



Newsletter

October - December 2017

Dear Members, Advisors, and Friends of Shuchona Foundation,

Warm greetings from Dhaka. Here at the office, we realized that with so much going on sometimes it is hard to keep track of all that is happening. The purpose of this newsletter and future issues is to ensure that our friends remain updated on our activities. Perhaps you will see something of interest? Or maybe you will want to lend your expertise in a planned project? Or help us generate some funds? Whatever the reason may be, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

When we look back, we see that we have had a very busy 2017 and the following is just updates from the last quarter and a brief highlight of upcoming activities. We hope to update you like this on our activities regularly.

With warm wishes for a joyous new year,

Shuchona Foundation Team

Updates on past activities

03 December 2017: Shuchona Foundation receives the Ministry of Social Welfare Award

Shuchona Foundation is one of the proud recipients of Ministry of Social Welfare's (MoSW) award recognizing its work and achievements in the field of disabilities. The award was received by Shuchona Foundation's Executive Committee's Vice-Chairperson Dr. Pran Gopal Datta on 3 December 2017, during the 26th International and 19th National Disability Day program organized by MoSW.

30 Nov-01 Dec 2017: Shuchona Foundation in High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Midpoint Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022

Shuchona Foundation Chairperson headed the Bangladesh delegation to the high-level meeting where she had a number of speaking engagements, and chaired a session during the inter-ministerial segment, and also chaired a side event jointly organized by the Government of Bangladesh, UNESCAP and co-sponsored by WHO-SEARO. Additionally, Shuchona Foundation applied to be part of the working group on the Action Plan. COO Ms. Malka Shamrose accompanied her as representative from Shuchona Foundation with the aim to bring to the fore issues surrounding persons with Autism and other NDDs in line with Shuchona's objectives and strategic plan.

16-18 November 2017: Dhaka Lit Fest

Shuchona organized to place a few copies of Unique Glimpses by Saima W. Hossain at this year's Dhaka Lit Fest. This was the first step to engage with Lit Fest goers. For next year, there is a plan to approach the organizers for a session which will highlight issues surrounding ASD and NDDs and Shuchona's work in addressing them.



November 2017: Translation of Dr. Stephen Shore's "Beyond the Wall" in Bangla

Shuchona has finalized discussions with AAPC Publishing Inc. of Lenexa, Kansas in the USA over the rights to Dr. Stephen Shore's book "Beyond the Wall". A profit-sharing agreement was signed on September 2017, which now enables Shuchona to translate, publish and distribute the book in Bangladesh. Shuchona is currently in the process of interviewing professional translators after which a timeline of project milestones will be planned.

31 Oct 2017: ECD Training Refreshers

Refresher training under the Early Childhood Development program in partnership with Ministry of Women and Children Affairs has been conducted at Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA). Participants had received the initial 5-day basic training in June of this year.

October 2017: ANDD2017 Report

The ANDD2017 report was finalized and submitted to WHO-SEARO (who had commissioned the report) for approval at the end of August 2017. It was approved and considered final in October and has since been uploaded on the Shuchona website, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare website, DG Health Services website, and shared with all registered delegates.

21 October 2017: Joy Bangla Youth Award

Joy Bangla Youth Award, whose secretariat is CRI, organized its second award show this October. Shuchona Foundation COO was invited to be a jury panel member to select the final 30 winners from a shortlist of 50 finalists. The jury panel comprised of members of parliament, bureaucrats, development professionals, businesspersons, and media professionals

16-20 October 2017: Preparatory Course for the 2017 KOICA Autism Fellowship Program

Held from 16-20 October 2017, Shuchona Foundation developed and conducted a pre-departure comprehensive preparatory training on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) for participants selected for a two-week course in South Korea. The training covered core concepts, theories, assessment and diagnostic tools, etc. for ASD and NDDs. It was held in the meeting room of the Institute of Pediatric Neurodisorder & Autism (IPNA) at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU).

8-26 October 2017: Responding to the Rohingya Crisis

In collaboration with the Department of Disaster Management, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, and Centre of Disability in Development (CDD), Shuchona Foundation has recently been coordinating field visits to Rohingya refugee camps to provide psychological support to refugees using group crisis intervention techniques, as well as one-on-one counselling. Three field visits to the Rohingya Refugee Camps have been conducted till date, with the first being from 8-13 October, 2017.

Highlights of Upcoming Activities

Shuchona Foundation to Provide Technical Guidance to a Project Conducted by Faith Bangladesh

In the capacity of technical guidance provider, Shuchona Foundation will join a project for capacity enhancement of service providers in Bangladesh to achieve early identification of autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders. Faith Bangladesh will conduct the field work for this project and UNICEF Bangladesh will fund and monitor it. Shuchona will provide technical design, resource development, and training towards the fulfillment of its objectives. The project is expected to commence by January 2018.





Translation of the ECD Manual

The translation of the ECD manual is expected to be finalised by December 2017. An official translated manual will help Shuchona reach regional stakeholders. The translation work was taken up largely due to the interest non-Bangla speaking stakeholders showed in the manual primarily at ANDD2017.

The 2nd International Developmental Pediatrics Association Congress (IDPA)

Chairperson Saima W. Hossain has been invited to the IDPA Congress to be held in Mumbai from 8-10 Dec 2017 with preconference workshops on 7 December 2017. In addition to attending different sessions, she will be moderating a session titled *Advocacy Efforts in Early Childhood Development and Disability*.

Shuchona Foundation at Digital World 2017

Shuchona Foundation is assisting Digital World 2017 organizers to organize a seminar titled *Employment of persons with neurodevelopmental disabilities in the IT industry*. The seminar is scheduled to be held on Thursday 7 December 2017 from 14.30-16.30 at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center (Green View room).

2nd level of Training on Crisis Responders Addressing Mental Health

In August 2017, the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief in collaboration with Centre of Disability in Development (CDD) and Shuchona Foundation organized a 6-day training on '*Strengthening the capacity of crisis responders on addressing mental health within crisis preparedness and management*'. The second level of this training is expected to be held in January 2018. It will be provided to select trainees from the group that had been trained earlier, to become Master Trainers themselves, creating a resource pool of crisis responders in Bangladesh.

Upcoming Training on Autism Spectrum Rating Scale (ASRS)

In December, Shuchona's technical experts and staff will receive a training on the use of the Autism Spectrum Rating Scale (ASRS), a standardized screening tool with excellent reliability and validity to identify children with ASD aged 2-18 years. The training on ASRS along with Adaptive Behavior Assessment System, third edition (ABAS3) and Developmental Profile, third edition (DP3) is expected to be delivered by Ms. Joanne Byron, an eminent school psychologist currently working in the school district of Palm Beach County in Florida, USA. Acquiring this knowledge will then enable Shuchona to train other users for the upcoming UNICEF-Faith Bangladesh project.

Shuchona to Provide ECD Training to *Kishor-Kishori* Club Leaders

Under the "Training program to help child development from birth to five" Project with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA), Shuchona Foundation will be training 320 leaders of *Kishor-Kishori* Club (clubs for adolescents) across the country, developing a pool of master trainers. The leaders in turn will train other leaders and members of the clubs. The aim is to create awareness among adolescents regarding child development and ways to enhance young children's cognitive and social development. This will ensure that future parents of the country are aware of early social milestones of child development. The training will tentatively start from January, 2018.

