

Report on DAISY For ALL in Bangladesh

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Background

Bangladesh is a developing and high populated country with 150 million people in the world and more than 10% of the total population are people with Disabilities and more than 50% people are illiterate or print disabled who are unable to read printed materials. Accessible information are also not available to them and it was not recognized their information rights. 4 millions people are visually challenged in this country and number of visually impaired students are now studying at school and University Level. There is a severe lacking of adequate study materials & books for them both in market & libraries and it is noted that there is no deliberate policy of the government to develop the education system for visually challenged. The class notes & lectures are a base of study at school and University level which is never at an accessible format for the visually challenged. Therefore, they are always lagging behind in their studies and receiving information. This creates an uneven competition for the print disabled and visually challenged. However, there are a number of technical progresses all over the globe that can provide the print disabled and visually impaired people with accessible information systems & study /information materials which can enable them to equal access of information like the visually able people. But due to the unavailability of accessible reading materials, lack of skills & opportunity to use these technologies the print disabled and visually impaired people are unable to utilize these opportunities. In this circumstances, DAISY has been playing a vital role for the people with challenged and print disabled people in Bangladesh since 2004 taking out this Chinese wall of receiving various information. At present, it is going to popular method among the visually impaired students and print disabled people in Bangladesh.

We have already made 155 Digital Talking Books based on various social issues, which are unavailing before. More than 20 organizations and 500 visually challenged students has become member of this centre.

Introduction of Focal Point

1. Organization details:

1.1 Contact Information:

Head Office (at Commercial Capital City):

Young Power in Social Action (YPSA)

House # F (10) P, Road # 13, Block-B, Chandgaon R/A, Chittagong-4212, BANGLADESH.

Telephone No.: +88-031-672857, 2570915, Fax: +88-031-2570255, Cell: 01711- 825068

Email: info@ypsa.org, arif@ypsa.org **Website:** www.ypsa.org

Dhaka office (at Capital City):

Young Power in Social Action (YPSA)

House # 13/ KA (Ground floor), Road# 02, Shamoly, Dhaka- 1207, Bangladesh.

Tel:+88-02-8142351, 8143983, Tel+Fax:+88-02-9130750, Ext-105.

Mobile no: +01818-578790, E-mail: dhaka@ypsa.org

1.2 About YPSA

YPSA is a social development organization directed towards assisting the development initiatives for bringing the socio-economic changes of its target population since 1985 (UN International Youth Year). YPSA was awarded International Youth Peace Prize '99 (IYPP) and Best Social Development Organization Award 2000 from Bangladesh Government for its outstanding contributions to the society.

YPSA is the full member of INFOYOUTH Network of UNESCO and INJEP, France. YPSA regularly receives technical and financial supports from different International and National organizations and Networks to implement need based program. YPSA has strong networking with like-minded National and International organizations/forums/networks such as National Forum of Organizations Working with Disabilities (NFOWD), Chittagong Society for the Disabled (CSD), Associate member of DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System) Consortium and Asia Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD) in the person with disability field. Through networking YPSA have close and working relations with various departments of United Nations such as Youth Unit, UNESCO, ILO, UNFCCC, UNDCCP and UNNGLS. YPSA is fully disabled friendly organization and a number experienced Person with disabilities working with YPSA as staff. At present YPSA's development programs are being directly implemented in the hilly areas, coastal areas & Metropolitan area of greater Chittagong (Southeast part of Bangladesh) with a total no. of 5 million populations (estimated) and for advocacy and networking throughout the country of Bangladesh.

2.3 VISION OF YPSA

YPSA envisions a society without poverty where everyone's basic needs and rights are ensured.

2.4 MISSION OF YPSA

YPSA exists to participate with the poor and vulnerable population with all commitment to bring about their own and society's sustainable development.

Legal Status:

YPSA is a nonprofit and non-political social development organization registered with the People's Republic of Bangladesh including NGO Affairs Bureau and Joint Stock Companies and Firms. For more details please visit www.ypsa.org/aboutus.htm

Primary Activities/Program Interventions

♦ Institution Building ♦ Livelihood ♦ Disability ♦ Governance ♦ Education ♦ Micro Finance and Micro Enterprise ♦ ICT4D ♦ Reproductive Health and HIV & AIDS ♦ Health and Nutrition ♦ Environment and Bio diversity Conservation ♦ Human Resource Development ♦ Disaster & Emergency Management ♦ Research ♦ Advocacy ♦ Publication ♦ Networking & Support etc.

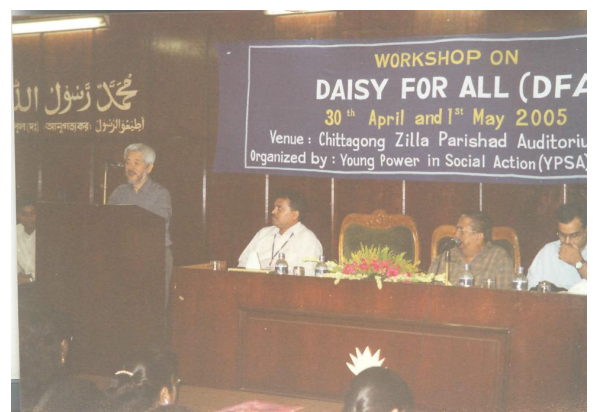
Annual Budget:

Total Annual Budget of YPSA for the year of 2007-'08 –**358,284,101 BDT (5,118,344 USD)**

DAISY For All Workshop

YPSA successfully completed two-days workshop on DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System) For ALL (DFA) on 30th April and 1st May 2005 in Chittagong, Bangladesh.

DFA workshop was facilitated by Mr. Hiroshi Kawamura, Manager DAISY For All (DFA) Project, Japan and Mr. Dipendra Manocha, Assist. Manager DFA Project from India. 90 participants of 50 Govt. departments / Organizations / institutions from all over the country were actively participated in the



first DAISY workshop.

In that workshop, YPSA was selected Mr. Vashkar Bhattacharjee as a DAISY focal person and Programme officer of DFA Project in Bangladesh.

Inauguration of ICT & Resource Centre on Disabilities(IRCD)

Vision of ensuring the equal success to ICT : To ensure equal access to Information Communication Technology for Persons with Disabilities, YPSA had established ICT & Resource Center on Disabilities in April 2005.

Mr. Hiroshi Kawamura, the President of DAISY Consortium, inaugurated the center and Mr. Dipendra Monocha, (Director, National Association for the Blind, India) was also presented in that program.



It is noteworthy that IRCD [center is making all kinds of books in DAISY format and working for promotion of DAISY in Bangladesh.



Focal Point Training

YPSA – Human Resource Development Centre[HRDC],Chittagong, Bangladesh
October 10 - 15, 2005

Conducted by - Prashant Ranjan Verma, Roslina Che Lah and Miki Azuma With the Assisted by- Dipendra Manocha

This training course was focused on NCC production using MyStudio PC, Sigtuna DAR 3 and full text production through DAISY software Sigtuna DAR 3. Ten participants of 7 different organizations

from Dhaka and Chittagong, were taking part in that training.

Most of the participants were able to create at least 3 different DTBs during that training. At present, most of Focal point trainees are involved to promote DAISY in Bangladesh.

List of the participants:

SL	Name	Organization
01	Vashkar Bhatracharjee	Young Power In Social Action (YPSA)
02	Monoj Kumar Barua	Young Power In Social Action (YPSA)
03	MD. Habibul Islam	International Islamic University Chittagong

04	MD. Abdus Samad	Government School For The Blind
05	MD. Rasel	Bangladesh Protibandhi kallyan Somity(BPKS)
06	MD. Rashed –Ujjaman Chowdhury	UTSA
07	MS. Masuma Akther	Center for Differently Able (CDA)
08	Shirin Akther	Vocational Training Center for The Blind (VTCB)
09	Shaheda Khanom Naly	Young Power In Social Action (YPSA)
10	Debobrato Chakraborty (Debu)	Young Power In Social Action (YPSA)

Focal Point Setup

Focal Point of DAISY was established in October, 2005 and three rooms were allocated for DAISY Focal Point office at 3rd Floor , YPSA Head Office in Chittagong.

All equipments of DAISY were setting up, such as, 1. two production PC, 2. two Editing PC, 3. Ten Playback PC and all equipments were enclosed with Financial report.

Staff

Details:

SI No	Designation	Male	Female	Status	Total
01.	Program officer	01	—	Full time	01
02.	Field Officer	—	01	Full time	01
03.	Field Officer	01	-	Full time	01
04.	Field Officer		01	Full time	01
Total Number of Staffs: Three (4) Person					04

Volunteer

Details:

Male	Female	Total
12	14	26



International Trainers Training

Three persons were participated in international Trainers Training in Bangkok, Thailand.

- Mr. vashkar Bhattacharjee & ● Mr. Debobroto chakroborty[May 13-19, 2006]
- Ms. Shaheda khanom Naly [1-8 July, 2007]

AMIS Workshop



AMIS Translation Workshop from April 11 to April 15 2006 held in National Association for the Blind, Sector 5, R.K Puram, New Delhi-110022 , India. Mr.vashkar vattacharya and Mr. Habibul Islam participated in this workshop. Bangla language pack developed and it became popular among the DTB users.

DTB Production

We have already produced 155 Digital Talking Books on various issues. For example: Livelihood, Literature , Disaster Preparedness and Management, Primary and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, Law, Agriculture, English language text books etc. Now twenty Organizations/Institutions are members of this Talking Library. YPSA – IRCD is providing DTB to the members of this library and interested institutions/organizations.

- Disaster related Four Contents have produced.
- 500 pages content of law affairs have already made in DAISY standard with the cooperation of UNDP. .
- UNCRPD Bangla version have produced.
- Total content of Production 155.
- CD distribution Three Thousand and Five Hundred.

List of DAISY titles for international lending

1. Garments-Case study Books on Sex worker (Full text and Full Audio)
2. How to Guide a Blind Persons Safely (Full text and Full Audio)
3. Education Research for the Beginners (only Audio)
4. Inclusive Education(Audio)
5. Social Action (Audio)

6. Social Change(Audio)

► Focal Person DFA in Bangladesh , Mr. vashkar could be contracted for International lending of DAISY DTB.

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Digital Talking Library Membership

Twenty organizations and five hundred visual impaired persons are now member of the Digital Talking library. Besides, so many persons are individually using Digital Talking books which are not counted yet.

Users Group

Persons with Disability, Visually Impaired students, Print Disabled (Illiterate) people are receiving various information from DAISY standard.

1. In our country, visually impaired students of primary schools do not get proper education wanting of text books. But now they are acquiring knowledge reading DTB.
2. All visually challenged students of college and university are continuing their study using audio cassettes which is too difficult to make. Now they are getting some text books in DAISY format.
3. As 50% print disabled people of Bangladesh are totally robbed from receiving basic information lack of accessibility. But after making DTB, they are obtaining health, women rights, child rights, dowry, HIV/AIDS, agriculture, disaster and law affairs information. These DTB's are distributing to so many tele-centers for rural people in Bangladesh.



Bangladesh Telecenter Network

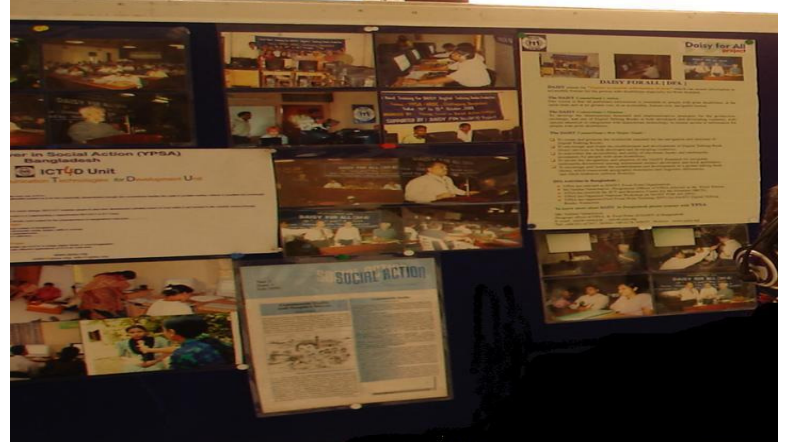
In 2007, (BTN) Bangladesh Telecenter Network (launched the campaign to established 40,000 telecentre in the country with in 2011. To provide information: YPSA is one of the founder member of the BTN and it has already established five telecenter called Rural Knowledge center (RKC). This centres provide all kinds of information for rural people who are totally deprived from getting current message. Day by day DTB is going to popular among the people with print disabilities.

Participate and stall –setup different fair and exhibition

▪ We had Participated and set up stall at Building an Information Society Road2Tunis
I was taking part in the successful meeting regarding DAISY & ICT with minister Dr. Abdul Moyeen Khan, Ministry of Science and Information & Communication Technology Government of Bangladesh.



- Meeting with Mr. Chiba and his team from APCD at Ministry of Social Welfare Dhaka in October '05.
- Mr. Arifur Rahman ,Chief Executive of YPSA participated in WSIS summit at Tunis in November '05.
- We Participated in setup stall in one week long disability fair at Dhaka in December 05.
- We organized a Meeting with Sight Sever International (SSI) Regarding Accessible study corner in Dhaka and Chittagong University in December 05.
- We Participate in National consultation on Community Radio in Bangladesh and discussed how to make relation with DAISY Concept in Rural Communities in Dec.'05.
- Participate and stall set up in Knowledge Fair (Amadher Gram) which was inaugurated by Switch Ambassador at Khulna, Northern part of Bangladesh in January '06.
- We Participated in stall setup in science Fair in February'06.
- Sharing Meeting was organized at Dhaka on 30th May . Mr Dipendra Monocha ,Assistant Manager DFA facilitated the meeting.
- Two-day training was organized in Sitakund.
- Mr. Habib & Mr.Vashkar Bhattacharjee were participated in workshop on translation of AMIS DAISY Playback software in local language at NAB Delhi in April '06.
- Sharing Meeting was organized at Chittagong on 28th June . Mr Nazrul Islam ,Director (Information & Communication Technology for Development) facilitated the meeting.
- In June '06 the 1st meeting of The Thematic Group on Information & Communications Technology (ICT) held in NFOWD, presided by vashkar Bhattacharjee .
- Stall set up Micro credit Fair on DAISY.
- The International Conference on Tsunami Preparedness for Persons with Disabilities was held on January 11-12, 2007 in Phuket, Thailand. Mr.vashkar Bhattacharjee participated and gave paper presentation in the Conference.
- 3rd General Assembly & Conference on Asia & Pacific Disability Forum was held in February 27-29, 2008 Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Conferece was organized by National Forum of Organizations working with Disabled(NFOWD).
- Participated and paper presentation UNESCAP – APCD High-level stakeholders Workshop on Empowerment of people with Disabilities and a Barrier-free Society through Networking and Collaboration on June 6-8, 2007, Bangkok, Thailand. This workshop was organized by APCD and UNESCAP.



Impact of DAISY into Grassroots people

Amra Shokhom means [we are able) is a group of beggars from the Sitakund of Chittagong district who have recently formed a SHG with the help of an NGO called YPSA. This SHG has 15



PWD's mostly with visual impairment. This SHG also has two female beggars as members. Being unable to eke out a living they were all forced to resort to begging but now with the help of this recently formed SHG they are beginning to think of life through a new lens. It is important to touch upon that they did not get opportunity to go school and also don't know how to read Braille. That means, they were entirely unwise about life with dignity. They were unknown about UN convention, Disability Act of Bangladesh, health and other important issues. While they are not aware of the nitty-gritty of the rights of the PWD's they have heard about the rights of the PWD's from YPSA and they all believe one day they will be able to assert their rights in the society. But now they have become more conscious about their life by the touch of Digital Talking Books. They sit together once or twice in a week to know about these issues by facilitator.

Bangladesh is a both deadly hazard area of HIV and AIDS and natural disaster. Every year so many people give way to untold mischief by these calamities lack of important information. YPSA has established so many DIC [Drop in Centre] from where, so many Street Based Sex Workers [SBSW] who are totally print disabled, can get HIV preventive message and other health related information using DTB by which, they can recover from fatal disease. Disaster is another significant issue in Bangladesh. Every year so many people become shelter less and died of disaster. This people can be aware of disaster management taking information from Digital Talking Books. Besides, DTB also provide indigenous information among the people of local and rural area of our country by which, they are getting information regularly. At the end, we can say that DTB is playing epoch-making role in the arena of development in Bangladesh



Biography of Focal Person

Mr. Vashkar Bhattacharjee is presently working at YPSA as a Programme Officer and Young Power in Social Action (YPSA), a non-government social development organization have been working since 1985. He passed M.A. [Master of Arts] in Social History from Chittagong University & completed Dusking fellowship from Japan in 2002. He is currently working as the DAISY Focal Person of Bangladesh and also convener of National ICT Thematic Group for PWD's. He is engaged with various development activities, research and networking at National & International area.

Highlights of some Activities:

- Overall strategic direction and management of disability and ICT related activities.
- Work as a focal person of DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System) in Bangladesh.
- Monitoring and Supervision of Digital Talking Book Production.



- Overall monitoring and supervision of DISC [Development Initiative for Social Change] program.
- Providing technical support for Hardware & Software problem solutions for person with disabilities.
- Arranging & conducting training, workshop, orientation programs etc.
- Preparing project proposals, concept papers, project concept notes for various National & International Donor Agencies on different themes.
- Maintaining linkage & communication with donor agencies, partners & local government officials & civil society.
- Preparation of both quantitative & qualitative report of project & organizational activities.
- Planning, designing & editing of Organizational publications & websites.
- Participation & input in Organizational policy manuals, guidelines, plans & program designs.
- Representing organization in National & International Conference, training, workshops etc.
- Establishing Chittagong Computerized Brail Production Center.
- Planning and designing of training programs, issue based events etc.
- Formation of Disable People's Organization

List of remarkable Training:

♦ Completion of 3rd Duskin Leadership Training on Computer, Information Technology, Japanese language and Braille System, Daisy (Digital Accessible Information System), Braille Library System,

♦ Rights & Advocacy, Counseling, Research Methodology on Disability [1st August 2001 to 2nd July 2002] in Japan.

♦ Participation in Duskin Follow Up Training at Bangkok Thailand, [15 to 19th February 2004].

♦ Completion of International Trainers Training on DAISY, [May 2006] at Bangkok Thailand, conducted by DAISY Consortium and organized by APCD.



♦ DAISY and Information Technology training [1st to 31st August, 2005] at New Delhi India, organized by National Association for the Blind (NAB) Delhi; India.

♦ ICT training for Visually impaired Persons, [16th August to 8 September, 2006] at Bangkok, Thailand.

♦ Participate in International Training Workshop on Computerized Braille Production on 4th to 7th October, 2004 organized by National Council for the blind, Malaysia at British Council Chittagong.

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