

EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITY (ECD)

Project Duration: 1 September 2014 to 31 December 2015

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Pidim (Pidim Foundation) initiated ECD project in Jhenaigati upazila (sub-district) of Sherpur district on Sept. 1, 2013 following phasing out of SIDEPA (Strategic Initiatives for Development of Extreme Poor) project in the same area. Inclusive education for Children with Disability (CwD) is the seminal concept of the project. On the whole education of CwD has been neglected both at home and public school in the country. A child born with disability or become disabled at later life becomes victim of exclusion at home and outside family. Parents often feel embarrassed dealing with their disabled children. Desperation force parents to keep CwD away from eyes of neighbors, who are not friendly towards the latter. CwD often become victim of mocking and slander in public place, which erode their self respect and dignity. Common attitude and social behaviors profoundly impact on upbringing of CwD in a very negative way. Addressing the problems Pidim started pre-primary education for CwD using physical facilities provided by the community. Coming to class everyday and learning the skills of reading and writing alphabet and numbers bring to them joy and thrill, which they never had before. This helps them restore their self-confidence and dignity. Their desire for pursuing their educational carrier in the future with local school is getting stronger as they progress with their pre-school education. It will not be very far when they will be able to qualify for admission to local schools and continue their study with other students.

GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

Goal: To create a disabled inclusive society

Objectives:

- (a) To improve parental care for CwD (children with disability) through counseling, motivation and creating enabling family environment.
- (b) To help CwD participate in life activities by providing assistive devices on doctor's recommendations.
- (c) To help create pro-disabled social environment by dispelling fear, stigma and taboos about disability through campaign and mass education.
- (d) To prepare CwD for admission to local primary school through pre-schooling.
- (e) To help in school enrollment of CwD through advocacy and lobbying with local community, SMC and government authority.
- (f) To capacitate school teachers for developing learning skills of CwD through training and advocacy.

(g) To help create school environment conducive for learning of CwD through motivation and modification of physical environment.

BASIC INFORMATION:

District	: 1 (Sherpur)
Upa-zila	: 1 (Jhenaigati)
Union	: 4 (Kangsa, Nalkura, Dhanshil, Jhenaigati Sadar)
No. of village covered	: 42
No. of children with disability	: 180
No. of children without disability	: 60
No. of pre- primary school	: 12
No. of government primary school for ensure inclusive education	: 43
No. of teacher	: 7
No. of resource teacher	: 2 (1 for Braille & 1 for sign language)
Total staff	: 10
Total budget (in BDT)	: 15,914,225
Donor of the project	: Cordaid, The Netharlands

STAKEHOLDERS

Children with disability under the age of 5 to 12 years are the primary stakeholders (rights holders). The secondary stakeholders (duty bearers) include parents, community people, LEB (Local Elected Body), SMC (School Management Committee), students and government officials from the department of Social Service and Education, doctors in upazila health complex, media workers, other NGOs including CDD.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Pre-school education

- a. Running of pre-school centers
- b. Supply of educational materials.
- c. Supply of pre- school recreational materials.
- d. Organize cultural program.

2. Medical checkup and supply of assistive device

- a. Set up medical camp
- b. Supply of assistive device

3. Community awareness raising for promotion of right, dignity and well-being of persons with disability

- a. Conduct FGD among community people
- b. Group meeting with parents and parental counseling

- c. House visit of persons with disability for ensure proper home care of persons with disability.
- d. Meeting with School management committee of Government primary school.
- e. Meeting with senior student of Government primary school
- f. Organize Folk drama
- g. Display VIDEO show.

4. Removal of environmental barriers.

- a. Modification of ramp of 26 government primary school.
- b. Modification of toilet for 41 government primary school.
- c. House hold modification of 180 children with disability.

5. Capacity building

- a. Arrange Basic and refreshers training in “inclusive education” for project staff.
- b. Arrange training in “parental counseling” for project staff.
- c. Arrange Basic and refreshers training in “inclusive education” for government primary school teacher.

6. National and international day observation.

7. Conduct workshop with government official and LEB members to ensure disability inclusion.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Pidim pursues twin-track approach (empowerment and mainstreaming) for education of children with disability. Helping them in ADL (Activities of Daily Living) and arranging pre-schooling are foremost important elements of the approach. Here the focus is given on the family and local community for creating an enabling environment within the ambit of family and neighborhood community. Besides Pidim will work closely with SMC (School Management Committees) building there capacity to provide sustained schooling to children with disability through training of teachers and improvement of physical environment in the school. Also emphasis is given on improving peer relation by holding meeting with teacher and students. The success of the project lies to a great extent on the cooperation from upazila Education and Social Service Department. Pidim maintains close ties with the departments through UDPMC (Upazila Disability Prevention and Mitigation Committee), a network represented by different development actors and stakeholders including government officials and public representatives. UDPMC also helps Pidim to monitor project activities and building linkage with SMC and its local counterparts. Besides, Pidim maintains contact with other NGOs dealing with disability and learn from their experience. Already a dozen of such NGOs have been identified and steps taken to explore the opportunity for learning and accessing medical assistance for the right holders (targeted children).