

Participatory Research & Action Network



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**ANNUAL
REPORT
2019**



Participatory Research & Action Network- PRAAN is a non-profit, non-government Public Interest organization searching for development alternatives to strengthen people's initiative by promoting human rights, economic rights, governance, trade justice, and sustainable livelihood. PRAAN was set up by a group of civil society activists, young researchers, and journalists from the coastal part of Bangladesh in the year 2004 when the initiators realized that the development situation of the greater Noakhali area is lacking research, civil society activism, information technology. Rights-based organizations play an essential role in promoting the rights to development approach for sustainable livelihoods.

Annual Report 2021
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work please visit our website:
www.pranbd.org

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Nutrition Camp;
Campaign: Bangladesh Nutrition Week 2019

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

In the year 2019, PRAAN consolidated its works in a way that, historically, made us strong and branched out to new activities and initiatives to strengthen and sharpen our advocacy work. 2019 was also the 15th year of PRAAN in carrying out several Agriculture, Climate Adaptation, Fiscal and Participatory Governance, Tax Justice, Human rights, Women empowerment, Right to Food related research and development projects.

We also got the opportunity to reiterate our commitment as a human rights-based organization and to achieve enhanced perspective and understanding around patriotism and commitment to national pride, justice, transparency, accountability, quality and excellence, intersectionality, respect for diversity and support for environment and ecology.

PRAAN had been able to achieve more reputation in the campaign, advocacy, and research arena at the National and Regional levels which we believe to accelerate more in the coming year.

The upcoming year 2020 seems to be a challenging year with global pandemic, economic restlessness. Together we aspire and strive to work for a better time and years ahead with shared values such as freedom, equality, dignity and justice.

With great honor and gratitude we submit the 2019 Annual Report. We invite you to take advantage of our updates at www.pranbd.org

Nurul Alam Masud
Chief Executive

Vision Mission & Values

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

PRAAN's strategically important activities are related to overcoming the structural causes and consequences of poverty and injustice; which in turn contribute to the dignified, sustainable, and equitable improvement of life of the disadvantaged population of Bangladesh through promoting resilient livelihoods, agroecology, protect and promote rights, democratization and accountable public services.

CORE VALUES

- Patriotism and commitment to the national interest, sovereignty, and national pride
- Justice, transparency, and accountability
- Mutual respect
- Gender friendliness
- Quality and excellence
- Humility and confidence
- Respect for diversity
- Support for environment and ecology

MISSION STATEMENT

We will work to fight poverty through participatory action research activities followed by social actions to eradicate poverty, lack of knowledge, and Injustice.

VISION STATEMENT

We Envision a poverty-free pluralist society based on knowledge and technology where everyone's basic needs, rights, and information are ensured.

PRIORITY AREAS

- Resilient Livelihoods
- Economic & Ecological Justice
- Governance & Human Rights
- Inclusion & Diversity

PRAAN

Meetings and Events in 2019

- **Nutrition Camp 2019**

N. Little Star Kindergarten

- **Workshop : Business & Human Rights**

BRAC CDM, Savar, Dhaka

- **Consultation Meeting: Violence Against Women | Let's Protest & Prevent**

Noakhali Pourosova Hall

- **Human Chain : No Sexual Attack Anymore!**

Noakhali Press Club Premise

- **Orientation : Business & Human Rights Media Fellowship**

Marie Stopes, Lalmatia, Dhaka

- **Training | Preventing Gender Based Violence in Emergency**

NRDS Training Centre, Binodpur, Noakhali

- **Sharing Meeting: Study on Family Farming in Bangladesh**

Khulna, Rajshahi, Chattogram

- **Youth Cafe : Preventing Cyber Violence Against Women**

Noakhali Science & Technology University

- **Generation Dialogue**

Saikat Govt. College Premise, Subarnochar, Noakhali

- **Budget Olympiad 2019**

Professor Habibullah Conference Hall, Faculty of Commrce, DU



Nutrition Camp: “Think about Nutrition, if you think about Food”

Although malnutrition and nutritional disorder are very common, many people in Bangladesh do not have knowledge about locally available food to meet their nutritional demand. Many people believe the misconception that nutrition is all about rich foods. The level of education and access to information on nutrition is extremely low. There is an urgent need to increase awareness and disseminate information on tackling malnutrition and under-nutrition with locally available foods.

The Nutrition Camp 2019 with the theme “Think about Nutrition, if you think about Food” aims to create awareness of child and maternal nutrition and to make the children familiar with nutritious foods. Essay competition, Local fruits exhibition, Poster exhibition, painting competition and discussion was organized among the students of N. Little Star Kindergarten, Noakhali.

According to the data of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, there are 4 million people in our country who cannot afford to buy 2122 calories’ of daily food. Among them, the number of people who are incapable of earning enough to buy 1805 calories’ of food is 2 million. One of the most important goals of Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (SDG) is to end all types of poverty and the promise of zero hunger in the next 15 years.

The speakers demand safe food and nutritional safety for all, to ensure nutritious food for people of all ages, especially to take both government and non-governmental initiatives to ensure the safety of balanced food for the children. More than 75 percent of the children under five years of age are having some degree of malnutrition. Around 70 percent of children and mother have Iron deficiency anemia. Some are having both micro and micronutrient deficiency. Though poverty is a problem in our country but most of these deficiencies are not due to poverty, it is due to lack of awareness, ignorance, carelessness, hygienic problem etc.

With the importance of eggs, milk, native fruits and vegetables as a nutrition source, we must come away from medicine oriented nutrition assumption. There is no alternative of taking plenty of nutritious food including foods like fruits, vegetables, egg, and milk to live a healthy life. So we must take healthy Food every day to stay away from malnutrition. Public awareness must be raised.



Workshop : Business & Human Rights

Development of our country is measured by statistics like GDP and GNP. Life and livelihoods of the common peoples is being suppressed by several development projects. The negative impact of such projects are effecting socio-environment, climate and also violating the fundamental human rights of common peoples in the localities'. Such a violation of human rights is one of the main obstacles in the way of achieving sustainable development goals.

Workshop on 'Business & Human Rights for Journalist and HR Defenders' aim to create an alliance between the media, civil society actors to ensure protecting human rights in business interventions through media action and supporting the communities.

30 journalists from national and local level media, Civil Society members and Human Right Defenders from affected communities participated in this two day long workshop.

The speakers said, the current situation of our country, this is

impossible to meet the demand for sustainable development because the directions of environment and development are inversely opposite. Highlighting the importance of raising the question how viable development plans are, if these excludes people, natural resources, environment, they said there are different immediate benefits of mega-projects, no doubt but its worth is disproportionately contributed. Development needs to be measured not on the basis of quantitative quality, rather on the basis of qualitative quality. At the same time, they emphasized on adopting a development plan that will reduce social discrimination.

The participants of the workshop came to know relevant laws, and policies from this workshop.



Consultation Meeting: Violence Against Women | Let's Protest & Prevent

Despite Government and different non-government measures to stop violence against women, news about violence against women published on various news sources on daily basis has spread widespread concerns. But among a number of incidents, only a few of them get published on media and rest of them remain unrevealed. The scenario of violence against women here in Noakhali is more terrible.

'Violence against Women: Let's protest & prevent' is a consultancy initiative meeting in search of effective strategies to prevent violence and ensure a safe and dignified society for women.

Analyzing the trend of violence against women based on the news published on 3 national daily and 3 local newspaper, a fact-finding report was presented on the meeting. Based on this report, the participants mentioned various reasons they think are responsible for the sudden rise of violence against women especially in Noakhali. Majority of the participants think that drug abuse, lack of justice, procrastination injustice, impunity from

punishment, etc are having knock-on ripple effect throughout the community that is leading some people to commit such offenses. People from every stage of society should come forward together to eliminate delinquencies like this.

In the context of various discussions, the speakers proposed some measures that can be taken to stop violence against women. Highlighting the importance of forming a pressure group, they said that an area-based a work plan can be designed with some responsible people from communities. Support of victims and witnesses should be prioritized. Positivity campaigns can also play a great role to change the negatory mindset of people about women. All the participant's expressed their enthusiasm in comprising a unison that will work together to eradicate and eliminate all types of violence against women from this society



Human Chain : No Sexual Attack Anymore!

The rate of violence against women is gradually on increase and our country is such fallen to the ground that this violence has now got an epidemic form. Women of all ages, from infants to olds, are subjected to sexual violence and rape. Even male children are not getting rid from that. The level type and cruelty of torture and violence has been increased on an alarming and multiplying ratio. It is mandatory to change patriarchal mentality, behavior and culture, to ensure proper justice of every crime committed against women and to ensure accountability of police, doctors and everyone involved in the investigation process. The judicial system must be prompted to a place of trust and shelter for the people.

'Human Chain : No Sexual Attack Anymore!' was formed protesting growing violence against women and childre. People from differ-

ent professions, lawyers, journalists, young entrepreneurs, organizations and individuals participated in this event.

Several human rights organizations and activists including, NRDS, FPAB, BANDHAN, Gandhi Ashram Trust, Prochesta Naari Unnogyon Mela joined the human chain as part of women protection expedition all over the country.

The speakers demanded to form and activate Sexual Harassment Monitoring Committee in every educational institutions according to the order of Hugh court, to ensure accountability, to constitute a national level committee which will give instructions to observe the implementation and obstruction of acts and legislations pertaining violence against women, sexual harassment and rape and to enact and reform the existing laws providing physical, mental, social and economic compensation to the victims.



Orientation : Business & Human Rights Media Fellowship

Business and Human Rights Fellowship was awarded considering the submitted proposal and professional history of the journalists working with human rights and potential of success in serving the purpose of upholding human rights through media action and supporting the communities. In the context of 'Business and Human Rights Workshop' held June 22-23, 2019, BRAC CDM, 16 journalists proposed their reports for this fellowship and 9 was awarded among them.

The Orientation workshop on 'Business and Human Rights Media Fellowship' was arranged to fine tune the proposals of the fellows.

The awarded journalists of 'Business and Human Rights Media Fellowship' are- Anamul Haque from Daily Samakal, Jannatul Ferdousi from GTV, Kamrun Nahar Shova from The Financial Express, Mintu Deshwara from Daily Star, Mohammad Sahabuddin from Daily Samakal, Mosiur Rahman Rubel Doinik Janata, Nesser Uddin Tipu from Prothom Alo, Rashed Obaid Ripon from GTV and

Zahidur Rahman from Samakal.

The mentors delivered their momentous directives on choice of history, investigation, information gathering strategy, structure, policy ask, issues of environment, project environmental impact assessment in proposed stories, issues related to foreign investment, Global and National Legal and Institutional Frameworks and addressing and focusing of human rights issues related to infrastructure development process.



Training | Preventing Gender Based Violence in Emergency

Women are the most vulnerable in emergencies. According to statistics by UNFPA, 2 out of 3 women become victims of violence at some points in their lifetime. This is important to bring a positive change in attitudes towards women along with pragmatic measures to prevent violence against women.

The training 'Preventing Violence against Women in Emergency' was arranged with the aim to build up capacity of local NGO's to deliver the idea of Minimum Standard, GBV Guiding Principles, Women Friendly Space to local organizations to mitigate, prevent and response to GBV violence and thus develop skilled GBV actors to work coordinately during emergency.

25 participants from different NGO's and activists in Noakhali participated in this 3 days long training at NRDS Training Center, Binodpur, Noakhali. This three days' training was facilitated by Taslima Akhter Deputy Manager – Women Rights and Gender Equity and Saiada Islam- Programme Officer – Training, Women Rights and Gender Equity ActionAid Bangladesh.

In context of various sessions, like gender inequality, gender-based violence, types, reasons and effects of gender-based violence, disaster management, vulnerability of women in emergency, core humanitarian standard and policy of emergency response preventing violence against women, women-friendly service center, the training was conducted with several interactive ways to clear the messages to the trainees throughout the training days. The trainees shared their experiences of difficulties they usually face while working to ensure safety for women in emergency.



Sharing Meeting: Study on Family Farming in Bangladesh

According to the expert opinion, Bangladesh will not survive if farmers and family agriculture are not saved.

'Family Farming: Crisis and Possibilities' is a survey conducted on the crisis and potential of family farming in Bangladesh. The study shows that 65.48 percent of farmers have tried to switch to other professions at various times. Among the farming families, 83.15 percent said their farm income is not enough to meet their family needs.

Two book covers were unveiled in the event. The theme of the event was 'Family Farming Crisis and Prospects in Bangladesh and Women in Agriculture'.

Research data was collected from 899 farmers in 86 villages of 14 upazilas in 11 regions of the country. Researchers Pavel Parth and Nurul Alam Masud said that 80.54 small farmers among the participants in the survey feel comfortable in marketing their produce and they feel that market accessibility and marketing are not easy. In order to strengthen family farming, 10 recommendations are made, including ensuring the protection of farmland and farmers' access to agricultural land, protecting agri-environment based agriculture, ensuring youth participa-

tion in agriculture and providing crop insurance, pension scheme for farmers, seed insurance and bio-subsidies for the benefit of small farmers.



Youth Cafe : Preventing Cyber Violence Against Women

In Bangladesh, online violence against women is now quite a rampant practice. Like home, transport or street, the cyberspace has become such a media through which men and women work or give productive time. According to a number of statistical data of research findings, more than 75% of women are succumbing to the risk of becoming a victim of online violence like sexual harassment, online hacking, cyber pornography, blackmail and extortion, defamation, terrorist activity, etc.

The Youth Café titled “Cyber Violence against Women” is to start the discussion what we really understand by cyber violence against women, addressing the issues of online violence, raising awareness of responsible use of technology and social media among the university students. More than 50 students, teachers and representatives of youth organizations of NSTU participated in this event.

Specifically through gross misuse of social media like Facebook or YouTube, women are being presented and displayed in a degrading way that degenerates their status and honor. Secret footage and audios concerning women, cooked up videos

targeted to undermine women, both implicit and explicit indications and hints which humiliate women are a form of violence obviously.

Such type of violence affects women’s mental health, work potential. Preventing cyber violence is essential to and all types of gender-based violence overall because these contribute to normalizing physical violence against women. This is important to reveal the incidents of violence to someone they trust to relieve the stress and emotional turmoil, must document the abuse and take help from police.

The students express their experience regarding cyber violence and some of them mentioned that till now there are a number of internet users who do not understand what cyber violence is even if they are being a victim themselves because for most of the people cyber violence is not fully defined to identify the incidents of violence. They feel the necessity to define certain harmful forms of cyber violence and raise awareness thereby.



Generation Dialogue

Negative attitude and distorted mindset of people is the most important reason behind the gradual rise of violence against women. It has now turned into a form of social disorder. Since the last parliamentary election, incidents of violence against women like rape, sexual harassment, and abduction, etc, especially in Subarna Char Upazila of Noakhali, have created widespread discussion and agitation across the country. People from every aspect of society must come forward to prevent this social disorder. Along with strict enforcement of laws, economic and educational development and also social awareness must be ensured. A positive change in a common attitude towards women is necessary at the same time.

The Generation Dialogue is an open dialogue program between people from all spheres, specially young people, law enforcing agency representatives, policy makers and so on. The aim of this generation dialogue is to know the view of local people regarding this situation and also to raise public awareness in that area as well as preventing VAW by sensitizing civil society and people of various classes.

The presence of youth in the event addressed their issues and concerns. They said not physical violence only, women are being harassed by use of abusive language which is very common for a woman moving on a public place and more vulgar ways are out

there to attack women. Women need to be respected. The young participants feel the necessity to understand that VAW causes by distorted mindset, not by what she wears or other things people usually think of. They demanded to activate VAW prevention committees at the district and Upazila level as well as proper implementation of laws.

The Generation Dialogue opened with the National Anthem of Bangladesh and ended with more than 500 people taking the pledge to act for preventing all types of violence against women. More than 500 local people, including young men and women, have taken an oath at Subarnachar in Noakhali to create a safe Upazila for women.



Budget Olympiad 2019

There is a lack of transparency in the process of budget formulation and implementation in our country. The greater portion of the government's income comes through indirect taxes from common citizens. But still they do not have roles in drafting the national budget. The process of budget formulation must be democratic in order to create an equal society. This is essential for the citizens to get involved in the budgeting process for equitable development.

Budget Olympiad 2019 Grand Finale held on December 19th at Professor Habibullah Conference Hall, Faculty of Commerce, Dhaka University. The guests said, education and health sector in not getting proper focus in National Budget and the allocation for the poor and hardcore poor is still not that remarkable. This is important to make the budget process decentralized and democratic too by ensuring increased participation of common citizens and elected public representatives.

Among 100 finalists from all over the country, Abdullah Al Maruf from Rajshahi University won the crown of Champion in Budget Olympiad 2019. Ahsan Habib was the first runner up from the same university. Hridoy Mazumder from Noakhali Science and Technology University won the second runner up award. And the five regional Olympiad champions are Nadim Bin Shahjahan from Noakhali, Protik Halder from Barishal, Jakariya Sheikh from Khulna,

Sohan Islam from Rajshahi and Mohidur Rahman from Chattogram.

'Budget Olympiad' is a basically national level contest being initiated by Democratic Budget Movement-DBM every year to mobilize and sensitize youth and students on the discussion of national budgetary issues and popular concerns around its planning process. Successive of last couple of years, this year, more than 2000 students participated in this Olympiad from five region –Chattogram, Khulna, Noakhali, Barishal and Rajshahi. 100 participants, 20 winners from each region participated in the grand finale.



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