Youth Action Lab 2021: Mohaiminul Raqib
Civicus: World Alliances for Citizen Participation

Reporting to Youth Action Team
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Youth Action Lab: Mohaiminul Raqib

Youth Action Lab is a cohort setting that provides the grassroots youth activists residing on the global south to promote their activism under the lens of professional supervision. The program is very interactive and effective as it offers:

- **Learning opportunities**
- **Funding opportunities**
- **Networking opportunities**
- **Promotional opportunities**
- **Project development opportunities**

In 2021, 10 youth activists from the global south have been collaborated to connect, to make meaningful discussion, make impact in their own societies and share their work.

YAL is a safe space since it offers a diverse ecosystem where we discuss about issues that are vital to be noticed, unresolved & that other organizations fail to pay sincere attention to. Youth activist learn about activism, digital media promotion, legal aspects and collective care methods that can help us promote our work to make a change.
Key Takeaways: Youth Action Team

Youth Action Lab provides us with diverse module of activities and interactive sessions. From a year long cohort setting some noticeable takeaways:

- **Group meeting: Drafting Action plans.**
- **Learning Partnership Program: One-to-one mentorship from mentors.**
- **Peer Learning Festival: Cohort share their knowledge to learn & educate.**
- **Profile creation by the method of storytelling.**
- **Sustainable Leadership, Financial Management & Digital Strategies Training Programme: The programme has offered diverse learning opportunity for the youth activist. Including sustainable leadership and personal growth, sustainable financial management and funding for non-profit & digital strategies to amplify organizations reach and fundraising.**
- **Open-Mic sessions: An interactive session promoting inclusive conversation with cohorts.**
- **Collective Care sessions: Discussion about well-being, stress and resilience, identity, sharing humanity etc.**
- **Training sessions on financial reporting & narratives.**
Key Takeaways: Personal & Local

Youth Action Lab provides learning opportunity that helps us to learn more about activism, provide resources to strengthen our movement and develop lifelong skills to generate impact:

- **Creation of online portfolio using LinkedIn.**
- **Website portfolio feature at Civicus.**
- **Working opportunities at several others international organization.**
- **Conduct survey at national level regarding GBV, sexual harassment and mental health issues with youths.**
- **Website creation for local organization.**
- **Facebook and Instagram educative post to promote gender equity, SDG goals, education for destitute children and creation of mass awareness.**
- **Creation of video documentaries with youths to raise awareness by inhouse production resources (video editing panel).**
- **Field projects to collect data on GBV & sexual harassment, focus group discussion, necessary material donation.**
- **Collection of stories to study true picture of GBV & Sexual harassment in Bangladesh.**
Accomplishments

1. **Survey to collect data**: The major learning from survey was that,
   ● Youths are eager to participate in civil society activities
   ● They are concerned about the recent human rights condition in Bangladesh and want to participate as human rights defender in several spectrum
   ● Supporting in Data collection
   ● Insights about critical issues to be posted on different social media as major educative content.
   ● Use of limited resources to collect data & lack of proper funding.

Surveys: The survey links are provided below,

- [https://forms.gle/YDYLoMmEz1hp5EA89](https://forms.gle/YDYLoMmEz1hp5EA89)
- [https://forms.gle/mNg1MM6JLaMJ97SZA](https://forms.gle/mNg1MM6JLaMJ97SZA)
- [https://forms.gle/u9HRZzws26zxN5MHA](https://forms.gle/u9HRZzws26zxN5MHA)
- [https://forms.gle/BM8QvEC1dYKx9QNd8](https://forms.gle/BM8QvEC1dYKx9QNd8)
- [https://forms.gle/AuP1f5U81pamnvie7](https://forms.gle/AuP1f5U81pamnvie7)
- [https://forms.gle/5AD13SJgn2JXnUCEa](https://forms.gle/5AD13SJgn2JXnUCEa)
Accomplishments

2. Online Facebook Campaign: Educative campaign is very effective in this digital era. The youth engagement increases through social media campaigns. Our campaign details are provided below:

- **Project Excuse দিয়েন না (No Excuse):** At the present time, one of the most heinous crimes in our country is the rise of sexual violence. Because of this, the abusers/attackers give excuses to get themselves out of the situation. We believe such excuses should be pointed out and must not be taken into account under any circumstances. Only then gender-based violence can be reduced by knowing and letting know about the excuses given in case of sexual violence. "Excuse দিয়েন না" is a project proposed by Bangladesh Integrated Human Development Program (BIHDP) in collaboration with ProjectDebi and Purnota foundation. The project aims to present the stereotypical and toxic excuses the society and perpetrators provide after a gendered violence takes place. With this project we aim to put an end to such toxic stereotypes and provide more power, courage and justice to the victims. We believe, together we can bring a change.
Accomplishments
Accomplishments

- Learn To Protest (A Guide on Sexual Harassment): Orienting students, trainees, faculty, and staff, at all levels, to the academic institution's culture and its policies and procedures for handling sexual harassment can be an important piece of establishing a climate that demonstrates sexual harassment is not tolerated and targets will be supported.
Accomplishments
Accomplishments

- **About GBV:** Community members can work to prevent sexual violence by establishing healthy and positive relationships that are based on respect, safety, and equality. Community members can play an active role in stopping sexual violence before it occurs by becoming engaged bystanders. Sexual violence affects us all; therefore, we are all a part of the solution. We as a community should address the issues & let the young people know about the common definitions regarding sexual harassment.
Accomplishments
Accomplishments

3. Field Campaign: Field campaign was a very effective way to connect beneficiaries and learn more about the existing human rights condition through focus group discussions & charity activities.

- SDG For Destitute Children: The main target of the project was to reach out to destitute children who were deprived of proper educational facilities and rights to attend school. Our preliminary target was to find out children who were part of a GBV affected family and collect data for future activities.
Accomplishments

- **Food For Destitute Children:** The purpose of the project was to spread happiness among the destitute children who lacks proper nutriment & support to attain access social institutions. Besides, we spent a good amount of time to learn more about their family life crisis and hardships to create a database for storytelling.
Accomplishments

- Food For Destitute Children (Orphan Home): The project was dedicated for children in orphan home who also lacks proper parenting. The project's main aim was to educate orphan children with Life Hacks & SDG goal and spend time to collect their life stories.
Accomplishments

- **Rage against Rape:**
  The field campaign was a protest by youth members of BIHDP with other collaborated organizations to create a protest against rape, rape culture and victim blaming. The youths created a movement holding placards in front of National parliament to create mass awareness.
Accomplishments

- **SDG For Destitute children (Hilly Tracts):** SDG for destitute children in hilly tract areas was a very rare incidence in Bangladesh. We could manage to learn the livelihood pattern, GBV stereotypes & sexual harassment incidence in hilly areas and as well as collect data regarding the educational system in the hilly tracts of Bangladesh.
Accomplishments

- SDG For Destitute Children (Bay of Bengal): SDG for destitute children in Bay of Bengal areas was a very rare incidence in Bangladesh. We could manage to learn the livelihood pattern, GBV stereotypes & sexual harassment incidence in hilly areas and as well as collect data regarding the educational system in the coastal areas of Bangladesh.
Accomplishments

- **The Touch of Warmth (Rural Women's Special):** The project is specialized to interact with rural women who are deprived of proper rights. The rural women are rarely into earning livelihood, so, they are deprived of necessary livelihood materials as well as human rights. By the project we offered clothing support to the rural women during winter, interacted with them to learn more about their struggles and collect data regarding GBV and harassment.
Accomplishments

- **The Touch of Warmth (Urban Women’s Special)**: The project is specialized to interact with urban women who are deprived of proper rights. The urban women are involved into earning livelihood but they face difficulties with their marriage as the male earns more than female, so, they are deprived of necessary livelihood materials as well as human rights. By the project we offered clothing support to the urban women during winter, interacted with them to learn more about their struggles and collect data regarding GBV and harassment.
Accomplishments

- The Touch of Warmth (Hometown Special): The project is specialized to interact with rural women who are deprived of proper rights. The rural women are rarely into earning livelihood, so, they are deprived of necessary livelihood materials as well as human rights. By the project we offered clothing support to the rural women during winter, interacted with them to learn more about their struggles and collect data regarding GBV and harassment.
Accomplishments

- **The Touch of Warmth (Felani Neighbourhood Special):** The case of Felani is a special human rights case in the history of Bangladesh. The incident marks high importance on the issue of border cross. The family of Felani even up to now hasn't received proper judiciary support regarding the death of Felani. I with the volunteer team reached to Felani’s family to share happiness and necessary utensils for winter. Besides, we discussed about the educational & economic participation of women in the specific region.
Accomplishments

4. **Project Ovoy (No Fear) Video Documentary:** BIHDP have come with a project named Project "অভয়". This project aims to:

1) dismantle the myths surrounding sexual harassment,
2) discuss the reasons and effects of sexual harassment, and lastly,
3) discuss the mental health issues regarding sexual harassment in Bangladesh.

Primarily, we released a collaborative survey that focuses on identifying the prevalence of sexual harassment in society as well as possible forms of assistance and support to people who face sexual harassment.

Now, we came up with educational contents to create more impact & with an initiative of making a change in our society regarding the existing stigma regarding sexual harassment. We highly encourage the parents & all other viewers to share this video & raise awareness.
Accomplishments
Accomplishments
Accomplishments

5. BIHDP Website Creation: The process of website creation has been very hectic but beneficial for our organization. The website details are provided below:

- **BIHDP – We Care Bangladesh**
- The website is under construction, where we have successfully covered to managed our domain & hosting
- UI/UX design
- Security patch
- Transaction page security
- Data clearance
Drivers of Success

The major driver of success for this year are:

- Learning partnership program
- Grant Award fund to promote activism & development activities
- Volunteer support from local area
- Project planning & execution
- Financial knowledge to better manage finance
- Networking opportunities
Challenges

The major challenges for this year include:

- Covid-19 lockdown
- Funding is very restricted which closes the opportunity to make necessary impact
- Scarce operational fund to pay salaries and other necessary expenses
- Limited access to several rural communities
- Stereotypical mindset of marginalized people
- Existence of Taboo & other stigma regarding women's rights
- Religious extremism in marginalized area
Recommendations for Young Activist

- Youth activists should join global programs to promote their work. The global platforms provide the opportunity to learn advocacy strategies, technical issues and promote them as leaders in different communities.
- Youth activists should join cohort setting labs to strengthen their skills, learn more about the industry trends and develop their community outreach in a professional manner.
- Platforms like Youth Action Lab provides versatile opportunities for the youth activists. It provides opportunities for portfolio creation, storytelling, funding to develop capacity & resources for impactful movements and learning opportunities in several aspects.
Social Media Appearance

“We never understand the pain of people who are suffering unless we deeply dive into their lives”

My movement was to create mass awareness among the people in Bangladesh to eradicate the taboo’s & stigmas on GBV & raise voice against sexual harassment. But my bigger goal was to dive deep into people’s life to get valuable insights, so that I can make bigger impact in the future. I have successfully interacted with more than 300 families over the year of 2021 and have collected data on several aspects of human lives, provided necessary utensils, like: clothing & menstrual hygiene materials, donated necessary educational materials for distressed children, conducted digital campaign in social media & created video documentaries with youths. I believe my movements will be bigger, more impactful & meaningful in the coming days & I will collaborate with more global leaders to create global projects in alignment with SDG goals.

“Break the silence, Stop Violence”

“We care Bangladesh”

Mohaiminul Raqib (Founder & CEO, BIHDP)
Community Feedback

Antara Ray Chowdhury is a Marketing professional & Human Rights Defender in Bangladesh. She has currently collaborated with BIHDP to strengthen our movement and work in different projects to promote Gender equity.

“We must stand together to fight for women’s rights in rural areas of Bangladesh. For years extremism has preserved women in a bottle full of water & where we sink everyday. Now we must think of women in different ethnicity & tribes to promote economic growth."
“Gender is a social construct therefore as humans whichever gender we are, we deserve to be treated equally. As the society is progressing women are taking active role in the society and as well in the economy, therefore it often seems a challenge to break the norms of the patriarchal society that we live in. I believe it is changing. We deserve equal opportunity regardless of what gender we are identified as. I have studied CSE and I play table tennis. So, I always had to compete for my grades and games. My gender never played a role in winning my games or getting my grades. People of all genders are equally human and are equally capable when given the equal opportunity. It has been a privilege to work with BIHDP for promoting our work as volunteers & empowering women in different spheres of our society.”

We believe everyone should have access to quality education. As education enhances our ability to think and act it should be made available to everyone. We stand for Quality Education for all as we believe we all are equals as human beings. The world is now progressing more than ever, thus education should not be a luxury rather it must be made accessible by us to less privileged people.
Community Feedback

“I always worry about my daughters safety in public places, specially at night! I usually try to teach her about girls safety issues during our conversation & look after her while going to school. I have got to know about BIHDP through their facebook page & I was happy to teach my daughter learning materials from their educative posts.”

Meherun Akhter Liza
Chef, House-wife, Single mother
Community Feedback

“The youth girls are more prone to sexual harassment. So they have to learn more about the effects of sexual harassment on their life, specially on mental health. Thanks to BIHDP for creating educative posts on Facebook. As it is good for learning as well as sharing with friends.”

Farha Afrin Rimi
Student, Social worker, College community leader
Community Feedback

“Looking into lives of people, specially the women in our community can make us realize how difficulty they face, even in their families & friends acquaintances. We are grateful to BIHDP for making a movement on GBV & raising awareness on sexual harassment. “

Maisha Rahman

Student, Volunteer & Painter
Community Feedback

“To raise children properly we need quality education. The incidents of sexual harassment is comparatively more in Bangladesh. The protest campaign of BIHDP on both online & offline is very effective for youth society. “

Antara Vidushi
Student, Social Activist & Fashion Designer
Community Feedback

“In present time, starting from children to senior citizen, everyone must know about different forms of harassment. From the BIHDP campaigns many people from different age groups are starting to learn and creating mass awareness. “

Tithi Mollah
Student, Student political leader &
Social Business Entrepreneur
Community Feedback

“I have endured a lot of trauma over the past years from my potential partner & now I have consulted with mental health experts and learned more about GBV. I am happy to meet volunteers from BIHDP, getting support from them through active discussion & joining the team.”

Kamrunnahar Mimi
Operations Management,
BIHDP

“It is very traumatic to see my own daughter suffer from GBV from her husband. I consulted the team BIHDP & now the situation is getting better.“

Anju Ara Begum
Housewife & Mother
Community Feedback

“I feel really proud to be a mother of a son who has been struggling from his childhood. I couldn’t offer everything he wanted. Maybe he could have needed more to grow as a person compared to other children. But when I see him reaching the homes of destitute children all over Bangladesh my heart fills with joy. I feel happy to see, how he has developed the sense of empathy in him & works so hard to help people in distress. I am Nafisa Rafiq, mother of Mohaiminul Raqib.

I pray for him that his sensibility grows more & he helps more families in Bangladesh, so that, they don’t suffer like we did!

Nafisa Rafiq Moni
Mother