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Impact of COVID-19 people with disabilities: work, livelihoods, discrimination for services eg finance institutions

Government of Bangladesh has declared the country wide Locked down from 26 March and the duration of Locked down has been extended step by step due to stemming the spread of Covid-19. Consequentially, low income People with Disabilities lost their means of daily income, due to the ongoing shutdown situation.

A study report has published that 74% People with Disabilities are already suffering from malnutrition in covid 19. 3 youth with disabilities are died with corona symptoms which is reported by different Media; No is low cause all the area do not have opportunity to testing corona virus. Most of the people with disabilities are nervous and facing difficulties to get health service those who need to take regular medical therapy. Some are living in highly risk situation who are in urban slam.

Most of the family members of people with disabilities are the wage earner who are lose their income and not get support. People disabilities human rights are violated in many ways such as domestic violence, social acceptance, health service and so on.

The financial or food support are overlooked to people with disabilities according their needs; through lots of Advocacy from WDDF Government now allocate money 300,00,000 (3 crore BDT) on 4 April and Then 1 (crore BDT) on 12 April for people with disabilities including the poor, and unemployed. Most of the People with Disabilities yet to get this support from Government.

District Authority for relief distributions has clearly mentioned only disability Card holder and except disability allowance receiver will get this support from government which is less than 1% even whom are in government survey. So more than 14.5% of total population and 99% of People with Disabilities of Bangladesh are deprived from Government support at the moment.

WDDF has worked with DPOs and Coordinating many ways!

- WDDF has distributed Government circulars and take initiatives to received support from government offices in respective.
- WDDF is coordinating with DPOs to prepared list as per condition of people with disabilities for different donor who are interested to support to people with disabilities.
- WDDF has also conducted a short survey of people with disabilities how they suffering due to shutdown situation through i2i.
- WDDF is collecting local and international donor to support People with disabilities especially Women with disabilities across the country.
- WDDF participate international survey and published joint statement of people disabilities situation with National and regional CSOs.

we need to coordinate and advocate the advancement with different Employers to continue to support people with disabilities in employment - please not to postpone the advances already made towards inclusion eg employment.

Ensure new funding is made available which will be realistic and clearly mentioned that this is for persons with disabilities employment opportunity in different sectors.

There are multilateral donors like DFID supporting the Bangladesh government to expand safety net social protectino programmes. But donors need to ask GoB to take into account the needs of persons with disability and be designed accordingly.

I am trying to share the situation of people with disabilities especially women with Disabilities in regional and global level through different network and platform like i2i, APWLD, Wish2 Action, Arrow, south Asian women with disabilities network etc.

Commented [JS1]: What does this mean?

Commented [JS2]: Misti, is this the right figure. 3 seems like a low number of deaths. Is that for the whole of Bangladesh or Dhaka, or is it in a DPO?