

Child Abuse and NGO's Initiatives in Bangladesh: A Critical Review

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ABSTRACT: This paper aims to improve our understanding about the prevalence and determinants of child abuse in Bangladesh. Another thing is to focus on the activities that are taken by the NGOs in this perspective, which is trying to improve the “**abusive**” condition & give the children who are directly or indirectly affected by the various abusive conditions a path of better future. The information was collected from 36 children aged 08-15 years is given sheltered by the NGO named “**APARAJEYO BANGLADESH**”. Findings revealed that a large number of the children are in the labor force, although the country laws prohibited child labor. The prevalence of child abuse and exploitation was widespread in all over Bangladesh. The incidence of physical assault is much higher among younger children although the probability of other types of abuse was higher among older children. Boys are more exposed than girls to abuse of any kind. Poverty is also significantly associates with child abuse. The out-of-school and the illiterate children, landless and unskilled laborers are more likely to be abused than others when age and sex of children are controlled. In this review it is highlighted on the causes of child abuse & given some recommendation to improve their (Children) condition with public awareness.

KEYWORDS: Child abuse, NGO, Bangladesh, Legal framework, Interventions.

1 INTRODUCTION

An estimated 300 million children worldwide are subjected to violence, exploitation and abuse including the worst forms of child labor in communities, schools and institutions; during armed conflict; and to harmful practices such as female genital mutilation cutting and child marriage. Millions more, not yet victims, also remain without adequate protection.

Today's Children are the architect of the golden future of any nation. For the establishment of a strong welfare nation it is necessary that they should be grown up by a sound & perfect environment as well as providing them every needs of life, the environment where they can live in sound health with mental, physical, moral & social privileges. But scenario is quite different in Bangladesh. Though it (Bangladesh) is called developing country but the reality doesn't support so. Like other developing countries we have a common problem of over-population. Children are not apart from this. As a result of over-population & various crises children are often facing lots of problems, they are abusing in various forms in different sectors. Millions of Bangladeshi children face a childhood that is starkly and brutally different from the ideals that were adopted in The Millennium Declaration, in 2000, by all countries, as a blueprint for building a better world in the 21st century. Poverty is denying children their dignity, endangering their lives and limiting their potentials. Abuse, exploitation and violence against them rob of a secure family life, which every child has a right to enjoy. It is a positive sign that many NGO's have extended their hands towards the helpless or the victims out of child abuse.

2 SOME PERTINENT LITERATURE

2.1 WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE?

Child abuse can be defined as causing or permitting any harmful or offensive contact on a child's body and any communication or transaction of any kind which humiliates, shames, or frightens the child. Some child development experts go a bit further, and define child abuse as any act or omission, which fails to nurture or in the upbringing of the children.

2.2 FORMS OF CHILD ABUSE

Child maltreatment refers to four types of victimization against children; they are:

- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Neglect

Physical Child Abuse:

Physical abuse is the non-accidental infliction of physical injury to a child. The abuser is usually a family member or other caretaker and is more likely to be male. Many physically abusive parents or the people doing abuse insist that their actions are simply forms of discipline, ways to make children learn to behave. Physical abuse can include striking a child with the hand, fist, or foot or with an object, burning, shaking, pushing, or throwing a child; pinching or biting the child, pulling a child by the hair or cutting off a child's air.

Emotional Child Abuse:

Emotional abuse is the rejecting, ignoring, criticizing, isolating, or terrorizing of children, all of which have the effect of eroding their self-esteem. Emotional abuse usually expresses itself in verbal attacks involving rejection, scapegoat, belittlement, and so forth. Because it often accompanies other types of abuse and is difficult to prove, it is rarely reported. Emotional child abuse may seem invisible.

Sexual Child Abuse:

Sexual abuse, defined as any sexual act between an adult and a child, has components of both physical and emotional abuse. Sexual abuse can be physical, such as inappropriate fondling, touching and actual sexual penetration. It can also be emotionally abusive, as in cases where a child is forced to undress or exposing a child to adult sexuality. Apart from the physical damage that sexual abuse can cause, the emotional component is powerful and far reaching. The layer of shame that accompanies sexual abuse makes the behavior doubly traumatizing. They may believe that the abuse is their fault, and the shame is devastating and can cause lifelong effects.

Child prostitution and exploitation of teenage children, in various forms, are common in Bangladeshi society although this is not readily admitted. Prostitution is a flourishing business in the country, as many children under the age of 18 are driven to prostitution as a means of day-to-day survival and lack of opportunity, and unknown numbers of underage girls are forced to accept prostitution as a profession every day. They suffer acute social exclusion, as they are unable to re-enter mainstream society, and are thus condemned to work that confirms and reinforces their marginalization.

Child Neglect:

Child neglect is the most frequent form of child abuse. Neglect is an approach of failing to provide for a child's basic needs, endangering a child's physical and psychological well-being. Child neglect is not always deliberate. Sometimes, a caregiver or the person responsible for the children becomes physically or mentally unable to care for a child, such as in untreated depression or anxiety. Other times, alcohol or drug abuse may seriously impair judgment and the ability to keep a child safe. The end result, however, is a child who is not getting their physical and or emotional needs met child neglect.

2.3 CHILD ABUSE IN BANGLADESH:

2.3.1 REASONS FOR CHILD ABUSE IN BANGLADESH:

Emotional and physical abuse against children is probably one of the oldest issues in the history of human civilization. Children were never fully safe from adults, despite the nice words about children such as, children are pure like flower;

children are innocent like angels; children are the future of the nation etc. Rather, the extent of violence against children has increased over time. The main reason for child abuse could be the conflict of interest and power between adults and children. Adults always tend to impose their choices on children without taking into consideration children's expectations. If children do not want to follow adult's decision they are likely to have abusive behavior, physical punishment and other forms of cruelty from adults. Lack of awareness about child rights among most of the adults could also be considered as one of the contributing factors towards the incidents of violence against children. Some other specific reasons are given below:

(a) Lack of Awareness about Child Rights among Adults and Children:

Although children are very much expected in our personal and family life, most of the adults do not have the adequate knowledge about the rights of the children. As a result, in most cases, adult's behavior towards children is not always supportive to the welfare and overall development of the children. Children also can not protest against the violation of their rights as they are not fully equipped to do the same.

(b) Adults Negative Attitude towards Children:

Adults do not usually see children as human being. Rather they consider children as some kind of special species, who are fully dependent on others. Adults are used to forget about the potential that children have and their special need as children.

(c) Lack of Opportunity for Children to Express Opinions:

Right to express opinions is one of the fundamental rights of the children recognized by the national and international instrument. However, in reality, children usually do not get the opportunity to share their own feelings on matters that have a direct or indirect effect on their lives. Adults have a general feeling that children are not capable to form their opinions regarding good and bad things and thus impose decisions on children, which sometimes turn to an act child abuse.

(d) Lack of Proper Implementation of the Laws Relating to Children:

The children of Bangladesh are seemed to be lucky in a sense that a Children Act was enacted in 1974 in Bangladesh, which was quite early in comparison with the emergence of the UNCRC in 1990. The Children Act 1974 provided almost all necessary rules and regulations in order to protect the rights of the children of Bangladesh. However, it is really unfortunate that all those good things are yet to be fully materialized.

(e) Non-availability of Children's Own Organizations:

There is no strong and effective children's organization in Bangladesh, especially in the rural areas through which children could mobilize themselves in order to protest against violent activities on children. There is also a lack of coordination among the existing children's organizations.

(f) Poverty:

Most of the people of Bangladesh live their lives with poverty. Due to the poor economic condition at family level many children used to suffer abusive behavior and physical torture by their parents. In some cases, failing to provide basic necessities parents force their children to do income earning activities at a very early age which in turn exposed children to various violent situation.

2.3.2 LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE IN BANGLADESH:

Law Relevant for Children in Bangladesh: The spirit of CRC is neither new nor alien to Bangladesh not only in traditions, belief systems and social but also in the realm of law. Thus, there are both Constitutional as well as individual legal enactments on children in Bangladesh. These are given below:-

A) Constitutional Provision Relevant for Children Rights in Bangladesh:

✧ Directive principles of State Policy - Articles 15, 17 and 25 (1).

✧ Fundamental Rights - Article 27, 28 (1), (3), 31, 32, 39 (1) and 39 (2).

✧ Power of Judicial Review - Article 26 (1), 26 (2).

✧ In particular, Article 27, 28 & 31 of the Constitution lay down the general principles regarding the protection of children and others from of all forms of discrimination. Article 27 of the Constitution declares that 'all citizens are equal before law and are entitled to equal protection of law.'

Article 28 of the Constitution provides that:

- 1) The state shall not discriminate only on ground of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth,
- 2) No citizen shall only on ground of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth, be subjected to any disability, liability, restriction or condition with regard to access to any public entertainment or resort or admission to any educational institution.

Article 31 specifies the right to protection by law. It states that 'to enjoy protection by law and to be treated in accordance with the law'.

B) Laws Relating to Children Rights in Bangladesh:

- 1) The Divorce Act, 1869 deals with the custody, maintenance and education of minor children while their parents are engaged in law suit for separation. The court may order the maintenance, custody and education of children.
- 2) The Guardian and Wards Act, 1890 empowers a designated court, if it is satisfied that it is on the welfare of minors to appoint a guardian.
- 3) The Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, 1933 provides for punishment for forcing a girl under 18 years of age into prostitution. Abetting any one having custody or charge of the girls is also a crime. However, this provision has now been incorporated in the Act vii of 2000.
- 4) The employment of children Act, 1938 regulates the employment of children in specified industries and occupation provides for punishment of employers contravening the provision of the act.
- 5) The cruelty to Women and Children (special provision) Act, 1995 provides for severe punishment, for rape, trafficking and kidnapping of children and for dowry related deaths. This has now been repealed and replaced by Act viii of 2000.
- 6) The vagrancy act of 1943 deals with handling of people over 14 years of age who lives on alms.
- 7) Repression of Women and Children Act of 2000 (amended in 2002), provides the prohibitions for the trafficking of women and children for the purpose of commercial exploitation or involuntary servitude.
- 8) The penal code, 1860, section-372 & 373 prohibits the selling and buying of a child under the age of 18 for prostitutions.
- 9) Section-374 of penal code 1860, prohibits forced labors.

From above brief description of the child related laws of Bangladesh, it can be easily seen that most of these are concerned with protection rights.

2.4 LIMITATION WITH THE EXISTING LAWS, POLICIES AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATIONS:

1. The definition of a child in the existing laws is not only inconsistent with that of CRC but these laws also contradict one another.
2. Child abuse is not defined by any existing laws of Bangladesh.
3. Preventive aspects regarding Child abuse is absent in Bangladeshi laws. Such as prevention of poverty, discriminative Economic, Social, Cultural system, family conflicts, physical and sexual abuse is absent.
4. Rehabilitation steps taken by Ministry of social welfare are too less then present necessities. There are no reformative steps for the crime-going children in the Bangladeshi laws.
5. Children Act-1974 does not protect a male child from the sentence of whipping. Also pro-children provisions are not at all adequately implemented owing to insufficient infrastructural facilities, lack of motivation and callous attitudes of the enforcing agencies. The mere fact the law still allow whipping encourage the use of physical violence against children instead of seeking other human ways of guiding them into a more positive behavior.
6. The guardians and Wards Act-1840 has a provision which allows court to terminate guardianship in case of incapacity, ill-treatment and neglect on the part of the guardians. There are several problems with the existing adoption procedure that it is slow, complicated and costly. And there are not many competent organizations to link up abandoned/orphaned babies with genuine foster parents.
7. There is nothing in the laws against the use of children as Agricultural and construction workers, although some of these may be more hazardous than factory work. Again there is no law against hazardous child labor in Bangladesh.

8. In Bangladesh there are no laws dealing with incest and sexual abuse or exploitation.
9. Penal Code 1890 prohibits forced labor, but the prescribed penalties of imprisonment up to 1 year or a fine are not sufficient stringent to deter the offence.

2.5 NGO INTERVENTIONS IN BANGLADESH REGARDING CHILD ABUSE:

2.5.1 ROLE OF THE NGOS IN BANGLADESH

Bangladesh has a large and most dynamic NGOs sector. It is most probably the largest activities of NGOs in Bangladesh. A number of NGOs are already engaged in organizing & offering services for the welfare & development of disadvantaged children. The passage and adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Children (UNCRC) gave the impetus to the concerned NGOs in Bangladesh to focus their attention on ensuring the rights of the children.

Bangladesh has been perhaps the most important hearth on the glove for Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs). Some estimates place the number of NGOs Bangladesh excess of 20000.

There are many types of NGOs in the country, but most focus on development or poverty alleviation. NGOs have taken many programs to help vulnerable, less privileged, undeveloped people. Our main finding how they are working for abusive children. There are many NGOs who are working in this field but some of them can't concentrate on the main issue. Some NGOs are working excellent job.

Our Social Welfare Ministry can't implement the project specifically for the abusive & disadvantaged children because it doesn't have enough manpower & skilled persons to utilize this type of project. Many foreign organizations are funding to Bangladesh Government to improve the conditions of vulnerable children. But Bangladesh doesn't have proper plan & resource to utilize this fund. That is why they divert this fund to NGOs. One of them is PECAR project which has been diverted to **Aporageyo Bangladesh** (a NGO).

I visited two of the NGOs named "**Save the Children, UK**" and "**Aporageyo Bangladesh**" who are working for the vulnerable children. It is to be mentioned that "**Aporageyo Bangladesh**" have four existing programmes in Chittagong Metropolitan area. They are as follows:-

- APARAJEYO BANGLADESH (Bot-toly)
- APARAJEYO BANGLADESH (Laldighi)
- APARAJEYO BANGLADESH (Sholoshahar)
- APARAJEYO BANGLADESH (Bahaddarhat).

As I visited the NGOs named "Save the Children UK, Bangladesh Programme" I found the information that as they are working for vulnerable children but their programmes or project depends on the country studies. They are working for children education, nutrition, safety, giving relief in the emergency period.

The information I got from the named "Save the Children UK" that at presently they have project in area of Rangpur, Myemensing, Sylhet, Rajshahi, Tongi, Dhaka, Comilla, Jesshore, Khulna, Barishal, Chittagong & Cox'sbazar.

Other NGOs like-

- ★ YPSA (Chandgaon C/A Branch)
- ★ YPSA (Mehedibag Branch)
- ★ YPSA (Khulshi Branch)
- ★ BITA
- ★ UCEP

are also involve in this sector. UCEP only giving them education and YPSA is giving service in the health sector. But APARAJEYO BANGLADESH rehabilitates the street children or the children victims of child abuse.

2.5.2 FOCUSING ON TWO NGOS WORKING FOR CHILDREN IN BANGLADESH

(1) APARAJEYO BANGLADESH:

Aparajeyo-Bangladesh (AB) is a national child rights organization. It was founded in 1996 when Terre des hommes Foundation (Tdh), Lausanne, Switzerland wanted to localize their Dhaka child rights programs. The program was launched in 1976 to work with children living in and around the slums of the Dhaka city. Its goal was to reduce their unbearable poverty, distress and vulnerability caused by the harshness of slum life. In 1989, another program started to serve the children who live on the city's streets. Over the years, AB has expanded its support to promote and protect the rights of other socially excluded children. Aparajeyo-Bangladesh is a non-government and non-profit organization that was founded with the sole purpose of serving socially deprived children in the urban settings in Bangladesh. Through its programs and projects, AB gives rights-based services to children through a holistic approach.

AB complies with the **United Nations Child Rights Convention**. It believes that childhood means much more than the space between birth and the attainment of adulthood. Childhood refers to the state and condition of a child's life - the quality of those years.

AB recognizes that children are the holders of their own rights. They are not just passive recipients of charity, but active participants in their life-skill development programs. Our programs just create opportunities for them to act.

In Chittagong, AB has 4 shelter-homes where about 800 children are getting the facilities provided by the AB. Here facilities like shelter, food, recreation, primary medical treatment, Education, motivation, counseling, skill training are providing to the children live in this shelter-homes.

When I visited there on my report purpose, I asked the manager of APARAJEYO BANGLADESH, Chittagong office, various questions. From his reply we found that AB preparing the children for the future by providing them safety, education, training, job placement etc. Generally AB provides the facilities to the children of age of 7-18 years.

AB- how Collect those Children?

In four ways, these are-

- 1) Field visit,
- 2) Child to child Contact,
- 3) Reference from Stakeholders
- 4) By Children Themselves

AB's Priorities

- Recognize the child as the subject of fundamental and inalienable rights.
- Give children a primary role in their own development, according them dignity as interlocutors and encouraging their participation in the adoption of plans and in the implementation of measures of relevance to them.
- Respect the principle of every child's right to have her/his own, cultural, family and community roots.
- Consider investment in children to be a sustainable factor.
- Consider children as a fundamental resource for the development of the country and an important indicator of its overall condition.
- Protect and empower children in street situations by addressing their needs against all forms of discrimination, abuse and exploitation.
- Prevent the exploitation of child labor, with particular attention to the most hazardous forms of child labor.
- Prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of children relative to street and brothel-based sex work and sex tourism.
- Regard trafficking and the sale of children as an intolerable form of exploitation.
- Protect child victims in contact/conflict with the law.
- Provide psychological and physical protection of the child's integrity against all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation and torture.

(2) Save the Children UK:

Save the Children UK worked in Bangladesh since 1970, providing relief during and after the war for independence from Pakistan together with local partner organizations. It has been working to protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation. In particular, it's helping children to avoid the situations in which they're most vulnerable: at work and in prison. It also helping more children gets a good quality basic education.

Save the Children UK, Bangladesh

Making sure young offenders get better treatment

Improving the lives of working children

Helping children from minority ethnic groups get a good start in life

Plans for the Future

The reach of Save the Children in Bangladesh is wide — it is estimated that it's programs impact almost one-third of the country's population. It plans to maintain the momentum of existing responses and introduce new initiatives as appropriate, including the following:

- Diversify its geographic presence by expanding programs in the Meherpur, Barisal and Sylhet areas;
- Build its child-focused response through stronger links with the Bangladeshi Ministry of Health and Family Welfare;
- Remain a national leader in the fight against HIV/AIDS;
- Invest in training to ensure that it's food security interventions remain strong; and
- Strengthen its emergency preparedness and response capacities

Save the Children UK's program or project is taken by the country studies. As they are working for the children they are concern about the children education, nutrition, safety, giving relief in the emergency period (like flood, cyclone or others natural calamities).

3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The specific objectives of our study are as follows:

1. To determine the forms and reasons of Child abuse,
2. Consequences arise out of child abuse,
3. To focus on NGOs activities in this specific arena,
4. To notify the national & international instrument which are related to reduce or abolish child abuse,
5. To draw attention along with raising awareness for child abuse to the people of our society,
6. Recommendation for successful abilities to the Government & NGOs for abolishing the Child abuse from Bangladesh as well.

4 METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The methodology of the study is descriptive. Methods followed to achieve the objectives are mainly based on secondary data (*i.e.*, from the books, law journals, Acts, articles, news papers, various law reports as mentioned in the references) as well as on direct field observation.

4.1 GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE OF THE STUDY

For the field survey we choose the Chittagong Metropolitan area. The APARAJEYO BANGLADESH (NGO) has four shelter-homes in this Chittagong metropolitan area where almost 800 children are sheltered. For finding out the present condition of the child abuse we have questioned 36 children of them who were collected from the various abusive situations. In our query session they were asked a set of selective questions formally & informally from which we have sort out necessary information.

5 LIMITATIONS AND CONSTRAINTS

Though, present study has been accomplished with high sincerity & pre-planning but not in a large context. It has not possible to cover child abuse as a whole in Bangladesh. For that there is need of longtime initiative & favorable environment. For such limitation the study has been done on the basis of children sheltered in the 4 Shelter-home of AB (APARAJEYO BANGLADESH) in Chittagong Metropolitan area. Although, the 2 NGOs have co-operated with us but as they have their own policy they cannot go beyond it. For this reason we could not get the huge information. Another thing we observed that the children had hesitated to giving information. As they are victim of various abuses like sexual abuses which cannot be so easy for them to explain. Besides this, lack of proper education, prejudice & present social values they have common tendency of hiding information. Last but not least, it is to be mentioned here that the information from the parents of the children could not be collected.

6 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 KEY FINDINGS

A large number of Children victimize by various forms of abuse almost every year in Bangladesh. While physical injuries may or may not be immediately visible, the impact of child abuse and neglect is often discussed in terms of physical, psychological, behavioral, and societal consequences. In reality, however, it is impossible to separate them completely. Physical consequences, such as damage to a child's growing brain, can have psychological implications such as cognitive delays or emotional difficulties. Psychological problems often manifest as high-risk behaviors. Depression and anxiety, for example, may make a person more likely to smoke, abuse alcohol or illicit drugs, or overeat. High-risk behaviors, in turn, lead to long-term physical health problems such as sexually transmitted diseases, cancer, and obesity. Some children experience long-term consequences of abuse and neglect while others emerge relatively unscathed. The ability to cope, and even thrive, following a negative experience is sometimes referred to as "resilience." A number of protective and primitive factors may contribute to an abused or neglected child's resilience. These include individual characteristics, such as optimism, self-esteem, intelligence, creativity, humor, and independence, as well as the acceptance of peers and positive individual influences such as teachers, mentors, and role models. Other factors can include the child's social environment and the family's access to social supports.

From the review of secondary information and interviews, it appears that the shame and stigma of abuse and the tendency to blame both the child victims and survivors rather than bring the perpetrator to justice lead to silence and cover-up. This presents a serious obstacle to protecting the rights of children and combating the problem of child abuse and exploitation.

- In Bangladesh, sexual abuse and exploitation is amongst the most prevalent types of violence that affect child throughout their childhood and adolescence.
- Physical abuse is very common phenomenon. It starts in a very early age from the family. They can also physically abused by relatives, teachers, caregivers or friends.
- Emotional abuse & Neglect are often seen in our daily livings to the children.

It is very important to notice that all of this happened in a very early age & it effects is not temporary, it goes up to influence in future.

6.2 RECOMMENDATION

6.2.1 RECOMMENDATION TOWARDS THE GOVERNMENT

First of all, we think that Government should be more concern about the matter of child abuse. Because the Government is the highest institution of any country as well as it has the huge responsibilities towards the mob. So, it is too logical that to remove any problems from the society like child abuse Government should come forward first than the others.

Besides these I would like to draw attention to the Government to take into account the following recommendation:

- Government should promote programmes to raise public awareness about child abuse. By which all walks of lives would come forward to resolve child abuse in every sector of society.

- Building a protective environment for children is essential for reducing child abuse which will ensure that children are safe from any forms of abuse, harm & exploitation.
- Planning schools for children, in whatever locations & situations, should certainly include consultation with children about their daily habits, their definitions of educational needs & their personal likelihood of availing themselves of schooling opportunities.
- Programmes to remove children from high risk jobs in some of the more hazard ridden factories, shops & other occupations.
- Government should introduce programmes to make more conscious to the law enforcing agencies about child abuse.
- Provision of more strict punishment on child abuse should be established in existing laws that relates to children.

6.2.2 RECOMMENDATION TOWARDS THE NGOS

From our observation we found that the NGOs are doing excellent job on child affairs. As per our observation, the NGOs are mainly working on urban areas but the backward areas are still out of there functioning. So, we would like to mention here the NGOs should extend their functioning procedure in every knock & corner of our country.

However, as per our concern the NGOs ought to focus on those points given below:

- NGOs should introduce better project that promotes the rights of the children
- Medical facilities should be upgraded for those children who are facilitating by NGO's
- NGOs should be more emphasis on Education programmes
- Food & shelter facilities should be ensured to the children on the priority basis
- NGOs should have a special cell for close monitoring on the vulnerable child abusive areas
- NGOs should provide legal aid for the children who are victimized by sexual abuse & have no capacity to get the facility of legal opportunity
- Helpline service should be promote by NGOs

7 CONCLUSION

The children are probably the most neglected members of society and hardly have any voice, even within the home. They may experience abuse at homes, in leisure activities at school, in fact anywhere. The abuse is usually caused by someone the child knows and rarely by a stranger. It is also important to recognize that children can be abused by fellow mates. As a result, they are consistently becoming easy victims of all sorts of child abuse. Though a number of NGOs are already engaged in organizing & offering services for the welfare & development of the disadvantaged children, but it is not serving as per the demand of the situation. Abuse against children must stop and the judiciary, law enforcing agents and the parents and guardians of children themselves, must be sensitized to the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the law protecting children in Bangladesh. Furthermore, children need to be protected from vested interest groups and acts of impunity towards children by those purporting to protect society must be dealt with seriously and in accordance with the law. Government should launched a general campaign to sensitized people to understand that physical punishment, beatings in schools, factories, shops & all places of employment are violations of child rights that creates child abuse. Children should include in the idea of having participate directly in the programmatic planning affecting their daily lives. A step-by-step approach to the implementation of the existing laws, including reformulation & repeal of the existing laws in the light of prevailing reality & the provision rights of CRC. NGOs should be persuaded by the Government to adopt a strict self-imposed code of conduct, the violation of which should lead to a strong disciplinary measure. There should be proper steps from the Government side for rehabilitation of abusive & reformations of the crime-going children. We believe one day will come when there would be no child abuse, no discrimination to the children & the children of Bangladesh will stand at the same ground. Every individual of the society should be aware of child abuse & it's bad effect, because it can hamper the society as well as demolish the social system. Individual or family counseling can help by saying "Say Yes for the Children" and it should be implemented for the sake of establishing child rights on the society. Children should be treated in such a way that they can never feel themselves helpless.

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