



Newsletter

April - June 2018

Dear Members, Advisors, and Friends of Shuchona Foundation,

Please find below our newsletter for April-June 2018. So far 2018 has been busy yet fulfilling for us. While April and May was packed, June was a short month in terms of work because of it being the budget month, and a time to finalise the development of the expansion plan for the next few years. This meant more internal meetings rather than external activities. Additionally, there were the Eid holidays which was an opportunity for us to rest and re-energise ourselves for the rest of the year.

NEWS FLASH: Highlight of our quarter was being included as a member in the ESCAP Working Group on Disability. Our inclusion was formally approved by the ESCAP Member States at the 74th Session of the ESCAP Commission in May 2018. We are looking forward to interacting with other group members, and contributing our knowledge and experience in taking the group's mission forward.

We hope that you find the content of our newsletter interesting. Please feel free to reach out to us should you have any queries on any of our work.

Also, please visit and "like" our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ShuchonaFoundation/>). We try to be regular with our posts, which are usually highlights of our current activities.

With warm regards,

Shuchona Foundation Secretariat

June 2018

Training of Trainers (ToT) on Early Childhood Development (ECD), 27-28 June

A two-day training session was conducted by Dr. Nusrat Ahmed on the ECD manual which Shuchona prepared in partnership with the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs (MoWCA). The training was arranged for capacity building of Shuchona staff. The aim was to utilize and develop the internal resources for the upcoming training courses to be delivered by Shuchona Foundation.

Kishor Kishori Club Training on ECD at Sirajganj, 20-24 June

A 5-day training session was conducted with the leaders of the Kishor-Kishori Club at the training centre of National Development Programme (NDP), Bagbari, Sirajganj, from 20-24 June 2018. The training program was designed with the aim to teach youth meaningful ways to interact with children; contributing to child development in their communities. The training sessions were conducted by Dr. Shusama Reza Rakhi, and Md. Serajus Sadekin Chowdhury & Pranay Bhuiyan from Shuchona Foundation.

Second Refresher training on ECD, 02-03 June

The Second Refresher Training on Early Childhood Development (ECD) organized by MoWCA was given to selected staff of BGMEA (Garments Association) and BKMEA (Knitwear). BGMEA received the training on 2nd June 2018 with 25 participants and BKMEA received the refresher training on 3rd June 2018 with 30 participants. The training session was conducted by Dr. Nusrat Ahmed, Md. Serajus Sadekin Chowdhury, Evalin Rafia, Pranay Bhuiyan, and Khadiza Akhter from Shuchona Foundation.



The training was developed to discuss the field experiences which the participants had undertaken following the initial training. This was also a platform for sharing opinions, feedback on the key points in the ECD manual followed by interactive activities.

May 2018

Foundation Course, 10-14 May

A 5-day Course on Foundation Knowledge on Autism Spectrum Disorder was designed and delivered by Shuchona Foundation. There were 26 professionals working in disability organizations and institutions, both nationally and regionally. This foundation course was conducted by 5 experts- Ms. Saima Wazed Hossain, Shirin Zaman Munir, Ph.D., Dr. Helal Uddin Ahmed, Dr. Nusrat Ahmed, and Ms. Ashley Adkins. The course provided the participants with a comprehensive understanding on ASD focusing on early childhood development, social communication issues in ASD, conducting comprehensive multidisciplinary evaluation, behavioural & educational interventions, and other relevant topics.

Visit of Colleagues from Ability Bhutan Society, 08-16 May

Ms. Beda Giri, Founder and Mr. Namgay Dorji, Technical Advisor from Ability Bhutan Society (ABS) paid a short visit to Bangladesh on 8 May 2018, supported by Shuchona Foundation. ABS visited organizations like CDD and Hope, and signed a MoU with Shuchona Foundation (more details below). The trip to CDD helped them learn from counterparts working in the field and gave them ideas they can use in Bhutan. At Hope, they observed the way direct services are being provided to children with ASD. Meanwhile, ABS and Shuchona Foundation had the opportunity to understand each other's scope of work and pave ways for future collaboration. Additionally, ABS participated in the 5-day Foundation Course on ASD conducted by SF. Their participation was sponsored by Shuchona.

MoU signing with ABS, 12 May

Shuchona Foundation and Ability Bhutan Society (ABS) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 12 May 2018. A number of Executive Committee members of Shuchona Foundation were present during the MoU signing. The MoU anticipates facilitating a collaborative joint research program, which will include training & workshop sessions, and translation and sharing of resources.

The collaboration intends to benefit both the organizations by developing low-cost, high-impact programs, and developing resource materials about neurodevelopmental disorders and coping mechanisms for individuals and their family members, among others.

SF expansion plan meeting with EC, 12 May

Shuchona Foundation's Executive Committee members took the time out of their busy schedules to discuss our expansion plan based on our immediate past and current activities and overall vision and philosophy. It was an inspiring meeting which gave the management team the opportunity to present a draft plan and obtain valuable guidance and suggestion on how to make the plan more dynamic, future-oriented while staying true to the Shuchona spirit.

Shuchona Foundation welcome the Chinese Delegation participating at the 2nd International Conference on Disability and Disaster Risk Management (dkconf18), 14 May

We welcomed to our office the Chinese delegation of the 2nd International Conference on Disability and Disaster Risk Management (dkconf18). The delegation included representatives from China Disabled Persons' Federation, China Rehabilitation Research Center for Hearing and Speech Impairment, and China Assistive Devices and Technology Center for Persons with Disabilities. The meeting led by our Chairperson Saima W. Hossain, and the



head of the delegation Mr. Xiang Zicheng, Vice President of China Disabled Persons' Federation, was an opportunity to learn about each other's work and discuss possible ways we may collaborate in the future.

Expert Group Meeting on Mental Health Policy, 12-14 May

A number of experts from the field of mental health including practitioners and high-level government officials came together to work on a draft mental health policy that is being developed for Bangladesh. The draft mental health policy will go through a number of revisions, and include input from all relevant stakeholders. The meeting was organized by National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). Saima W. Hossain chaired the meeting.

SF at the 2nd International Conference on Disability and DDRM, 15-17 May

The 2nd International Conference on Disability & Disaster Risk Management was held from 15-17 May 2018 in Dhaka. Organized by Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), the strategic partner of the Conference was United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR). Saima W. Hossain, International Focal Point, Advisory Group on DiDRM, Bangladesh, WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Autism in South-East Asia Region, Chairperson of National Advisory Committee on Autism, attended the inaugural ceremony, chaired two sessions which was Plenary 1 and a technical session titled Models for Psychosocial Support: Learning from our Experiences, and participated as a panelist in Plenary 5. Nazish Arman, Research & Capacity Building, Shuchona Foundation presented on Psychosocial support as part of Crisis Preparedness and Management: the Bangladesh Experience. Additionally, Chairperson contributed in the Dhaka Declaration 2015+ adopted at the conference.

Meeting with Gopal Mitra of UNICEF, 15 May

SF Chairperson met with Gopal Mitra, Program Specialist – Children with Disabilities of UNICEF HQ to discuss various issues pertaining to disability including assistive devices, accessible text books, guidelines for teachers, etc. Mr. Mitra was an invited speaker at dkconf2018.

Meeting with Aiko Akiyama of UNESCAP, 16 May

At dkconf2018, Chairperson also met with Aiko Akiyama, Social Affairs Officer of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. They primarily discussed how Shuchona Foundation can reach a broader audience in advocacy efforts through engaging with the UN system. Ms. Akiyama admired the work SF has been doing, and provided suggestions on ways to further our reach.

Shuchona Foundation now a member of the Working Group on Disability, May

We are proud to announce that we have been included as a member in the ESCAP Working Group on Disability. Our inclusion was formally approved by the ESCAP Member States at the 74th Session of the ESCAP Commission in May 2018. As a part of the Working Group, Shuchona plans to share its work as an example of good practice, and explore ways to provide technical support on NDDs and mental health policies in select countries in the region harnessing its expertise. Being part of the Working Group will be an excellent opportunity to network and establish relationship with other regional organizations working towards the common goal of realizing the rights of persons with disabilities.

Briefing Session of team members for field attachment of CPM-MH team, 24 May

Crisis Preparedness and Management for Mental Health (CPM-MH) team had an online meeting with their master trainer Joanne Byron before field attachment where most went to the Rohingya camps in the South-East of Bangladesh (Cox's Bazar). The team members were from the third batch who received the Foundation Training. SF coordinated and hosted the briefing session.

Meeting with IOM, 30 May





Shuchona Foundation's Chairperson met with representatives from International Organization for Migration (IOM) to discuss the healthcare system in place at the Rohingya camps, the status of mental health and psychosocial support in Ukhia and Teknaf, and the mental health gap that needs to be addressed. Along with Saima W. Hossain, Peppi Siddiq and Olga Rebolledo of IOM, Dr. Helal Uddin Ahmed, and other representatives from SF were present at the meeting. It was agreed that standard for support need to be developed so that quality can be ensured, and capacity can be built accordingly. Concrete ways to do so were discussed.

April 2018

Kishor Kishori Club training on ECD at Gopalganj, 27 April - 01 May

Shuchona Foundation conducted a 6-day training session with the leaders of the Kishor-Kishori Club at Bangabandhu Academy for Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development (BAPARD), Kotalipara, Gopalganj, from 27 April - 01 May 2018. This training was part of the Early Childhood Development project (ECD) which SF is carrying out in collaboration with MoWCA. The training was on "Early Child Development" (0 to 5 years old) which was partaken by 45 youths, including 23 female and 22 male participants, aged 14-17 years old. The training program was designed with the aim to teach youth meaningful ways to interact with children; contributing to child development in their communities. The training sessions were conducted by Dr. Nusrat Ahmed, MD. Serajus Sadekin Chowdhury and Evalin Rafia from Shuchona Foundation.

Employment Sensitization, March - May

Shuchona met with a number of companies primarily from the leather and apparel industry, to conduct employment sensitization program consisting of pre- and post-interviews, and training. The interviews aimed to understand companies' representatives from different levels of management, their level of understanding of disability issues, and the training focused on sensitizing companies in ways they can generate employment for persons with any kind of disabilities.

Meeting with CDD/Conference Secretariat of dkconf2018, 19 April

We had the opportunity to meet with members of CDD who were providing secretarial support for dkconf2018, to discuss ways Shuchona can participate in the conference, and roles our Chairperson may play in her capacity as International Focal Point of Advisory Group on DiDRM, Bangladesh, and WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Autism in South-East Asia Region.

UNICEF Project Steering Committee Meeting, 19 April

The Steering Committee of the project titled "A Comprehensive Approach to Identify Children with Disability Through Capacity Building of Government and NGO Health Workers and Disability Service Mapping in Bangladesh" met to discuss screening and diagnosis tools to be included in the project for the different levels of health system of the country, and draw up a training schedule. Additionally, research methodology was discussed at length. The meeting was chaired by Saima W. Hossain and attended by primarily the experts in the steering committee. The steering committee is comprised of experts in the field of disability in Bangladesh including representatives from the organizations in charge of the project, along with other stakeholders.

Refresher Training Course, 08-11 April

The First Refresher Training on Early Childhood Development organized by MoWCA was given to caregivers working at day-care centres. The training was conducted in two different batches. Each batch had 40 participants. The first batch had their training on 8-9 April, 2018; and the second batch on 10-11 April, 2018 at the Directorate of MoWCA. The trainers reviewed the manual, and based on the request of the participants, the portions were retaught. The training sessions were conducted by Dr. Nusrat Ahmed, Md. Serajus Sadekin Chowdhury and Evalin Rafia from Shuchona Foundation.



Meeting with Autism Speaks, New York, 05 April

Chairperson met with Andy Shih, Ph.D., Senior Vice President of Autism Speaks to discuss potential scopes for developing specialized trainings including customizing the AS-WHO's jointly designed Caregivers' Skills Training in the Bangladeshi context.

UN WAAD events, UN HQ, New York, 05 April

Chairperson, Saima W. Hossain participated in the World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) events organized by the United Nations Department of Information (UN, DPI) on 05 April 2018. It was an opportunity to network, meet like-minded people, and discuss possibilities of future collaborations. The activities consisted of speaking at a panel discussion titled Ableism, Sexism, Racism...How They Intersect; attending the "Autism Advantage Luncheon" with representatives from different industries including those who are successfully hiring people on the spectrum; and inaugurating an exhibition which showcased informational materials from organizations working to address ASD. The exhibition was organized by Permanent Missions of Bangladesh, and Qatar, and co-organized by the Permanent Missions of India, Kuwait, and South Korea, along with Autism Speaks. Shuchona had a booth where we showcased not only our work but materials from a number of organizations doing exemplary work in the field of ASD & NDDs in Bangladesh.

