

# BRIEF REPORT OF AHI-ILDC ALUMNI REUNION SEMINAR 2018

## BANGLADESH

### Introduction:

The Asian Health Institute (AHI), founded in 1980, is a Japanese non-governmental, voluntary organization (NGO) committed to supporting the development and well-being of the marginalized people in Asia. AHI believes that for an effective and sustainable solution to grassroots health problems, an approach is training local leaders to promote community-based action for health and development. Since its establishment, AHI has been working for human resource development through participatory training programs, based on its philosophy of "Sharing for Self-Help."

To promote the community-based health services, AHI has several programs among them International Leadership Development Course (ILDC) is one of the popular and effective training courses that AHI conducts in Japan. The ILDC and other courses aim to enhance the leadership quality and improve health expertise of the participants. The training programmes intend to maximize the potential of the participants' parent organizations and empower people's organizations for local governance through collaboration among NGOs, POs, GOs and others. The course concludes through elaborating individual Plans of Action.

Since 1980 to 2017, nearly 100 persons from Bangladesh participated in the ILDC and other courses in AHI. In 2015, a second reunion seminar was held in Rajshahi, Bangladesh by DASCOH for strengthening networking between AHI Alumni and working collaboratively in the development sector. As a continuation of the 2nd reunion seminar in 2018, the Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) organized the 3rd AHI Alumni Reunion Seminar in Bangladesh for increasing the collaboration among alumni and its organizations to promote leadership, peace, and inclusion along with other development programs.

### Participants

The seminar was organized for the participants who have received AHI-ILDC training in Japan. Total 34 participants were present in the seminar. There was 01 Nepali participant, 02 Indians & 28 Bangladeshi participants. Among the participants, 02 AHI representatives and 01 AHI volunteer were present. Also, 04 observers and 02 reporters from the Centre for Disability in Development were present there.

### Date & Venue of the seminar:

AHI Alumni Seminar 2018 was held in the Training and Learning Center of CDD, Genda, Savar, Dhaka, Bangladesh from 15-18 March, 2018. The seminar was organized by a committee comprising AHI Alumni in Bangladesh from CDD and other organizations in collaboration with the Asian Health Institute (AHI), Japan.

### Objectives:

- To share learning, experiences and good practices of AHI alumni
- To enrich knowledge on inclusive development in light of SDGs;
- To learn about the inclusive development experience of Japan from AHI
- To review progress of action plan that was developed during the last seminar at Rajshahi;
- To explore the strategy on leadership, inclusion, and peace through exposure visits;
- To find out good practices and learning and develop an action plan for replication;



Theme of the Seminar

**'Positive leadership to build a peaceful inclusive world'** was the theme of 2018 AHI Alumni Reunion Seminar. It focused on three areas- i. leadership ii. Inclusion & iii. Peace

AHI-IDLC alumni believe that improved knowledge, skills and positive leadership can build an inclusive society where people will live with dignity, participate meaningfully and enjoy a peaceful inclusive world. AHI developed a number of leaders in community development particularly in health sectors who are playing a vital role in their community in their respective organization.

Methodology



**Beginning of the Action**

There were a number of preparatory meeting for grounding of the seminar. On 25 July 2017 the first meeting of coordination committee were in place where it was decided that next reunion seminar to be arranged by CDD. "Positive leadership to build a peaceful inclusive world" finalized as theme of seminar in second meeting which held on 25 December, 2017. And at the day before seminar on 14 March, 2018 a meeting held with AHI representative where outline of seminar was finalized.

**1<sup>st</sup>  
Day-  
15  
March,  
2108**

On 15 March, 2018 an inauguration program of 3<sup>rd</sup> AHI Alumni Reunion Seminar held in Training and Learning Centre of CDD, Bangladesh. Before started the inauguration program participants were registered and warm welcomed by CDD staffs with flowers and bags.

The program was inaugurated by Md. Nazrul Islam, Permanent Member of Bangladesh NHRC (National Human Rights Commission). Md. Saidul Huq, Executive director of BERDO was chairperson of the inauguration. Moreover AHM Noman Khan, Executive Director of CDD, Bangladesh and Kyoko Shimizu representative of AHI Japan were presented as special guest.



*"Leaders can change the world. NHRC believe that this seminar will help to develop more leaders, who will work for developing the country"-*

*Md. Nazrul Islam,  
NHRC, BD*

## 2nd Day- 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2018

The day was mainly presentation day where all participants presented their organization, plan of action, good practice etc. for exchange learning by power point or orally.

Kyoko Shimizu, AHI representative presented a presentation on AHI activities, ILDC training, follow up mechanism, resources, future focus etc. where she mentioned that after receiving ILDC training AHI & participants of AHI both are bound together as development worker and co-worker.

Taslima Akter Keya shared a brief presentation on CDD. The Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) is a nonprofit organization established in 1996 to develop a more inclusive society for persons with a disability. A team of 140 staff members where 12% staffs are persons with disabilities. CDD's mission is to address this by simultaneously educating the community in how to be more inclusive whilst also enabling persons with a disability to participate in society by providing them with essential supports.

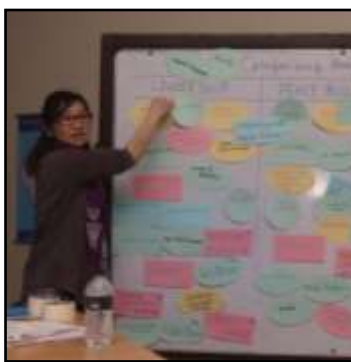
AHI Alumni shared their progress of plan of action (POA), experiences, learning , practices and with actual examples on their own initiatives or organizational perspective.

Here in the below some progress of POA mentioned of participants, they were-

- CDD- Oriented 51 Community group of community clinic on disability.
- DASCHO- Introduce growth monitoring system at the community clinic.
- US- Undertaken Project on Community Based Rehabilitation of Disable People
- Sunflower- Developed a health care system with community participation, incorporating local government.
- JCF- Leadership and skill development training for Coop Management

At the end of the day participants put key words from presentation which indicates leadership, inclusion and peace. They pasted the word on the board as category.

Then Kyoko Shimizu listens from the participants about the rationality of the cards and she rearranged if needed after the discussion with participants. This exercise supported participants to make more clarity on understanding concept of leadership, inclusion and peace. Participants realized their strength and weakness on these three themes in their existing project. They also get new idea from others presentation, which will support them in future to make their project more inclusive.





### 3rd Day- 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2018:

#### Field Visit in CDD field area at Gazipur, Bangladesh:

As part of exposure on 3<sup>rd</sup> day participants visited field of CDD. For this purpose participants were divided into four groups where all the groups were led by a group leader supported by a CDD staff. Self Help groups (SHG) and role model of leadership were visited by four groups separately in Gazipur, Bangladesh. A guided question note distributed among the groups for making the visit effective. Groups were facilitated focus group discussion and individual interview for understanding leadership, peace and inclusion in the SHGs and community. After field visit all groups presented their findings based on below questions-

1. What type of leadership, inclusion & peace observed by participants?
2. What factors are leading to leadership, inclusion & peace?

#### Findings of field visit

##### Type of leadership observed:

1. Raise voice for rights
2. Clear vision for future
3. Motivation skill & unity builders
4. Democratic decision making
5. Mobilizing govt. resources etc.

##### Factors of leadership:

1. Good guidance
2. Common goal
3. Commitment
4. Unity
5. Capacity development support etc.

##### Type of inclusion observed:

1. Children with disability are going to school
2. People with disabilities involved in IGAs
3. Gender & Disability (multiple) mixed group
4. Mainstreaming initiative
5. Increase social acceptance etc.

##### Factors of inclusion:

1. Created accessible environment
2. Community centered
3. Monitoring & mentoring etc.

##### Type of peace observed:

1. Respect each other
2. Solidarity & democracy
3. Increase social acceptance & recognition
4. Work for other community people
5. Family is now supportive etc.

##### Factors of peace;

1. Strong unity
2. Involvement of community
3. Conflict resolution
4. Awareness etc.

#### Cultural Nights

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Day evening a cultural program was organized where participants of different country represent their country through their performance. Also a group based performance performed by children with speech and hearing disabilities.



What is Toshi's ...

Share the vision  
Listen their voice  
Express their voice  
Make strategy

Assertiveness  
Act in unity  
Enjoy  
Accept  
Diversity

Support GO,  
NGO,  
community  
people,  
DPOs



Presenting learning



Presenting Learning



Sharing POA



Sharing POA

3<sup>rd</sup> AHI Alumni Reunion Seminar will be on November, 2020 and the host organization will be **Unnayan Shahojogy Team(UST)**.

## 4th Day- 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2018

### CBID in Japan lead to Leadership, peace & inclusion

A success story of Community Based Inclusive Development was shared by Kaoru Ishimoto. She shared how Toshi become empowered in her community through the CBID strategy. She also showed how CBID leads herself towards positive leadership into inclusion and peace.

### Awareness session on Breast Cancer and cervical

An awareness session was facilitated by Dr. Patrick Bipul Biswas. So that participants be aware as well as they can disseminate information of breast cancer and cervical cancer in community.

### Participants learning from seminar:

Participants were divided into four groups and shared their learning from AHI Alumni Reunion Seminar 2018 group wise. Such as-

- Linkage & collaboration with GO NGO & private sector is very important helps to reduce dependency for community development.
- If project cycle management consider cross cutting issues from the beginning of program/project it become more inclusive & diversified.
- If we consider peace buildings measures within the already existing activities it become easier to work for peace building etc.

### Individual Plan of Action:

AHI-IDLC alumni have been practicing Plan of Action (POA) in every seminar according to their learning from each seminar in the light of AHI key focus area. They embed this POA in their organization through their program design to implementation in their community. This POA also helps the alumni to make a comparison or review the progress of their commitment in the following seminar or any other events organized by AHI or ILDC alumni.

### Future plan for AHI Alumni Seminar in Bangladesh:

With the discussion of all participants the AHI Alumni Coordination Committee was formed who are responsible for organizing 4th AHI Alumni Reunion Seminar. Members of the committee are-

- Nasima Begum, Shishu Niloy Foundation
- Modon Das, Development Association for Self-reliance, Communication and Health (DASCOH)
- Musharat Sayed Moon, Unnayan Shahojogy Team(UST)
- Md. Saidul Huq, Blind Education and Rehabilitation Development Organisation (BERDO)
- Taslima Akter Keya, Centre for Disability in Development (CDD)
- Rajon Been, Protibondhi Community Center (PCC)

### Closing of the seminar:

AHI Alumni Reunion Seminar 2018 was concluded by AHM Noman Khan, Executive Director of CDD, Bangladesh. He said that, '*this is a chain to work with collaborate and make a platform for developing a horizontal learning*'. As closing remarks Kyoko Shimizu expressed her gratuity to all participants for coming in the seminar. At the end of the seminar all participants were received a souvenir from AHM Noman Khan, Executive Director of CDD as love of token.





### Feedback meeting with AHI team:

On 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 a feedback meeting held in CDD with AHI team. Objectives of the meeting were sharing feedback on the seminar, next seminar plan and overall recommendations. Some decision were taken, major of them were-

- Committee will send a format for organizational presentation.
- Taslima Akter Keya will support coordination committee for organizing next seminar



### Challenges:

As organizing organization CDD faced some challenges, they were-

- Due to long distance among AHI Alumni Coordination Committee member it was tough to ensure participation of all members in planning meeting. That's why it delayed the decision process.
- Seminar duration was inadequate for covering all the session
- To ensure participation of all participants in whole seminar due to their heavy workload.



### Recommendation:

In the below some recommendation share for improvement of future AHI Alumni Reunion Seminar-

1. For making the presentation informative & specific participants should follow the presentation format.
2. Form a team who will work for raising fund for future AHI seminar. This team can work for finding out sponsorship from corporate funds and international organization like JICA.
3. Extend duration of seminar for more effective learning, individual view sharing, group presentation and learning from field visit.
4. Select members of Coordination Committee from near area, so that they can easily communicate and organize the seminar smoothly.



### Conclusion:

AHI Alumni Reunion Seminar 2018 was 3rd seminar in Bangladesh. It was a platform for effective learning and sharing. It created opportunity for developing networking and making bondage among old & new AHI Alumni. This seminar was as refresher training where participants can sharpen their learning and knowledge. Through the seminar it made participants accountable to implementing their learning and action plan. Thanks Asian Health Institute for taking initiative to organize the seminar and give opportunity to CDD as host. We hope that through promoting positive leadership we can make a inclusive society where people from all spheres get dignity and make conflict- violence free society.

