

eBULLETIN

Divisional Level Consultation with Multilevel Stakeholders

On 27 March 2017, the Divisional Level Consultation with Multilevel Stakeholders was organized by Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu) at Shahid Shamsuddin Hall Room, DC Office, Shirajganj. A total of 65 eminent guests representing GO, NGOs, CBOs, Educational Institutes, Media attended.

The honorable DC Mr. Abu Noor Mohammad Shamsuzzaman (In Charge) graced with presence as Chief Guest. Mr. Miraj Uddin, Police Super, Mr. Shahidul Islam Khan, Deputy Director, Social Welfare Department, Ms. Laila Nargis, representative of Women Affairs, Mr. Swapon Kumar Kormokar, Deputy Director, Youth Development Accademy, Dr. Sheikh Mohammed Monjur Rahman, Civil Surgeon were there as Special Guests. Mr. Kamrul Hasan, ADC presided the consultation as Chair. Mr. Omar Faruk Rabby, President of Agragami Shamajik Unnayan Shongstha, Shirajganj CBO welcomed the distinguished guests and shared the objectives to the forum as local organizing partner of Bandhu.

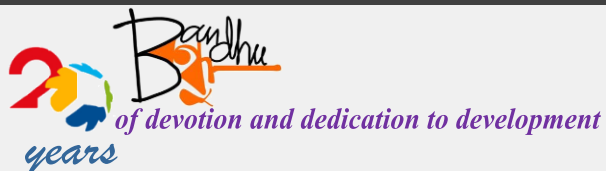
In addition, the Presidents of different CBOs i.e Sonali Din Manab Kollayan Shongstha, Bachar Asha Shangskritik Shongho, Diner Alo Hijra Shongho from Rajshahi, Shapla Hijra/MSM Unnayan Shongho from Bogra attended as Divisional CBO representatives and shared their key activities, achievements and learning to the forum.



The objective of the event was to introduce CBO activities with local multi level influential stakeholders and create network through developing good rapport to access stigma free support at respective area.

Umme Farhana Zarif Kanta, Program Manager, Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu) briefly shared an overview of Bandhu and significant achievements highlighting National and Regional development of Hijra Community. A participatory open discussion was moderated by Mr. Kamrul Hasan, ADC after the demonstration of documentary film “Will This Change”. The major recommendations of the consultation are:

- A *Public Interest Litigation (PIL)* can be filed at the Supreme Court for enjoying Inheritance Property Rights by the third gender community.
- More livelihoods training especially “Computer Course” needs to be organized by Youth Development Academy.
- The ratio of Student Stipend, Elderly Pension scheme and other facilities need to increase by the Social Welfare Department under Ministry of Social Welfare (MSW).
- Regular consultation between Social Welfare Department and Hijra Guru at respective districts may help to design more effective pilot program for Hijra under MSW in future.
- Red Crescent Society, Shirajganj will take initiatives to construct housing for Hijra after allocating space by DC at Shirajganj.
- A special card can be introduced by the Govt. to claim the rights of Hijra as Third Gender.
- Only vocational training is not sufficient to change their livelihood, also needed seed money to start the initial business or Income Generating Activities after the training. For this Bandhu may take lead with the support of all stakeholders to develop linkage with other organization who provides SME at local level.
- Mental Change is also important besides the vocational training and counseling session is essential during designing any program for Hijra community.
- Hijra will be equally penalized if they refuse to compliance any country law under criminal act. Sometimes Hijra are most aggressive to collect money from the general public and LEA has to be more active to stop that entire situation especially public nuisance.
- Ward Counselors of Shirajganj are already cooperative towards Hijra and will continue their support in future. For this, Hijra also need to be transformed specially their approach in public places.
- The lawyers of Shirajganj are more committed to reduce the stigma and discrimination of Hijra at local level.
- More awareness program need to be designed to create awareness amongst Hijra, so that the community can protect themselves from HIV/AIDS.
- Hijra Guru may take strong leadership to stop mugging from the pedestrian or house and offensive attitude.
- “Quota” for Hijra in every sector can be introduced to bring Equality.



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