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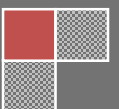
**BASELINE STUDY ON THE  
CHILDREN OF STREET BASED  
SEX WORKERS (CSBSW)**

**AN ATTEMPT TO EXPLORE THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC  
CONDITION OF CSBSW**

**SURVEY AREA: CHITTAGONG AND COMILLA CITY,  
PERIOD: JANUARY-MARCH, 2013**

**CONDUCTED BY: YOUNG POWER IN SOCIAL  
ACTION (YPSA)**

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**YPSA, Bangladesh, March 2013**

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## ***Forward:***

In order to combat with the situation of children of the street based sex workers in its worst forms effectively, the socio-economic condition of these children must be known. Their reality in terms of their working, living and health conditions, as well as the degree of hazardousness faced by these children was also not known. Gathering data on the above issues is very important for planning interventions that would help to know the real situation of these marginalized children in our society. Thus YPSA decided to conduct a Base Line Survey on Children of the Street based Sex workers with the main objective of the survey being to attempt to measure the social condition of these children two major cities of the country. This Study would generate benchmark information covering different aspects of the realities of the children of the Street based sex workers in Bangladesh.

I am very happy to express my gratitude to HSBC Future First for extending their kind cooperation for doing this survey. I am very much thankful to the interviewed children and the sex workers, the key Informants and local people of the sample cities for cooperating to the research team and field staffs.

I wish to acknowledge with deep appreciation the cooperation of Prof. Shairul Mashreq for reviewing the study with his vast knowledge and experiences. I am also thankful to Mr. Md. Mahabubur Rahman, Director (Social Development), YPSA for ensuring the coordination for conducting the study.

I want to express my heartiest gratitude to Mr. Muhammed Ali Shahin, Program manager, YPSA who wrote this report and led the study team with all of his dedication and hard work. I wish to record with appreciation the sincere service and hard work of other YPSA staffs who work as the field Supervisors and data collectors.

**Md. Arifur Rahman**  
**Chief Executive**  
**YPSA**

*The Baseline report on the Children of the Street based sex workers will help to understand a partial view of the socio-economic condition like-their living condition, income sources, social stigma, education status etc of the CSBSW in Chittagong and Comilla city. The report also addresses the role of the government through different national legal instruments The report also assess the need of children of street base sex workers considering their expectation and interest. The data of the report is considered also baseline data in order to track down changes in condition of the children of the sex workers through mid- term and final evaluation by the impact of the project titled as “Mainstreaming the Children of Street Based Sex Workers through Integrated Education Program ”, which is being implemented by YPSA and supported by HSBS-Future First special funding cycle-2012. The report also helps to review activities and strategies of the project in the light of baseline survey findings.*

## 1. **E**xecutive Summary:

Children and women involved in commercial sex work—and the children of Commercial sex workers—face social disapproval and rampant marginalization. The goal of the Baseline Survey is to measure the socio economic condition of children of street base sex worker of selected area which will help the project management to measure the project achievement after completing the project period. The survey thus conducted covers 105 Children of the Street based sex workers (CSBSW). They are sampled from some specific target areas of Chittagong and Comilla cities. It is estimated that there are around 1000 CSBSW in these target areas of these two cities. The survey also includes findings from FGDs (Focus Group Discussions) and KIIs (Key Informant Interview). The children are categorized in two age groups. Group 1 includes the children less than 15 years and Group 2 the children who are 15-24 year of age.

Almost 100 percent of the surveyed female children are working as sex workers and they don't live mostly in any permanent places. Most of the children of the SBSW squatter with their mother in small huts, live in train stations, bus stations and on the streets. The CSBSW are often brought up by their relatives like-grandmothers, aunts etc. The children say that they never stay with their father or his place. The Street based sex workers want to live with their children but they prefer to give away their children to relatives as they have financial crisis and to avoid the possible discrimination of their children from the society.

The husband of their mother is not the father of the child; the child is either of a former husband or of a client. 63% of the children, Group 2, of Sex workers living alone and remaining surveyed CSBSW are living with the female friends or husbands/wives and on the other hand, 69% of the surveyed CSBSW of Group 1 lives with their mother in the care of the mother.

The CSBSW has hardly enjoyed pure drinking water and hygiene sanitation systems and most of the time they eat from the street or road side vane.

35 percent of the surveyed children of Group 1 go to schools and 50% of the children never went to schools. Besides, 15% children dropped out from the schools and could only finish grade-2.

100 percent of the surveyed children of Group -2 don't study and don't go to schools. Among them 20 percent of children dropped out from the schools from Class-3.

As they don't have enough scope to play so they become involved with unsocial and minor criminal activities like –helping hijackers, drug dwellers, minor violence, begging , harassing common public etc.

In general most of the children started their income when they are 10-12 year old. The common jobs for these children are sex-work, waste picking, rail oriented jobs, and begging. 53% of the surveyed children of, Group -2, are involved and started their income by Sex-trade which is 89% of the female children are involved with this profession. The income of them depends on their physical appearance, particularly how beautiful and youthful she is. Some of these girls are already having kids but they don't have any husband.

It can be said that the children of SBSW face discrimination in society as soon as their background is revealed. In contrast to acceptance experienced by the children living in houses, the women who live with their children in the streets say that their children are teased, beaten and that they only have contact with other children of SBSW.

Very few sex-workers have voter ID cards and almost all the children of the street based sex workers don't have any birth registration certificates. And sex workers don't want their children to be a sex workers and even they don't want any influence of their profession to their children but unfortunately these children has great impact of their mother's profession into their life.

## 2. **I**ntroduction :

The children of the sex workers spend a considerable time living and working here and there as maverick. They feel they do not have any identification. So they suffer from identity crisis. The community looks at with hatred and negligence. In fact sex workers' children are illegitimate children. The abuse like bastard means the children of the pross or whore.

The daughters of the streets are mostly from the calendestineassociation of the sex workers surviving in a grave situation. They cannot claim any rights. So they suffer violation of human rights. Living on the margins of the society relying entirely on their own efforts with no one caring for them the sex workers' children remain as the most vulnerable children (MVC).

As a matter of fact sex workers' children are a special group of children far apart from urban poor children. They are out of reckoning in the definition of the children most vulnerable, exploited facing the highest risks. They suffer torture and harassment in the red light zone where they live and move with their mothers who are sex workers. As a counterpoint to the contemporary realities and the future prospects public policy on child development will have to be reformulated putting the last first including the MVC

Today's children are the future of to-morrow. Since they create the world of to-morrow, they are at the heart of social development. The future depends on how children prepare themselves to enter into the world of work. Children who are healthy, well-fed and educated grow up to be productive, innovative workers and responsible adults. But to-day more than one billion children (First Call for Children, A UNICEF Quarterly, 1995 / No1) are condemned to poverty, without jobs, without basic necessities, without hope. According to IPEC, 1994, about 200-300 million children work through out the world, work long hours in poor and dangerous conditions; the hazard that working children face are many and varied. This estimation may include the children of the sex-workers but very little attention been concentrated on the rights of these children.

Sex-workers in contemporary Bangladesh continue to suffer manifold harassments. Their basic rights are denied. They cannot dare claim right to be buried after death. Some communities require them to carry identity mark like burqus (black apron covering head to feet). They can move barefooted. It's found and mentioned in so many reports that the people verbally assault sex workers, threaten them with blades and acid, and spit at them. Police, mastaans (hoodlums), and customers physically and sexually abuse street-based sex workers—and extort money from them or deny them payment—with

impunity. Sometimes shopkeepers charge them discriminatory, extortionate prices. Many street base female sex workers in Bangladesh get pregnant willingly or even unknowingly but face dire situation raising the child. Many girls involved in child labour, such as working in factories and as domestic workers are raped or sexually exploited, these girls are highly stigmatized and many of them flee to escape such abuse, but often they find that prostitution is the only option open to them for survival - once in prostitution they become even more marginalized. Most of these girls enter the profession before the age of 12. It is reported that most CSBSW are engaged in street-based prostitution. At present commercial sex market is expanding at an unprecedented pace touching even every strata of the society to meet ever growing and diverse sex demand more and more children of the Sex workers have entered into this booming market as young sex workers.

Marriage is termed as being an escape from all sorts of insecurities and vulnerabilities of young sex workers. The society arranges marriages of girls in their early teens. The children of the sex workers in particular are exposed to sexual abuse and harassment everywhere, they are found mostly in the red-light zones, some moving around the street near shopping centre, bus terminals and cinema halls.

While the sex workers have such a social condition to live with, the children of these female sex workers in Bangladesh are at high risk of many significant threats to their health and wellbeing. While some of these problems are shared with other children of similar social and economic circumstances in Bangladesh, children of sex workers experience a range of problems due to the social stigma and threats associated with their mother's sex work and the resulting discrimination. Even if a mother decides to raise her child, they are frequently kidnapped and abused by pimps and thugs. Furthermore, prostitutes and their children live a precarious existence, with many being evicted from brothels and suffering physical and emotional harassment from police and goons.

If we see the legal obligation regarding the sex-workers we found that the Bangladeshi High Court has ruled, in early 2000, that prostitution as a livelihood is not illegal. Lawyers argue the judgment is highly unusual because it makes Bangladesh one of the few Islamic countries which do not ban prostitution. This judgment means that prostitutes in Bangladesh now have the legal authority to practice their trade.

Although the constitution of Bangladesh declares that the state should discourage prostitution, it is one of the few Muslim nations in the world that doesn't make it illegal. However campaign groups were disappointed in August when the Electoral Commission overturned its earlier decision to recognize prostitution as a profession. Many believed that it would reduce the levels of harassment faced by sex workers, and that it would



make it easier for their children to become enrolled in schools. Prostitution was legalised in Bangladesh in 2000 even though the Bangladesh constitution provides that the "State shall endeavor to prevent gambling and prostitution."

The overall context for children's rights, for all children, has legal, political, social, cultural, economic, demographic, and environmental dimensions. Bangladesh, which is now home to about 63 million children, enacted the Child Act in 1974 while ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1990. The CRC sets forth the rights of all children to health, education, participation, and protection.

The Government is developing laws and policies with a view toward consistency with the UNCRC and Bangladesh's other human rights commitments. Still, however, many of the rights guaranteed in international conventions are not yet supported with legislation, and some laws and policies contradict them. When appropriate laws and policies are in place, they are often poorly implemented and enforced.

In such a situation, the children of the street based sex workers are the most vulnerable, deprived and marginalized part of the society where their mother are treated as garbage and not even treated as human being. Such sordid lifestyles may have a profoundly negative effect on the child's development and well being – and the damage is further compounded if the mother decides to sell her own daughter into the sex trade, which happens frequently due to poverty and a lack of opportunities for education.



### 3. **B**ackground of the Study :

Children of street based sex workers *are* extremely disadvantaged group *They* are stigmatized from birth, according to the literature review. Also many people in mainstream society perceive that the children of sex workers were conceived in sin and that sinfulness is inherent *in* a person. This view makes their acceptance into society virtually impossible, so they often start working in the brothel themselves. Popular sympathy is more common with regard to children who are brought up in villages and then trafficked or otherwise forced into brothels.

According to the different reports and review, the children of sex workers face multiple problems. Most are effectively invisible to the state, because birth registration forms require the names of both the mother and father – the latter of who is either unknown or unwilling to become involved in the child's life. School admission forms also require the parents' names, and whilst some have used false names to gain entry, many children have been kicked out of school once authorities discovered they are the children of sex workers. Similarly, the department of social services runs 74 orphanages.

The previous reports say that the children of the Street based sex worker face unique risks, stigma and discrimination, as a result of their parents' profession. They are denied safe home, child care, health care facilities and education thus suffering numerous health problems, live a life of malnutrition, unwanted pregnancy and various mental health problems. Also, gender based violence, abuse and trafficking is very common for the children of sex workers. Children of the sex workers face serious threats of abuses and exploitation, as many face ill treatments such as getting sold when infant, forced into sex trade and drug business. Various factors directly contribute to their vulnerability and marginalization. These are the lack of education, inaccessibility of basic needs, proper safe housing etc.

Considering the facts YPSA started *taking* an initiative, with the support of HSBC-Future First Special Funding, which aims to bring life skills and dignity to these most deserving children those are excluded from government and non government services. The project will focus on the CSBSW who are from the most under-privileged conditions. The project will create windows for CSBSW to exercise basic human rights, increase self esteem and equal opportunities from the society & state.

But very limited studies have been under taken to bring to light the life of these children. The current study tries to depict the life of the street based sex workers' children and their *needs* in Bangladesh.

#### 4. **O**BJECTIVES of the Study:

The goal of the Baseline Survey is to measure the socio economic condition of the children of street base sex worker of selected area which will help the project management to measure the project achievement after completing the project period.

The study contains the following objectives :

- 1. To know the real socio-economic condition of the children of the sex workers including their personal information, living condition, social stigma, problems and suggestions there to,*
- 2. To assess the need of children of street base sex workers considering their expectation and interest.*
- 3. To consider baseline data in order to track down changes in condition of the children of the sex workers through mid- term and final evaluation.*
- 4. To review activities and strategies of the project in the light of baseline survey findings.*



## 5. METHODOLOGY

### 5.1. Survey

The survey was conducted by the YPSA team on one hundred five (105) children including Children of Street based sex workers (CSBSW) of different ages like Group One is including the children who are aged less than 15 years and Group Two who are aged between 15-24 years. There are 70 children interviewed from Chittagong city and 35 other children are interviewed from Comilla.

Group	Girls: Boys:	Total number:	Age (less than 15 years/ between 15-24 years/ both)
Group 1	Girls:26 Boys:28	54	less than 15 years
Group 2	Girls: 34 Boys:17	51	between 15-24 years
Total- 105 ( From Chittagong City 70 and from Comilla city 35 other children are interviewed)			

*Table-1*

### 5.2. Method of data collection:

At first, the team identified the location of different spots where the children of the street based sex workers are available. Observation on the activities of the sex workers and their children was done for some days to know the behavior, leisure time and daily life style.

To bring out the life stories and provide numerical support the study was conducted using mixed methodology. In consonance with the conceptual framework, a questionnaire including both open and close ended questions for in-depth interview constructed to collect data from the primary sources or the children of the sex workers. 'One to one interview' was done to get the answer of the questions. Most of the interviews were taken near the areas they live, play and work. Some interviews were also taken at night as they become available and relax at that time.

Data were also collected from a field study using other instruments i.e. Key Informant Interview (KII) and Focus Group Discussions (FGD). The KIIs are conducted with the

experts on socio-economic condition of street based sex workers like as government high and concerned officials, researchers, senior development activists and senior media personals. Some FGDs are also arranged with the street based sex workers or parents of the targeted children of the study, concerned civil society representatives and also with the Children of the SBSWs.

### 5.3. Method of data analysis:

Some reports on the children of the sex workers aided us though those were insufficient. The preparation of the report and analysis of data was done by the office management system (MS Word, MS Excel, MS Access, MS Power point) in computer.

## 6. Survey working area:

The study is conducted in two districts of Chittagong division: Chittagong district and Comilla district. Chittagong, the second largest city of Bangladesh and a busy international seaport, is an ideal vacation spot. Chittagong is the country's chief port and is the main site for the establishment of heavy, medium and light industries. Besides, the longest sea-beach, Cox's Bazar and it's adjoin areas have a lot of things to see and places deserve visit by the tourists. For this, people from different part of the country are traveling and living in Chittagong and most of the time they are living without families. On the other hand, the city Comilla is positioning in between the Chittagong and Dhaka, the capital city of the country. The city Comilla considered as one of the busiest transit point for commercial and economic purpose. Because of these reasons the sex trade became a very common in Chittagong and Comilla which trigger number of sex workers in these cities. It is hypothetically considered that these two cities will have the worst condition of the CSBSW. Children, in general, belong to a very vulnerable group of people, and therefore need special protection. Children of poor families especially face many problems in their daily lives. According to Woman and Children – The Forgotten Faces in the Coast by Khursid Alam Ph.D. and Sultan Mohammed Giasuddin, many children of



The city Comilla considered as one of the busiest transit point for commercial and economic purpose. Because of these reasons the sex trade became a very common in Chittagong and Comilla which trigger number of sex workers in these cities. It is hypothetically considered that these two cities will have the worst condition of the CSBSW. Children, in general, belong to a very vulnerable group of people, and therefore need special protection. Children of poor families especially face many problems in their daily lives. According to Woman and Children – The Forgotten Faces in the Coast by Khursid Alam Ph.D. and Sultan Mohammed Giasuddin, many children of

the coastal area of Bangladesh have no access to public school. Some could only attend for a short period of time due to various reasons, such as:

- Economic hardship, e.g. a child needs to work to support the family with some money, or the oldest child has to care for his or her younger siblings while the parents are working.
- Distance, when the school is too far away and therefore not accessible for the child.
- Clothing: “Sometimes a child is subjected to teasing by other kids because their worn out clothes do not match those of other kids. Daily humiliation of such bantering takes a toll on kids and they lose interest in pursuing education”<sup>1</sup>.

As a consequence many children are forced to do child labor in order to sustain their own lives. Girls are particularly vulnerable. Besides being under paid they often become victims of trafficking, sexual assault and prostitution.

Even worse than child labor is child-trafficking. Greedy traffickers abuse the desperate situation of poor families by promising lucrative jobs to their daughters and subsequently selling them into prostitution.<sup>2</sup>

An important issue is that the children’s health is often poor. Some of the main problems here are malnutrition, poor sanitation and a lack of immunization against common childhood maladies.<sup>3</sup>

Considering the facts the Survey is considered to be conducted in the above mentioned cities to explore the socio-economic condition of the Children of the Street Based sex workers.

## 7. **L**IMITATION OF THE STUDY

Due to the lack of available literature on the problematic under consideration, we are not able to conduct a comprehensive literature review. A few, publications though much less than enough may be helpful in this respect. The major limitations can be listed as below:

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<sup>1</sup> Khursid Alam Ph.D. and Sultan Mohammed Giasuddin, *Women and children – The Forgotten Faces in the Coast*, Chittagong: Community Development Center (CODEC), 2005. p.38.

<sup>2</sup> *ibid.* p.42.

<sup>3</sup> *ibid.* p.39f.

1. Limitation of available secondary sources for statistics of the CSBSW and relevant information regarding the street based sex workers.
2. Limited access in the areas where the CSBSW are living and staying.
3. CSBSW are not able to talk with a free mind to explain their socio-economic conditions and thus the interviewers need to create a friendly atmosphere to talk with the children in their houses and living places



## 8. **R**esult Analysis:

The survey was conducted over 105 Children of the Street based sex workers (CSBSW) and these are sampled from some specific target areas of Chittagong and Comilla city and it is estimated that there are around 1000 CSBSW in these target areas of these two cities. The survey also includes findings from FGDs (Focus Group Discussions) and KIIs (Key Informant Interview). It is difficult to determine the number of children of SBSW living in Chittagong and Comilla, since the number of SBSW living there is also not exact. According to the KII and different content analysis of newspaper reports, there are an estimated 200,000 sex workers in Bangladesh, and whilst it's more difficult to estimate how many sex workers have children, conservative estimates in Chittagong and Comilla place the figure at around 10,000 as it's a port and commercial cities of the country. Most of the Sex workers are not aware about the reproductive issues and that is why they became pregnant often and many SBSW give their children away to relatives.

### 8.1. **Housing and Living Condition:**

69 percent of the Children surveyed, in Group 1, live together with their mother, and 20 percent live alone and rest of the children live separately from their mother. 69 Percentage of the children are sleeping at a small hut with their mother and 30 percent of the children below 15 years are living at the station and street. Most of these children live together with a relative, with their grandmother or an aunt or uncle. Some of them live in another village or another city, and some in another place in Chittagong. Most of

the SBSW give away their children due to economic hardship, because they are unable to care for them or believe that their child will have a better life with their relatives.

32 Percent of the surveyed Children of Group 2 (age 15-24) are living alone in the different public places like train station and bus stations etc and also on streets. 21 percent of the children of the Group 2 are living with the mothers. 47 percent of the children are living with other friends and other relatives.

79 percent of the children of Group 2 are the sleeping at temporary places like streets or road-side sheds. 80 percent of the older children of the sex workers say, they were brought up with their grand-mothers and aunts as the mother were always busy. 100 percent of the female children are working as sex workers and they are sleeping in different places depending on the situation. 80 percent of the children said that they never lived in their father’s house and always lived with mother’s places

According to the FGD conservation with the sex –workers, Some SBSW visit their children two to three times per month and others, depending on the distance and the transport costs, only once or twice per year, but all have contact with their children. Most of the women would prefer to live together with their children rather than give them to a relative. But the women give away their children because, due to their work, they are not able to care for them. Furthermore, some of the women are afraid that their children will suffer discrimination if they live together. Sometimes they are forced by a family member to give their children away.

## 8.2. Care for the children

Children taken care of ;	Group 1	Group 2
Mothers	69%	22
Alone	22%	63
Other Relatives	8%	0
Husband/friends		15

*Table-2*

As described in the previous chapter, 69% of the surveyed CSBSW of Group 1, live with their mother in the care of the mother. The remaining 22% of the young CSBSW live alone and few of them living with other relatives. Surprisingly no child says that their father supports them, even though 75%

of the children have father. Some children say that their father cannot care for them because he is working all day or because, due to work, he is living closer to work. However, many claim that the father shows no interest in the children at all. The reason being is that often the husband of their mother is not the father of the child; the child is



either of a former husband or of a client. This is the scenario of the children age less than 15 years.

But for the Group 2 the scenario is different as they live alone and with their friends and share living spaces. And they have no one to take care of them and no one to share their suffering and provide support. They eat from the road-side restaurants or food van or tea stalls. They rarely go to the doctors for any sickness and take medicine consulting with the pharmacy. 63% Percentage of the children of, Group 2, of Sex workers living alone and remaining surveyed CSBSW are living with the female friends or husbands/wives.

All of the mothers are agreed that they have access to medical assistance in case their child is ill, although not all of them can afford to see a doctor and visit a pharmacist instead, who is evidently not as competent. Furthermore visiting a doctor is associated with high costs. Children of the sex-workers mentioned they are far away to have regular pure drinking water and hygiene sanitation.

### **8.3. Education status:**

The children of sex workers are commonly denied access to schools. If the Occupations of sexually exploited children become known in their places of origin, their families are often also scorned, and many families reject their children as a result.

All the children recognize the importance of a good education and want to go to school. 35 percent of the surveyed children of Group 1 go to schools and 50% of the children never went to schools. Besides, 15% children dropped out from the schools and could only finish grade-2.

100 percent of the surveyed children of Group -2 don't study and don't go to schools. Among them 20 percent of children dropped out from the schools from Class-3.

Most of the children or surveyed persons could not go to schools and quit from the school as their parents could not afford to send them to school because of financial crisis, family crisis, and identity crisis. Another fact is creating barrier for these children to go school as the school needs the names of the father which these don't have mostly. They stated that they could have done some decent jobs or involve in some fare profession if they would go to school regularly.

Group 1	Study		Drop out
	<b>Yes:</b> 35% study and go to schools	<b>No:</b> 50% percent never went to schools	15% drop out from the school and studied till grade 2
Group-2	Yes: N/A	No: 100 % don't study	20 percent studied till grade 3 and dropped-out

*Table-3*

The conversation with the SBSW in the FGD (Focus Group Discussion) revealed that the mothers (sex worker) of the children are willing to send their children when they are old enough despite the fact that these women do not have the means to send their children to school or would have to work extra hard in order to provide their children with an education.

One mother (sex worker) of a Child said that she spends 800 to 900tk per month on her child's education, which includes tutoring. Another mother said that she is afraid to send her son to school because he was once involved in a car accident while crossing a dangerous street on his way to school. Another mother said that she actually wants her son to go to school but he prefers working in a shop. Another mother told me that her son is just lazy. The women want to send their children to school, regardless of whether or not it is a boy or a girl.

#### **8.4. Sports and other Entertainment:**

As a general picture, most of the surveyed children don't have enough scope to go for any sports or games. Most of the children only hang around on the near by streets and different public places like-bus stations, train stations, public park etc. As they don't have enough scope to play so they become involved with unsocial and minor criminal activities like –helping hijackers, drug dwellers, minor violence, begging ,



harassing common public etc.

But most of these children watch television in nearby tea stalls and like to see bangle and hindi movies and drama serial. And the children like the negative contents like of violence, sexual violence etc. Some time, these contents of these TV entertainments are not appropriate to be a decent personality for a child. These penetrate the children to be more arrogant to the society.

The grown up children of Group 2 are also not to able find any places and interest for sports; sometimes they pass time by gossiping and playing indoor games. They also go cinema sometimes and visit some tourist spots with friends and colleagues. As mentioned , these age-group of children also get involve with some extreme criminal activities directly like –hijacking, snatching, drug trades, sex-work and different violence.

They don't get any opportunities and scopes to develop moral values and norms which is necessary for an individuals to be decent to the society. They have no religious values and rituals to maintain as they are always kept aside by the society because of the parental background for which they are not responsible.

Addiction is a common phenomenon for these children; it's revealed that they considered consuming drugs as the way for entertainments.

### 8.5. Income source:

Income source	Group 1	Group 2
Sex work	12%	53%
Waste Picking	37%	10%
Rail station based jobs	1%	8%
Begging	50%	5%
Undeclared	--	24%

Table-4

In general most of the children started their income when they are 10-12 year old. The common jobs for these children are sex-work, waste picking, rail oriented jobs, and begging. The female children mostly involve with sex work which they are forced to start at the age of 12 to 13 year. 12% of the children are already started and involved with sex work which is 40% of the surveyed female kids. And the male children are involve with waste picking and begging

even though the female children also are involved with the begging when they were very young. 37% of the children of Group-1 are involved with waste picking and 50% are involved with bagging.

53% of the surveyed children of, Group -2, are involved and started their income by Sex-trade which is 89% of the female children are involved with this profession. The income of them depends on their physical appearance, particularly how beautiful and youthful she is. Some of these girls are already having kids but they don't have any husband. They say they are not aware about the re-productive health issue and don't know about the family planning issues. 10% of the children here also doing waste and bottle picking. Interesting fact is that, 24% of the surveyed grown up children did not mentioned about their jobs. Its revealed that most of these children forced and derailed to support several unsocial and criminal activities directly or indirectly like as - hijacking, snatching, drug trades, sex-work and different violence.

The income of the children involve with sex work have high income (200-500 taka daily and monthly 5000 to 6000 taka as they don't do the work everyday) than the other children and their income is in-between 1000 tk to 2000tk per month.

Mothers often give relatives money to take care of their children when they are unable to provide shelter for them. The economic situation is often a reason for the SBSW to give away their children. All the women say that it is difficult for them to provide their children with the bare necessities.

#### **8.6. Social Stigma :**

It can be said that the children of SBSW face discrimination in society as soon as their background is revealed. Therefore their mothers try to keep their profession a secret, and if this is not possible the children's friendships are limited to children with the same background. Almost all the surveyed children say that the people behave very badly with them both in the work place and at the living place. The Birth and Death Registration Act, which came into effect in 2006, marks a turning point for children's rights in Bangladesh. The new law has created demand for birth registration by requiring it for many public services, including marriage registration and school enrollment. But the children of sex workers don't have this registration as their mother often fears that their children will face severe discrimination if her identity is revealed.

The Election Commission in Bangladesh says prostitution will be recognized as a job title on new voter ID cards."Sex workers can mention prostitution as a profession in the voter identity cards," One of the former Election Commissioner Shakhawat Hossain told the BBC. With the new identity cards the sex workers would not hesitate to mention their profession in offices and public places. But the real truth is that the sex workers don't bother with the voter ID cards, most of them don't have the voter ID card as it exposes their identity. According to the FGD with the sex workers, the voter id cards can reveal their identity for which they and their children may face severe discrimination in the society.

Many children of sex workers are drawn into commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes when they are well below the age of puberty. Some of these children are based in large registered brothels, which are scattered throughout the country. Some work on the streets, in parks, or at bus or train stations. Within brothels, girls who are bonded sex workers are the most deprived of their rights. Their acceptance into society is virtually impossible, so they often start working in the brothel themselves. Street-based sex-workers have greater independence and agency, but they are more vulnerable to physical and verbal abuse and to arrest and maltreatment in the criminal justice system. Abuse, exploitation, and the lowest quality of care arrangements are the major problems of these children which are often linked to one another, and they have multiple causes that are also interlinked.

The local people who are involved with different crime try to utilize them in different criminal activities and if they refuse to do so then they are often beaten. The children say, when the people reveal that they are children of a sex worker, they treat them like animals. Even some time they are sacked from their jobs.

They have friends who are also children of sex workers and they dare to make friends with others as and the grown up children don't have close friends and they became alienated gradually because of the social stigma towards them. The shocking factor the Sex-workers that they don't get space for the death bodies in the grave yards and

Since 69% of the children live with relatives rather than their mothers, their friends do not know their mothers' profession and therefore these children do not face any kind of discrimination. In addition, the women who can afford a house for themselves and their children, do not tell their neighbors and friends about their profession, and therefore their children do not have any problems when it comes to discrimination. However there have been rare occasions in which the women have moved houses due to community members finding out about their profession.

In contrast to acceptance experienced by the children living in houses, the women who live with their children in the streets say that their children are teased, beaten and that they only have contact with other children of SBSW.

### **8.7. Future plan/aim in life:**

Almost 100 percent of the children said that they want to change their present job especially the girls who are involved with the sex work. They say that they don't enjoy it and they are doing it because it's easy to earn money as they are not received cordially and able to find decent jobs. They want to work in garment factories learning different skills, Beauty Parlor etc and the boys (70 percent) want to learn electrical work and 20

percent want to learn driving. Besides, 10 other percent of the children want to be self-employed by opening grocery shop.

Mothers wishes for the future of their children illustrate for the first time since this research has been conducted, that there exists a clear difference between the sexes in this society. For their sons most of the women wish for a good education and a job. Some of the women are satisfied if their son gets any job with which he is able to make a living. Others are more ambitious and state that they want their sons to have a more lucrative profession. While most of the women wish for their daughters to have access to education, their main goal is for their daughters to get married. Only two women said that they have no idea about the future of their children.

## 9. **N**needs of the Sex-workers for their Children:

Of the services that the children require, education takes precedence. Action Aid Bangladesh (an international NGO) in collaboration with its local partner opened a pilot day care centre for 15 children of sex workers in order to integrate them in the mainstreaming education system. The day care centre was transformed into a permanent shelter that warrants children's access to basic needs such as education, food and health support. It's reported that now 27 children of sex workers are receiving education on both primary and secondary level obtaining excellent results in school examinations. Children are also benefiting from school support and cultural activities. Although many of them still need to conceal their familiar backgrounds to protect themselves from social stigma, they realize now that they can change their fate



through education and refuse to come back to the brothel. As it has previously been illustrated, majority of the children have attended school up to a certain year, and those who are too young to attend school are most likely to enroll when they are at the right

age. However, most of the children only attended school until they were ten years old, which implies that their knowledge is very basic and their opportunities as well as their awareness of their options for the future is very limited.

The sex-workers (mothers) think, the educational facilities should be provided for their children. They also emphasize that they understand how a proper education can lead to a bright future for their children. The mothers want their children to continue their education for as long as they can. Some of the children left school because they had to work to make a living. Others preferred working in lieu of attending school.

While some women mentioned that vocational training for their children was most important, it is understood that many considered education and training to go hand-in-hand. When considering the future of their children, the majority of mothers would be happy if their children were able to find any opportunity to be trained on technical jobs that would enable them to make a living on their own. This illustrates that education leads to capacity development enabling the children to have an entry into the workforce.

It is evident that above all else, if education didn't require extra costs such as uniforms, supplies and tutoring, the mothers' financial burdens would be alleviated.

After education, most women stated that they need daycare facilities for their young children. It is particularly the women who have to care of their children by themselves who stress this point. I then asked the women whose children live with their relatives if a daycare center would be a better alternative than their relatives' houses. They all appreciate the fact that a daycare center would allow them to live with their children but they also say that it will depend very much on the quality of the daycare center. They would have to compare the two options, and then decide which would be better for their children. A daycare center would allow them to see their children more often and if it was free, it would help them financially.

The women also mentioned the need for healthcare facilities for their children. Although some of the women mention "economic support", if the other services are provided to them, it will already improve their financial situation.

## 10. **R**ole of the Government:

The Government holds the ultimate responsibility for ensuring the rights of all citizens. It has the duty to provide legislation consistent with its international obligations, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and for ensuring enforcement of related laws and policies. Policies regarding children's right to protection are weak in Bangladesh, but the political will to bring about change is growing. The recent separation of the judiciary from the executive provides a long awaited opportunity for legal reform in favor of children. The judiciary, particularly the higher judiciary, has become proactive in promoting and protecting the rights of children in contact with the law and has requested legislative changes in accordance with international standards.

**Draft CHILD BILL 2013 (Proposed amendment of Child Act 1974):** The existing law on children was enacted in 1974 while Bangladesh ratified the UN Child Rights Charter in 1990. The proposed amendment of this Child Act could be passed in June 2013 as the cabinet already approved the draft of the amendment of the Child Act 1974, this could be a remarkable step forward of the government of Bangladesh. The proposed amendment of bill defines the CHILD as up to 18 years of age. The proposed draft has provisions of fine for violence against children, forcing children into begging and leading them to go astray, and fine for supplying arms or drugs to children. Under the proposed amendment, Child Welfare Boards will be constituted both at national and local level and there will be child desks in every police station under the supervision of a sub-inspector. Besides, separate child courts will be constituted in district and metropolitan areas, according to the proposed amendment. The government has paid very little attention for the children of the sex workers to ensure their basic needs and rights. If this proposed amendment passed, there will a new hope generated to see something positive to the children of these street based and floating sex workers through the proper implementation of the law.

### **Government role in regard to violence and commercial sexual exploitation**

**of children.** The Suppression of Violence Against Women and Children Act 2000 (amended in 2003) allows for the prosecution of the perpetrators of some specific and severe kinds of violence against children—such as kidnapping, abduction, rape, sexual harassment, and trafficking—but it excludes some important forms of sexual abuse and exploitation.

The police have responsibilities to provide protection, but they are known to abuse children themselves and have not generated trust among protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and communities.

Children of the street based sex workers are the regular victim for the violation like - kidnapping, abduction, rape, sexual abuse, and trafficking etc. The government has very



no intervention especially for the children of the street based sex workers for the implementation of the above mentioned law which can protect the CSBSW from the violations.

**Government role in child labor.** Bangladesh has ratified ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour. It has not, however, ratified ILO Convention 138 on minimum ages of employment. The Labor Act 2006 defines minimum ages for light, regular, and hazardous work (ages 12, 14, and 18 respectively), but these types of work are not clearly defined. The Government does not have enough monitors or monitoring capacity to enforce the law, and corruption has been a problem in the monitoring process. The Children of the sex workers are one of the most victims of the hazardous and risky labors. The labor law is never implanted for the betterment of these very marginalized part of the children community.

**Government role in protecting children without parental care.** The Ministry of Social Welfare and its Directorate of Social Services (DSS) are responsible for identifying and supporting socially disadvantaged and at-risk people in Bangladesh, including children. Their strength lies in their comprehensive network of social workers at the union level. They are constrained, however, by limited managerial and technical capacity, limited financial and human resources, and the sheer magnitude of their task. At present most of their activities are reactive and curative, with a strong focus on institutionalization and little attention to preventive measures or the reintegration and rehabilitation of children at risk. The CSBSW can be considered as the children who are out of parental care. The government services never reach to these vulnerable groups of these children.

**Government role in regard to justice for children.** The Children Act 1974 and the Children Rules make an implicit link between children without parental care and criminality, referring to these children as “potential offenders” rather than citizens with rights. The treatment afforded to children in conflict with the law and those without parental care is essentially the same—they are brought before the juvenile court, which can order them to be placed in an institution. This is inconsistent with international standards. Where laws and policies are in place to protect children, they are rarely enforced. According of the FGD with the CSBSW and their mother, they have never gone to the court for any justice regarding the violations happening against them everyday. They say, they fear to go to the police stations or any especial courts for the justice.

## ***1. Five case studies***

It was difficult to conduct the case studies, as the problem is that many children of SBSW do not know about their mother's profession until they are roughly twelve to fifteen years old. Therefore the questions asked have to be chosen with caution. In addition.

### **10.1 Shumon**

**S**humon is the son of a SBSW, but he does not know about his mother's profession. He lives right here near the train station, on the street, with his family, including his aunt. He likes them all very much and has a good relation with them. During the interview, they stand next to him. He also has one older brother but he has left the place due to his work.

Shumon used to go to school and enjoyed this very much, but unfortunately his school has closed. Still, he wants to learn how to write and read. When he is older he wants to become a car-driver. He already likes to ride his bicycle, though once he bumped into a man who in turn beat him. Otherwise he has not faced violence so far.

Now he spends his days gossiping with his friends. They form a group of approximately ten kids, all living near the train station.

First he acts very timid and hides behind his father, but after some encouraging words from the interviewers, he grins into the camera. His smile gets even bigger while he admires his picture on the digital screen.

### **10.2 Karim**

Karim is 12 years old. He lives with his parents at his father's restaurant. He is an only child because all of his siblings have died.

Sadly his parents did not admit him to school. He has to work in the restaurant. Karim does not like his work as he earns nothing and sometimes his father even hits him.

At least the relationship to his mother is a lot better: "She loves me really much". However, he does not know that she works as a sex worker. In addition, he has many friends whom he knows from the street. He likes playing and gossiping with his friends. Sometimes, if he has free time he watches TV or listens to music. His dream for his future is to become a businessman and to have a better life.

### 10.3 Nishu

Nishu lives with her parents, brothers and sister. She loves to go to school and she wants to obtain a high level of education. She wants to finish school by any means. She also hopes that her siblings will finish their education. She has some very good friends that she knows from school. She likes playing with them in her free time, but often she is busy. When she comes home from school, she helps her mother with the chores. She knows that her mother is working but she has no idea about the nature of her job. The relationship with her mother is very good.

When Nishu grows up she wants to work as a school teacher. She wants to have a better life in terms of living in a nicer house, wearing better clothes and eating delicious food.

### 10.4 Etu

Etu is only six years old. She lives with her parents, two sisters and brother at Paharton. Her family means a lot to her and she likes them very much, except that sometimes she thinks that her mother loves her brother more than her.

During the day she mostly stays at home and sometimes she plays with her friends who all live in the same area. Due to her young age, she is not attending school, but she probably will start school next year. She does not have to work although she often has to care for her younger brother.

She knows that her mother is working but she does not know her profession. In her future Etu wants to be a doctor, at the moment she would love to get better food, shelter and some other facilities.

## **C**onclusion: *Findings and recommendations.*

This research functions as basic information about the real situation of the children of floating sex workers in the Chittagong and Comilla City areas. The research made it clear that the SBSW found solutions for the upbringing of their children, but many of these solutions are not satisfactory. In many cases the SBSW were forced to give their



children away to family members and many of them are not able to visit them as often as they wish. If the children live together with their mother it is sometimes difficult for the SBSW to find someone to care for the children while they are working. Even though the children have basic education, most of them left school too early and are not able to find a good job. Most of the SBSW can afford medical treatment for their children, but it is not easy for them to pay it. Often they can only visit a pharmacist instead of a doctor. In addition to these problems they are discriminated by the society, therefore many mothers try to keep their and their children's real identity secret. They are also the common victims of all sort of violence against the children like –sexual abuse and exploitation, trafficking, physical assault, involving in criminal offences like –drug and arms delivery etc.

In other places in Bangladesh and in Asia there are already some facilities specifically for the children of sex workers. These facilities are schools or daycare centers and their goal is to give the children a safe environment, shelter and a good education, in order to prevent them from following in the footsteps of their mothers.

Sex workers are also human beings. They need square deal. They also need esurience the rights of safe birth and the survival of the newly-born babies through the provision of family planning services, prenatal and post-natal health care.

They also need to ensure proper food and nutrition of the children of the sex workers. Ensure their access to integrated health care system .They need educational facilities with any fictive relatives like aunts taking care of their education.

The whole community should look at the sex workers and their children rather sympathetically. The project personnel may well try to organize community stakeholders to address the grievances of sex workers' children. In fact they need proper care and rehabilitation. They may be tormented by trauma of forced prostitution. They should be brought under the programme like counseling and motivation.

As sex workers are abandoned and ex-communicated so are their children. They must be bruoght under policy fold with direct services like shelter, mobile schooling, recreation, legal aid and supports for their relatives who take care of them

Another consideration is sex-related health. As there the problem of STD- HI attempt must be taken to minimize sex trade sex trade. The sex workers and their children must be given health education. This must be treated an adjunct health care system putting the sex workers first. We recommend conduct of census on sex workers and their children. It is a difficult task. As there is an open sex market with the availability of commercial sex

workers. This is institutionalized in developed countries with all health services. All the same clandestine prostitution or brothels are difficult to identify. Many urban imposters control it with their god fathers in mafia circles giving back up services. They are trafficking drugs with many sex workers transiting drugs as peddlers.

Finally, we suggest construction of drop-in centers for the children of sex workers training them to shift to other occupation so that they get rid of stigma. They may be prodding into positive action. They should be involved in income generating activities

In fact this research results did not bring many surprises. They showed what was predictable; namely that it is difficult for the women to look after their children, that the women really give their best, but that facilities such as daycare centers or schools would make the sex workers' lives easier on an economic and emotional level and most importantly, that these institutions may provide better future prospects for the children.



## **Acronyms :**

CRC-	Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1990
SBSW-	Street Based Sex Workers
CSBSW-	Children of the Street Based Sex Workers
FGD-	Focus Group Discussion
KII-	Key Informant Interview
GOVT.-	Government of Bangladesh
UNICEF-	United Nations Children's Fund
ID-	Identity
ILO-	International Labor Organization
DSS-	Directorate of Social Services (of the Ministry of Social Welfare)

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## **Mainstreaming the Children of Street Based Sex Workers Through Integrated Education Program (YPSA-CSBSW)**

### **Survey Format**

(Interview questionnaire for survey on socio economic condition of children of street base sex workers in Chittagong & Comilla)

#### Consent

I am \_\_ [say your name] \_\_\_\_ came from YPSA. We are conducting a survey to understand the socio economic condition of children of street base sex worker. In this regard, we need to ask you some questions about your financial, social, family & personal life. Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) conducting the survey with the support of HSBC Future First. In this session whatever you say, will be kept confidential and be used only in study. We do not need to record your name and address anywhere in the study. If you wish, you may withdraw yourself at any point of the interview. The information that you are providing will help YPSA CSBSW Project and help to improve the condition of these children. I hope you would provide correct and authentic information. Can we proceed to the interview process? (

#### Questionnaire

1. Name 2. Age
3. Address – Para/Mahalla                      ward-                      Police station
4. Who are living within your family?
5. With whom are you living with now? Mother/Father/Parents/Others
6. Who looks after you? Mother/Father/Parents/Others
7. Where do you sleep? At home/ others home/others
8. Do you play any sports? Yes/No
9. Do you watch television?
  - A. Which program do you watch?
10. Do you study?
  - A. If not why don't you study?



B. Do you want to study?

C.If you study where do you study –Govt School/NGO School/Others

D. Do you go to school regularly?

E.If don't , why don't you go to school? No time/ Punishment/pressure of study/others

F. How do you feel to go to school?

G.Can you explain why do you feel like that?

11. Do you have any income?

A.When did you start working? What was the means/through which work?

B.Did you receive any training for that work?

C. How long do you work?

D.How much do you earn per day/ how is your daily income?

E.Where do you work

F. How is the working environment?

12. How do people behave with you?

A If bad then why do they do so?

B, Do you have any idea how it can be reduced?

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13. What kind of work do you like?

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14. What is your future plan? / What do want to do in future

Name, Designation & Signature of Data Collector : \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Organized by YPSA



**Mainstreaming the Children of Street Based Sex Workers  
Through Integrated Education Program (YPSA-CSBSW Project)**

**Base line Survey**

**FGD Checklist for the sex workers**

**Place :** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nome of Data collector**

**Name of Data varifier**

1. **How much do you earn –Daily, monthly**
2. **Where do you spend your income- ?**
3. **How do people behave with you?**
4. **Do you have national ID Card?**
5. **Do your children have birth certificate?**
6. **How you raring/looking after your children presently?**
7. **What do you thinking about their (children)?**
8. **How law inforcement agencies treat with me?**
9. **Do you have intention/desire to give your children education?**
10. **In what occupation do you want your childern?**



**Mainstreaming the Children of Street Based Sex Workers  
Through Integrated Education Program (YPSA-CSBSW Project)**

**Base line Survey**

**FGD Checklist for the children of sex workers**

**Place :** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nome of Data collector**

**Name of Data verifier**

- 1. Where do you live and with whom you love?**
- 2. How do you feel to live there?**
- 3. Tell something about your daily life?**
- 4. How others behave with you?**
- 5. What do you do when you get sick?**
- 6. What problem do you face in different season?**
- 7. When did you earn first? What was your first work?**
- 8. Who provide you job opportunity?**
- 9. Through which work you can earn much?**
- 10. What is your future plan?**