

YPSA observed International Women's Day 2017

'Be Bold for Change' with the theme of year 2017 YPSA observed the International Women's Day and committed to support women and girls from grassroots level to achieve their ambitions, facilitate them to cope with challenges, conscious and unconscious bias. YPSA always try to maintain the gender-balanced leadership in its all premises including grassroots level also and value women and men's contributions equally.



YPSA team member participation in the Human Chain at 5th March, Probortok Circle, Chittagong

Like every year YPSA observed the day with District Administration Office and Department of Women and Child Affairs in Chittagong City. Being part of the program YPSA team members - **stand along with** the Human Chain at 5th March ,2017 in the Probortok Circle from 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. In this Human Chain different representative from development organisations working in Chittagong like Ghashful, Bright Bangladesh Forum, Agrajatra, Bitu, UCEP Bangladesh, World Vision in Chittagong, Counselor Ms. Abida Azad from Chittagong City Corporation, Ms.Anjana Bhattacharjee, District women and children welfare officer of Chittagong etc stand and delivered speech in the Human Chain. Among the 300 participants the leaders working for women and children rights demand safety and security for womens and girls in the walkway, workplace, public place, transport etc. Govt. should ensure safe and flexible environment for the school going girls, slum dwellers girls especially in absence of parents and women etc.



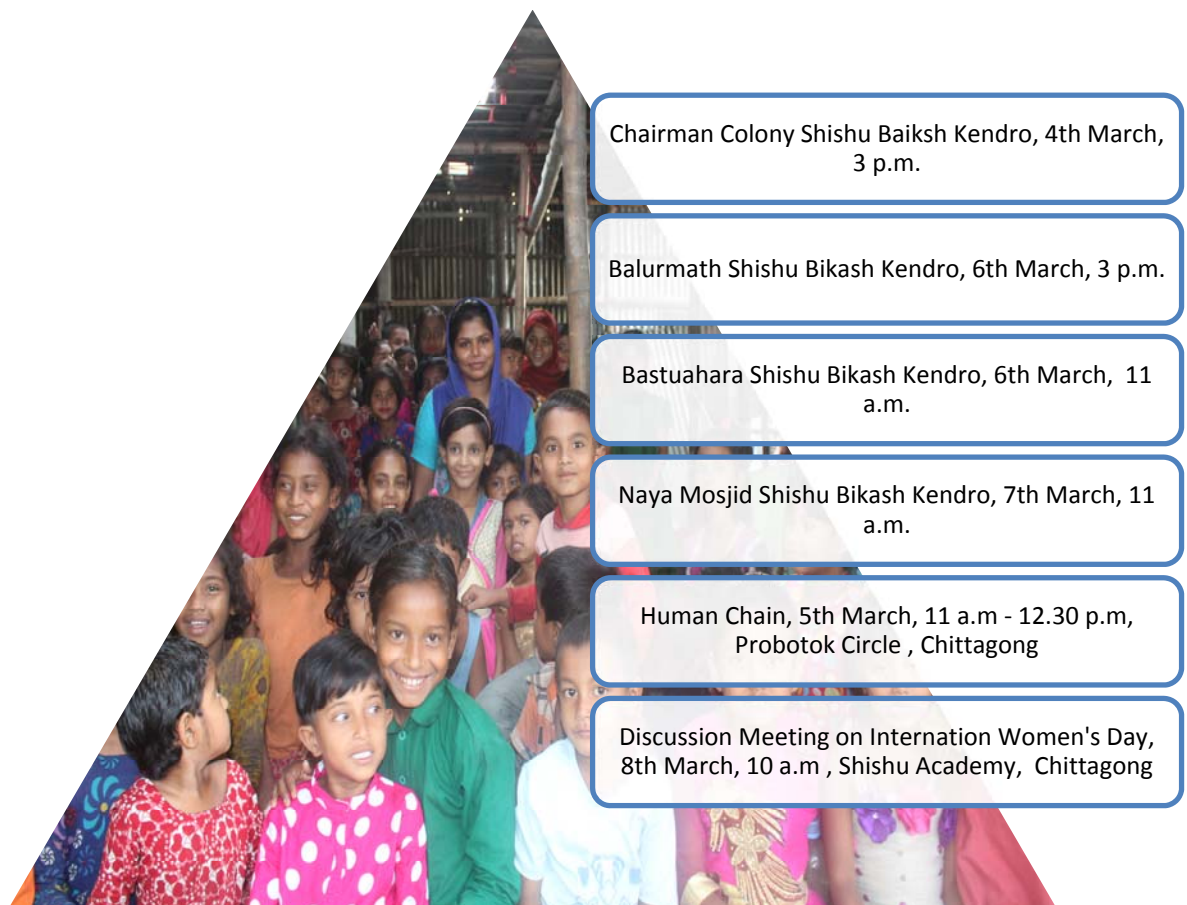
Mr. Md. Doulatuzzaman Khan, District Commissioner (Acting) delivering speech as chief guest

“Women are major working force in Bangladesh. They are great contributors towards raising GDP in Bangladesh. It is prime time to consider the women involve in informal sector work force income and contribution in the GDP. In the Urban area almost 50 -70% women are getting involve in the workforce whereas the rate is near about 30% in the rural area. To achieve the sustainable goal properly Bangladesh Govt. trying to some concrete action such as create the skilled workforce, keep the gender balance from policy level to grassroots level. ” said as chief guest of the Mr. Md. Doulatuzzaman Khan, District Commissioner (Acting),Chittagong in the Discussion on International womens Day discussion meeting at 8th March,2017 in the Shishu Academy Auditorium , Chittagong with the facilitation of Ms. Anzuman Banu Lima,Asistant Director of Ghashful and Mr.Zobaidur Rashid,project coordinator of Ghashful. . This year Distict Commissioner Office and Department of Women and Social Welfare jointly organized the where as Mr.Md. Mashikur Rahman, Additional District Masukur Rahman (General) presided, Ms. Anjana Bhattacharjee,District Women Affairs Officer conveyed the welcome speech, Ms.Nargis Sultana,District Child Organizer, Ms. Jesmin Sultana Paru, the Chief Executive of Elma, Ms. Nurjahan Khan, the Chief Executive of Lero also conveyed the speech with presence 500 (app)representative from YPSA, BITA, Bright Bangladesh Forum, Agrajatra,Ghashful, UCEP etc. YPSA- APILUP (**Advanced Program for Improved Lifestyle of the Urban Poor**) Project celebrated the International Women’s day 2017 from 4th March to 8th March among the slum in

the ward no 19 and 35 under Chittagong City Corporation with the support of Action Aid Bangladesh. Being part of Women Day celebration week, the Discussion meeting conduct with the children, parents, reflect circle members, youths etc. The signature campaign on restrain special clause of early marriage restraint act 2017 conducted among the Chairman Colony , Bastuhara, Nayamosjid, Balurmath slums in the Bakalia with the active participation of 285 children, youth, adult, senior citizens.

This meeting was facilitated by Shovan Chowdhury , the Sponsorship Officer of YPSA- APILUP Project.

The major discussant issues were gender equality, domestic violence scenario among slum of Bakalia, early child marriage restraint act 2017, role of signature to restrain the special clause in the early marriage restraint act 2017.



Desk of International Women's Day Celebration Program 2017

According to the view of participants regarding the program:

Johara Begum, the housewife talked about his experience in international womens day program. She said “Women are discriminating in the society especially in urban slum due to limited income source, high daily living expenses, insecurity of children. Most of the women are not conscious about their rights. I feel very happy to know about women rights from YPSA”

Mr.Mojaffar Ahmed (35 years), the reflect circle members said “Womens are deprived from their basic rights among the urban slum in Bakalia.It is common scenario for children living with step father or step mother which create mental unhappiness among them. In that case their mothers try to get their girl children early marriage. Among the family members male should help the women to achieving their right and access to govt. service. ”



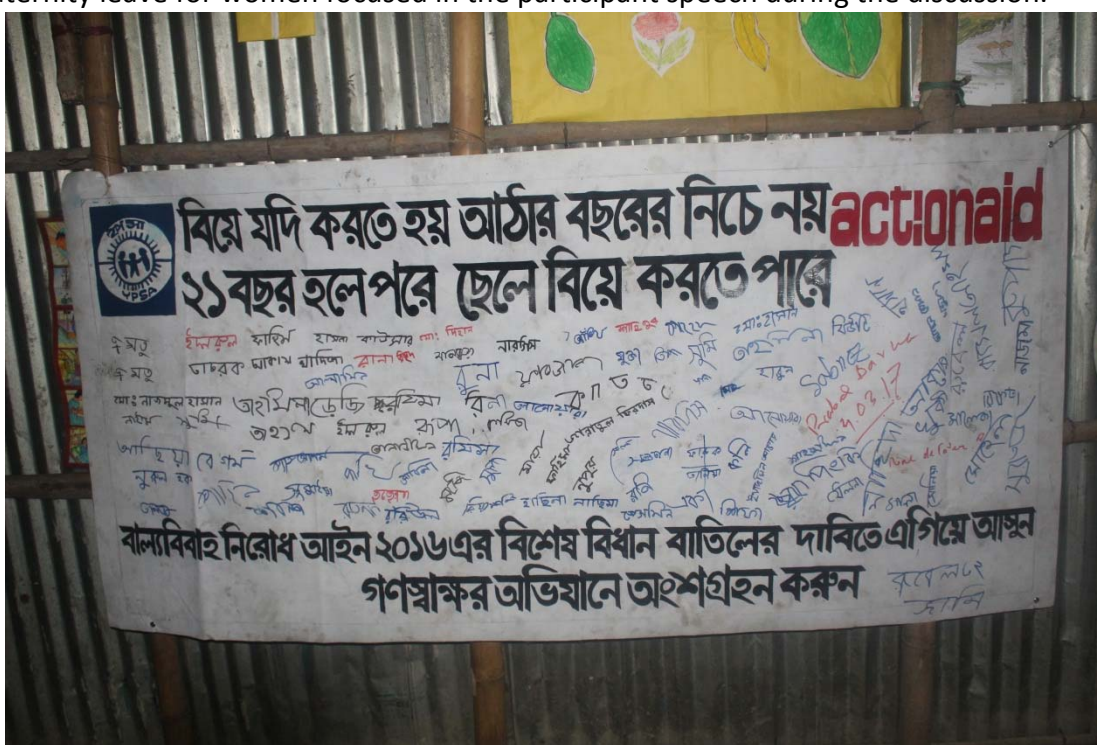
Pinky the little actress of drama felt happy to go to school at Naya Masjid Shishu Bikash Kendro – 19 no Ward, Bakalia

Another participant Roksana Begum (20 years) said that She does not know anything about the women right. She has left study five years ago and she has been married at 14 years. She has

been tortured in her in laws house. So, she has passed through a difficult time. She has learnt many things about women rights from this program.

Tanzina Begum (34), mother of a sponsored child told that “women are facing lots of challenges in every phases of life. They have to face more hurdles than male. She expects that govt. should ensure the gender equality and take initiatives of employment for women. So, women should have equal rights to study, get job or business or social activities.

Overall, employment rights, including non-discrimination in access to jobs, equal pay and paid maternity leave for women focused in the participant speech during the discussion.



Signature Campaign Banner designed by Suman Bhattacharjee, Deaf and Dumb Youth

Anowara Begum (34) from Balurmath Shishu kendro said, “ Domestic violence in the different household are happened regularly among slum of Balurmath, Tulatoli, Jamaibazar area. Womens are depriving from their rights in the family as well as society. They face discomfort to protest against domestic violence. So, we need to learn on the women rights issues to empower the women in the community. ”



Participants of Balurmash Shishu Bikash Kendro - Ward 19,Bakalia

Around 380 children and 220 parents have signed to restraining the special clause from early marriage elimination act 2017. This special provision proposed that underage females may be married off under “special contexts” as long as it is conducted with the permission of her parents or guardians in conjunction with magistrate permission. Such a marriage will no longer be considered an offence. The children and parents signed in banner agreed that they will not let their girl under age.



Emon the 7 years child signing his name in Chairmen Colony Shishu Bikash Kendro, Ward -35, Bakalia