



## Newsletter

January-March 2022

Dear Members, Advisors and Friends,

Warm greetings from Shuchona Foundation. The first quarter of 2022 has been a busy one despite a surge of Covid-19 for a few weeks. Upon invitation, we provided the basic foundation training on Social Communication & Emotional Skills Development (SCESD) to newly recruited service providers of Shishu Bikash Kendra (SBK), which is one of Directorate General of Health Services' (DGHS) wings providing valuable services to children with developmental conditions.

Among various activities, another highlight has been the opportunity to continue our work to help develop teaching-learning materials for some subjects under the new curriculum by the National Curriculum & Textbook Board (NCTB).

As we begin the second quarter of the year, we are eagerly waiting for the publication of our much-awaited book *Pracheer Periyee*, which is the Bangla translation of self-advocate Dr. Stephen Shore's inspirational autobiography *Beyond the Wall*. Please watch the event **LIVE** on either our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ShuchonaFoundation>) or our YouTube Channel ([https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVdtwFxiDSrPA\\_IbDi78oJg/featured](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVdtwFxiDSrPA_IbDi78oJg/featured)) on **24 April 2022 at 09.00AM (BD time)**.

With best wishes for the Bangla New Year 1429. Shubho Noboborsho!

Shuchona Foundation Secretariat

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## Capacity Building

### Shuchona Foundation's 'Basic Foundation Course for Newly Recruited Service Providers of Shishu Bikash Kendra'

Our team conducted a two-week long 'Basic Foundation Course for Newly Recruited Service Providers of Shishu Bikash Kendra', the first part of which was held from 05-09 March 2022 and the second part from 10-15 March 2022 at the National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital. During the training, Shuchona provided a basic introduction of interventions, for instance from early childhood development to neurodevelopmental disorders as well as screening assessment.



Sections on SCESD, SF's Foundation Course, CDC Checklist (translated in Bangla), CASP philosophy (with permission from the organization), and other relevant materials were included in this training for SBK personnel. The Foundation Course content was customized to be beneficial for the 35 participants who were medical doctors, child psychologists, and developmental therapists.



The aim of this training is to improve physical and mental health of children in government secondary and tertiary level hospitals, and for professionals receiving intervention acquired skills, motivation, and confidence to act as inclusive paediatrics at their workplace. The trainers for the 2-week training were our EC members Shirin Zaman Munir, Ph.D, Dr. Helal Uddin Ahmed, along with Dr. Nusrat Y. Ahmed and Humaira Armeen. From Shuchona Foundation team, the trainers were Md. Serajus Sadekin Chowdhury, Evalin Rafia, Salowa Salam Shaoli, Md. Shahidul Islam, Md. Abu Arif, and Sumia Sultana.

#### About Shishu Bikash Kendra:

Shishu Bikash Kendra operates under the Hospital Services Management (HSM) of the Directorate General of Health Services of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) of Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

### 'Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities through ICT' project

Shuchona Foundation attended a job fair for persons with disabilities which was organized by the Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Ministry on 20 March 2022 under the project titled "Empowerment of All Persons with Disabilities, including NDDs through Information Technology". Shuchona has been involved as the technical partner of this project from the very beginning. Our Chief Operating Officer, Dr. Saqui Khandoker, addressed the audience with her short speech at the inaugural, accompanied by our colleague Md. Serajus Sadekin Chowdhury.

Other esteemed guests present were Junaid Ahmed Palak, MP, State Minister for Information and Communication Technology, who inaugurated the job fair as the Chief Guest. N. M. Ziaul Alam, PAA, Senior Secretary, Department of Information and Communication Technology, K. M. Tariqul Islam, Director-General, Bureau of NGO Affairs, Khandaker Zahurul Alam, Executive Director, Centre for Services and Information on Disability (CSID) attended the program as special guests. The ceremony was chaired by Md Abdul Mannan, PAA, Executive Director, Bangladesh Computer Council. Each year the job fair is organized with the aim to ensure training and employment in the field of information and communication technology. By means of this year's job fair, 52 trained persons with disabilities have received placement in various organizations.



## Projects

### National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) Framework 2021

National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) has developed a new curriculum in 2021 which is to be implemented step by step from 2023 to 2027. This competency-based curriculum is aimed to prepare the future generation with both soft and hard skills to face the challenges of the 21st century lying ahead and adapt them to the needs of the fourth industrial revolution. The students of grades six and seven will get the new textbook based on the new curriculum in 2023 and teachers will be trained accordingly. Currently, the new curriculum is being piloted in 62 secondary schools from 62 Upazilas under 24 districts across the country. From our content development team, Salowa Salam Shaoli and Pranay Bhuiyan have been contributing to developing teaching-learning material for the subjects, 'Wellbeing' and 'Bangla' respectively since October 2021. During the





reporting quarter, as part of their continuous support in this national work, they have participated in two residential workshops already, one in February and another in March 2022.

### Inclusive Education



A team from the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) and SF is now working on finalizing a framework of the action plan for this collaboration based on the Revised Development Project Proforma (RDPP) for the Fourth Primary Education Development Program (PEDP4). The SF team had a few meetings with the Honourable Secretary of the Ministry of Primary Mass Education (MoPME) along with with the Director General (DG) of DPE with the prospect of moving forward. DPE plans to arrange a workshop to finalize the framework in April 2022 and another afterwards to finalize the training package. The training program is to be initiated in the cascading model where government education officers will become master trainers and then provide basic training for government

primary school teachers.

Shuchona Foundation and the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) of the (MoPME) signed an MoU on 23rd December 2021 at the DPE office. The MoU anticipates collaboration between DPE and Shuchona Foundation on the capacity development of government primary school teachers on Inclusive Education through the training package developed by the Shuchona Foundation.

### Standardized Adolescent Empowerment Package

ToT on Standardized Adolescent Empowerment Package (SAEP), organised by Accelerating Protection for Children (APC) project of Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MoWCA), were provided with the aim to empower the adolescents across the country, Md. Serajus Sadekin Chowdhury and Evalin Rafia from Shuchona Foundation were invited as trainers to facilitate sessions on 'Pre- Parenting' and 'Healthy Mother and Child: Diversity and Disability'. Trainings were held on 13 January, 16 February, and 16 March 2022. The recipients of the training included 32 participants from kishor kishori clubs of Dhaka urban area.



The sessions were designed to engage participants actively and enthusiastically, where after each presentation and discussion by the trainers, participants were divided into groups with time bound specific assignments. A representative from each group presented their findings with others. Following this, a Q/A session was conducted too to clarify participants quarry regarding this topic.



SAEP has been developed with support from UNICEF Bangladesh administered by the Department of Women Affairs (DWA) under MoWCA. Engaged from the beginning as content contributor, and member of content review team, at present, SF is providing technical support to MoWCA and UNICEF for facilitating this ToT to develop capacity of the peer leader of Dhaka urban area.

### Social Communication and Emotional Skills Development

Our trainers conducted a follow-up 'Training of Trainers (ToT) on 'Social Communication and Emotional Skills Development of Children from Birth to Five Years' as part of the 'Mother and Child Benefit Program'. The training was held on 16 February 2022 in Godagari, Rajshahi. Md. Abu Arif and Sumia Sultana from our Research and Capacity Building team conducted the day-long training and distributed relevant materials such as posters, booklets, etc. The training was organized by Shuchona Foundation in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) and MoWCA. This training was part of Shuchona Foundation and WFP Bangladesh's project titled "Assessment of the Effect







of Mother and Child Benefit Program (MCBP) on the Cognitive Development of Children", which was inaugurated on 28 October 2021. Since June 2019, Shuchona Foundation has been part of the technical team which is supporting the development of a comprehensive mother and child benefit program.

## Activities

### Shuchona Foundation's Annual General Meeting



On 29 January 2022 Shuchona Foundation had its Annual General Meeting for the fiscal year 2020-2021 online, considering the pandemic. The AGM was conducted by our Vice-Chair, Dr. Pran Gopal Datta, MP, in the presence of our Chairperson Saima Wazed, Executive Committee members, General members and our Advisory Council members. We take this opportunity to thank everyone for their presence and participation. At the meeting, a report of the previous year's activities, the audited financial report, the annual report, and the year's budget and plans were presented and approved.

### In-house Team Building!

The Shuchona Management team went out on a day-long retreat on 27 February 2022. The retreat was organized to reenergize the staffs' spirit by participating in team building activities. The day included planned and unplanned fun activities, delicious food, raffle draw, and laughter; all of which made it a memorable trip for all of us.

