



Dear Reader,

Welcome to the BPATC Newsletter on Child Rights published under the BPATC-UNICEF Bangladesh partnership. This bulletin will help you to keep in touch with children related matters at different training courses of BPATC, promoting child rights contents, capacity building, and other major issues of children.

A Memorandum of Understanding between BPATC and UNICEF Bangladesh took place on 18 July 2016 with a view to promoting cooperation in the areas of training, retraining and upgrading the quality of public administration, research, and consultancy and also developing mutual sharing of expertise and resources based on their statutes and mandates. BPATC and UNICEF made multifold bilateral efforts for achieving the targeted activities designed in two Work Plans under the partnership. This newsletter has focused on all the central issues of the partnership to achieve the children-related targets of the government.

We trust that the esteemed readers will enjoy reading the Newsletter and update themselves about what is happening at BPATC under the bilateral partnership.

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Establishment of Partnership between BPATC and UNICEF Bangladesh

Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC), the apex training institute in Bangladesh dedicated to develop patriotic, competent and professional civil servants through training signed a long-term collaborative Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 18 July 2016 with UNICEF Bangladesh, an international intergovernmental organization of the United Nations. The Government of Bangladesh has been implementing Local Capacity Building and Community Empowerment (LCBCE) Programme in 20 disadvantaged districts (currently 22 districts & 11 City Corporations) of Bangladesh with the assistance of UNICEF as a partner. As an integral part of the programme, since the beginning of 2015, UNICEF Bangladesh and BPATC started bilateral discussions with expressed interests towards joint collaboration with a greater goal of increased awareness of government officials on child rights through different training courses at different levels of services. A number of discussion meetings have been held between the highest authorities of the two organizations. The summary of discussions has been documented through a number of letters of exchange. On 14 March 2016, BPATC and UNICEF jointly organized a Consultation Workshop which has identified a number of initiatives for implementation with joint cooperation. The Workshop Management Team was composed of Dr. Md. Mahmudul Hassan PhD, former MDS, Mr. Abdul Baki, former Director, Mr. Md. Jahidul Islam, the then Deputy Director and presently Director, Mr. Md. Tanzir Hasib Sarker, former Evaluation Officer and Salina Zaman, former Deputy Director.



Mr. A. L. M. Abdur Rahman ndc, former Rector, BPATC is delivering speech in the Consultation Workshop jointly organized by BPATC and UNICEF Bangladesh held on 14 March 2016 at BPATC

Visit to Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration

A seven-member team comprised of BPATC and UNICEF officials made a learning exchange visit to the similar academy 'Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration - LBSNAA' at Mussorie in India during 10-14 April 2016 that has been partnering with UNICEF India for last 12 years. LBSNAA has included children's issues in the training course, established Gender Centre, arranges periodic lectures on children's issues, etc. under the partnership.

The team members from BPATC were Mr. Abdul Baki, former Director, Mr. Md. Jahidul Islam, the then Deputy Director, Ms. Rokeya Fahmida, Deputy Director and Mr. Md. Abul Basher, Deputy Director while the UNICEF part comprised of Mr. Edouard Beigbeder, Representative, UNICEF Bangladesh, Thomas George, Programme Manager, and Mr. Mohd. Anwar Hossain, Programme Specialist. The visit was financed by UNICEF Bangladesh.

The visit was organized with the following specific purposes-

- Exchange of current programme/training courses of two training academies/centres;
- Share and identify Good Practices (What's going well) between two countries;
- Gain experience by listening to the retired officials of Indian Administrative Services;
- Bring back ideas and experience from India and use in partnership between BPATC and UNICEF Bangladesh.

The team joined meeting with the Director and Management Team of

LBSNNA and Mr. N. C. Saxena, a retired officer of Indian Administrative Service and former Director of LBSNAA, Mr. Joy Elamon, a resource person who worked with UNICEF India Office for development of a module on decentralization, and Mr. Gyanendra Badgaiyan, a retired Officer of Indian Administrative Service and DG of India National Centre for Good Governance. Based on the learning visit to LBSNNA, India, and the Consultation Workshop held at BPATC on 14 March 2016, a Memorandum of Understanding was developed for signing.

Signing Memorandum of Understanding

To formalize the partnership of BPATC and UNICEF Bangladesh based on the Consultation Workshop and Learning Exchange visit to LBSNAA, both organizations have mutually agreed on the development of a MoU which has been signed on 18 July 2016.



Mr. A. L. M. Abdur Rahman ndc, former Rector, BPATC and Mr. Edouard Beigbeder, Representative, UNICEF Bangladesh are signing MoU at BPATC on 18 July 2016

Under the MoU, the Parties mutually agree-

To promote a better understanding of public administration and public service in line with the laws and procedure in force in Bangladesh. In the framework of their statutes and responsibilities, they shall develop and facilitate cooperation in the areas of training, retraining and upgrading the quality of public administration, research as well as consultancy. BPATC and UNICEF will make efforts in the form of multifold bilateral arrangements to provide favorable conditions for the implementation of this cooperation. The collaboration will be based on the mutual sharing of expertise and resources of the two parties.



Mr. A. L. M. Abdur Rahman nde, former Rector, BPATC and Mr. Edouard Beigbeder, Representative, UNICEF Bangladesh are handing over the signed MoU at BPATC on 18 July 2016

BPATC and UNICEF Bangladesh will develop and facilitate the following areas of cooperation under the MoU-

- Exchange of experience and knowledge linked to child rights;
- Establish Technical Team to design the programme and its implementation;
- Increase sectoral collaboration involving the line ministries for developing handbooks;
- Develop knowledge-base through data repository;
- Exchange of programme learnings.

Activities Under First Work Plan

Under the signed MoU between BPATC and UNICEF Bangladesh taken place on 18 July 2016, a work plan for the period of July 2016 to 30 June, 2017 had been jointly developed with clear identification of specific activities with an estimated budget, timeline and specific responsibilities of both organizations. Under the first work plan, 13 activities have been identified for implementation. Among the 13 activities, fund was released for 7 activities amounted to BDT. 14,80,000.00 by UNICEF Bangladesh. Among the targeted activities, four

activities have been completed successfully utilizing total BDT. 2,45,000.00. The activities which were not implemented in the first year were included in the Second Work Plan with the hope to be duly done with the active and dynamic cooperation of BPATC and UNICEF Bangladesh.

Establishment of a Thematic Group on Children at BPATC

As the first step of the planned activities under the First Work Plan, a 'Thematic Group on Children (TGC)' has been established at BPATC through an office order on 29 August 2016 combining 11 Faculty Members of different tiers. The Thematic Group includes officials posted on deputation as well as the in-house faculty

members of BPATC. The Group has been made responsible to look after the issues related to children with different courses. The TGC has been established with the following faculty members-Mr. Abdul Baki, Director, Mr. Mallick Syed Mahbub, Director, Mr. Md. Abdur Razzak Sarker, Director, Mr. Md. Jahidul Islam, Deputy Director, Mr. Mohammad Razibul Islam, Deputy Director, Dr. M. Arifur Rahman, Deputy Director, Dr. Rokeya Fahmida, Deputy Director, Mr. Md. Abul Basher, Deputy Director, Mr. Tanjur Ahmed Joarder, Assistant Programmer, Ms. Nasrin Akhter, Evaluation Officer, and Md. Yousuf Ali, Assistant Director. Mr. Abdul Baki worked as chairperson in the TGC while Mr. Md. Jahidul Islam has been working as Member-Secretary. In the meantime Mr. Abdul Baki, Director, Mr. Mallick Syed Mahbub, Director, Mr. Md. Abdur Razzak Sarker, Director, have been transferred from the centre. Therefore, initiatives are being taken to reconstitute the TGC.

Developing Course Materials for ToT Course

Under the First Work Plan and second planned activity, course materials for a 'Training of Trainers' (ToT) course was finalized accommodating specific topics of child rights, decentralization for children, management of basic services at the District, Upazila and Union levels etc. The prepared course materials have been used in the ToT course arranged at BPATC on 3-5 April 2017.

Training of Trainers Course for the Thematic Group Members

BPATC organized a Training of Trainers (ToT) course for the Thematic Group Members at BPATC with the collaboration of UNICEF Bangladesh. The ToT course was held on 3-5 April 2017 using the designed course materials where 11 faculty members from BPATC and 1 official from UNICEF Bangladesh total 12 personnel have attended.

The course has been facilitated by UNICEF Bangladesh officials, BPATC faculty members and external resource person Dr. Shahnaz Huda, Professor, Department of Law of Dhaka University.



Guest Speaker Dr. Shahnaz Huda & participants of the ToT course

The ToT Course Management Team was consisted of Mr. A. L. M. Abdur Rahman ndc, former Rector, BPATC (Adviser), Dr. Rizwan Khair, former MDS (Course Director) and Mr. Mohammad Mamun, Research Officer (Course Coordinator).



Mr. A. L. M. Abdur Rahman ndc, former Rector is distributing certificates among the ToT participants on 5 April 2017 at BPATC

Child Resource Centre at BPATC

As per the First Work Plan, BPATC has established a Child Resource Centre on the first floor of the Library Building and the Centre is expected to be enriched further in the upcoming work plan. Faculty members, trainees, external resource persons, employees, as well as visitors will be incalculably benefitted from the centre through different books, reports and other publications. Dr. Rokeya Fahmida has been made Officer-in-Charge as Additional Duty of the Child Resource Centre by an office order of the centre.

Rector, BPATC - Continuous Source of Inspiration

Dr. M Aslam Alam, Rector (Senior Secretary to the Government) of BPATC is the continuous source in initiating and implementing the diversified activities of the Second Work Plan. Under his dynamic leadership and guidance, the



Dr. M Aslam Alam, Rector, BPATC

Focal Point and the TGC members have been implementing the planned programmes. Since the joining of Dr. M Aslam Alam at BPATC, he has been constantly emphasizing on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 of the United Nations and argued for Goal 16-Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. He also stresses on Goal 17- Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. These 2 Goals are critically important for realizing all other Goals in the stipulated time 2030. He believes that the activities of the Second Work Plan will contribute significantly to the achievement of the SDGs in the related fields.

Activities Under Second Work Plan

Under the signed MoU between BPATC and UNICEF Bangladesh taken place on 18 July 2016, the Second Work Plan have been made for the period of 1 September 2017 to 31 December 2018 where 9 activities have been identified for execution. Among the 9 activities, 6 activities have been completed and 2 are going to be finished soon.

Sector-Specific Handbooks as Reading and Reference Material for Training Courses

With a view to developing 4 sector specific handbooks-Health, WASH, Child Protection and Education a lot of activities have been carried out. An external resource person has also been selected to work with the Thematic Group on Children of BPATC to prepare the Handbooks in collaboration with the line ministries. The handbooks will be used as reading and reference material for training courses. After preparing drafts of the handbooks, a Consultation Workshop was held at BPATC, Dhaka on 22 July 2018 where 35 personnel of different line ministries, organizations, university professors, BPATC faculty members, Thematic Group Members, and UNICEF officials participated.



Mr. Mohammad Munir Hossain, MDS (Additional Secretary) and Chairperson of the Stakeholder Consultation Workshop is inaugurating the programme at RPATC, Dhaka on 22 July 2018

Participants of the workshop went on long group discussion and brainstorming and gave critical recommendations to upgrade the handbooks.



Participants are engaged in group work in the Stakeholder Consultation Workshop held at RPATC, Dhaka on 22 July 2018

The recommendations made by the participants have been incorporated in the handbooks as far as possible and thereafter the handbooks have been sent to all faculty members of BPATC for opinions and suggestions to make them more effective and useful. The Handbooks will be published soon which will help trainees of different training courses especially Foundation Training Course by providing diverse information on child rights issues and thus contribute to the capacity building of the civil service officials for promoting child rights in the country.

Quarterly Review of Training Course Materials by the TGC

The Thematic Group on Children has been reviewing the course contents of the training courses quarterly. The review meetings help to improve the course materials and strength of the TGC members continuously.

Special Course on 'Decentralization and Improved Planning & Monitoring of Situation & Services for Children'

A short course on 'Decentralization and Improved Planning & Monitoring of Situation & Services for Children' has been held for the duration of 24-26 July 2018 at RPATC, Dhaka. The objectives of the course were to sensitize key officials on the situation and issues of children in Bangladesh; to develop a plan of actions by the officials to address children's issues in their works; and to increase the capacity of the officials in handling and implementing child-centred activities. The course highlighted the contents-Convention on the Rights of the Children (CRC) 1989, Child Policy 2011, Children's Act 2013, Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017 and other child laws in Bangladesh, Sustainable Development Goals 2030 related to children, situation of children in Bangladesh by sectors- Health, WASH, Nutrition, Education and Child protection, programmes on local governance and children, Development Coordination Framework and Programme Strategies on Chattagram Hill Tracts (CHT), Tea Garden, ex. enclaves, decentralization, local government and child rights, tools and means of monitoring of situation & services for children, community engagement, share good practices from field and role of Deputy Commissioners and UNOs for ensuring child rights and child welfare.



Mr. Mohammad Munir Hossain, MDS (P&S) is distributing certificates among the participants of the special course on 'Decentralization and Improved Planning and Monitoring of Situation and Service for Children' held at RPATC, Dhaka on 26 July 2018

19 Officials from different ministries, departments and local government organizations attended the course. Mr. Mallick Syed Mahbub, former Director worked as Course Director while Deputy Director Dr. Rokeya Fahmida, and Mr. Md. Abul Basher contributed as Course Coordinator.

Child Data Repository Links to BPATC Website

Data repository means a central place where data is stored and maintained. In a data repository multiple databases or files are kept for distribution over a network that can be used or directly accessible to the user without travelling across a network. A data repository is vital for the general users and for trainees it is more useful. Realizing the necessity of a data repository for accumulating child rights data, establishment of a repository for the trainees and faculty members of BPATC has been included in the Second Work Plan. In line with the Work Plan, various data on children issues have been already collected and some databases have been linked to BPATC website which will be improved continuously.

Paper on Roles and Functions of the Field Administration Related to Child Rights Issues

A paper on the roles and functions of Field Administration related to child rights issues in Bangladesh is being developed by a team consisted of three Thematic Group Members. The paper is likely to be brought out soon.

Learning Events on Children's Issues for the Trainee Officials of Foundation Training Course

Debate competition on child rights issues has been arranged in the 66th and 67th Foundation Training Course (FTC) on 12 August and 19-20 June 2018 respectively at BPATC.

Debate competition held on different motions like 'Child labor can be prevented only by proper implementation of law', 'Only an educated mother can ensure the rights of her children', 'Culture determines the fate and rights of a child that he/she receives and enjoys'. Trainee officials went on a strong debate for the motion and against the motion.



Moderator Dr. Abdun Noor Tushar and Judges panel in the Final Debate Competition held in the 66th FTC on 12 August 2018 at BPATC

285 trainee officials (200 in 66 FTC and 85 in 67 FTC) of different cadre services of Bangladesh participated the debate competition enthusiastically and took it as a vital learning event.



Syed Mizanur Rahman ndc, MDS and Dr. Abdun Noor Tushar are distributing prizes among the winner and runner up team of the debate competition on 21 October 2018 in the 67th FTC at BPATC

Appointment of Focal Point

Prize giving ceremony of the Debate Competition in the 67th FTC held on 21 October 2018. Syed Mizanur Rahman ndc MDS chaired the programme while eminent



Syed Mizanur Rahman ndc, MDS (8th from right), Dr. Abdun Noor Tushar (6th from left), Md. Jahidul Islam, Judges, Winner and Runner Up Team members of the Debate Competition in the 67th FTC on 21 October 2018 at BPATC

debater Dr. Abdun Noor Tushar ornamented the programme as chief guest. The Chairperson remarked that this kind of debate competition may be a great source of learning on children issues that can help in promoting child rights as mentioned in the Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 of the United Nations as well as the legislations of Bangladesh on children. The chief guest congratulated and conveyed gratefulness to BPATC and UNICEF Bangladesh for organizing debate competition on children, the future of the nation. Director (Project) and Course Director (Administration) of the 67th FTC Md. Jahidul Islam conducted the prize giving ceremony.

It is expected that the learning event will help to disseminate and promote child rights in different sectors by the civil service officers as key implementers and improve the situation of the children both in rural and urban areas of Bangladesh.

To liaison, collaborate, and implement the activities of the partnership with UNICEF, BPATC had appointed Mr. Abdul Baki, former Director of the centre as Focal Point in the MoU and he worked till 22 August 2017 as Focal Point. After his release from the centre, Mr. Md. Jahidul Islam, Director has been appointed Focal Point on 7 September 2017 by the authority of the centre. He is performing the duty of the Focal Point under the guidance of the Rector, BPATC. Conversely, Mr. Mohd. Anwar Hossain, Programme Specialist, Field Services Section has been working as Focal Point in the UNICEF Bangladesh side.



Md. Jahidul Islam
Focal Point, BPATC



Mohd. Anwar Hossain
Focal Point, UNICEF Bangladesh

Annual Lectures on Child Rights

With a view to disseminating knowledge on child rights issues and promoting those by the civil service officers, annual lectures were arranged on 23 October 2018 at BPATC. Participants of 67th FTC, UNICEF Bangladesh officials and Thematic Group Members took part



Participants of the Annual Lecture Ceremony on Child Rights in the 67th FTC held at BPATC on 23 October 2018

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in the ceremony. Lecture on 'Climate Change, Children and Child Rights' was delivered by eminent Professor Dr. Niaz Ahmed Khan, former chairmen of Department of Development Studies of Dhaka University while lecture on 'Disability and Child Rights' was conducted by renowned Professor Dr. M Rezaul Islam of Institute of Social Welfare and Research of Dhaka University. Ms. Shairose Mawji, Chief, Field Services Section and Mr. Deepak Kumar Dey, Statistics and Monitoring Specialist of UNICEF Bangladesh spoke on 'Situation of Children in Bangladesh'.



Mr. Mohd. Anwar Hossain, Programme Specialist of UNICEF, Md. Abul Basher, Md. Jahidul Islam, Ms. Shairose Mawji, Professor Dr. Niaz Ahmed Khan, former Director (Admin) Md. Abdur Razzak Sarkar, Professor Dr. M. Rezaul Islam, Deepak Kumar Dey, Course Director (Academic) Dr. Zohurul Islam, and Course Coordinator Md. Moin Uddin are in a frame in the Annual Lecture Ceremony (from left side) held at BPATC.

Participants were enthusiastic and actively participated in the question-answer session and seemed they have been hugely benefitted from the programme. This type of lecture ceremony may be continued in future with diversified topics and legendary speakers may be invited to deliver on diversified areas of children.

UNICEF Representative, a Great Promoter of Child Rights

Mr. Edouard Beigbeder, Representative, UNICEF Bangladesh is a great promoter of child rights. He stresses critically on capacity building of the civil service officers to promote child rights implementation in Bangladesh. He believes that capacity building through knowledge and skill sharing can improve the situation of the children in Bangladesh.

Mr. Edouard Beigbeder, a French national gives high importance of the implementation of UN CRC 1989, Children Act 2013 of Bangladesh and child focused other legislations, programmes, and projects to upgrade the existing situation of the children. He thinks that BPATC can play the key role in building capacity of the civil service officers for promoting child rights.



Edouard Beigbeder, head of UNICEF Bangladesh office