families discriminate against disabled children in providing dresses, food, meeting the demand of children.

The families consider disabled children as liability and non-disabled children as asset. They think investing for disabled children will not bring any benefit for future, as they would not be able to be educated and earn income to support families.

All respondents consider this discrimination as unjust act and wrong treatment. To reduce discrimination the community members opined- the families needed to be make aware of child rights; income of families needed to be raised and population control so that poverty reduce.

Participation of disabled children:

Most of the members of community groups responded participation of disabled children in all aspect is all most absent and unnoticed. Respondent from all areas informed that the disabled children are not allowed to participate in family, social and cultural functions. Disabled children's opinion is not being asked in choices of food, dresses and or any family decisions. They are denied in playing with neighbouring children and not involved with any child clubs or groups.

Awareness on Child Rights:

Among respondents 70% informed they are aware of child rights. They have been informed about child rights through TV, Radio, Newspapers, different NGOs including CSID, rallies/demonstration organised by different organisations. In respect to initiatives/services to ensure child rights by Government, NGOs and civil society, most of the respondents are not aware. Some members responded Government formulated policy and law; there is UNICEF working for ensuring child rights and in labour law it is prohibited to employ under 18 years old children. In NGO sector CSID is providing different services for the development of disabled children; they do not know about any other NGO.

In respect to role of community in promoting child rights, respondents opined that- Community could undertake initiative to raise awareness on child rights through organising meetings, rallies etc. Civil society can organise movements and support disabled children for enrolling in schools.

Concerning children's role in promoting child rights the respondents said disabled children needed to be sensitised about their rights and organised to initiate movement; but in that case adults should make space for them and support them.

Humiliation, abuse and exploitation:

All respondents from 3 areas agreed that disabled children are being tortured, abused and exploited within the families and community. They are being scolding, assaulting physically and verbally, physical and mental punishment, engaging in risky/hazardous work, do not give food if did not work and girls are being sexually abused by closed relatives/neighbours and at workplaces. Within the community they are being teased and disregarded, which make them depressed and cause of humiliation. In case of abuse or torture in outside home most of the families did not make any complaints or undertake legal action. The community people often do not act or defend in favour of victim-disabled children.

All members of community groups responded disabled children are in high risk of abuse and exploitation in comparison with non-disabled children. It can happen at home, outside home and at work places. They mentioned- Due to physical weakness they cannot defend, some children cannot see, some cannot speak and another group cannot understand what is happening due to intellectual disability. The criminals take this opportunity as who cannot see he/she would not be able to recognise who abused; who can not speak would not be able to name who did the occurrence; who is intellectually disabled he/she is unable to explain the incident. Therefore, the risk is much higher than non-disabled children are.

To reduce the risk and protect them from abuse and exploitation the respondents suggested the following interventions- Raising mass awareness; make children aware and sensitise explaining the risk and introducing the possible offenders; Not to leave disabled children alone at home and ensure security all the time; teach sign language to hearing and speech impaired children so that they can explain and communicate.

The overall recommendations of the community members with respect to reducing child labour and promoting rights of disabled children are as follows:

- Raising mass awareness.
- Reformation of law and implement strictly.
- Ensuring education opportunity/facility for working children.
- Initiative of NGOs and Civil Society.
- Support families to increase their income.
- Sensitise employers to change their attitudes.
- Disability and Child labour issues needed to be included in the textbooks from primary level.
- Providing adequate stipend to disabled children for education.
- Identifying problems and undertaking intervention gradually on priority basis.
- Regular monitoring of child labour and rights situation of disabled children.
- Initiating food for education programme.
- Formation of self-help and advocacy groups of disabled children/people and support them.

3. FGD with Children with Disabilities:

The study conducted 7 FGDs with children among them 3 in Dhaka, 2 in Sylhet and 2 in Barisal. The major focuses of discussions were on – Awareness on Disability, Education, Child Rights, Child Labour, Discrimination, Participation, and Abuse & Exploitation.

Disability awareness:

Most of the respondents from Dhaka and Barisal are aware of causes and types of disability, but maximum children from Sylhet responded they do not have clear idea on disability. They informed they have been aware of disability by staff of CSID and many answered from watching TV and Rally and discussion sessions in the occasion of National and International Disability Days.

As the causes of disability, they mentioned- By birth, Vitamin deficiency, Typhoid fever, Wrong treatment, Accident, Cataract, Polio, Not having vaccines at early childhood, and very important cause the identified is Unawareness and carelessness of parents.

Concerning problems faced by families due to their disabilities, they responded that- yes; families face multiple problems due to having disabled children such as; family members need to give extra time for taking care of disabled children (washing, feeding, dressing, toileting, transferring etc.), which become cause of income loss and disturb in domestic work. Therefore, some times the family members shout with them, become annoyed, ignore and treat them as burden, which is painful to them.

The disabled children themselves facing problems within the families and as per responses of children groups, those are- Physical Accessibility, communication, toileting, bathing, proper and timely care, ignorance, discrimination etc. They also mentioned family members leave them at home while the family go to visit neighbours and or relative's house and participating any family or social functions.

To minimise the above problems within the families they opined that – Families needed to be make aware of disability issues and sensitised about problems and needs of different types of disabled children. Awareness should be increased among Community people also and Government should provide support and take responsibility through formulating and implementing laws.

Education:

Most of the participants of different groups opined that, disabled children are able to participate in mainstream education. Some children responded that, they could, but special arrangement for the children according to their types and degrees of disabilities needed to be ensured.

Concerning the problems, they face in schooling at this moment the children mentioned-

- Who use wheelchair or have movement problems cannot move around the premises and use toilet.
- Who cannot speak is unable to communicate and understand the lesson in classroom.
- Transportation problem in going schools.
- Children on the way and fellow pupils tease us and do not like to make us friend and play with us.
- Do not allow to seat in front bench.
- No one likes to listen to us.

The children responded to minimise the problems in education the following measures should be undertaken:

- Raising Mass Awareness.
- Installing Ramp and making premises accessible.
- Transport support to disabled children for going schools.
- Teachers training on disability issues.
- Encourage from families to participate in education.
- Making free or reduction of admission, tuition fees and supply of education materials.

They are not much aware of Government and NGO initiatives on education of children with disabilities. Some of them know that, Government has circulated order to Primary schools to enrol disabled children and providing stipend. NGOs (such as; CSID) are providing education materials and other costs.

Regarding the role of Government and Civil society in promoting education opportunity for disabled children, they opined that-

- Government should make provision of free education for disabled children ensuring all the special needs.
- Schools should provide transport facilities for disabled children.
- Civil Society/NGOs can provide education materials, transport cost, uniform etc. and raise awareness.
- Families could counsel, help and encourage disabled children with love to participate in education.

Awareness on Child Rights:

Concerning child rights about 60% children responded they have heard about children have rights and 40% never heard. Most of them mentioned that CSID informed them about their rights, as they are member of Disabled Children's Self-Advocacy Groups formed and empowered by CSID. However, they are not aware on existing policy, Law, programmes or initiatives undertaken by Government or NGO/Civil Society sectors to ensure child rights.

In respect to the role of children themselves in promoting child rights, they opined that, children could organised/unite and initiate movements with the support of adults and NGOs like CSID.

Regarding Child Labour:

Most of the group members in all three areas informed that they are engaged in labour and involved with different kinds of works and they do not like it.

As the major cause of engaging in work, they mentioned due to extreme poverty their families insisted and in some cases forced to be engage in work and earn income for survival of the families.

All most all the children engaged in work informed they face many problems in work, such as:

- Employers is reluctant to employ them
- Pay lesser amount of wages than the normal rate.
- Environment is not disabled children friendly.
- Employers torture them if they do any wrong in the form of scolding, assault physically and mentally, and humiliating punishment. Some times thy cut wages and even terminate.
- The employers do not relax time or workload considering disability and do not allow time for going school.

Many of them mentioned if we did not go for work any day family do not give us food for that day.

Responding to question- what measures could be taken so that families will not engage children in work; the children opined making families aware of child rights and providing financial support or enough food supply to families.

Issue of Discrimination:

95% members of the all groups responded that girls and disabled children are being discriminated in the families. The families do not listen to disabled children; they do not get equal food, cloths, care and dignity comparing to non-disabled children.

Issue of participation:

The children informed they are totally being ignored while families taking any decision even regarding the respective disabled children. The families do not ask their opinion in any decision making process. Family members leave them alone at home while visiting relatives or neighbours and or participating any social or cultural functions. Therefore, they are unable to participate in family and socio-cultural activities as well.

Torture, Abuse and Exploitation:

Concerning torture, children have different concepts, which is very interesting and learning for all. Some children said “torture is beating, scolding, not giving food etc.” and some children think, torture is “forcibly making bound to do anything and or imposing anything against our wills is torture”. We adults are unaware of and totally ignore this psychological aspect of children in terms of torture.

Children mentioned families are torturing and abusing them in the following manners:

- Beating and scolding.
- Do not give food.
- Do not take outside home with them for recreation.
- Do not respect our wish and listen to our voice.

A few children mentioned they have been abused out side home within the community. Response from community people to protest and giving justice in favour of disabled children was rare.

The children groups opined that the disabled children are much vulnerable and at risk to be abused than non-disabled children. Because they are weak, cannot protect, the children who cannot see or speak and cannot understand/ recognise what is happening with them due to intellectual deficiency cannot identify the offenders.

Through raising mass awareness and sensitising families, employers and children could reduce the risks they mentioned. Some children said ensuring hard punishment of the offender is also needed to reduce abuse.

Overall recommendations of children from FGDs to reduce child labour and promoting child rights are as follows:

1. Formulation of Child Labour Law and its proper implementation.
2. Making employers and families aware and sensitise regarding child rights.
3. Financial support to increase income of families.
4. Creating employment opportunities for family members.
5. Along side education arranging vocational training as well so that children can engage in non-hazardous and descent work.
6. Every one should love and care for children not to ignore.

Conclusion:

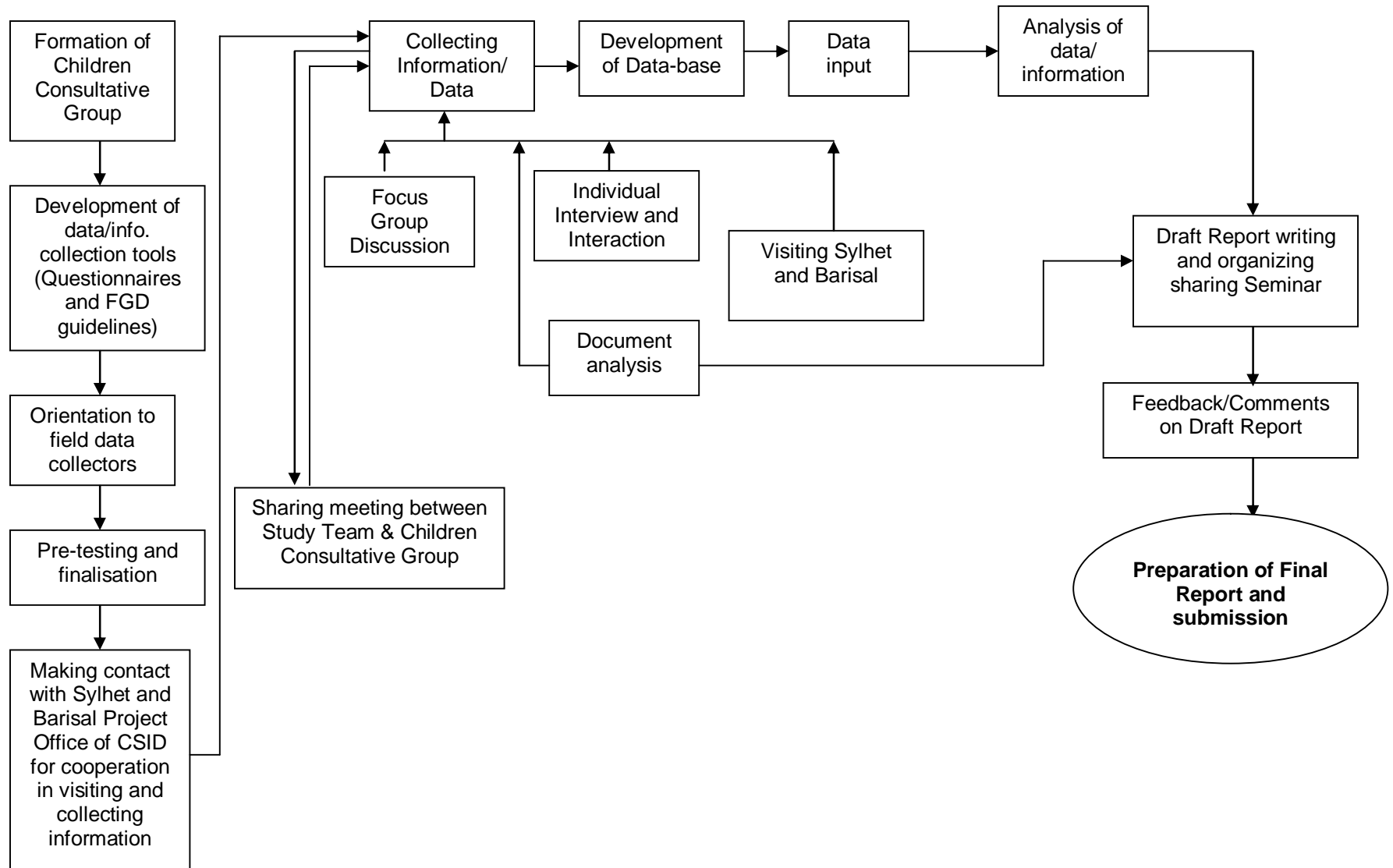
The study tried to cover diverse stakeholder and gather wide range of information to find out the facts and figures concerning child labour among children with disabilities and cause effect relationship. The study also designed to find out the overall rights situation of children with disabilities. From the interview and FGDs it has been revealed that children with disabilities are living such a vulnerable situation that immediate and effective interventions are needed to promote their rights and protect them from all forms of abuse and exploitation. Like children without disabilities children with disabilities also engaged in child labour and the poor families exploiting them through engaging them in begging like non-dignified work. These disabled children not only the victim of unjust act and behaviour of families and employers they are facing a diverse problems while engaging in any work including begging and those are physical inaccessibility at work place, lack of work adaptation, transportation problem, lack of mobility and functional aids and appliances etc., which multiplying their vulnerability than the children without disability. But they are helpless and got to be live with all those problems and barriers in an ignorant and deprived situation. Hope the data, information and recommendations from this study would help policy makers, planners and implementers including professionals to undertake appropriate measures/interventions so that these vulnerable children could live a dignified and descent life.

Recommendation

- Mass awareness raising programme initiative is needed.
- More Government and NGO initiative is needed.
- Government is to formulate and implement law against child labour.
- Child labour issue can be included with the (PRSP) Poverty Reduction programme.
- Quality education should ensure.
- Government and Civil Society coordination is needed.
- Government need to provide Education, health and vocational skill training free of cost.
- To eliminate child labour Government need to provide allowance to children.
- Sensitise families and employers.
- Economical support to increase income of families.
- Proper Policy formulation and implementation.
- More intensive programme for education by Government.
- Implementation of Inclusive Education and make people aware of existing laws.
- Increasing services and support in Government and NGO sectors.
- Build capacity of family members.
- Establishing Shelter Home for disabled children.
- Active initiatives of law enforcement agencies.
- Inter ministerial cooperation and coordination.
- Employment of family members of disabled children.
- Food for Education programme initiation.
- Creating vocational skill training opportunities.
- Population control to reduce poverty.
- Quality education and provision of 100% stipend for disabled children.
- Ensuring Judicial action and punishment for employing children as labour.
- Engaging children in work according to their age, education, physical capability and ability.
- Increasing social security.
- Increase rate of Disability allowance.

- Undertaken Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Programme.
- Create access to micro-credit services.
- Reformation of law and implement strictly.
- Ensuring education opportunity/facility for working children.
- Disability and Child labour issues needed to be included in the textbooks from primary level.
- Identifying problems and undertaking intervention gradually on priority basis.
- Regular monitoring of child labour and rights situation of disabled children.
- Initiating food for education programme.
- Formation of self-help and advocacy groups of disabled children/people and support them.

2. IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS



Case Study - 01

Sumi Akter

Sumi Akter a girl with physical disability, the project found begging on the traffic point of Bijoy Shoroni, Mohammadpur. Every day with her mother she comes to the traffic point in the morning and stay till night. While the project identified her, she was very much reluctant to talk with the project staff and while the project staff went to visit her often the staff had to return without talking with her. Her father is a day laborer and it is difficult for him to maintain the 5 member family. So, he sent Sumi on the street for begging. Sumi's family also used to protect her from talking with the project staff. She had been invited to attend meeting of children group at CSID office but she used to refuse to attend the meeting. The project staff continued meeting her and visiting her home to motivate and counseling with the family. Gradually Sumi's attitude changed and started to come to the meeting but the project had to pay for compensating her income for the day. The project also invited her parents to attend the meeting to see and observe what children do in the meeting and what activities they do. After attending some meetings and observing the activities of children both Sumi and her family have been convinced. Now Sumi is motivated and love to attend the meetings and different programs. She opined that *I don't like to beg on the street but I am bound to earn money for survival of my family*. She wants to go to school now. She never got opportunity to play or spend leisure time with friends or neighboring children. The project enrolled her in a non govt. School. Now she enjoys company of other disabled children like her, reading with non-disabled children, talking and playing with them. She is rights sensitive and raising voice in different meetings and programs.

She likes to be an actress but never got opportunity. She has been included in the theatre group of Children with disabilities developed by CSID. First time she has been given opportunity to act in the theatre in the community. She enjoyed it very much and she was so happy and excited. The inferiority complex in side her and shyness has been reduced. She has been vocal now. Her thinking, attitude and understanding have been changed and now she likes to give up begging. But due to extreme poverty and marginalized condition the family used her as a source of income. The project is trying to find out a way to withdraw her from begging and bring her in a dignified life. The CSID project staff is counseling with her family and discussing the issue. It is assumed that if the project can provide support to the family to raise income in any alternative way Sumi can be released from this situation like imprisonment. Sumi's doesn't know how is responsible to make her free?



Sumi is Begging on the street



Sumi in class room (red dress)

Case Study - 02

Chan Mia wants to be Business man

Chan Mia 14 is a child with physical disability caused by Polio. His father Mr. Majid Ahamed got second marriage and left Chan Mian and his mother. His mother Samsun Nahar is a day labour. Previously Chan Mia, his mother and sister were living in a slum at Bash Bari, Mohammadpur. The slum got fired and all of their belongings and house burned. They now live in a slum in Adabar area under the Adabar thana of Dhaka City. Due to negligence of his family he has not been immunized by polio vaccine so Chan Mia was attacked by polio at the age of 1 year. As his father left them and his mother is the only income earning member in the family. His mother's income as a day labour was not enough to feed the entire family members. So, the family forced Chan Mia to beg on the street since he was five years old.

After identifying by CSID the project staff kept him under follow up regularly and enrolled him as the member of Self-advocacy group of disabled children formed by CSID. He has been provided with different supports like aids and appliances thus increased his range of mobility and he has been able to participate in different meeting and right movement of children. Having four years been attached to the advocacy group brought a sense of realization in Chan Mia's mind. He could realized begging on the street will never be possible to bring any change in his life. Stretching out hand for begging was transformed in to his profession and addiction because of his poverty and rude practical life.

CSID counseled with him and consulting with his mother arranged a job for him in a Spice Crashing Mill. At the same time CSID enrolled him in World Vision's non formal school.

CSID also provided financial support to his mother to start small business so that their income raises and Chan Mia need not to go for begging again. With the financial support mother of Chan Mia started running a small business near to his slum. Now Chan Mia some times work in the Spice Mill and some times help his mother to run the business. He is now getting honour and respect within family and also in the community. He fills himself dignified. He is trying to be self-dependent and wishes to expand his small business. Chan Mia has a dream that one day he will be a big business man.



Case Study - 03

Dulal Mia

“I want my childhood back and start study again”.

Dulal Mia is a 16 years old boy with physical disability from Vill: Dowlatkha Abad, PO: Chandpur Tea State, Upazila: Chunarughat of district Hobigonj. He has father, mother and a sister. Dulal's father Abdul Monnaf migrated in Sylhet City since 20 years for earning money. His father is a rickshaw puller. They live in a slum area Raja Miah's Colony, Road # 1, Badam Bagicha of Sylhet City. All the members of his family live in one room. Because of poverty, after studying class two he was compelled to stop his study. Because of frequent illness Dulal's father cannot drive rickshaw daily. So in childhood when Dulal was 14, he started to drive a rickshaw for earn money to help his family. He earns not more than Tk.150 daily. After maintaining living cost of the family he couldn't save money for himself. When it was time to go to school, he was bound to take burden of his family. Because of his disability, neighboring children used to avoid and neglect him and Dulal did not go outside to play. He suffered by regular pain in his leg. His father had no money for treatment. He had grown up in negligence in family and society. In spite of feeling pain in his leg every night, he has to drive rickshaw for survival of his family.

After identifying Dulal by the CSID project staff and learning his history consulting with Dulal and his family CSID tried to bring him from the hazardous work to a suitable and dignified work. CSID arranged and provided support to him for tailoring training. Then he started to work as tailor. But the income from tailoring was not sufficient to cover the cost of his family. So, now he has to do hard work and sometimes driving rickshaw and sometimes work as tailor to earn enough income. He expressed his worries regarding uncertainty of his future life. He wants to get back to his childhood and to start again his study.



Dulal driving Rickshaw



Dulal is working in a tailoring shop

CSID-MJ project enrolled him as a member of Advocacy group of children with disabilities formed by CSID. He is enjoying advocacy activities together with other disabled children towards promoting their rights and wellbeing.

Case Study - 04

Paplu Ahmed

Paplu Ahmed 17 from an extremely poor family. He lost his mother when he was five years old. Then his father Mr. Saleh Ahmed got second marriage. Paplu is the second child of his parents. They are 3 brothers & 02 sisters. Paplu's family living in a slum as well as over crowded area in a Mud & Straw made house in Vill: Hobinandi Kushighat, P.O: Kadamtoli, P.S: South Surma, Dist.: Sylhet. His father, Mr. Saleh Ahmed is an irregular small truck driver. But Most of the time he is jobless as he is suffering from different diseases. Some times he catches fish and sells in the local market. Paplu couldn't continue his education due to poverty. Father's daily income is too poor to maintain the family. He earns 3000-4000 Taka per month. So, can't afford expenses for his big family, Paplu's eldest brother is a hotel boy, He earns only 1000 taka per month.

The CSID project staff found him working in a metal workshop. He used to work with welding which was very harmful job for him as he got vision problem in one eye. CSID staff motivated his family members to let him stop from this hazardous as well as dangerous activity. He was suffering from eye problem. Right eye was fully red and infected, it was tearing continuously. But his family didn't care and didn't stop him to work in that workshop.

CSID project staff referred him to Sylhet Osmani Medical College and Hospital for proper diagnosis and treatment. Doctor advised for immediate surgery as because his other eye also started to infect. It was a very emergency operation to protect his eyes. CSID admitted him in hospital and supported for his surgery. After surgery CSID provided him a pair of glasses to use, advised by eye consultant. Doctor also advised him to give up the previous job. Then CSID motivated his family and as per Paplu's interest provided him vocational training on small trade and supported him to start a small shop. He ran the small shop for 01 year. Unfortunately he got to stop the business as the profit from shop was not enough and people started to buy things on credit, which was a great problem, as he had a very small amount of capital.

Due to family need he had to find out another job and he has been engaged working in an Auto Mobile Garage. Now he is earning taka 1800.00 per month and contributing to his family. He was being neglected in the family before but now he is participating in the family decision making and every body is listening to him. After getting motivational support and training he acquired mental strength as well as it was a turning point for the rest of his life. He is an active member of Children's advocacy group and participating all advocacy activity.

Now Paplu lives a happy life, but the actual conditions of most of the children of Bangladesh who lives in poverty are as similar as Paplu's previous condition and there is no one to help them. They have to engage in hazardous work at their childhood for their survival. Because very few organizations are working to protect these children and stop children engaging in risky work.



Case Study - 05

Dipika Baroi

Dipika, 9 years old low vision girl lives in the ward # 29 of Barisal City Corporation. Her father's name is Krishna Baroi and Mother's name is Shikha Rani Baroi. Her father is a carpenter. Dipika is the only daughter of her parents and she has one brother. Dipika's parents identified her disability when she was a little child. They put the best possible efforts to provide treatment to their child. They tried all the locally available interventions mainly religious and traditional healings. Though the family was in financial difficulties they tried their best to cure the low vision problem of their daughter. She is a minor and low vision girl but earns money to help her family without going school. She makes Bidi (local tobacco/cigarette) and supplies it to her dealer. She earns 15/20 taka in a day.

When CSID-LCD project staff identified Dipika she was not yet enrolled in any school. Her parents were very interested to enroll her to any school but the school authority denied enrolling her because of her disability. At this situation the project staff started to visit Dipika's house regularly and taught her the Bangla Alphabet and after some days it has been observed that Dipika is a very intelligent girl and learnt Alphabets within very short time. Day by day CSID-LCD project staff prepared Dipika for school and in January 2007 they went to B.H.P registered Primary school and motivated the school authority and enrolled her in class one. Later project staff oriented the class teacher to handle the low vision student in the class. As a result the class teacher was supportive and taking special care of Dipika.

CSID project staff referred Dipika to the Barisal Medical College Hospital for assessment of her vision. After assessment the doctor suggested that powerful glass could improve her vision. The project provided her with a pair of powered eye glasses as per doctor's advice. Now she can see better than before and easily can read the writings on the school black board and books. Dipika is now reading in class two. The environment becomes favourable to her. Schoolteachers and fellow pupil are cooperative and supportive to her due to Dipika's interest in learning. Her parents are also very much happy seeing Dipika is going to school. Every day Dipika wakes up early in the morning and goes to school in time with great interest. But still in her early age she is working in a bidi factory and earning money for supporting her family. Without accepting the doctor's advice she is doing this risky work. Now she is happy, but anytime her eyes can be affected again if she continues doing this Bidi making work. So, she is still in risk.



Dipika making Bidi



Dipika in school after intervention by CSID

Case Study - 06

Shipra gayen

Shipra gayen, a 14 years old girl lives in Barisal city. Gayen means singer but she could not speaks. When she was 8 years old got typhoid, as a result she became speech and hearing impaired. She is second among her two sisters and one brother. Father Poresh Gayen is a day labor and only one earning member of the family. Mother Rina Rani is a housewife.

When her family found out that Shipra got speech and hearing problems then they tried all locally available treatment, mainly religious and traditional healings. Though the family was in financial difficulties they tried their best to cure their daughter. But due to lack of proper information and treatment Shipra's speech and hearing impairment became permanent and it can never be cured.

Because of illiteracy Shipra's family enrolled her late in school. But when she was in class one Shipra stopped her study and was passing a dark life at home. Her parents were not interested to enroll her again and Shipra was already forgotten what she learned at school. Shipra's parents engaged her in work like weaving mat by Hogla leaf and earn income to support family instead of sending her in school. The CSID project staff motivated her family about Shipras education and enrolled her in CSID Inclusive pre-school. She was regular and her performance was very well. To see her performance and age, project decided to enroll her at primary school in class two. The project managed school authorities, students and enrolled her in class two. The project also referred her in World concern for assessment and as per their suggestion provided her with a hearing machine. Shipra goes to school every day. Students accepted her and behave with her friendly. The project providing her education materials. She requested to every body to pray for her. But still there is possibility to droop out from education because of their poverty and she is in high risk of engaging in child labor again.



Shipra Gayen weaving Mat with Hogla leaf

Case Study- 07

Md. Kamal Hossain

Sixteen years old Md. Kamal Hossain Monir lives in the slum area of Veri Badh in Mohammadpur thana. Mr. Nur Nabi his father was a rickshaw puller and Ms. Morzina Begum mother is a day laborer. Kamal's father left home after getting second marriage. Kamal's mother struggling to survive with five members in his family. Kamal was a healthy boy like other children without any disability. The income of his mother as a day laborer was not enough to maintain the family. So, due to extreme poverty his family forced Kamal to start working as helper of tempo in the street since at the age of ten.

When Kamal was 11 years old one day his Tempo got an accident with a Truck and Kamal got injured. As the result his right leg needed to cut from below the knee and he became a disabled child. His mother did not enroll him in to school. He was unhappy, unable to play with other children and did not have any leisure and recreation in his life. At this time due to family need of survival the family sent Kamal on the street to earn income through begging.

The CSID project staff identified him begging on the street in Dhanmondi area. They counseled with him and motivated his mother not to send him for begging. After counseling Kamal enrolled him-self as a member of Self-Advocacy Group of Disabled Children and started to attend meetings. He started to enjoy different activities and self-respect increased within him. He started to dislike begging. Other members of Advocacy Group of children motivated his mother to send Kamal in school and she agreed. After that he had keen interest for going school but due to neglect and just earning income for survival he had to work hard all day. Finally he could not continue going school regularly because his income is needed for survival of the family. Kamal was mentally upset and frustrated. He got to work hard in begging though it is hazardous for health and his growth and finally he doesn't like it at all. He expressed his interest to start a small business instead of begging on the street. The CSID project provided him economical support after assessing the feasibility to start a small business. Now Kamal is selling vegetables by a Rickshaw Van driving by one leg. He is also participating in different advocacy activities with the group members, drama, drawing competition, photography exhibition etc. Kamal said, "If there is opportunities then the persons with disabilities can lead better life like other people in the society".



Tales of Darkness



Centre for Services and Information on Disability (CSID)