



# Shuchona Foundation Quarterly Newsletter

## January-March 2023

The first newsletter of 2023 is coming out late, although we tried really hard not to be. As usual our small team has been busy with a number of activities, and we are finding it hard to believe that it is May already! We welcomed 2023 by going to the outskirts of Dhaka for our annual retreat. The day was packed with activities and games keeping us on our toes. We stretched, we laughed, and had hearty meals. We spent a relaxing day and returned home with hands full of gifts! It was a great way to start a new year as Shuchona Foundation family.

Highlights for the past quarter included our Chairperson, Ms. Saima Wazed, be conferred an honorary doctorate degree from Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) in recognition of her work nationally and globally on Autism and Mental Health. We congratulate her on this new achievement!

With best wishes,  
*Shuchona Foundation Secretariat*

*Greetings!*

*As always, this newsletter features the highlights from this quarter, for more information on our activities, please visit our Facebook and Instagram. If you have any feedback, please feel free to let us know your thoughts at [info@shuchona.org](mailto:info@shuchona.org)*

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### Inclusive Education

Shuchona Foundation’s team of trainers successfully conducted a 12-day long master training on its training manual, *Strategies for Inclusion: Teaching-Learning and Assessment*, which was handed over to the Honourable Director General, DPE on 28 February 2023, by Vice Chair, Dr. Pran Gopal Datta, MP.



The participants were government primary education officers from 16 different districts. They are officials from the district-level Primary Teacher's Training Institutes (PTIs), Upazilla Resource Centers (URCs), and Primary Education Offices. Shuchona Foundation started training the first batch from 09 March 2023 and is still continuing to provide technical assistance to the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) in developing master trainers for more batches. These master trainers will conduct training for more than 2,000 trainers who in turn will train around 1,30,000 government primary school teachers.

Prior to the commencement of the training, DPE organized the second and final stakeholder validation workshop from 24-26 January 2023 on the 'Inclusive Education' training manual Shuchona developed. Several officials and experts from DPE, NAPE, NCTB, PTIs, UNICEF, USAID, and representatives from a few government and non-government organizations along with Shuchona colleagues participated in the workshop. The participants highly appreciated the manual and gave their feedback, which was later incorporated in the draft and finalized as a training manual.

Shuchona Foundation (SF) is providing technical assistance to DPE in implementing subcomponent 2.6 under 'Access and Participation' of the Fourth Primary Education Development Program (PEDP4). DPE is the implementing body of the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME), which aims to foster the special education needs of children in order to fulfil the objective of PEDP4 and meet the Sustainable Development Goal, which refers to quality education for all.

This manual has been in the works for a long time spanning hours of work, and guidance and technical input from experts. The process took time as we sought guidance and input from relevant experts. It is very special for us to see the way in which the manual has been appreciated by the concerned parties and the participants themselves. We take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped and supported us in this

## Shuchona Foundation as a Co-organizer for an Online Event titled “Survey on Persons with Disabilities and Disasters, 2023”

Center for Disability in Development (CDD), Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), and Shuchona Foundation, co-organized a virtual workshop titled "Survey on Persons with Disabilities and Disasters, 2023", held on 15 February 2023. The meeting was a follow-up to the one which was conducted in 2013 to ascertain the needs of persons living with disabilities and disasters. The purpose of the survey was to review whether the one billion people who live with disabilities and disaster risk today are more involved in planning and decision-making processes to reduce risk or build resilience than they were in 2015 when the Sendai Framework was adopted. In 2013, a considerable number of responses were received from Bangladesh, which was facilitated by CDD, in collaboration with several disability-specific organizations including, Outpatient Departments (OPDs) and Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Considering the importance of the survey, this time CDD invited Shuchona Foundation to join them as one of the organizers for the workshop to disseminate and promote the survey in Bangladesh and also support persons with disabilities and their caregivers, as many of them might have limited access to technology. SF coming on-board ensured that local organizations and centers working with PwNDDs were reached.



Shuchona Foundation disseminated the survey link through our networks and social media platforms for a wider reach. The findings from this survey will be used to influence the remaining 7 years of the Sendai Framework’s implementation until 2030. In particular, it will help to inform a Mid-Term Review, which is being conducted by countries, regional organizations, and the United Nations. The workshop was designed to take participants through the survey and help answer any questions, so that they can later fill in their own surveys. The interactive workshop was conducted followed by the opening. The survey was for persons with disabilities and / or caregivers only, and was also available in Bangla to help with receiving more responses. More than 600 participants including organization representatives, self-help groups, persons with disabilities, and caregiver group members from all over Bangladesh, joined the workshop. Executive Director of CDD A. H. M. Noman Khan, Chief Operating Officer of Shuchona Foundation Dr. Saqui Khandoker, Stephanie D. Di-Palma, External Relations Officer & UN Strategy for PwD Focal Point in UNDRR spoke during the opening of the workshop, where Secretary of MoDMR, Md. Kamrul Hassan NDC was the Chief Guest.

## Session at the Inclusive symposium hosted by International School Dhaka

International School Dhaka (ISD) hosted the Inclusion Symposium for the first time which focused on working towards inclusion for all learners in every classroom in Dhaka. The symposium was a unique opportunity for educators and experts to learn and discuss important topics related to diversity and inclusion through hands-on interactive workshops and dialogues.

Shuchona Foundation was invited to facilitate a session at the symposium on 03 March 2023. The symposium provided participants with opportunities to rise together by expanding ISD's collective knowledge, strengthening their resilience, and deepening their capacity for inclusion for all learners. The day was a great professional development opportunity. The symposium held other workshops and sessions pertaining to areas in a neurodiverse classroom management; use of brain breaks; leadership in inclusion; wellbeing and social and emotional learning (SEL) in schools; catering for multilingual learners; personality types in inclusion (the enneagram); and inclusion in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ).

Throughout the day, resource persons from different national and international organizations facilitated numerous sessions on the diverse areas of inclusion. Shuchona Foundation colleagues from Content Development team, Nazish Arman, Lead Coordinator, and Pranay Bhuiyan, Assistant Coordinator, conducted the session titled 'Strategies for Inclusion: Teaching-Learning and Assessment', where Ms. Arman presented an overview of Shuchona Foundation and its current priorities and engagements and Mr. Bhuiyan presented an overview of the manual developed by the Foundation for the Directorate of Primary Education, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education. The session focused on behaviour management strategies and addressed the diverse psychosocial needs of school children from the lens of inclusive pedagogy.

## Participation in Message Development and Review of Parenting Communication Package

Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MoWCA) organized a workshop in collaboration with UNICEF on 'Message Development and Review of Parenting Communication Package'. This was organized as part of the Accelerating Protection for Children (APC) project. Md. Serajus Sadekin Chowdhury, Coordinator, Program, participated in the workshop as a representative from Shuchona Foundation. The participants belonged to different program sectors and communication professionals. The workshop was held from 12-14 March 2023. MoWCA and UNICEF jointly took the initiative to develop a 'Standardized Integrated Parenting Communication Package' which entails early childhood, middle childhood, and adolescent phase addressing issues like child protection, health, nutrition, WASH, education, and gender.

## Participation in Stakeholders' Consultation Meeting for developing a training manual on 'Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing'

Shuchona Foundation was invited to the 3rd stakeholders' consultation meeting for developing a training manual on *Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing*. The objective was to review the 'Training Manual on Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing'. During the 2nd stakeholders' consultation meeting, the ProNurse project team incorporated the experts' input and presented the final draft of the manual for further feedback. The meeting was held on 24 January 2023, organized by ProNurse project with the cooperation of Global Affairs Canada (GAC), Cowater International, Dhaka and Directorate General of Nursing and Midwifery (DGNM). The resource persons at the consultation reviewed and finalized the manual for training. Md. Abu Arif, Trainer, Research and Capacity Development, participated as Shuchona Foundation's representative. Cowater International Inc. is implementing a five-year project entitled "Empowering Women through Professionalization of the Nursing Sector in Bangladesh," which aims to enhance the voice, influence, and empower nurses Of Bangladesh's health sector.

The manual is designed for a two-week training. The first week of training will be on theoretical aspects of mental health nursing (a training manual and a workbook). The second week will be hospital placement as part of the training.

The expected outcomes of the project are:

- Improved quality of gender-responsive education for female nurses
- Improved performance and professional status of female nurses
- Increased participation of nurses in the health sector of Bangladesh.