



METHODOLOGY

It was a qualitative study. Respondents were selected following a random sampling method from a sampling frame containing PWDs enlisted with BDDT. Interviews were conducted over phone considering the health measures approved by the ministry of health.

Eighty-five respondents were interviewed from various locations of the country. Forty-five of them are male while the rest 40 are female. Majority of the respondents (50) were physically disabled with equal representation of female and male. Fifteen respondents were from Visually Impaired group (7 females and 8 male) and 8 were with hearing problem (4 females and 4 males; interview taken from caregiver). The rest 12 (M-8, F-4) were multiple disabilities (including CP child: interview taken from caregiver)

Almost half of the respondents were from Dhaka division followed by 10 each from Chattogram and Sylhet division. Only one respondent was from Barisal division. A very small portion (less than 10%) were either from rural or peri urban areas.



“WE DO NOT SEEK ANY MERCY. FULFIL OUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS”

“PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY ARE VICTIM OF DISCRIMINATION IS A NORMAL PHENOMENON. I AM NOT DIFFERENT FROM THAT”

COVID-19

VOICES OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

OBJECTIVE

As part of the mandate, Bangladesh Disabled Development Trust has undertaken a qualitative study to understand the following issues of the people with disabilities:

- Understand the current situation of the people with disability;
- Challenges encountering by the people with disability in the context of Covid-19 pandemic and
- Recommendations made by the people with disability for their life and livelihood.

CURRENT SITUATION

- Lockdown does not allow them to perform their usual tasks
- Not receiving adequate support to live a normal life with family members
- Staying in a quarantined situation
- Scarcity of food, treatment facilities, assistive device and social security
- Female PWDs are at risk of sexual harassment
- Most of them need support from others to move but people do not want to touch them now
- Unable to pay house rent. Receiving threats from the house-owners
- Savings is going to end very soon. Salary is due for a significant number of respondents
- Cannot ‘work from home’ due to their nature of job
- ‘Middle-class’ are in awkward situation
- Become unemployed. Running on debt but it will be difficult to continue.
- Did not receive any support despite submission of my papers to the local authority
- No information about source of relief
- Sense of detachment from family and friends due to no physical communication
- Commodities are getting expensive

“ACCESS TO RELIEF IS MY RIGHT AS A PERSON WITH DISABILITY. MY HOUSE RENT SHOULD BE WAIVED”

“NOT RECEIVING ANY SUPPORT BECAUSE I AM A PERSON WITH DISABILITY AND NO CONNECTION WITH POLITICAL PARTY”



BANGLADESH DISABLED DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Bangladesh Disability Development Trust (BDDT) is a non-profit and non-government organization in Bangladesh has been working in line of its objective for developing the lives of vulnerable people.

BDDT is registered with NGO Affairs Bureau of Bangladesh Government in 2009 (Reg. No. 2429; Date 28-04-2009, www.ngoab.gov.bd) and Trusts Act in 2007. It is well recognized as a Disabled People's Organization-DPO for active participation, leadership and professional engagement with Persons with Disabilities-PWDs.

WHAT WE DO?

- Training for PWDs
- Rehabilitation services
- Educational Support
- Generate Employment
- Income Generating Activities-IGA
- Disaster response

Contact Us

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CHALLENGES FOR THE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

- Unable to collect relief items from where most people are collecting
- Many people are not aware about the special care for PWDs
- Hygiene maintenance. Materials are getting expensive
- At risk of losing their jobs. Not receiving due salary
- Unable to include their name in the list of beneficiaries because of staying back at home
- Lack of capital to restart their business once the situation gets better
- Going out for therapeutic treatment
- Psychological problems are being created
- Unable to look for a new job. Not receiving right information due to communication problem
- Borrowing is going to be a tough issue
- Lack of awareness among general people
- Non-disabled corona patients are neglected, disabled corona patients will be a huge burden
- Information disseminated are not disability friendly

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Financial support to address immediate needs of food and medicine
- Support allocated for the PWDs need to be reached at their doorstep
- Need a database of people with disability with their contact numbers so that nobody is missed out from enjoying their rights
- Develop a pool of trained people at different administrative levels to deal with PWDs during difficult situation like Covid-19
- Need a step from government so that employers do not kick them out from their jobs
- Introduction of ration card to ensure food security
- Arrange work for them according to their skills and capacities
- Arrange radio/tv programs for their entertainment and mental peace
- Steps should be taken so that they get paid according to the labor law
- Government should take extra care for the people with disability who are at work in this situation
- Government and the civil society have to come forward to ensure the rights of people with disability
- Employment need to be generated according to their capacity once the situation gets normal
- Arrange enough braille books and audio record for both academic and novel study
- Arrange for their rehabilitation through work when work begins