



Newsletter

July - September 2018

Dear Members, Advisors, and Friends of Shuchona Foundation,

We cannot believe that we have already stepped into the last quarter of 2018! Our year has been very busy so far. Please see below our newsletter for July - September 2018. Please feel free to reach out to us should you have any queries on any of our work.

An article titled *Demystifying Autism* written by Saima W. Hossain was published by bdnews24.com, focusing on understanding autism in Bangladesh. You can find the article in <https://opinion.bdnews24.com/2018/09/15/demystifying-autism/>.

Taking this opportunity to inform you to please visit and "like" our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ShuchonaFoundation/>). We post regular highlights of our current activities on it.

Shuchona Foundation Secretariat

September 2018

The Second Refresher Training Course on ECD, 30 Sept-01 October

Our Shuchona Colleagues and expert Dr. Nusrat Y. Ahmed conducted the Second Refresher Training on Early Childhood Development (ECD). Organized by Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MoWCA), the training was given to 80 caregivers working at day-care centres. The training was conducted in two different batches at the Directorate of MoWCA, 40 participants in each batch. The training sessions included Q/A sessions, and review of the ECD manual. The participants shared experiences and the challenges during the implementation of the manual.

International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI) in Sri Lanka, 28-29 September

Ms. Saima W. Hossain, Chairperson of the National Advisory Committee on Autism and NDDs and Shuchona Foundation was invited as panellist at 2 workshops in the 3rd annual commemoration of the International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI) in Colombo, organized by UNESCO and the Ministry of Telecommunication. The theme for this year's IDUAI event was "The Asian Digital Revolution: Transforming the Digital Divide into a Dividend through Universal Access". The workshops in which she spoke were "High Level Debate on Universal Access to Information-Ensuring Rights and Openness of Information" and "OER and Disability".

Visit to Ragama and "Reach Beyond", Sri Lanka, 27 September

Shuchona Chairperson, Saima W. Hossain and COO, Malka Shamrose visited the Child Development centre in Faculty of Medicine, Ragama where they met paediatricians, and Child & Adolescent Psychiatrists at the Department of Paediatrics. During the second half of the day they paid a visit to a centre providing services for Autism & NDDs in addition to an inclusive school "Reach Beyond", accompanied by the Director of Child & Adolescent Psychiatrists, Directorate of Mental Health, and staff working at the centre.

Meeting with Stakeholders, Sri Lanka, 26 September

Shuchona Chairperson along with COO, Malka Shamrose attended a workshop to share Bangladesh and Sri Lanka's experience in multi-sectoral approach in management of NDDs, with Directorate of Mental Health, Family Health Bureau, SL College of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists, SLACD, SL College of Paediatricians, paediatric neurologists, WHO personnel, Ministry of Education & Ministry of Child Development, principals, teachers of special schools and centres, parents and caregivers. Later that day, at the Director General Health Services' office, they had a meeting with the DGHS & Members of the subcommittee on Children with Autism and special needs.



Work visit to Bhutan, 24-29 September

A team from Shuchona went to Bhutan for a 5-day trip to conduct a situation analysis of ASD and NDDs in Bhutan. The work was partially supported by WHO-SEARO and is being done with the Ministry of Health in Bhutan. After the very successful collaboration that was the ANDD2017 Conference last year, the team was very excited to be again working with Bhutan. The team worked closely with the Technical Working Group in Bhutan, consisting of different stakeholders.

In the five days, they visited a number of hospitals, schools, ECCD centers, CSOs, and met with a large number of health professionals, teachers, volunteers, parents, children, and ministry representatives. Apart from Thimphu, they also traveled to Paro, Punakha, and Gelephu.

Kishor Kishori Club ECD training, Moulvibazar, Sylhet, 21-25 September

Colleagues from our ECD team Serajus Sadekin, Evalin Rafia, and Khadiza Kona went to Komolganj, Moulvibazar to conduct the 5-day training session with the leaders of the Kishor-Kishori Club on "Early Childhood Development (0-5 years old)" for 46 adolescent participants at Heed Bangladesh training center from 21-25 September 2018. The training program is designed to create awareness on early childhood development, and focused on youth leaders with the objective to disseminate the learning through their peer groups to their respective communities.

Chairperson Saima W. Hossain's article on bdnews24.com, 15 September

An article titled *Demystifying Autism* written by Saima W. Hossain was published by bdnews24.com. The article focused on understanding autism in Bangladesh. The link to the article is:

<https://opinion.bdnews24.com/2018/09/15/demystifying-autism/>

ToT on ECD under the Employment Program, 7 and 14 September

"TOT on Early Childhood Development" under the Employment project was conducted by Dr. Nusrat Y. Ahmed and other colleagues. The second and third day of the training sessions were on 7 and 14 September respectively. The day-long sessions on ECD were for caregivers working at FB Footwear and Picard Bangladesh Limited along with participants from Leathergoods & Footwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association of Bangladesh (LFMEAB).

Autism Dialogue: Mobile Games and Apps for Persons with Autism, 13 September

The 'Autism Dialogue: Mobile Apps and Games for Persons with Autism' organized by Skill Development for Mobile Games and Application Project of ICT Division was attended by Ashley Adkins & Serajus Sadekin Chowdhury.

The open discussion was an initial meeting, organized to explore gaps and challenges in designing mobile based apps and games for persons with autism aged 6-13 years, and how they can be more accessible and user friendly.

AWF visit as part of Inclusive Education, 10 September

Our colleagues from Shuchona visited schools to gather experience on the current situation, challenges and practices, to integrate inclusive classroom environment in mainstream schools, with the aim of increasing enrollment of children with special needs. In addition to the team observing classroom activity at AWF, they will also be observing at Society for the Welfare of Autistic Children (SWAC) Special school and Auronee Biddalaya, over the next few months.

Meeting with the Technical Working Group on Bhutan NSP, 6 September 2018

Members of the Technical Working Group, Dr. Kinzang Tshering and Ms. Roma Karki along with our expert consultant, Aloka Guha, Shuchona Chairperson, and other SF colleagues joined a skype meeting to discuss the different aspects of Shuchona Foundation's upcoming trip to Bhutan. Meeting included discussions on the field visit, set of questionnaires for the focus groups, data collection, and sharing and coordination with the stakeholders.

In preparation for this, SF team also had detailed discussion with Aloka Guha on 6 September 2018, particularly on planning and logistical management of the trip.

UNICEF Workshop in BRAC-CDM, 4-6 September

Colleagues from Shuchona Foundation, Dr. Nusrat Ahmed and Ashley Adkins, attended a 3-day residential workshop with technical support from UNICEF Child Protection Section for developing a "Standardized Adolescent Package (SAP)" organized by Accelerating Protection for Children (APC) Project office under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) at



BCDM, Savar. The focus of the workshop was to develop the package to be used in all adolescent clubs in Bangladesh in collaboration with all the relevant I/NGOs and key stakeholders. Peer leaders from different adolescent clubs were also present to provide their valuable input.

August 2018

Regional Capacity Building Workshop on Mental Health in Emergencies, 28-29 August

Our Chairperson Saima W. Hossain was invited as an expert at the Regional Capacity Building Workshop on Mental Health in Emergencies in Nepal. The workshop was organized by WHO South East Asia Regional Office (SEARO), and Government of Nepal, Ministry of Health & Population.

Meeting with Sesame Workshop, 26 August

Shuchona Chairperson Saima W. Hossain met with Sesame Workshop CEO and President Jeff Dunn and SVP of International Social Impact Shari Rosenfield at the Shuchona Foundation office, accompanied by Md. Shah Alam, Sesame Workshop Bangladesh's Executive Director, along with other associates from the country office. Their discussion was primarily about early childhood development, mass media as a tool for behavioral change, Shuchona and Sesame Workshop's philosophies, and possible ways to collaborate in the future.

Meeting with UNICEF, 13 August

UNICEF and Shuchona Foundation had a follow-up meeting and discussed possible collaboration between them and how best to take forward some of our current plans. The meeting was held at the UNICEF Gulshan office and was attended by Jean Lieby, Chief of Child Protection, and Jamila Akhter, Specialist, Child Protection along with other colleagues from UNICEF in addition to Saima W. Hossain, Malka Shamrose, Nusrat Y. Ahmed, Aneeqa R. Ahmad, and Nazish Arman from Shuchona Foundation.

Meeting with faith Bangladesh and experts on tools for ASD and NDDs in Bangladesh, 12 August

Shuchona Foundation had a meeting with faith Bangladesh to discuss the tools that would be used in the different phases of the project "A Comprehensive Approach to Identify Children with Disability Through Capacity Building of Government and NGO Health Workers and Disability Service Mapping in Bangladesh" (Faith/icddr,b/Shuchona Project in short) to address ASD and NDDs in Bangladesh. Others present at the meeting were Dr. Helal Uddin Ahmed of NIMH, and Dr. M.S.I Mullick of BSMU, along with members of the Shuchona team.

Meeting with Commonwealth Secretary General Patricia Scotland, 09 August

The Right Honorable Patricia Scotland QC of Dominica, the first woman and the sixth Commonwealth Secretary-General appointed by the Commonwealth Heads of Government on her first official visit to Bangladesh was welcomed by Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's granddaughter, and our Chairperson Saima W. Hossain at the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, who gave the honorable Secretary-General a tour of the museum.

Meeting with UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, 08 August

UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake and Chairperson of Shuchona Foundation, Ms. Saima W. Hossain came together for a meeting at the Shuchona Foundation office. They discussed the importance of mental health issues and youth development, in addition to discussing about Shuchona's current work and future plans. Our Chairperson gifted Ms. Wickramanayake her book, *Unique Glimpses* and gave her a tour of the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum.

Meeting with UNICEF's ECD team, 01 August

Colleagues from UNICEF Jean Lieby, Chief of Child Protection, Jamila Akhter, Specialist, Child Protection, and Md. Mohsin, ECD specialist came over to the Shuchona office to discuss Shuchona's existing projects and future plans in the area of Early Childhood Development, and how such projects may be relevant for UNICEF.





July 2018

Meeting with Sesame Workshop representatives, 31 July

Shuchona COO Malka Shamrose and Secretariat Coordinator Aneeqa Ahmad met with Md. Shah Alam and Nasrin Akhter of Sesame Workshop Bangladesh office to learn more about their work, particularly in the public health sector, and discusses possibilities of collaboration in the future.

Bhutanese Ambassador at Shuchona Foundation, 26 July

Our Chairperson, Saima W. Hossain welcomed the Ambassador of Bhutan, His Excellency Sonam T. Rabgye, when they discussed the National Strategic Plan for Bhutan with which Shuchona has the opportunity to assist. Other attendees from Shuchona Foundation were Chief Operating Officer, Malka Shamrose, Secretariat Coordinator Aneeqa R. Ahmad, and Content Development Coordinator, Nazish Arman.

ASRS and CDC Training, 26 July

Shuchona Foundation conducted a training for implementers of faith/icddr,b's project to identify children with disabilities, by building the capacity of government and NGO health workers, and disability service mapping in Bangladesh. The project is funded by UNICEF, and Shuchona is a technical partner. Saima W. Hossain conducted a session on 'Autism Spectrum Rating Scales (ASRS)' to be used during the project. Dr. Nusrat Ahmed conducted a training on disease control and prevention amenities, along with the CDC Development Milestones Checklist for children between the ages of 2 months and 5 years.

Mental Health Policy meeting at NIMH, 24 July

Chairperson of Shuchona Foundation attended a meeting with experts and representatives from the WHO and NIMH to provide technical support on drafting the National Mental Health Policy of Bangladesh. Present at the meeting were a group of local experts on mental health, including the Director of NIMH, Prof. Dr. Md. Faruq Alam, the Chairperson of the Neurodevelopmental Disability Protection Trustee Board, Prof. Dr. Golam Rabbani, representatives from the WHO, along with our colleague, Nazish Arman. The meeting was arranged at National Institute of Mental Health and Hospital (NIMH).

Meeting with ICT Ministry, 18 July

Shuchona Foundation and Ministry of ICT Bangladesh had a meeting on reviewing of the ICT project and the initiatives of including new components to the manual. The PTI instructors will be given TOT training under ICT project by Shuchona Foundation. The attendees were- ICT Ministry Secretary, Zuena Aziz, ICT Project PD, Md. Mizanur Rahman, Analyst (ITES) Md. Golam Rabbani, Private Secretary to ICT State Minister, Md. Abdul Bari and Bangladesh Computer Council director (training & development), Md Enamul Kabir. From Shuchona Foundation the meeting was attended by Saima W. Hossain, Chairperson, Malka Shamrose, COO and Md. Serajus Sadekin Chowdhury, Program.

Meeting of Experts from the Steering Committee of the Faith/icddr,b/Shuchona Project, 18 July

Shuchona Foundation hosted a meeting with members of expert working group for UNICEF/faith/icddr,b project. The experts came together to talk about possible collaborations and the need for a comprehensive strategy to address matters related to ECD and discuss the current progress of the projects. Dr. Aftab Uddin from icddr,b, Prof. M.S.I. Mullick from BSMMU, Jamila Akhter from UNICEF, Md. Didar Hossain & Afzal Aftab from faith Bangladesh, Saima W. Hossain, Malka Shamrose, Nusrat Y. Ahmed, Nazish Arman from Shuchona Foundation, and Prof. Naila Zaman Khan were present at the meeting.

Foundation Course on ASD and NDDs, 15-19 July

For the second time, our 5-day Foundation Course on Autism Spectrum Disorder was conducted. There were 27 participants representing various organizations working in the field of ASD, NDDs, Education, etc. This foundation course was conducted by a group of field experts- Ms. Saima Wazed Hossain, Dr. Shirin Zaman Munir, Dr. Helal Uddin Ahmed, Dr. Nusrat Ahmed, and 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.

Get-Together with Trainees of Inclusive Education Pilot Run Project, 14 July





Shuchona Foundation arranged a casual get-together with teachers from Auronee Biddalaya (Lalmatia & Dhanmondi Campus) and Scholastica (Junior Campus-Uttara) at the Bangabandhu Museum Auditorium. The event was to acknowledge the teachers for their time, input and sincere participation in the Pilot Run of the Teachers' Training on Inclusive Education, designed and delivered by Shuchona Foundation. The selected teachers participated in this training project from February to June 2018. Letters of Appreciation to the teachers were handed over by Shirin Z. Munir, Ph.D, in the presence of Shuchona Foundation's Chairperson Saima W. Hossain along with colleagues who closely worked in the program.

Executive Committee Meeting, 14 July

Our Executive Committee's meeting was held as per plan, where various pertinent organizational matters were discussed. COO presented progress report of the quarter, and also the Expansion Plan for 2018-2021. The Expansion Plan and the Budget for 2018-2019 were approved in the meeting.

Dissemination Program on Nation-wide Survey on Young Children with ASD in Bangladesh-2017 organized by IPNA, 12 July

The Institute of Pediatric Neurology and Autism of BSMMU held a dissemination program to share findings of *Nation-wide Survey on Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder in Bangladesh 2017*. Shuchona Foundation Vice Chairperson Prof. Pran Gopal Datta was a speaker at the program. Dr. Nusrat Ahmed and Aneeqa Ahmad from Shuchona Foundation attended the program.

Advanced Level training on Psychosocial Crisis Response, 12-16 July

The first Advanced ToT on "Strengthening Capacity of Crisis Responders on Addressing Mental Health Issues within Crisis Preparedness and Management" was organized by the Department of Disaster Management, Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief in collaboration with Shuchona Foundation, Centre for Disability and Development (CDD), and Islamic Relief in Bangladesh. Along with 14 participants from various organizations, Khadiza Akhter from Shuchona Foundation participated at the training.

Meeting with Joanne Byron and CDD at BIM, 10 July

Shuchona Foundation's COO, Malka Shamrose and Secretariat Coordinator Aneeqa Ahmad attended a meeting to discuss the scope of how the Training of Trainers to strengthen capacity of crisis responders can be expanded. The meeting was held at Bangladesh Institute of Management. Md. Shah Kamal, Secretary and Md. Mohsin, Joint Secretary from Disaster Management and Relief Ministry Secretary Joanne Byron, M.S., S.S/P, NCSP, Prof. Shaheen Islam were present, along with Nazmul Bari and Broja Gopal Saha of CDD.

Fourth Foundation Training on Strengthening Capacity of Crisis Responders, 05 July

The fourth Foundation Training on Strengthening Capacity of Crisis Responders on addressing Mental Health Issue within Crisis Preparedness and Management, organized by Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief in collaboration with Shuchona Foundation, Centre for Disability and Development (CDD), and Islamic Relief in Bangladesh was attended by our trainers Evalin Rafia & Khadiza Akhter. The 5-day course was conducted by Joanne Byron, M.S., S.S/P, NCSP, where 25 participants from different organizations participated.

1st Refresher training on Psychosocial Crisis Response, 04 July

Assistant Coordinator (Program) Serajus Sadekin participated in the 1st Refresher Training on Crisis Preparedness and Management for Mental Health (CPM-MH). The 5 days were spent on sharing experiences of how data was collected focusing on discussing the flaws and highlighting the good work. Additionally, the participants prepared for field attachment. There were 36 participants from Plan Bangladesh, Save the Children, Ministry of Disaster Risk & Management, and Shuchona Foundation, among others. etc. The refresher training was conducted by Joanne Byron, M.S., S.S/P, NCSP.

Vineland Training, 01 July

Vineland training for Shuchona staff was conducted by Dr. Nusrat Y. Ahmed, to strengthen capacity of the team members. The training was on procedure, techniques and mock interview, which gave an insight on the importance and use of the tool.