EDITORIAL

The COVID-19 outbreak has devastating impacts on the entire human race, threatening the life and existence of billions across the world. The world has come together to battle this unprecedented challenge by orchestrating governments, different organizations, sectors, and individuals to respond to this global pandemic. WHO is leading and systematizing the global effort, supporting countries to prevent, detect, and respond to the pandemic. In line with the global approaches, the Government of Bangladesh is endeavoring diligently to combat utmost against this pandemic situation through several productive approaches.

Besides, for easy access to the vaccination, different campaign program has been designed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Also, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has announced the 31-point COVID-19 plan which included the commitment that “Special attention will have to be given to the most disadvantaged people like agriculture workers, day laborers, Rickshaw pullers, transport workers, beggars, street children, the women abandoned by their husbands, widows and Hijra community and providing relief to them will have to be ensured”. The different Civil Society Organizations have also taken different strategies to protect the targeted community as like as Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu). In this period of 2021, Bandhu generated funds through different development partners, private sectors, and individuals to provide relief support to the Gender Diverse Population (GDP). Notably, Bandhu provided significant supports in general health care and mental health support through dedicated helplines along with safety tools across the country.

In this edition, we have highlighted some of regular achievements of Bandhu, as well as some significant achievements for the gender diverse community in the COVID-19 pandemic, which will stimulate you to extend your helping hand to this population.

I especially thank to the writers and editorial team for their unstinting work. Also, our sincere thanks to the readers, because only they are our true inspiration for this publication.
KEY figures of Bandhu

HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Received Services
22634 Project Participants

Participated in Group Education Session (GES)
1056 Project Participants

Received HIV testing and Counseling (HTC) services and knows their results
4615 Project Participants

STIs diagnosed, treated and counseled at field Office/ DIC/SUD-DIC/ Outlet level
2174 Episodes

Counseling Session (One to one/group/via phone)
644 Clients

ADVOCACY PROGRAM

We advocated

481 Stakeholders

277 District Social Service, Civil Surgeons from different divisions, government hospitals, Christian Aid, GIZ Bangladesh, BRAC, Caritas Bangladesh, Meri Scope, Naripokkho, Women with disabilities development foundation (WDDF), Ororodho Foundation, Bangladesh Nari Samik Kendra (BNSK), She Decides Bangladesh, Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha (BNPS), SPAARC, SPACE FOUNDATION, Womens Windows, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) and Community Based Organization (CBO) members

64 Youth participants

86 Health Professionals

20 Legal Aid Providers

34 Media Journalists

CAPACITY BUILDING

We trained

232 people

51 Relevant Stakeholders

181 Community Members, youth participants, DIC staffs

LEGAL SUPPORT

97 Calls Received and Provide legal information, counseling and support

9 Cases Documented on Human Rights violation

800 Community members received food as relief from Bandhu during COVID-19 pandemic.

7 Books newly enlisted in Gender and Sexuality Resource Centre and developed
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF 
NGO BUREAU 
HANDOVER COVID-19 
SUPPORT TO THOUSAND TG 
AND HIJRA

'The honourable Prime Minister has provided a mass shelter project for the transgender and hijra people, by making specialized schools and employment facilities in the same project could help them for economic emancipation.' said K. M. Tariqul Islam (Additional Secretary), Director General of NGO Bureau. While attending the relief distribution program in the capital organized by Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu). Thursday morning, K. M. Tariqul Islam had inaugurated the relief distribution program for one thousand 1000 Transgender and Hijras in country wide. Also, Marufa Sultana Khan Hiramoni, Assistant Commissioner of DC office and Dr. Zhumana Ashrafi Sweety, Medical Officer from Civil Surgeon office were attending the relief distribution event as special guests.

The director general of NGO bureau of affairs also added, if we do not show compassion towards this community, then it is not possible for the government to succeed in the plans of sustainable development. We have to make sure that the people from Transgender and Hijra community can earn a fair livelihood. K. M. Tariqul Islam also commended, 'The government is working towards fulfilling the prime minister's pledge for this community'.

In third Phase, Bandhu arranged this relief program, which is usually carried out individually and helped for donor organizations. As a relief package Bandhu is providing- 10kg rice, 5kg potato, 1kg lentil, 1kg salt, 1kg oil, soap and masks to the people of the community.

More than two decades, Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu) has been working towards improving the quality of life, providing healthcare services and human rights for the gender diverse population in Bangladesh. Last one year, with the help of different donor organizations and individuals, Bandhu has provided relief, financial aid and emergency healthcare support for 13,628 transgenders and hijras. And with the networking of Bandhu additional 10,500 community members have received relief support from different GO and NGO organizations.

'The honourable Prime Minister has provided a mass shelter project for the transgender and hijra people, by making specialized schools and employment facilities in the same project could help them for economic emancipation.' said K. M. Tariqul Islam (Additional Secretary), Director General of NGO Bureau.
এক হাজার ট্রাঙ্কজেডার
ও হিজাবা জনগোষ্ঠীর
হাতে ভ্রান্তি হস্তান্তর
করেছেন এনজিও ব্যুরোর ভিডি

ট্রাঙ্কজেডার ও হিজাবা জনগোষ্ঠীর জন্য আর্থিক প্রয়োজন প্রকাশ করেছেন মানানীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী, একই সাথে বিশেষায়িত খুল্ল ও কর্মসংঘাত সৃষ্টির বাস্তবে করনীয় এই জনগোষ্ঠীর আর্থিক মূল্য গ্রহণে বলে মন্তব্য করেছেন এনজিও বিষয়ক ব্যুরোর মহাপ্রকল্প কে. এম. তারকুল ইসলাম (অতিরিক্ত সচিব)। ব্যুরো সাইটে ওয়েবফেয়ারের সোসাইটি (বিস্তৃত) আসন্তিতে এক হাজার ট্রাঙ্কজেডার ও হিজাবা জনগোষ্ঠীর মাথে ভ্রান্তি বিতরণ কর্মসংঘাত উদ্ধৃত করে এর সময় বদলে তিনি।

১৬ আগস্ট ২০২১, রাজধানীর একটি কমিউনিটি সেক্টরে এই ভ্রান্তি বিতরণ অনুষ্ঠানে আরো উপস্থিত ছিলেন ঢাকা জেলার সংগঠন কমিশনার সাক্ষাৎকার সুলতানা খান ইরামি, এবং সিভিল সার্ভিস অফিসের মেডিকেল অফিসার ড. বুমা আশরফী সুইট।

এনজিও ব্যুরোর মহাপ্রকল্প বলেন, বাংলাদেশের বিভিন্ন অঞ্চলে ছড়িয়ে থাকা হিজাবা জনগোষ্ঠীর প্রতি যদি মনোনীত প্রকাশ করতে না পরেল সরকারের উদ্দেশ্য কর্মসংঘাত সম্পূর্ণ হবে না। এই জনগোষ্ঠীর মানুষের জন্য কাজের আয় করতে পারে সেই বাস্তবে করতে হবে। প্রধানমন্ত্রীর আর্থিক বাস্তবায়ন সরঞ্জাম এই জনগোষ্ঠীর জন্য কাজ করছে বলেও জানা যায়।

তৃণীয় ধাপে বাক্যপক্ষে ও বিভিন্ন দাতা সংহার সহায়তায় সারাদেশের এক হাজার ট্রাঙ্কজেডার ও হিজাবাকে ভ্রান্তি সহায়তা দিচ্ছে বেশি। ভ্রান্তি হিসেবে ১০ কেজি চাল, ৫ কেজি আলু, ১ কেজি করে ডাল, লবণ, মাছ, একটি সুগন্ধি সাবজ এবং মাছ দেওয়া হয়েছে। বিভিন্ন এক বছরে বিভিন্ন দাতা সংহার অর্থিক সহায়তা ও প্রতিষ্ঠাতাবাদে মোট ১৩ হাজার ৬২৯ জন ট্রাঙ্কজেডার ও হিজাবা জনগোষ্ঠীর হাতে ভ্রান্তি, অর্থিক প্রোগ্রামে স্বর্গীয় ব্যাথা-নিরাপত্তা সমাজে পোষ্ট দিয়ে থাকে। আর ভ্রান্তির সর্বনিম্ন সমর্থনমূলক ব্যাপার ও জগজগী ব্যাধিা-নিরাপত্তা সমাজে পোষ্ট হয়েছে আরো ১০ হাজার ৫০০ জন কমিউনিটি সদস্য।
In celebration of the International Youth Day 2021, Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu) has recognized three transwomen volunteers for their outstanding contribution to the society during the Covid-19 pandemic situation.

Asiqul Islam Sajib (Sanjibani), who graduated in political science from Chittagong University, got the first prize of the Inspiring Transgender and Hijra Volunteer Award 2021. She buried around 350 people who died from Covid in Dhaka and Chittagong. She was given a cheque of Tk. 20,000 and a crest.

As a transwoman, Sanjibani has experienced untold sufferings since childhood. She wants to work towards good causes to change the society’s negative perspective towards transgenders.

The two other volunteers are Anisour Rahman Tonu of Mymensingh and Pakhi Dutta of Khulna; they got Tk. 10,000 and Tk. 5,000 and crests.

They worked with different government and non-government organizations to collect funds, and distribute food and cash aid among the people suffering from economic hardship during the pandemic. They also conducted campaigns to spread awareness related to Covid-19.

The awards were distributed at a program held at Sufia Kamal Auditorium of the National Museum on Wednesday. National Board of Revenue (NBR) Chairman Abu Hena Md Rahmatul Muneem attended the event as the chief guest.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police Habibur Rahman was present as the guest of honor, and prominent model and dancer...
Sadia Islam Mou as the chief guest. Renowned dance artist and Chairperson of Bandhu Anisul Islam Hero chaired the ceremony.

In his speech, NBR Chairman Muneem said that the culture of detachment between the families and the gender diverse children could be eliminated through the process of ensuring their empowerment. "Thus, they will be considered as the assets for their parents."

According to Muneem, the government is working to bring them to the mainstream society by raising awareness and ensuring their constitutional rights. "They are also given houses under the Ashrayan-2 project."

In the next census, he said, a new gender category - "hijra" - would be included apart from male and female.

DIG Habibur said the transgender and the hijra people would have to develop skills and work together to attain their position in the society. "The state will always be beside them," he added.

Experts, however, fear that inclusion of the transgender people in the society would not be so easy. Employment for them in factories and companies is challenging due to the mindset of mainstream society and a lack of educational background of the hijras.

According to Bandhu Social Welfare Society, a number of transgender members are currently employed in media organizations, hotels and private universities as security guards, in NGOs at different posts, the service sector including health, beauty and food, as well as in the leather and garments sectors.

For more than two decades, Bandhu has been working towards improving the quality of life through providing healthcare services and human rights support for the gender diverse population in Bangladesh.

Bandhu is now working to ensure that the government passes a law to recognize the transgender and the hijra communities - an initiative taken in 2013, to ensure their right to education and health services, and to ease harassment in correcting their gender identity in the National Identity Cards, said its officials.
A free media is the key to promoting of good governance and Human Rights of marginalized and stigmatized population. In this view, Bandhu Social Welfare Society developed a linkage between the Gender Diverse Population and the Media to promote better understanding with positive attitude towards the community and formed eight divisional journalist forums across the country.

Emphasize on this ally and to set a plan of action for Media forum, Bandhu arranged a consultation meeting on 12 July, 2021 via online platform. 74 journalists were joined in this meeting including community leaders. This was the first time of Bandhu's history where all divisional journalists took part in this event and sharing their views through a group work for the wellbeing of this community. Mr. Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, prominent journalist of Bangladesh moderated the event and said that the media network members can play a positive role to act as advocate in changing the social view regarding the community. In this connection, he gave importance to provide award more journalists from outside of the forum to reduce fake news about the community. He moderated the group work discussion where every participant shared their views and thoughts. Community representatives also took part in this event and expressed their views towards the forum. Mr. Shale Ahmed, Executive Director and Umme Farhana Zarif Kanta, Director, Policy Advocacy and Human Rights thanked to all participants and also expressed their belief that after the meeting it would be very convenient to set a work plan for Bandhu.

A BRIDGE WITH MASS MEDIA
BACKYARD MEETING: SELF-DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES OF GDP

Possibility has organized a two-day discussion for the growth of Possibility platform members and Bandhu employees titled "Discussion with Community members" on August 17th & 18th, 2021. This knowledge building and sharing seminar drew 60 participants, including gender diverse girls/women and people.

The conference was planned with the goal of concentrating on self-development by assessing knowledge regarding mental health, menstrual health and cleanliness, hormone therapy and gender affirmation surgery, gender-based violence, domestic violence, and legal support. Each level of the conversation in the meetings was highly supportive to the community’s comprehension.

The following are the key themes of these two-day sessions:

- Sensitize and spread awareness within community members about menstrual health and hygiene, cervical cancer, STD, STI, and SRHR concerns in order to decrease health risks.
- Sensitize and promote awareness across community members regarding hormone therapy, gender affirmative surgery, and STD/STI concerns in order to lessen health risks.
- Sensitize community members through information exchange in compliance with national law to minimize gender-based violence and domestic abuse.

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RHRN-2: RESUMING A NEW PATHWAY ON SRHR SERVICES FOR YOUTH

The Right Here Right Now-2 project began its global journey with the goal of creating a forum for youth to seek support in managing their sexual and reproductive health & rights regardless of gender. In Bangladesh, the initiative began in 2017 with 11 groups, with Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu) as the lean management. RHRN-1 concluded its voyage in 2021, followed by RHRN-2 (2021-2025) with a significantly different aspect. There are currently four coalition partners (Bandhu, BRAC, Naripokkho, and Oboyob) that have contributed to the platform by generating various research, workshops, and meetings.

On August 8, 2021, BJPGSPH filed baseline research on the concept of RHRN-2, focusing on its objectives while evaluating actual difficulties that can be addressed, suggesting viable approaches, and evaluating putative impacts on the target audience. Besides, Bandhu arranged a Theory of Change affirmation session on the RHRN-2 project on August 22, 2021 at Golden Tulip Hotel, Dhaka, with the presence of all partners. Based on sharing of knowledge and ideas on how to bring positive changes among the target group as per the platform conception. Alongside, a National Planning Meeting (NPM) was held in Cox’s Bazar from September 8th to September 13th, 2021, convened by all coalition partners to elevate the RHRN-Bangladesh combined structure for a smooth development and shifting of activities from 2021 to 2022.

RHRN-2 is one of the most promising initiatives in Bangladesh, and its completion could result in a significant shift in the ideology and social perception of the entire youngsters.

AwaKvi GLv‡b, GLbB-2: ZiæY‡`i GmAviGBPAvi †mevi bew`MšÍ
Since the mid of March 2020 till August 2022, the country has experienced a long-term lockdown to control the colossal transmission of corona virus. During this unfortunate phase many people lost their jobs, and became handicapped economically. The conditions were even more miserable for gender diverse populations who mostly live on different gender identity. All these circumstances created a negative and devastated impact on their mental health.

Under “Norec- Saksham” project, a number of initiatives have been taken for empowering young community members. In this regard, Bandhu hosted two (02) capacity building workshops on mental health counseling in Dhaka and Sylhet for the youth community leaders who are first tier human rights defenders at grass-root level from different gender diverse groups. Thirty-Four (34) youth community leaders participated in these workshops. Bandhu followed and maintained all necessary guidilines from the world health organization and the government concerning the implementation of these workshops. Through these workshops the youth community leaders enhanced their knowledge on mental health counseling and became empowered to serve the community in emergency situation.
Since March 2020 we are passing a turbulent time because of global pandemic crisis. Along with the health impacts of the disease, COVID-19 has led to self and social isolation, disconnection from family and friends, quarantine, and lockdowns on movement resulting in more people than ever experiencing to feel helplessness, isolation, grief, anxiety, and depression. This entire ill-fated situation has created a damaging impression on the mental health of people specially for gender-diverse population. Mental health is a crossroad between emotional, psychological, and physical well-being and this issue must be emphasized in this state of emergency.

Concerning the demand of health and mental support for young people in this pandemic situation, Bandhu with the support from NOREC took initiative and has started mental health counseling services through a special helpline number which is called "Porichoy", people can take counselling services on weekdays (Sunday to Thursday) from 8.30 am to 4.30 pm.

Anyone from gender diverse population can call the number and get mental health counseling services from an expert counselor with full pledge to maintain confidentiality of the conversation. From May-September 2021 a total number of 839 calls were received, out of which 644 were called by people aged between 15-30 years and 195 were above 30.

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Access to justice is a human right. According to the constitution of Bangladesh, every citizen is equal in the eye of the law and is entitled to get equal protection without any discrimination. Despite the constitutional guarantee and safeguards on equality and equal protection of law irrespective of religion, race, sex, or place of birth, the marginalized community is deprived of their rights to get justice. More than 3.4 lacs cases are pending in the court of Bangladesh and only 13 percent of the people turn to the formal judicial system to seek justice.

Ensure access to justice to the vulnerable and disadvantaged community and to adopt new reform approaches based on the best practices and key approaches of institutional cooperation in the justice sector, Bandhu has initiated a project titled "Access to Justice at Community", with the support of GIZ Bangladesh, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and MoLJPA Bangladesh with a motto that is 'Every Door is the Right Door'. The main activity of the project is to settle disputes at the community level through the restorative justice system by engaging Restorative Justice Facilitators and Community Paralegals. The other activities include building an effective referral system, diverting resolvable cases from the police stations and courts, creating awareness, and providing knowledge of the legal and social systems among the community. Bandhu is highly optimistic that through this project they will be able to create prospects concerning access to justice for gender-diverse and other disadvantaged people.
On 3-9 and 17-23 September 2021, Christian Aid organized two batches of seven days orientation and training sessions under the ELMC Project titled Orientation on Manual and Training of Trainers on ‘Human Rights, Good Governance, Women’s Empowerment and Advocacy’ at CCDB Hope Foundation, Savar, Dhaka.

Total 40 participants from three partner organizations of ELMC project namely Bandhu Social Welfare Society, Nagorik Uddyog and Wave Foundation including 12 participants from Bandhu.

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Bandhu has arranged sensitization meetings with local Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) service providers to ensure service related STIs among service providers are identified and managed effectively. The meetings focus on the conceptualization of human rights, good governance, and advocacy. The training manual and facilitation skills are strengthened among participants, particularly change agents. Both the training is facilitated by experts from relevant organizations.

There were two parts of both training: conceptual and practical. The conceptual part includes discussions on human rights, governance, and advocacy. The practical part involves hands-on activities and role-plays to reinforce the concepts taught.

Health Rights for Women: A Sensitization Meeting with Service Providers

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female partners of Key Populations, and creating enabling environment for referral linkage and to establish smooth cooperation.

On 15 priority districts, meeting with SRH service providers were held where 76 participants from different NGOs like BRAC, Caritas Bangladesh, Marie Stopes Bangladesh and government hospitals were attended. The objectives of meeting were referral service centers will be sensitized on HIV and STIs risk, vulnerability of Hijra, transgender and GDP (gender diverse community), sensitizing SRH service providers regarding service demand of female partners of GDP and ensuring coordination by DIC focal persons with the SRH service providers and enable an environment for smooth referral and treatment.

Participants were engaged in a successful discussion to importance of maintaining coordination and linkage between HIV and STIs prevention and treatment and SRH service providers. The local level SRH service providers came to know about GDP and the need of their female partner's reproductive health service. They expressed their positive thoughts to provide services to female partners from GDP in case of referral.

The service providers confirmed that they will work with Bandhu to treat of HIV and STIs by providing treatment and advice to our referred clients.
ADVOCACY WITH LEGAL AND COUNSELING SERVICE PROVIDERS

Create an enabling environment for Hijras, transgender and GDP (gender diverse population) for ensuring their Human rights, reducing discrimination and sensitize legal & counseling service providers, Bandhu social Welfare Society (Bandhu) arranged an advocacy meeting with legal service providers at Sylhet on 24 August 2021. The meeting was facilitated by Ms. Ipshita Dhar, Program Specialist-Prevention & Care of Bandhu.

Advocate Saiful Islam Talukder, panel lawyers of Bandhu was preside the meeting. Md. Johirul Islam DIC Manager, gave overall support to the facilitator. Nine lawyers of Sylhet districts and Shukta Hijra, representative from community were present in meeting. Various activities of Bandhu and how these reflect in to the goals of SDG was discussed in the meeting. She explained types of violence GDP experiences from the society and also briefly discussed on the existing laws which need to reformed.

In the open Discussion, Advocate Saiful Islam Talukder said that there are some laws and police ordinance which using against GDP. He also shared experiences of a successful case in the meeting. At the end all the speakers agreed to take all possible measures to provide legal and social support for the GDP with existing Bandhu’s support system.

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GROUP INSURANCE POLICY CHEQUE CONFERRED

Considering the future financial security of employees and their families, Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu) has brought its employees at all levels under the safety of life insurance and group insurance policies.

From 1st August 2018, group insurance policy covers all levels of DIC level peer educators including head office workers. A Group Insurance Agreement is executed with Prime Islamic Life Insurance Company for a period of three years from 1st August 2018, keeping the death insurance claims of all levels of officers and employees as equal. The insurance claim for natural death of contract officers is Taka 300,000.00 (Three lacks Taka), the insurance claim for accidental death is Taka 600,000.00 (six lakhs taka).

Mr. Md. Anwar Hossain, Peer Educator of DIC Jatrabari died after being infected with COVID-19 on 11th April 2021. The HR department of Bandhu, filed an insurance claim to the insurance company with the required documents of the late Md. Anwar Hossain. As a result, on July 29, 2021, the Bundhu has received a check for Taka 300,000.00 (three lakh taka) from Prime Islamic Life Insurance Company.

11th August 2021, Bandhu Social Welfare Society handed over the Taka 3,00,000.00 cheque (3 lakhs Taka) to Ms. Yasmin Begum the wife of late Md. Anwar Hossain, Peer Educator of DIC Jatrabari. Mr. Saleh Ahmed, Executive Director of Bandhu handover the cheque to Yasmin Begum. Late Anwar Hossain's son and officials of Jatrabari DIC and officials of Head Office were present at the time of cheque handover.
LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR BENEFICIARIES AND STAFFS

Possibility has arranged a three days long training for Possibility platform members and Bandhu staffs entitled “Leadership Training” held on 17th-19th June 2021.

The training was designed to focus on self-development through practicing Leadership traits and skills of the participants. All the participants were divided into 3 groups from the first day by the trainer with named "Prottyasha", "Sobbyosachi" & "Sunflower". There were many group activities and quiz competition amongst the groups. The quiz tests and group activities were engaging and energetic and innovative to develop leadership skill.

ADVOCACY WITH RIGHTS BASED ORGANIZATIONS TO SUPPORT 'POSSIBILITY'

A bulk of Possibility’s members are female clusters, with a few intersex individuals. They are also discriminated against on the basis of their gender identification, and their rights are denied as a result. The basic rights of the GDP are very akin to the rights of women. In addition, being a member of a sexual and gender marginalized group exacerbates prejudice. This persecution and violation of their legal rights are frequently ignored by policymakers.

Make this tragic situation better, Possibility intends to unite Trans-Movements with Bangladesh’s Feminist Movement by creating strategic alliances with women’s rights and legal rights organizations. By consulting with them, and engaging in their movements as a community-led organization. The possibility also seeks to build a community of support and collaboration to promote awareness of SRHR issues, health rights, and legal documentation rights in this community. Possibility is working with a number of feminist organizations to achieve this goal. The names of the organizations with which potential is forming a strategic alliance through their solidarity.

বাঙ্গালী কথা এবং মুখিযাভোগীদের জন্য নেতৃত্ব বিষয়ে প্রশিক্ষণ প্রদান
বড়ু ও পরিসীমা প্রাক্তন সদস্যের উন্নয়নে ‘লিডারশিপ ট্রেনিং’ শিখানো হয় ৩ দিনের প্রশিক্ষণ আয়োজন করে পরিসীমা ট্র্যান্সমিষন। ২০২১’র ১৭ থেকে ১৯ জুন এই কর্মশালা অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। শিখার্থীদের মাধ্যমে অশ্রুত্রাহকারীদের নেতৃত্ব বৈশিষ্ট্য, ক্ষমতা এবং আত্মজ্ঞানের বিষয়ে বিশেষ প্রশিক্ষণ নিয়ে এই কর্মশালাটি সাধারণ হয়।

কর্মশালার প্রথম দিনে অশ্রুত্রাহকারীদের ‘প্রত্যাশা’, ‘সর্বজনীন’ এবং ‘সুমিষ্টী’ নামক তিন দলে ভাগ করে সেন প্রশিক্ষণ করে। কুইজ প্রতিযোগিতায় নানান কর্মকাণ্ড চলে এই দলবদ্ধ সমন্বয়ে। দলের প্রতিযোগিতা উৎসাহ উদ্দেশ্যে নিয়ে এবং কাজে অংশ নেন। পূর্বে কর্মশালা জুড়ে এসব কর্মকাণ্ডে অংশ নিয়ে অনুশীলন করে বহুমাত্রিক বিষয়ে ধারণা লাভ করে তারা।
'X' PASSPORTS IN US MARK SHIFT TOWARD RESPECTING GENDER DIVERSITY IN ADDITION TO MALE OR FEMALE

The United States government announced it will institute a third gender category on passports, allowing citizens to choose to be designated other than male or female.

Currently US citizens have to choose "F" for female or "M" for male on travel documents. The new policy will allow applicants to select "X" for non-binary or unspecified, meaning the US joins a dozen other countries - from Canada to Malta to Nepal - that recognize more than two genders on their passports.

"We are working to add a gender marker for non-binary, intersex, and gender non-conforming persons as soon as possible," the US Department of State's website announced.

The move comes on the heels of advocates pushing the US government to recognize more categories on passports, including the years-long legal battle of Dana Zzyym, who sued the State Department in 2015 when they were denied an X passport. The new policy states that people will not need to provide any kind of medical documentation or other "proof" to have their gender markers on their passports changed.

Non-binary identification documents are already available in 20 US states and the District of Columbia, meaning some people who carry non-binary state documents have then been forced to apply for a passport listing them as female or male. In 2020, Congressmember Ro Khanna introduced legislation, endorsed by Human Rights Watch, to mandate an "X" category on passports.

Before the 1970s, sex or gender was not required to be listed on passports at all. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the United Nations agency that sets global regulations for machine readable passports, allows for three sex categories: female, male, or "X" for unspecified.

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) requires countries to respect the right to self-identify as male or female, and to provide a third gender option on identification documents. Several countries, including Australia, Canada, and New Zealand, have implemented this policy.
Political Rights, which the US has ratified, protects the rights to recognition before the law, privacy, and nondiscrimination. To fully respect these rights, states should not only allow people to change from "F" to "M" and vice versa; they should also provide them with an "X" or equivalent option.

The US government's move will have material benefits to trans and non-binary citizens, and also signal the increasing global urgency of recognizing gender diversity on official documents as a fundamental right.
global climate Strike on 24 September 2021 in Press Club.

The event was also attended by volunteers from the ActionAid, the main organizer of the event. Samiul Alam Shammi, President of Jiban Gathan Unnayan Sangstha, delivered the keynote address on behalf of the transgenders. Jaya Sikder from 'Shatu Bandhon' Sravanti Shravan Hijra from Sachetan Samaj Hijra Sangha and Mizanul Haque Mitu from Padmakuri Hijra Sangha and many gathered with poster and placard of many colors to be the part of the climate strike. They say climate justice and gender justice are involved as well. Improvement is impossible without one.