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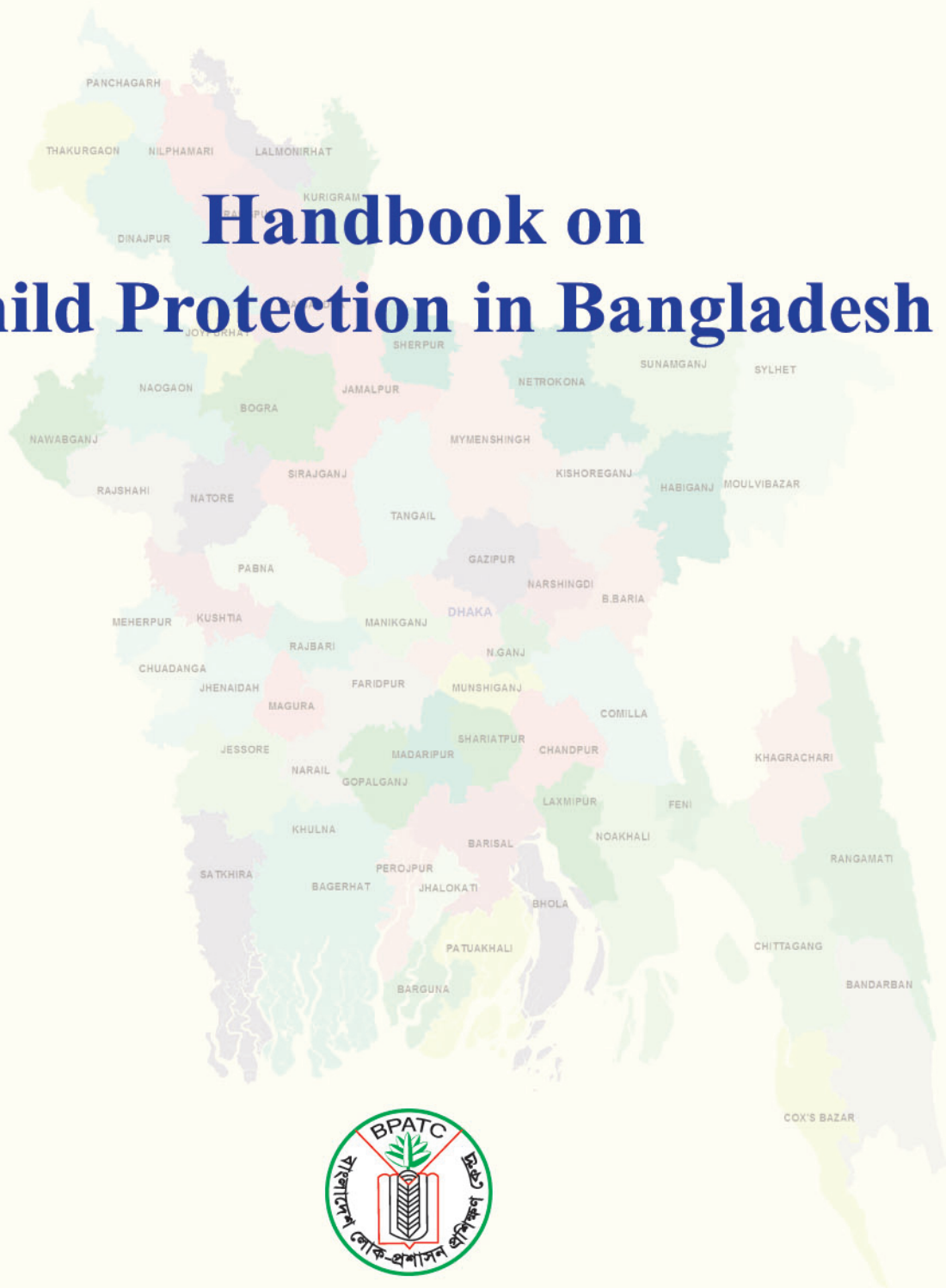


Handbook on Child Protection in Bangladesh



Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre
Savar, Dhaka, Bangladesh

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Bangladesh

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Rector (Senior Secretary to the Govt.)
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Foreword

A Memorandum of Understanding between BPATC and UNICEF Bangladesh took place on 18 July 2016 with a view to promoting cooperation in the areas of training, retraining and upgrading the quality of public administration, research, and consultancy and also developing mutual sharing of expertise and resources based on their statutes and mandates. BPATC and UNICEF made multifold bilateral efforts for achieving the targeted activities under the partnership for promoting child rights. This Handbook on 'Child Protection in Bangladesh' is a part of the targeted activities.

The purpose of this Handbook is to disseminate hand pack information towards the trainees at BPATC about the reality of child protection existing in Bangladesh. It would be possible to utilize the Handbook for imparting knowledge-based training for government officers and other related stakeholders in the related field. Thus the Handbook through helping in capacity building of the officials in the related field will contribute towards the implementation of the Vision 2021, Manifesto related to children of the Government, Vision 2041, and the SDGs 2030 of the United Nations.

BPATC has received ample support from the related officials of UNICEF Bangladesh, Government officials of different line ministries, departments, organizations, academicians & BPATC Faculty Members for this arduous effort. They had recommended on the issues to be included and also supported selecting contents of the Handbook. It could not be developed without their sincere support and cooperation as the task was quite challenging. These supports are highly appreciated as this could be a milestone for the development of the children of Bangladesh and may be other countries as well. Therefore, my utmost gratitude goes to all concerned of the Handbook.



Dr. M Aslam Alam



Representative
UNICEF Bangladesh

Foreword

It is decidedly pleasing that Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre has developed four sets of Sectoral Handbooks on Child Protection, Education, Health, and WASH (Water Sanitation & Hygiene) for the officials who undergo various training courses at the centre. This Handbook is one of the four ones that bears enormous significance.

We started our partnership at the beginning of 2016 with clearly stated results as 'Institutionalize knowledge-base on children's issues and increased awareness among officials' with preferential focus on the situation of children in Bangladesh and roles of the officials for children in respective sectors and departments.

Development of the sectoral handbooks is a key activity under BPATC-UNICEF Bangladesh partnership. It presents an up-to-date picture on the situation of children in Bangladesh with candid reflection in the areas of child deprivation with data and evidence which will be very useful for local level sectoral development plans with the allocation of required resources for children.

It is highly expected that the Handbook will be used as a ready reference on children for all the trainee officials as well as for the officials of different ministries and organizations.

Appreciating the joint efforts of BPATC and UNICEF team, I wish the continuation of this partnership and hope it will make a significant contribution towards the improvement of lives of children in Bangladesh through institutional support.

Looking forward to a better future of every child of Bangladesh.

Edouard Beigbeder



Director, BPATC

Preface

This 'Handbook on Child Protection in Bangladesh' is eventually a result of a scrupulous activity in the concerned field. After preparing the draft of the Handbook, a Consultation Workshop was held at RPATC, Dhaka on 22 July 2018 where 35 personnel of different line ministries, departments, organizations, university professors, BPATC Faculty Members, and UNICEF officials participated. Suitable recommendations made by the participants have been incorporated in the Handbook and afterword, the Handbook has been sent to all Faculty Members of BPATC for opinions and suggestions to make it more operative and appropriate. Their invaluable suggestions have also been integrated. The Handbook will help trainees of different training courses especially Foundation Training Course by providing diverse information on child protection issues, rights and contribute in the capacity building of the civil service officials for promoting child rights in the country. Eventually, BPATC Faculty Members, officials of line ministries, departments, local government organizations, NGOs and other people of the related fields will be enormously benefitted from the Handbook. Thus the Handbook will contribute to some extent in implementing the Vision 2021, Vision 2041, Manifesto related to children of the Government, and the SDGs 2030 of the United Nations related to children.

My heartfelt and paramount gratefulness goes to Dr. M Aslam Alam, Rector (Senior Secretary to the Govt.) of BPATC for his incessant support and precious suggestions that indubitably facilitated me to progress the Handbook. Simultaneously I fell proud in expressing incandescent appreciation to Mr. Edouard Beigbeder, Representative, UNICEF Bangladesh for his luminous eager to promote child rights through institutional support and cooperation.

I am hereby expressing my genuine appreciation to external resource person Mr. M. Hifzur Rahman, a Researcher and Documentation specialist. He has undergone huge pains in assisting us to draft the Handbook. At the same time I am inestimably indebted to Mr. Mohd. Anwar Hossain, Programme Specialist and Focal Point of UNICEF Bangladesh and officials of different ministries and organizations for their sincere cooperation and critical opinions.

Sincere gratitude also goes to the Thematic Group Members for their unremitting support and encouragement that helped and stirred us enormously in bringing out the Handbook glowingly. A number of research publications, booklets, brochures, reports, etc. has generated strength to develop the Handbook otherwise it could be difficult to accomplish the daunting task within a short time. I am placing ceaseless thankfulness and acknowledgment to all the authors and editors of those documents.


Md. Jahidul Islam

Acronyms & Abbreviations

BBS	: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BPATC	: Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre
C4D	: Communication for Development
CP	: Child Protection
CRC	: Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for Human Rights
GA	: General Assembly
GoB	: Government of Bangladesh
HIV	: Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICT	: Information and Communication Technology
IDDC	: International Disability and Development Consortium
ILO	: International Labour Organization
LSBE	: Life Skills-Based Education
MICS	: Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys
MoSW	: Ministry of Social Welfare
MoWCA	: Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
MSPVAW	: Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence against Women
NGO	: Non-Government Organization
OHCHR	: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
SAARC	: South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SAIEVAC	: South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children
UN	: United Nations
UNCRC	: United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNDAF	: United Nations Development Assistance Fund
UNICEF	: United Nations Children's Fund (Original United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund)
VAC	: Violence Against Children
VAW	: Violence Against Women

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1. The Basis of Child Rights

Children are an integral part of society and they are the future of human civilization. Future of the world, as well as the prospect of any country, depends on the environment the children are growing up. Children become good citizens when they enjoy different rights recognized by the society, state and international community. Therefore, children should have indubitable rights as an integral part of society. And the global community has acknowledged the rights of the children in the recent epoch. The Charter of the UN recognizes that inherent dignity along with equal and incontrovertible rights of all human family members is the basis of liberty, justice as well as peace of the universe. The UN Charter also reaffirmed the basic human rights, dignity and value of the people along with determination of promoting social advancement and improved life standard in big scale freedom.

The UN has declared and agreed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948 and in the International Covenants on Human Rights that everybody has the entitlement to enjoy every rights as well as freedoms placed within them without any disparity. Recalling these, the UN has proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that childhood is entitled to scrupulous care as well as support.

The Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child 1924 and the Declaration of the Rights of the Child accepted on 20th November 1959 in the General Assembly pledge the requirement to extend special care for children. The Declaration of the Rights of the Child 1924 announces that the child requires particular safeguards, care and lawful protection before and following its birth. Besides, the welfare of the children have also been focused on the statutes and related instruments of the international organizations and specialized agencies. The UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (The Beijing Rules) as well as the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict felt that children living in exceptionally intricate conditions necessitate special consideration. There are also different provisions such as promoting placement including adoption both countrywide and internationally in the Declaration on Social and Legal Principles involving security along with wellbeing of the Children. Besides, each people bear traditions in addition to cultural values in the field of protection along with harmonious improvement of the children. Bearing, recognizing and considering all these historic credentials, the UNCRC 1989 came into force on 2 September 1990 as per the article 49. The CRC recognizes the family as the basic group and natural atmosphere for the human being especially for the growth and welfare of the children and hence, every child should be grown up in a family setting where happiness, adore and understanding prevail. It also opines for international cooperation for better living situations of the children in all countries, especially in the developing ones.

Bangladesh is amongst one of the 22 states that ratified the CRC first. Bangladesh has shown her commitment toward the children through ratifying the CRC in 1990. There is a surge of awareness of rights of the children in Bangladesh after the ratification of the CRC that has been reflected in different laws and social programmes. In Bangladesh, state activities through legislation regarding children have been progressed from protection to rights oriented legislation. Today legislations symbolizing social policy for children hold close various areas of the children's lives. These laws, in fact, mirror views of the society on matters of children. Here it should be pointed out that a child is an abridged adult possessing rights those cannot be abridged. A child is a human being for all realistic purposes. It observes, feels and imitates as well as reacts to what is happening surroundings.

2. International Documents for Basis of Child Rights-At a Glance

Sl.	Name of Document	Comment
1	Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child, 1924	League of Nations (LoN) adopted it on 26 th September 1924
2	Charter of the United Nations, 1945	At the concluding of the 'UN Conference on International Organization' in San Francisco on 26 th June 1945, the charter was signed and became effective on 24 th October 1945.
3	Establishment of the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF)	It was established on 11 th December 1946.
4	Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948	UN General Assembly proclaimed it on 10 th December 1948 in Paris (resolution 217 A).
5	Declaration of the Rights of the Child, 1959	General Assembly adopted it on 20 th November 1959.
6	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966	Particularly article 23 and 24 is related.
7	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966	Particularly article 10 is related.
8	Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict, 1974	General Assembly declared it through the resolution 3318 (XXIX) of 14 th December 1974.
9	United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (The Beijing Rules), 1985	General Assembly approved it through resolution 40/33 of 29 th November 1985.
10	Declaration on Social and Legal Principles relating to the Protection and Welfare of Children with special reference to Foster Placement and Adoption Nationally and Internationally, 1987	Adopted by the General Assembly on 6 th February 1987 by the resolution A/RES/41/85.
11	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989	Opened for signature, ratification as well as accession through resolution 44/25 of 20 th November 1989 by General Assembly and became effective on 2 nd September 1990.

3. Who are Children?

Definition of the child is generally determined by the age of a human being and by laws of the concerned country. Different country defines a child in different age limits. United Nations in article 1 of CRC 1989 has defined a child as each human being below 18 years age unless any legislation of a country recognizes otherwise. In Bangladesh definition of a child has been decorated in the Children Act, 2013. Section 4 of the Children Act, 2013 declares that a child means a person not exceeding 18 year's age to fulfill the purpose of the act. This age limit has been fixed aligning with the UN age perimeter. In other laws, a child is defined in different age limits but the age limit described in the Children Act, 2013 will override other laws in serving its purpose.

4. Child Protection and Child Protection Systems

Child Protection denotes protection of children from any sort of violence, oppression, abuse, and negligence. Protection of the children at home and out of the home has been provided in article 19 of the CRC. Article 19(1) pronounces that countries must adopt all types of proper legislative, administrative as well as social and educational steps to defend the child from all sorts of corporal violence, mental violence, wound, abuse, neglect, careless treatment, ill-treatment, exploitation, and sexual abuse while they remain in the care of parents(s) or guardian(s) or any other individual (OHCHR no date).

Child Protection Systems denote usually a set of services run by government accepted for protecting children including underage young people and to inspire stability of the family. As per UNICEF a 'child protection system' means the set of laws, policies, regulations, and services required for every social sector – predominantly social welfare, education, health, security, and justice – with a view to supporting preventive along with responsive measures to risks related to protection. These Child Protection Systems are an integral element of social protection systems and go ahead of it. At the level of prevention, their purpose is to support and strengthen families in order to decrease social exclusion in addition to minimize risks of separation, violence or oppression. Responsibilities of that usually go to government organizations, local authorities like local government organizations, non-government service givers including communal groups having harmonization among sectors and levels as well as regular referral systems (UNICEF no date). Article 19(2) of the CRC describes that protective measures includes suitable effective processes aim to set up social programmes for delivering required support for children and for those having responsibility of the children and other types of prevention including detection, reporting, referral, inquiry, treatment as well as follow-up of incidences of child mistreatment along with suitable judicial involvement (OHCHR no date).

Government should make sure proper care for the children and protection against any kind of violence or abuse or torture by any parents, guardians or any other responsible person and ensure their health, education, equality, etc. Any type of discipline involving violence for children is undesirable and unacceptable.

There are ways for disciplining children and effective ways can be used that will facilitate children in learning their family as well as social aspirations for behaviour they do. The ways should be non-violent and proper for the level of development of the children and consider the children's paramount interests. In all most all countries, legislation by this time defines the type of punishments regarded as excessive or additional and abusive. It is up to the Government of a country how much they will review the laws in line with the CRC (UNICEF no date).

5. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989-Guiding Principles

The Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 universally known as CRC 1989 which is the most extensively ratified human rights agreement across the world. The human rights treaty is based on diverse legal systems along with cultural traditions that place the civil, cultural, socio-economic as well as political rights of the children. For doing all these things, the UN promulgates a globally approved set of standards and obligations which is non-negotiable. 195 countries have ratified the Convention, including every member countries of the UN except the USA.

The CRC mentions a guideline for the international communities as well as individual governments to develop everlasting organizations or mechanisms for promoting coordination, monitoring, along with evaluation of actions of all sectors. The Convention has created a framework which has come to provide the inspiration for an escalating child-centred focus in relevant areas including child well-being and human and social development.

The convention is the first lawfully obligatory international document to integrate all human rights. It specifies the basic human rights that are held by the children everywhere.



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6. The Four Fundamental Pillars of the Convention of the Child Rights

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child discussed the basic denotation of 'Child Rights' when they met at its first ceremonial sitting in September/October 1991. The Committee came to a decision that the CRC is about the human rights of the children. In drafting guidelines, the Committee focused the general principles for writing and structuring government preliminary reports on the activities of the CRC. The general principles help to interpret the convention in particular and thus guide its execution. Formulation of the general principles comes a lot from 2, 3, 6 and 12 Articles of the CRC itself.

■ Non-Discrimination

All children ought to enjoy the rights they have and that no child should be subjected to any type of discrimination which has been recognized by the Committee on the Rights of the Child as one of the basic principle. Article 2 of the CRC expresses the compulsion of equal opportunity for all children as it focuses on respect as well as execution of the rights of the children as stated in the CRC by the states to every child in their own territory without any types of discrimination that is no discrepancy based on race, gender, faith or religion, disability, holding particular opinion etc. of the child or the child's parents or lawful guardians.

■ **Best interests of the child**

Children are in vulnerable situation particularly when they are much young and at that time they require special support or care to make them able to enjoy the rights they have entirely. The provision for essential protection and scope of enjoying equal rights has been stated in article 3. Article 3:1 of the CRC describes that the best interest of the child must be considered primarily in taking any activities by any social welfare institutions whether public or private, courts of law, administrative or lawmaking bodies. This fundamental principle reminds that the highest interest of a child essentially be ensured at times of taking any decisions affecting him or her.

■ **The right to life, survival, and development**

The general principle right to life, survival and development is critical for a child and without these rights children are unable to enjoy their economic as well as social rights. Article 6:1 briefs that right to life is inherent for each child while Article 6:2 mentions that the signatory countries must confirm the survival as well as the development of each child to the highest possible. This principle directs that every child possesses the right to progress complete or full potentials in terms of corporal, spiritual, ethical, mental or psychological along with social fields.

■ **The views of the child**

Another vital general principle has been articulated in article 12 of the CRC that announces that views of a child must be respected which can help to ensure the topmost interest of a child. Article 12:1 mentions “States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child” (OHCHR no date). Article 12:2 provides the guideline that to express the views freely of the child; he ought to be given the scope or opportunity to be heard in any sorts of proceedings whether judicial or administrative that affects him or her. The child may be heard straightly or through a representative or suitable body in such a way which is constant with the existing procedures of the state legislations.

The above 4 general principles help to form a universal attitude for the children along with their rights. The principles are evolved based on the idea that all children are also equivalent to human beings. Positive attitude towards the rights speaks that the childhood bears a worth truly; the years or ages are simply for getting training in their life to reach to an adult. Thus the principles carry equal value for the children as well as provide a guarantee of necessary protection. The ethical, as well as ideological dimensions, evolve from the 4 principles of the convention are very critical to be realized in any country.

7. Child Protection Related Articles– the CRC 1989

Out of the 54 articles of the CRC 1989, article 1, 2, 3, 7,19,23,30, 32,34,35,37 and 41 have a direct or straight impact towards child protection and on other components of protection. But definitely, other articles too have effects on child protection. The articles are being discussed below:

Article 1

Article 1 of the CRC has defined a child as each human being below 18 years age unless the legislations of a country recognize otherwise. The definition of the child guides countries to ascertain the age of a child depending on the various grounds of their own. For ensuring protection, the definition of a child may be considered as a prerequisite.

Article 2

All children ought to enjoy the rights they have and that no child should be subjected to any sort of discrimination. In article 2:1, the CRC expresses the compulsion of equal opportunity for all children as it mentions on respect as well as execution of the rights of the children as stated in the CRC by the states to every child in their own territory without any types of discrimination that is no discrepancy based on race, colour, gender, faith or religion, disability, holding political or different opinion, ethnicity, nationality or whatever the other statuses of the child or the child's parents or lawful guardians.

Article 2:2 describes that countries must adopt entirely proper steps for ensuring protection of the children against all sorts of discriminations and penalty based on the child's parents, lawful guardians, or family members' status, activities, uttered opinions or beliefs.

Article 3

Children are in vulnerable situation particularly when they are much young and at that time they require special support or care to make them able to enjoy the rights entirely they have. The provision for essential protection and scope of enjoying equal rights has been stated in article 3 of the convention.

Article 3:1 pronounces that the best interest of the child must be considered primarily in taking any activities by any social welfare institutions be it public or be it private, courts of law, administrative or lawmaking bodies. This article reminds that the highest interest of a child, of course, be ensured at times of taking any decisions affecting him or her. Simultaneously, article 3:2 pronounces that countries will commence and confirm such protection, care, legislative and administrative steps for a child indispensable for welfare bearing in mind the rights along with duties of his or her parents or lawful guardians or other persons lawfully responsible for him or her while article 3:3 directs that the countries shall confirm the standards of the institutions, services as well as facilities recognized by the suitable authorities, especially in safety and health matters of the children. The number including the appropriateness of the employees and proper supervision of the institutions, services as well as facilities need to be obeyed rules.

Article 7

As per this article, after birth the child must be registered without any delay and enjoy the right after birth to a name, obtain a nationality, to know as well as be looked after by the parents. Execution of these rights shall be confirmed by the signatory countries in line with the national legislation along with obligations evolved from pertinent international mechanisms in the area, particularly when the child otherwise becomes stateless.



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Article 19

Protection of the child against all types of oppression has been guaranteed by article 19. Article 19:1 proclaims that protection of the child from all sorts of corporal and mental violence, damage, abuse, sexual abuse, negligence or neglectful treatment, ill-treatment and exploitation when they remain in the care of his or her parent(s) or legitimate guardian(s) or other individual responsible for carefulness of him or her. The countries shall take actions in these regards. As per article 19:2, the protective actions should be proper including setting up of social programmes for providing required support of the child and for those having the care of the child and the states shall also adopt other types of prevention and in the case of instances of maltreatment of the child mentioned herewith for proper identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment and follow-up for judicial proceedings.

Article 23

Article 23 announces that a child having disability possesses the right to distinctive care, education including training for assisting himself or herself in enjoying a complete decent life with pride as well as attain the highest level of self-reliance and active participation for social integration which all shall be ensured by the states as per available resources. The states shall also provide necessary assistance to the child or his or her guardians as per application depending on existing resources without charges whenever possible considering financial assets of the parents or guardians. The education, training, health services, rehabilitation services, employment preparation along with recreational facilities must design in such a way that the child having disability gets actual access and obtains these fully for social integration, personal, cultural and spiritual improvement. The signatory countries shall promote international cooperation for the betterment of the children with disability and also to improve the states' capabilities, skills and broaden their experience in the areas of information, health care, rehabilitation, education, vocational services, etc.

Article 30

Article 30 declares protection of the minorities in various fields. The article depicts that in the countries where minority people of ethnicity, religion or language or people of aboriginal derivation live, a child belongs to any of the minorities or an indigenous child must not be denied or deprived of the rights in the society with the different members he or she belongs, to relish personal culture, confess as well as run-through personal religion and to exercise personal language.

Article 32

Countries signed the CRC agreed that the child holds the right to be protected from economic exploitation as well hazardous work that interfere education or any work injurious to healthiness, harmful to bodily, psychological, spiritual, ethical or societal development. The countries shall accept legislative, administrative and social including educational actions to realize this article. To fulfill this article and other international documents, they shall fix a lowest age or lowest age for access to work; proper rules for working hours and conditions of employment; necessary punishments or supplementary sanctions for ensuring successful execution of this article.

Article 34

According to this article, the countries have consented to give protection to all the children against all sexual exploitation and abuse. To fulfill this requirement, the states shall adopt all suitable national, bilateral as well as multilateral steps for prevention of encouragement or compulsion of a child to employ in illegal activity related to sex; abusive utilization in prostitution or other illegitimate sexual activities; and abusive practice of them in pornographic shows and in materials.

Article 35

In article 35, the states have agreed to accept all proper national, bilateral as well as multilateral actions for preventing abduction, sale or traffic of children for whichever reason or structure.

Article 37

In this article, children have been given the protection against torture or other brutal, inhuman, shameful treatment or sentence or death penalty or life imprisonment without the likelihood of discharge. This article also describes that a child cannot be deprived of his or her freedom illegally or arbitrarily by anyone. All shall follow law during arrest, custody or detention or sentence a child and these can be applied only as the final or last remedy as well as for the shortest time.

The article also declares that a child must be dealt with humankind as well as respect when he or she is deprived of liberty as the child possesses intrinsic dignity of a humanoid and treated in such a way that meets the requirements of the age. Especially when a child is rundown of liberty, he or she shall be detached from adults unless separation is acceptable in the highest interest of the youngster not to do accordingly and the child must enjoy the right of continuing contact with the family by means of correspondence including visits and save in special situations.

It is significant to note that as per this article (sub-clause d), any child lost liberty holds the right to quick entree to legitimate and other suitable support, and to contest the legitimacy of his or her deprivation in a court or separate appropriate, independent and neutral authority, and get a speedy decision or judgment on any of the matters.

Article 41

Article 41 ensures respect for higher standards for the children. The article pronounces that if the standards of national or international laws pertinent to the children's rights are upper than the rights stated in the CRC, then the upper



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standards shall be always applicable. Thus the rights or topmost interest of the children have been protected in an excellent way by this article.

8. CRC and Bangladesh

Bangladesh has ratified the CRC in August 1990 and it is one of the 22 countries who ratified the CRC first. Bangladesh has shown its firm promise to the children's rights through signing the CRC. But the country has a reservation about article 14(1) and 21 that means Bangladesh ratified the convention with the objection against the 14(1) and 21 articles. Article 14(1) announces that the signatory countries shall show respect to the right of freedom of thought, conscience including religion of a child. Bangladesh believes in these rights of a child but the state thinks that the children are not able to understand the implicit complexity of the rights by their maturity in the existing social context of the country. Hence, it is not possible to take the right decisions by themselves. For these rights, children might feel pressure or influenced by others which may affect his or her normal development. For these reasons, Bangladesh gave objection against article 14(1). And analyzing the article 21, it is found that the article talks about the adoption of a child. As adoption is not allowed in Islam religion and Bangladesh is a country of Muslim majority, therefore the country gave objection to this article. Besides, the state thinks that inter-country adoption is not good in terms of religion and ethics. Incidences of child trafficking or sale may also occur in sometimes if adoption prevails. Therefore, people are not in favour of adoption (Islam 2006). Anyway, by ratifying the convention, Bangladesh is morally and legally responsible for compliance of the CRC.

9. Child Protection and Child Rights Provisions in Bangladesh

In line with different international documents, Bangladesh has already formulated a number of legislations for ensuring child rights and their protection. The national documents may be viewed at a glance.

National Documents for Basis of Child Rights in Bangladesh-At a Glance

Sl.	Name of Document	Comment
1	The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh	Adopted on 4 December 1972 by the Constituent Assembly.
2	Birth and Death Registration Act 2004	Birth and Death Registration Act 1873 and the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1886 have been abolished and Government enacted this new Act (Act no. 29 of 2004) which became effective in July of 2006. For executing this Act, corresponding rules have been made in 2006.
3	National Children Policy 2011	This Policy is the update of the Policy 1994 and is based on the UNCRC recommendation.
4	Children Act 2013	This act is formally recognized as the 'Shishu Ain, 2013'. On 20 June 2013, the act was published in gazette after receiving assent of the Honorable President and came into force from 21 August 2013.

Sl.	Name of Document/Organization	Comment
5	Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017	Previous Act of 1929 has been closed down by this act and the new act has been updated with a special proviso.
6	Other legislations	Other laws relevant to child protection and welfare in Bangladesh are not enclosed in a single act or law; rather they are found scattered in various legislations.

9.1 Child Protection and the Constitution of Bangladesh

The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh contains certain guidelines as well as provisions regarding the rights of all including the children. The directive principles have been mentioned in Part II that is in 'Fundamental Principles of State Policy' of the constitution. The articles which are pertinent to children's rights of the second chapter are article 15, 17, 18, 19 and 25 (GoB 2010).

Article 15: This article provides the guidelines of fundamental needs of life, for instance, food, clothing, shelter, education and medical care for all citizens (sub-clause a). As per sub-clause (d), an orphan along with others holds the right to social security of the government.

Article 17: Free as well as mandatory education for all children under a unified and people-centred universal education system up to a level as determined by law has been ensured (sub-clause a). The education will be based on the needs of society (sub-clause b)

Article 18: In this article raising nutrition level and improving public health have been identified as a prime duty of the country.

Article 19: Article 19 directs the state to take steps to assure equality of opportunity to all people and children have the same opportunities.

Article 25: As per the article 25(1), the state shall show respect to international law as well as principles enunciated in the UN Charter. Under this provision, Bangladesh is committed to complying with all the ratified and signed international documents of the UN including the CRC. The principles mentioned above are directive to the government. These are not judicially enforceable. The state will formulate policy and conduct activity in line with these directives.

Concurrently, in Part III of the constitution, certain rights of the children for protection against various discriminations have been stated. The rights mentioned in Part III that is Fundamental Rights Part are guaranteed by the court. The articles especially laid down the rights of the children are 27, 28, 31 and 32 article (GoB 2010).

Article 27: Before law, all people are equivalent and all have similarly protection in the eyes of law. Thus a child has the same protection as adults.

Article 28: No discrimination can be made against any countryman on whatever the grounds i.e. religion, race, caste, gender or birth place as per this article (sub-clause 1) or barred to admit to any educational institution (sub-clause 3). Sub-clause 4 of the article provides scope to make special provision for children as well as women and citizens belong to a backward section.

Article 31: As per this article, all countrymen hold the right to protection of the law which has been made inalienable. Like the adults, children have the same right to enjoy.

Article 32: Protection or security to life as well as individual liberty has been guaranteed for all persons in this article. Children also have the similar right as per this article.

Besides the above-discussed rights, children have the right to enjoy all other fundamental rights mentioned in Part III.

9.2 Child Protection and Birth and Death Registration Act 2004

The Birth and Death Registration Act, 2004 (Act no. 29 of 2004) is a key initiative for ensuring child protection in Bangladesh. According to Article 7 of the CRC 1989, after birth the child must be registered without any delay and enjoy the right after birth to a name and obtain a nationality. These are the rights that a child enjoys first and the act ensures these rights of children. Birth registration is also critical in preparing plan for the country both in national and local level while it also works as demographic base to form actual strategies.

The act of 2004 empowered elected representatives and local government institutions to work as registrar. The role of registrar and procedure of registration have been illustrated elaborately in section 2-8 of this act. Mayor of City Corporation and Municipality, Chairman of Union Parishad, Executive Officer of Cantonment Board and Ambassador of Foreign Mission are treated as Registrar under this act. They or their authorized officer are responsible to do all activities regarding birth as well as death registration. Birth registration means including a child's full name, date of birth and place of birth, father and mother's name, permanent and present address and gender information manually or through online.

On behalf of a child, his or her father, mother, guardian or person himself after 18 years of age are responsible for birth registration. In the case of birth, it is mandatory to do the process within 45 days of birth under section 8. Besides, any specified person such as caretaker of the graveyard, medical officer of any hospital and Officer-in-Charge of the respective Police Station, etc. may send information for birth registration in different cases under section 9 of this Act. A child will get its name, date, and place of birth and its gender before the registration or within 45 days of its birth take place under section 10. After maintaining all the procedures including fees and applications, the registrar will provide birth registration to the person apply for this under section 11. The registrar or responsible person have the right to inquiry any issues or cases if arises under section 12. If birth is not registered within the stipulated time, then it can be done later on but with late fee and procedure under section 13.

If a person is distressed or unhappy by the order of Registrar, s/he may appeal to the Appellate Authority within 30 days from the date of such order under section 20. Against the order of Union Parishad Chairman or authorized person, appeal to Upazila Nirbahi Officer, against the order of Municipality or City Corporation Mayor or Cantonment Board President or their authorized persons, appeal to District Magistrate and against the order of Ambassador or authorized person, appeal to Secretary of Local Government Division (Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs 2018).

Under section 18 of the act of 2004, use of birth certificate is compulsory to get certain documents such as Passport, Registration of Marriage, Admission in School, Recruitment, Issue of Driving License, Enrolment in Voter List, Land Registration, Opening Bank Account, Export & Import License, Utility Connection, TIN, Car Registration and Trade License, any others which Government may fix by rules, etc.

It is also mentioned and clarified in this act about the provision of fine and imprisonment if anyone breaches the sections of the act. This fine may be Tk. 500 or 2 months imprisonment or both as per section 21.

Bangladesh, a highly populated country in the world has over 630 million children out of 165 million populations. It is believed that through this Act, the country will achieve universal birth registration which will help to espouse a cross-sectoral approach through connecting the actions to critical sectors like health and education.

9.3 Child Protection and National Child Policy 2011

The new policy has been made for updating and modernizing the National Child Policy 1994 based on the recommendation of UNCRC Committee and the outcome of different initiatives over the time. The policy is applicable for all children of Bangladesh. Under the National Child Policy 2011, those who are under 18 years old known as child and age 14-18 years are under the purview of adolescents.

One of the important parts of the policy is that it includes the fundamental principles which emphasize on ensuring equal child rights based on the Constitution of Bangladesh and UNCRC, alleviating poverty of children, abolition of discrimination including child abuse, and ensuring the opinion and participation of children in any activities concerned to them for their best interest, etc.

The overall objectives of the child policy are to provide basic human rights as well as standard rights to all children and special care for female children. It is believed that through this policy all forms of discrimination and abuse will be eliminated. This policy emphasizes on special actions and programmes for the disadvantaged, disable and autistic children. Another important aim of this policy is that it empowers children to express their own views related to their matter openly and creating a congenial family environment. The policy also stresses on the encouragement of NGO activities and their coordination related to children matters.

For implementing child rights, several programmes and actions have been identified under this policy such as confirming safe birth, whole growth, eradicating child poverty, appropriate health of children, ensure 100 percent schooling of children both in pre-primary and primary level and minimizing dropout rate, proper recreation, sports and cultural programmes for the children. The policy also highlights on special programme for disable and autistic children for bringing them in the mainstream society. The policy directs for birth registration mandatory for each and every child. Special care has been emphasized in the policy for development of the adolescent children in particular girl children. It ensures Day Care Centre for the children of working women and six months leave for the women during pregnancy period. Child labor is prohibited in Bangladesh for ensuring education and development of children under this policy.

Child protection is a crucial area of the policy as it has been mentioned specifically in the article 6.7. As per the policy, the state shall adopt proper measures against all sorts of violence, mental, physical and sexual torture, exploitation and abuse against the children. The state shall also take steps to ensure judicial proceedings of the children violating laws as per children act. The policy also mentions that children shall not be used in politics or involved forcibly. During and after disasters both manmade and natural, special measures have to be taken for the protection of the children as article 6.12 stated.

For looking after the issues and status of the policy a high-level committee such as the National Committee for Women and Child Development (NCWCD) has been formed. This Committee is actually responsible for providing policy

guideline for implementing Child Policy 2011. MoWCA is working as Coordinator with view to executing this policy. This policy has the provision of the Ombudsman for the children for monitoring the implementing status of the policy aligning with the UN convention and charter. Each Ministry will have a Focal Point, with the rank of Deputy Secretary or upper rank, to look after the children issue related to their ministries and ensure the quarterly report to the MoWCA (MoWCA 2018).

This Policy empowers the government to formulate appropriate laws and regulation for executing the policy and ensure equal child rights for all. Under this policy, child rights are treated as prioritized one in the national development programme.

Therefore, it can be understood that the National Child Policy 2011 is a comprehensive policy for ensuring child protection, child development and equal rights for all children of the country. It is being played a catalyst role in eliminating all forms of discrimination and child abuse.

9.4 Child Protection and Children Act 2013

With a view to implementing the UNCRC and to abolish the existing children act and to reformulate and strengthened it, the Children Act 2013 has been enacted. The act became effective from 21 August 2013. It is officially known as ‘ShishuAin, 2013’ in Bangla.

The Children Act 2013 is one of the milestones in protecting against various issues of the children in Bangladesh. The act aligns the age limit of a child to the age definition of CRC as it announces that any person under the age of 18 years will be treated as children for fulfilling the purpose of the act as per section 4. In section 5 of the act, the provision of appointment of Probation Officer has been made for every district, upazila and metropolitan area. As per section 6, their main duties and responsibilities are to protect the interest of children in ‘conflict with the law’ and ‘children in contact with the law’ and to facilitate the children in protecting his or her best interest through preparing social inquiry report of the child and submitting it to the court, assisting Children Affairs Police Officers, getting bail, justice through Children Court, and helping the children’s family and providing legal assistance through District Legal Aid Committee, etc. Thus this act provides protection to the children in multiple ways.

Section 7-9 of the act pronounces the formation of National, District and Upazila Child Welfare Board and their functions. One of the key functions of the National Committee is to provide guidance regarding the protection of the children while the District Committee will inspect the child care institutions and jail and monitor their activities, etc. and the Upazila Committee will supervise, coordinate and monitor the activities of the certified institutions’ activities and help the disadvantaged and ‘children in contact with the law’ along with arrangement of alternative care for them, etc. Honorable Minister of the Ministry of Social Welfare will perform as chairperson of the National Committee while Deputy Commissioners and Upazila Nirbahi Officers will discharge duties as chairperson in the District and Upazila Committees respectively.

As per section 13 and 14 of the act, Ministry of Home Affairs will establish ‘Child Desk’ in every police station and an officer not below the rank of sub-inspector will be in-charge of the Desk and he or she will be treated as Child Affairs Police Officer whose duty will be to inform the Probation Officer if any child is brought to Police Station, providing mental support, arrangement of primary treatment, getting bail from court or if not possible, then sending the child in

safe place and to send report on the cases of children to Probation Officer and to the Police Headquarters through SP office in every month and in some cases to the District Legal Aid Committee, etc.

Section 44 bars arrest or detention of a child below the age of 9 years and the section announces that whatever may be in other laws, a child will not be arrested under any acts special in nature while section 33 bars on death sentence or life imprisonment of a child.

For protecting the child, the act under section 16 has made the provision of 'Children Court' in every district headquarters. The act has recognized the participation of the children in the judicial process as right as per section 22. The child will be in safe custody as the last resort and the child will be cared alternatively (diversion) as soon as possible which has been mentioned in section 26. Section 48 illuminates that 'diversion' may be adopted as an alternative way to obtain the objectives of the act. 'Diversion' may be adopted for the 'children in conflict with the law' after their arrest or detention and at any stage of the judicial functions. Children Affairs Police Officer or in other cases, the Children Court may send the matter to the Probation Officer for resolving the matter alternatively instead of formal judicial proceedings.

9.5 Child Protection and Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017

In ensuring child protection, the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017 is a major initiative and key milestone in Bangladesh. The new act has replaced the Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929 (Act no. 19 of 1929). The new act has been made in order to update the previous one that prevailed for a long time.

The new act has defined a minor, an adult and child marriage. In the case of marriage, a minor means a male who has not completed 21 years age and a female who has not completed 18 years. Contrarily, in the case of marriage, an adult means a male who has completed 21 years age and a female who has completed 18 years age. And child marriage means any marriage where any or both of the parties are minors. Child marriage has been made punishable offence except in special cases under section 19. Section 19 of the act announces that if the child marriage is for the minor's best interest, child marriage would not be considered an offence. This must, however, be done in accordance with a court's order, parents' or legal guardian's consent, and following due process under formulated rules. However, considering Bangladesh's socio-economic scenario, this special provision may help in solving special situations like pregnancy of a girl.

The new law upsurges the punishment for the offence of committing child marriage. If an adult man or woman commits the offence of child marriage, then imprisonment not exceeding 2 years or a fine not exceeding BDT. 1 lakh or both and in failure to pay the fine, another 3 month imprisonment will be awarded. If a minor whether boy or girl commits the offence of child marriage, then a detention not exceeding 1 month or a fine not exceeding BDT. 50,000.00 or both will be awarded but the judicial proceeding will be as per the Children Act 2013 as stated in section 7 of the act. Section 8 mentions about the punishment of the parents and others related with the offence of child marriage. For engaging with child marriage or failure to protect child marriage, the punishment will be not exceeding 2 years but not less than 6 month or a fine not exceeding BDT. 50,000.00 or both and in failure to pay the fine, another 3 month imprisonment will be awarded. Similar punishment is applicable for the persons who conducts child marriage as stated in section 9 and as per section 11, the registrar of the child marriage will enjoy the same punishment in addition to cancellation of the license or appointment.

For preventing child marriage, the act has made a provision under section 3 to form committees at national, district, upazila and union level combining government officials, representatives of the local government bodies, NGO

representative and local elite peoples. Section 4 pronounces that Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Executive Magistrate, Upazila Women Affairs Officer, Social Services Officer, Upazila Secodary or Primary Education Officer, Officer-in-Charge of a Police Station and the local government representatives shall stop the child marriage or take actions as per rule if they know or get information about it without hampering the court process of section 5 (Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs 2018).

10. Child Protection –Context

Child deprivation, as well as vulnerability, is a serious concern in many countries due to different reasons. These are also major concerns in Bangladesh. There are various issues related to protection of children of some which frequently and inexplicably affect the adolescents, for example, low rate in birth registration and these are seen all over the territory in Bangladesh. Consequently, around 10 children who are below 5 year's age does not exist officially that makes difficulties to protect them from child marriage as well as from child labour. 600 issues of speedily hastening urbanization also increase enormous challenges of child protection. Violence Against Children (VAC), as well as a corporal penalty as educational and disciplinary steps, prevail widely despite Bangladesh generates numerous opportunities for prevention. Similarly, Violence Against Women is prevailing as the most noticeable and tremendous long-lasting form requires enhancing the status of the girls and women.

In many countries, sexual abuse of girls, as well as boys, focuses widely as a neglected issue. Abuse of girls in commercial sex may begin as young as the age of 10 or 12 while human trafficking together with sex work is alleged to be wide-ranging both in the country and in the other states. The figure of suicides among adolescents particularly girls between 14- 18 years age have been stated or reported to two fold in each year.

Children staying in streets as well as other children especially orphans have the deficiency of parental care and are vulnerable to be abused. Again many children, in particular, staying in slums in urban areas as well as live in border areas, may also possibly be used in illegal activities, used as carriers in the narcotics production and trafficking. Key actors in juvenile justice system may deal children in onnection with legislations, whether sufferers, culprits or witnesses as adult persons. Children having disabilities or long-lasting illnesses suffer disproportionately in all these issues.



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FEW INSTANCES OF UNICEF IN ACTION

- *Worked closely with parliamentarians on their regional and country levels, including the launch of handbooks for parliamentarians about child protection (2004) and child trafficking (2005)*
- *Rendering support to legal reforms of Criminal Codes and for the execution of national plans of action to prevent commercial sexual abuse and trafficking in the countries of Latin America as well as the Caribbean*
- *Contributing in the improvement of juvenile justice systems in at least 13 CEE/CIS area countries out of 20 countries through helping in legal reforms following international standards, piloting service models in the area of restorative justice approach, imparting training to specialized police units as well as lawyers and judges for application of the new principles.*

Source: UNICEF Website.

Key bottlenecks that are connected to social beliefs may also create the scope of detrimental practices like corporal punishment, child labour as well as child marriage; divergence of such practices, aggravated by financial realities, may

be the subject for social sanction. For instance, a lot of families welcome the earnings created by their kids to survive; therefore, child labour sometimes gets values. Child marriage is prohibited in Bangladesh and it is a punishable offence. Child marriage is not treated as a crime only under the special provision described in section 19 of the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017 for the highest interest of the child. Despite punishable offence, child marriage continues in different areas. When a girl becomes a victim of sexual exploitation, abduction or prey to trafficking, some families may neglect or reject their daughters. This requirement of integrating behavioral as well as social norm change by a minimal services in order to confirm the establishment of needs for children's rights and to progress child protection services are becoming gradually more critical.

In reducing the harmful practices, especially child marriage, adolescents and the youth can play a role as a vital agent for behavioural and social change for enhancing and facilitating combined action inside the communities. 98,522 adolescent girls as well as boys have enrolled their names in adolescent clubs. Nevertheless, it seems that it is a very minimum opportunity, in particular for girls in receiving Life Skills-Based Education (LSBE) that poses as vital elements of the clubs and socialization, games and sports playing, books reading, as well as increasing social awareness both individual and society level.

In the low-performing districts of UNDAF, space for adolescent girls and boys aged between 15-19 years in the adolescent clubs is very limited that is average 5.5 percent of the adolescents. Limited financial resources are the cause behind it. Big disparities are seen in the accessibility of the adolescent clubs or LSBE services with a range of 21.5 percent in various districts to 0 in many districts. A robust correlation is seen between adolescent clubs' availability and in general complex deprivation that indicates significant pockets of deficiency at the Upazila level.

Due to receiving LSBE services by adolescents, a dramatic rise has been marked in preventing child marriage. In terms of intervention, the increase is in 2006 13.6 percent to 72.2 percent in the year 2011 while in control sites, the increase is 5.7 percent to 16.5 percent. A figure of positive cases are found after actions of the adolescents which have been revealed in in-depth interviews of end-line survey (UNICEF 2015).

In stopping child marriage, adolescents asked for assistance from various people ranging from peer leaders of the adolescent clubs to programme staff of the clubs. The Government is now inspiring services of the adolescent clubs in the programme districts where high rates of child marriage exists depending on the outcomes or results.

10.1 Child Protection- Enabling Environment

It is believed that the learning and development of children happen in an enabling environment. The enabling environment plays a critical role to support the children in fulfilling their individual needs in the field of learning as well as development which is the principle of enabling the environment. Sturdy partnerships of practitioners and parents are regarded as a positive beginning in providing such enabling environment. For ensuring the safeguarding and welfare of the children requires health as well as the safety of the environment. Emotionally children will feel safe, secure and develop as well as learn most successfully. A real enabling environment delivers the stimulus and affirmative relationships which support children in feeling safe highly to explore. A good or positive early childhood environment basic helps to fulfill the basic needs of the child and supports as well as inspires the children for engaging in activities that execute the programme's curriculum. Besides, the environment is planned or designed to make possible the staff to facilitate the optimal learning of their kids. Lastly, the environment allows parents, as well as guardians, feel safe, welcome, involved and empowered.

10.2 Child Protection - Birth Registration

Birth Registration gives lawful recognition to the child, which is a permanent record of existence. It is also indispensable for getting health services, enrolling in the informal and formal education system, recognizing inheritance, preventing child oppression, abuse and receiving any necessary legal papers to access their rights and this way a child is protected.



Various fundamental rights of Nathia will have ensured by getting a birth certificate, for instance, access to health care, education.

Photo : UNICEF Bangladesh

Birth registration provides fundamental statistics to government and other agencies for national planning, preparing a budget and monitoring the systems that enable children as well as adolescents to meet their rights. Birth registration is free within 45 days of birth. Many parents especially who are hardcore poor or parents of hard-to-reach localities need to spend money for traveling to registrar offices and these issues force them to be unwilling or reluctant to go to the offices of birth registration. Moreover, many parents do not find any necessity of reporting or informing the birth or obtaining birth certificates of their kids within the 45 days; usually it is done at the time they require a birth certificate for confirming the identity of their children or age, that is only at the time of enrolling their children at school at the age of 6. Besides, many of the parents do not select a name of their babies within the 45 days of birth which delays reporting the birth of the babies. Furthermore, reporting or informing birth of the children is supposed to be the duty of the father or male members of a family and if a father or male members are away, the follow-up to get birth certificates will become uncertain. In many cases when a birth certificate is issued, parents of the children may pressurize to alter the birth date due to conflicting ages like enrolment at school and appear for examinations or to give 'legitimacy' of child marriage.

An assessment report states that percentage of reporting the birth of below 5 years children has increased rapidly in Bangladesh recently, however, the rate is still low, that is 37 percent. In general, birth certificates of children have been truly seen 21.3 percent among the children. In all divisions, improvements have been found and Rangpur division found as the best-performing where nearly half of the under-5 children got registered. As in 2006, Chattragram and Dhaka division was considered the worst-performing which are presently among the divisions doing best. Conversely, Rajshahi, Khulna and Barishal divisions lack behind.

Birth registration of children occurs more likely when children grow older and reach at age 4, at 50.5 percent. One thing is important to note that no momentous variations in birth registration are found relying upon the sex of the children, but compared to urban children, rural children registered less that is 42.9 versus. 35.5 percent. There are some associated factors that push for birth registration. The factors are living standard of the households, mother's education despite less than 50 percent birth registration found in the richest households or having the highest educated mother.

A major impediment for birth registration is the lack of sufficient knowledge of the parents on how to register a child and get a certificate and thus a child become unable to enjoy the first right. Data reveals that only 3 in 5 mothers of the unregistered children informed though they were conscious about the registration system. Knowledge on registration varies considerably between the children living in urban areas (72 percent) and the children of rural areas (57.9 percent) and that also happens among Divisions.

On the whole, the huge gap between accessibility and utilization exist as the primary factor that limits the total

performance in the birth registration structure of Bangladesh. A small gap is found between the application submitted by the people and the issuance of birth certificates in the country. Yet effective coverage (in the case of under 1 year age children who got registered and received a certificate by 45 days of birth) exists as tremendously low that is on an average below 2 percent (BBS and UNICEF 2017; UNICEF 2015).

10.3 Child Protection- Enabling Education

During early childhood children predominantly necessitate top quality personal care as well as learning experiences. For instance, a child is enabled to learn, read and write by primary education. In 2015, the number of primary schools was around 64 thousand combining existing primary schools, newly set up, nationalized, and experimental primary schools. 22 million students were in these schools where 323 thousand teachers teach the children.

It should be mentioned here that on an average 5 teachers teach in a school though the ratio of student-teacher stands very high, for example, 68:1. The most important milestone occurs in the education arena is the approval of the National Education Policy 2010, bringing an onward looking, widespread policy that the Government is executing.

Bangladesh Government has also been implementing different policies, programmes and projects to increase enrolment and complete the school cycle with a view to addressing drop-out problems of children, child labor problem, the problem of the hard-to-reach children staying in hard-to-reach localities, and to solving quality problem, a key deficiency of the education system. Bangladesh is also committed to ensuring education for all as it is also a signatory country to the World Declaration on Education For All.

Source: BBS and UNICEF 2017

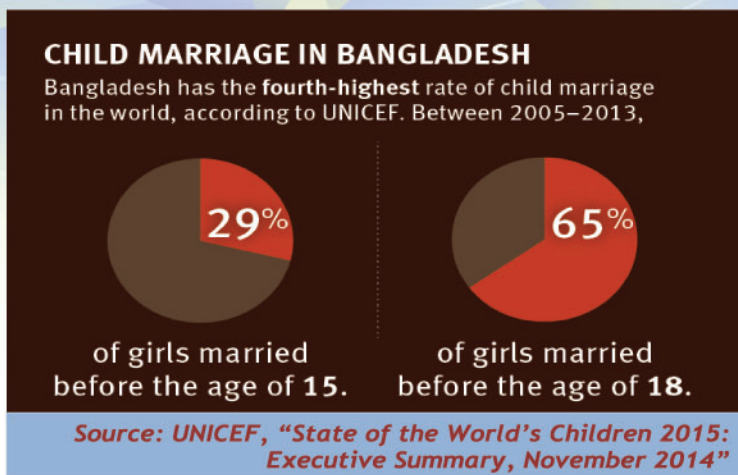
10.4 Child Protection - Child Marriage

Any marriage between a male aged under 21 years and a girl aged less than 18 years is known as child marriage in Bangladesh. Child marriage has been declared punishable offence except in exceptional cases in the ‘The Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017’. Section 19 of the act declares that if the marriage is for the minor’s topmost interest, then child marriage shall not be treated as an offence. This must, however, be done in accordance with a court order, parents’ or legal guardian’s consent, and following due process as per formulated rule.

Rate of child marriage is high in Bangladesh as evidence shows and it is considered as one of the states in the world where highest child marriage rates are prevailing. Although child marriage is illegal, its practices continues socially acceptable in somehow in various areas of the state. Child marriage is happening due to different socio-economic as well as cultural factors and tradition plays a significant role in maintaining the ill practices. Factors like poverty, fear for safety and security of the girls, and complexity in the mesh of social norms and beliefs enlarge the risk or menace of child marriage in the country.

MoWCA statistics show that child marriage is decreasing, for instance, percentage of marriage below 18 years was 62.8 in 2015 that came down to 47 percent in 2017 while marriage below 15 years reduced to 10.7 percent from 23.8 percent within 2015 to 2017. Although child marriage is gradually decreasing, it is declining at a very slow pace. Another important issue needs to be raised that marriage of girls before they reach the age 18 years cause a serious violation of their rights. This has been focused in an analysis made by GoB and UNICEF jointly. It has also been mentioned in the analysis that 23.8 percent of the girls and women aged 15 to 49 years got married before they have reached their 15th birthday while 34.3 percent of the adolescents having the age 15-19 years got married (UNICEF 2015). A strong negative correlation or relationship prevails between the practices of child marriage

and the level of education. Girls who do not have an education have hugely subjected to child marriage and the percentage is 73.1 contrary to 52.3 percent of women holding ages 20-24 years. The statistics in the analysis also shows that about 1 in every 5 women reached the age of 15-19 years is wedded to a male who is much older. It is important to note that in both the age groups, over 40 percent were involved in marriage or union with a spouse older by 5 to 9 years (UNICEF Bangladesh 2015).



With a view to ending child marriage, the new law 'The Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017' has been enacted repealing the 'Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929'. To end child marriages requires social awareness and strong implementation of the act. Punishment should be imposed on parents, guardians, and others involved in child marriages as per the law. Social norms need to be changed through social campaigns.

Effective campaign or communication is essential in challenging as well as changing the social norms that are harmful, for instance, the practice of child marriage. For these requires information dissemination and dialogue through strategic media and communication which will give evidence of the impact of the harmful social norms, its practices as well as the necessity for change, support a new realism of the expected 'normal' norms; and address the injurious superficial social pressure or beliefs and expectations by expediting public intolerance. The National Multimedia Campaign for ending child marriage launched on 31 July 2017 is a stride towards this direction.

The campaign announces child marriage as undesirable and unacceptable. It is because:

- **Harmful:** A child does not get any protection or benefit from child marriage. Child marriage deprives him or her of childhood and opportunities in life. No community or society is benefitted from child marriage. When a child gets an education, he or she can pave the way for a better life, a better future of the country.

- **Illegal:** Child marriage is unlawful and punishable offence except in special cases. Lack of knowledge and negligence cannot be an excuse for child marriage.

- **Outdated:** Child marriage is decreasing. More and more people gradually are giving away the practice of child marriage. It is not essential rather it is harmful to a community or society.



The National Multimedia Campaign promotes prevention and active rejection as a universal individual responsibility against child marriage. It promotes the concept that when individual steps are added together; they can generate a collective movement which will eventually contribute to larger social change (UNICEF Bangladesh no date). The campaign should be geared up in line with the Child Marriage Elimination National Action Plan 2018-2030 and the Child Marriage Restraint Rules 2018 prepared by the Ministry of Women & Children Affairs. The Action Plan and Rules need to be executed sharply for abolition of child marriage below 15 years completely by 2021 and 15-18 years one-third and entirely by the year 2041 as the Government cherishes.

10.5 Child Protection - Child Labour

It is important to mention that about 1.6 million working children whose ages are 5-17 years live in Bangladesh, which is stated by ILO and Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics though the figure of working children had been declined recently. Child labour is prevailing due to social norms and economic realities that are for poverty. These factors push people to accept child labour widely and thus millions of children are being deprived of education and children remains vulnerable to exploitation, violence, and abuse.

Children are often preferably employed by the employers in various activities like in domestic work, garment factories, waste picking, construction functions, machine workshops, hotels, and restaurants, etc. as because the labour of the children are comparatively cheaper and they are considered more obedient than that of the adult workers. Child labour that is prevailing in the garment industry and informal sectors with & around it remains a serious concern.

It is always critical or difficult to determine real child workers. It could be mentioned that nearly equal number real child workers are involved in the agricultural sectors. Percentage of working boys is 45 and girls 15.6 while the girl child workers' figure is higher in both the sectors that is 29.1 versus 18.2 percent and the proportion remains 55.3 versus 36.8 percent in the sectors of service.



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A striking fact is that nationwide 1 in every 16 adolescents is engaged in child labour while the ratio remains 1 in every 6 in the capital city of Dhaka, which is more than 3 times upper than that of the national average. In Dhaka city, enormous children are in the workforce because huge young girls are involved in various work. A massive disparity is also seen between geographical locations and the proportion of real child workers which arrays from 3 to 30 percent and in the case of boys and girls the proportion is 0.1 percent to 27 percent (UNICEF 2015).

Bangladesh as per its constitutional obligation or direction remains devoted to eliminate child labour from the country and implement child rights (GoB 2010). The Government of Bangladesh has ratified the CRC 1989 that safeguards the rights of the millions of children of the country. Government is committed to ensuring the right to compulsory and free primary education as per Article 17 of the Constitution. Bangladesh has also ratified the ILO Convention on the Worst Form of Child Labour, 1999 (Convention No. 182) promising to adopt active actions for securing ban as well as annihilation of the worst types of child labour as an issue of emergency as per article 3. As per the convention, the state is committed to stopping any work that may injure children's health, safety or morals (ILO 2017). Bangladesh has enacted the National Labour Law 2006 as well as adopted the Child Labour Elimination Policy 2010. Related government organizations along with development partners are executing diverse programmes to diminish child labour. The Government is committed to eliminating child labour gradually from Bangladesh. But despite various efforts, child labour is still a key concern.

10.6 Child Protection - Violence Against Children (VAC) & Corporal Punishment

Several pieces of research show that educational performance and children's achievement might be affected negatively due to violence and its consequences on economy including poverty may persist for a long time. Children affected by violence at the early stage of their lives can damage brain development as well as the children may suffer from various mental health issues. Violence can also bring severe and long-standing problems for children i.e. physical, sexual along with reproductive health and cause harm to their psychological happiness.

The Global United Nations Study on Violence Against Children 2006 has highlighted critically that a lot of violence occurred against children stay unknown or remain out of vision, particularly when approved by influential persons or influential communal leaders as a usual way of life (OHCHR 2018).

Violence is injurious whatever may be the form and in the most terrible cases, violence can be deadly. For instance, in 2012 around 95,000 children and adolescents have lost their lives in homicide that is 1 in 5 of all homicide victim children.

About 6 in every 10 children whose age is between 2-14 years that means approximately 1 billion children globally are victimized to physical punishment by their caregivers regularly. Around 3 in 10 adults in the universe think that corporal punishment is required to advance or educate children correctly.

In our country, violence hits children in diverse types, for instance, sexual violence and abuse, bodily punishment or physical violence, mental violence, negligence, and careless treatment, etc. This violence against children is a major concern in Bangladesh.

The SAIEVAC – a top body of SAARC working since the year 2011 has recognized physical or bodily punishment, trafficking of children, child labour, child marriage, sexual misuse as well as exploitation as main concern VAC thematic parts or areas. Bangladesh is also a party of the SAIEVAC.

The MICS 2012-2013 reveals that 82.3 percent of children whose age are 1-14 years have suffered from at minimum one type of bodily or psychological punishment by the members of the household during the previous month of the study. Psychological aggression was experienced by 74.4 percent of children while around 66 percent of children subjected to corporal punishment. The cruelest types of physical or corporal punishment, for example, hurting child's head, ears, face or hitting hard over and over again are on the whole less common; however, 24.6 percent of the children were subjected to serious punishment.

Practically both boys and girls become the victim of the similar form violent discipline. In terms of age clusters, children belong to the age group 5-9 years were majority subjected to violent discipline though the variation with other age's children is not momentous. Violent discipline practice was seen more frequent in rural areas compared to urban areas that are 83.5 versus. 76.9 percent while poorest households children's were generally subjected to psychological aggression.

Bangladesh mounted at 1 for every one lakh that is beneath the South Asian regional average of 2.638. Thus violent systems are tremendously widespread types of discipline. 1 in every 3 respondents of the MICS 2012-2013 thought that in fact, bodily punishment is required for a child.

In reality, the application of violent punishment towards the children in different settings-at home, at school or in the care institutions etc. is frequently so intensely rooted as 'right' of the adults and liability allied to the rearing or disciplining children that a lot of people never think it as factor of anxiety. Largely, parents without educational achievement and those living in poorer quality households believe that physical punishment is a requisite system of disciplining children, at 35.1 and 41.7 percent correspondingly.

Government of Bangladesh has issued harsh orders regarding the elimination of physical punishment from schools. Despite it, the practice of corporal punishment is continuing as the Child-Led Alternative Report to the Fifth State Party Report on the CRC stated. The report has recognized that lack of awareness on the bad effects of bodily punishment amongst the teachers is the original cause to be used continually. Furthermore, it recognized that training essential to teachers with a view to preventing bodily punishment has not been organized soundly which required to harden monitoring. The report mentioned different forms of punishment, for example, whipping pupils by cane stick, scale, dusters, hand, grabbing students' ears, and use of obnoxious words as well as other sorts of punishments. The report also stated that in the special schools, students holding disabilities are also tortured and hence, the guardians are unwilling in sending their kids to schools. Child domestic helpers as well as children staying at homes and adolescent development centres, also suffer from corporal punishments (Child Rights Advocacy Coalition in Bangladesh 2014).

The SAIEVAC – a top body of SAARC working since the year 2011 has recognized bodily punishment, trafficking of children, child labour, child marriage, sexual misuse as well as exploitation as main concern VAC thematic areas. Bangladesh is also a party of the SAIEVAC.

It is painstaking that suicide sometimes prevails as a type of violence amongst children due to thoughts of suicide and the thoughts are generally generated from the feelings of complete helplessness and losing command over the obnoxious situations. Significantly, the mortality of adolescent girls in Bangladesh along with developing countries is seemed to be happened largely due to suicide which is pushed by extensive poverty as well as gender disparity. Global evidence indicates the risk of suicide increases during adolescence compared to childhood and afterward adulthood.

One retrospective research examined the reasons of demise of 28,998 females in the country found that the maximum number of suicides occurred between 20-29 age group (42 percent), followed by 10-19 years age group (36 percent). In the case of young women 15-19 years age, more than 1 in every 5 deaths happened owing to suicide.

On the whole, a national suicide study on adolescents has reported that deficit in controlling over emotions is the main psycho-social alteration throughout adolescence, then incapability to realize own faults by themselves, failure to distinguish between what to do and what not, take accurate decisions as well as judgments.

They also affirmed that through adolescence they faced a variety of problems as well as issues in the family and society. Issues faced by them at the family level are restrictions, strict guidelines of parents or authority, chased by feelings of insecurity or gracelessness owing to changes in psychosocial and physical structures. On the other hand, adolescents at the societal level face ordinary problems like harassment, needless intervention from other people, restrictions on movement, sexual harassment or eve teasing as the respondents said (UNICEF 2015; BBS & UNICEF 2017).

10.7 Child Protection - Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children

By commercial sexual exploitation of children means engagement of girls or boys less than 18 years old in sexual activities and is oppressed in the development of pornographic things or materials, and their participation as a sexual character in other commercial ventures. Despite prostitution below the age of 18 years is illegitimate, young girls lower 18 years have been involved in prostitution for long time, mostly are on streets, residential hotels having the risk of arrest, fear, thrashing, snatching, robbery as well as possibility of infected in HIV. In prostitution, many children frequently children of women engaged in work there – are forced to stay there as bonded sex workers. Besides, as the birth registration system is not covered 100 percent and there are manipulations, it is intricate to find out whether a child or adolescent involved in sexual work has crossed the age of 18 years or she is younger than 18 years.

Maximum of the sexually abused girls or boys are not employed in brothels and by no means considered doing so. Simultaneously, 43 percent of girls have been found involving in prostitution molested sexually before they join in prostitution trade.

The hijra, known as the third gender; if any of them engaged in sex and take money may not be readily recognized as a prostitute. In a fieldwork adopted in Chittagong, a commercial city, it has been found that the boys earned money by sexual services had no fixed pay or fee with the customers in advance and explained that what they had got are gifts for favour, was not fee for the service.

Among the countries where human trafficking prevail, Bangladesh is one of them as reported. It happens especially in bordering and Middle East countries. Recently, the country has turned into a land of transit along with a destination. Human trafficking is ultimately interrelated to the insecurity of livings or livelihoods and enduring disparities including discrimination for the marginalized communities in general, and particularly women.

A great number of trafficked boys or girls are allured and deceived or cheated by the false commitment of ‘good quality jobs or employment opportunity’, ‘marriage’ and other boys or girls are kidnapped, purchased, forced, endangered and kept as the matter of debt bondage. Many of the children as well as women are trafficked with the implicit sanction of their poor families. Besides, the intra-country and cross-border trafficking of children is on the increasing level with a view to labour exploitation.

10.8 Child Protection - Children with Disability

In the mainstream development programmes, the issue of disabled children often remains invisible which is intensified further due to proper quality data especially lack available and reliable data on the figure of children with disability. It is essential to increase intervention for mainstreaming and protecting children with disabilities. A statistics of MoSW shows that 1,720 children having disabilities were staying in different institutes while 280 pupils having disabilities were staying in the residential schools in 2012. It is urgent to state here that maximum of the services which have been developed for supporting a comprehensive child protection system in the country still do not address the



diverse obstacles or challenges faced by the children having disabilities. In Bangladesh, generally, the children with disability are taken care by the families at their homes. In various families, parents stand highly empathetic to their disabled children and strong advocates in order to realize children's rights and manage much to increase or improve their access to education as well as health care. The families having hardcore poverty or poverty often find the disabled child as a burden or curse for them. Treatment at home for children having disabilities is not always equal and helpful for many of the children. Many families also keep their children with disability sequestered at home due to limited knowledge and sufficient scope of support. In some cases, families feel shame for their children with disabilities and even exploit or neglect them.

A huge number of families having children with disabilities are not under the coverage of social protection system and the process for assessment of such protection services are maximum times not family or disability-friendly. In true sense, institutional care is insufficient and sometimes they violate many rights of the children. Besides, information on exploitation, violence including abuse of children having disabilities living in the institutions remain scared or limited. However, NGOs have conducted small-scale assessments that report a high occurrence of abuse as well as violence; in particular, girls are at target. Again, because of pervasive negative attitudes regarding disability, children are also abused emotionally at their homes, communities, and schools on a regular basis.

Due to lack of sufficient data on children having disabilities and lack of services or facilities for them, they have to face more vulnerability as well as they remain marginalized as a whole in the society of Bangladesh.

It is significant to mention that Bangladesh as a welfare state is committed to addressing all the problems confronted by the children having disabilities. The country is one of the first ones that has ratified and brought into force the most two vital international agreements that is in 1990 the CRC and in the year 2007 the CRPD. Bangladesh has also undertaken enormous legal as well as policy activities for realizing the universal commitments; the steps are the Children Policy, 2011; Children Act, 2013 as well as the Rights and Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2013. Approval of the CRPD has increased a broad governmental arrangement for coordination along with answerability. A vivacious civil society armors the CRPD that promotes human rights including equity by proviso of fundamental societal services for the children with disability (UNICEF 2015; UNICEF Bangladesh 2014).

Due to gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability or poverty, a lot of people are debarred from development. Inequality throughout the globe is deepening for the exclusion of different people from development and the same thing is also occurring in Bangladesh. When all segments of people contribute to creating or augmenting opportunities, mutually share the profits of empowerment as well as take part in decision-making, only then development becomes inclusive and can decrease poverty. For all these, inclusive development is urgent and to address the issues of children holding disability inclusive development is indispensable.

Disability-Inclusive Development refers that in all the stages of development cycle, there will be disability aspects or dimensions where the individuals with disabilities implicitly as well as effectually participate in development policies along with processes (IDDC 2013).

In fact, inclusive development-

- Confirms equal rights of the individuals having disabilities in the society and involve them actively in all processes of development without creating any difference in terms of impairment or other statuses.
- Development institutions, policies, programmes or projects must be adopted considering the persons with disabilities and these will be assessed in line with their impact on them and constant to the promotion as well as protection of globally accepted human rights.

10.9 Child Protection - Street Children and the Absence of their Basic Rights

The Committee on the Rights of the Child has uttered its anxiety over the increasing figure of children working or living in the urban areas' streets, principally in Dhaka city. These children have become the main targets of planned child trafficking rings as the Committee considers. It warns that they are vulnerable for abuse as well as frequently charged for vagrancy, kept in shelters, vagrant institutions or homes which are not appropriate for the children.

In 2012, number of children lived on the streets was approximately 1.3 million and around 250,000 children were engaged in begging in Dhaka. Some of the children are also affianced with theft, violence, drugs or use drugs. Brokers or middlemen are frequently exploiting the street children. A case study shows that brokers take away most of the money or things they earn every day. The most alarming report is that 1 in 2 girls on the streets that are 46 percent of girls become the victim of sexual misuse or bodily assault.

Orphaned children or children who live merely with father or mother are likely awfully vulnerable as because they lack complete parental care. The current approach whatever government or NGOs for responding orphans for their care as well as protection has focused maximum on institutional care. Programmes or services are very limited which help to keep children stay with residual family members. Many children, therefore, remain separated from their families. Concurrently alternative family-based care programmes are in general deficient. Data shows that out of 85.7 percent children of 0-17 years living with parents, 3.8 percent survive without birth parent (here the number of girls are larger than boys) while staying merely with mother 8.8 percent and with father 1.2 percent. Around 4.3 percent children have lost either father or mother or both. The MICS 2012-2013 also calculated the 'left behind' children that means either father or mother or both migrated to overseas and total figure of 'left behind' children is around 4.8 percent wherein maximum cases their father is staying abroad (UNICEF 2015).

11. Child Protection Helplines

11.1 Child Protection Helpline 1098

Bangladesh has launched a child protection helpline. The helpline is 1098. It is operated by Department of Social Services. It is a toll-free nationwide helpline for children who face violence, abuse, and exploitation or are at risk or dangerous situations. Any of these types of children can get help by calling 1098. The helpline facilitates the following services-

- ▶ To protect violence or torture against children
- ▶ Emergency services for the protection of child trafficking

- ▶ To provide assistance in protecting risky child labour and child marriage
- ▶ To help children in getting legal aid
- ▶ To rescue children in dangerous or hazardous situations or abuse
- ▶ Telephonic information and counseling services
- ▶ To help in receiving any existing social protection services



The helpline facilitates to report any sort of above abuse, violation or any type of incidents disturbing for child protection. The helpline is being executed through a project of Ministry of Social Welfare financed and technically assisted by UNICEF (Department of Social Services no date; Ministry of Social Welfare no date).

11.2 National Helpline Centre for Violence against Women and Children 109

The helpline was established on 19 June 2012 under the auspices of the MSPVAW that carries out by the MoWCA. It is a joint programme of Bangladesh Government and Government of Denmark.

The helpline is toll-free and accessible to 24 hours every day (24/7) through fixed and mobile phones from every corner of the country.

Any woman or child affected by violence and abuse can get help from the hotline. The purpose of the helpline is to provide instant service to victim women and children as well as links up to pertinent agencies. Different services like legal advice, police help, telephone counseling, services of referrals to other agencies and any information related to violence issues are provided from the helpline (National Helpline Centre for Violence against Women and Children no date).



11.3 National Emergency Service 999

Any citizen can get 24/7 hours police, fire, and ambulance including hospital service just by calling the National Emergency Service 999 number from any part of the country. The number is toll-free and fastest and effective service is provided by the number. Children affected by violence or abuse can also get emergency services from the number. The service is being provided under the guidance of the ICT Division, Ministry of Post, Telecom & IT, and Government of Bangladesh.



12. Child Protection in Bangladesh-Challenges

It is essential to mention that Bangladesh has obtained significant improvement in the living standards of children along with women in recent years facing multiple challenges. Furthermore, all these successes have been achieved comparatively in a very short time although the budget in the social sector was not sufficient. Thus the girls, boys, adolescents as well as the women of the country are improved today in all aspects than their previous peers or generations a few decades back. While substantial challenges persist, they are being gradually identified and dealt with by the Government, NGOs, societies, parents, international agencies, philanthropists, as well as by children themselves.

Bangladesh must be invigorated to expedite her topmost commitment for the advancement of the children. It needs to travel a long way for achieving its cherished expectations, manifestoes and vision regarding the child rights. Nothing to be denied that the problems and challenges Bangladesh is facing constantly originated more or less from the same or alike root causes and these impede the execution of the whole rights amongst all the children, adolescents including the women to a big scale.

Important root causes of main disparities or discrepancies encompass, amongst others-

1. Improvement of systems as well as strengthening institutions at the national, divisional, district, and upazila levels are required critically with a view to addressing inadequate capabilities for preparing equity-based planning, execution, coordination, and monitoring;
2. Making the local government organizations child-friendly and confirming the proper allocation of local resources in their budgets and plans for child protection are of acute issues.
3. Despite national economic advancement in recent decades, still poverty persists extensively that continuously effects the choices or living standards of numerous families.
4. The country faces continual vulnerability to disasters and subsequent emergencies in many places which in fact turns the poor families poorer and resource less, making high risky children's lives in terms of life threat and curtail of existing facilities of the families and state organizations.
5. Giving priority to emerging themes i.e. strengthening systems, promoting local level planning, mainstreaming gender, increasing concentration towards children, eliminating child marriage, particular focus to speedily increasing urban slums tinted all sectors is a critical challenge. These theme areas intend to touch main development issues and widespread vital structural causes which are linked to governance as well as environment-that shape the root of deeper themes of vulnerability. Of course, these emerging themes are quite aligned with the vision 2021, vision 2041, the manifesto related to children of the Government and also with the Agenda 2030 of the UN.
6. Ensuring quality services including social safety net programmes for the children of the disadvantaged localities including slums of urban areas as well as hard-to-reach places.
7. Predominantly, insufficient knowledge as well as consciousness found at the family level on good practices of development plus their benefits that remain as big challenge.
8. Need crucially transformational change of the culture of the society as well as behavioural development for abolishing detrimental practices and confirming respect towards children's rights.
9. Introducing an integrated approach to address the development needs amongst children as well as women holds a vital essence. Such an approach may be effective and fruitful in bringing the best results in many areas of children and women. But this step is not so easy.

10. The structure, systems and legal proviso are changing, even the changes occur very dramatically in some cases. But the issue is that the analyzed structural causes are embedded stringently in the everyday life that till today squeezes or constricts socio-economic, cultural as well as governance opportunities for considerable figures of children including women in Bangladesh.

Maximum of the challenges mentioned herewith are complicated that necessitates inclusive policies and vigorous execution continuously for certain time. Indeed, for addressing all the wide areas will once more require emphasizing the magnitude of 'context responsive strategies' which are customized explicitly to local requirements and to discriminations or inequalities based on various regions, socio-economic groups as well as others in the country.

13. Child Protection - Way Forward

Children have the recognized rights in getting protection from all sorts of violence, abuse as well as exploitation. It is intricate to quantify the direct impact of society's failure in sufficiently giving protection to the children. However, abuse, violence as well as the exploitation of children is recognized as deep social problems which have effects both on the rights including children's welfare and long-term stability of the society exclusively. In true sense, an absolutely integrated and effective protective system is a multifarious task. Keeping this in mind, the following recommendations are forwarded:

Policy/Strategy	■ Government support should be continued for legal reform of the child protection issues. ■ For ending child marriage within 2041 needs a strong and effective Plan of Action and for this support from all corners is essential.
Institutions/ Governance	■ Facilitate for strong coordination among birth registration, education and health sectors. ■ Enforce the Children Act 2013 strictly, make an active plan and release necessary fund for properly executing the act, increase the capacity of the concerned officials and committees and augment coordination for realizing the long desired act. ■ Ensure a continuum of care and make available quality services in every corner of the country.
Programmes, projects	■ Impart skills to children through school and college curriculum for coping with or managing risks, challenges and seeking proper support. And create alternative scopes of learning such skills at communities for those who do not go to schools or colleges. ■ Train parents, other family members and caregivers on the development of their children and give parenting skills through creating community-based organizations. ■ Speed up and expand implementation of C4D activities to underpin social mobilization and community rendezvous for social and behavioural change, rejection of detrimental social norms or practices like child marriage, and stick to approved articles of the CRC. C4D components are expected to assist hugely especially in raising awareness, developing positive attitudes, behaviors as well as social norms amid selected people groups for long-lasting development.

Programmes, projects	Therefore, support is essential to C4D for strengthening it for all children of Bangladesh, particularly for disadvantaged and vulnerable ones. ■ Create forums to work with adults and boys with a view to creating opinion against violence and thus lessen or eliminate violence. ■ Promote larger protection for children having disabilities, principally for girls; purposely invest or spend in the education system for executing various actions to eradicate corporal punishment and ensure inclusive education for the children having disabilities.
Monitoring & Evaluation/ Data/Knowledge Management/ Innovation	■ Support to strengthen monitoring and evaluation system for better accountability of the duty bearers ■ Improve data collection, reporting and knowledge management system as well as patronize innovation in the related areas of children.

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