

Deafblindness



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, interventions on deafblindness were struggling to function normally. Given that situation, CDD initiated their interventions online and worked more on to expanding and retaining working rapport with their relevant stakeholders.

As a result, even amidst the COVID-19 situation, these projects kept providing regular home-based Primary Rehabilitation Therapy (PRT) support as well as clinical assessment support for persons with deafblindness.

Aside from that, these projects helped learners with deafblindness got enrolled in government-run vocational training institutes. As well as, CDD provided various types of trainings to different kinds of stakeholders, sensitized people on deafblindness through courtyard meetings. Due to the increased awareness, different government and non-government bodies included people with deafblindness as high-priority beneficiaries in their support-programmes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the pandemic time, one national and two regional level (northern and south-western regions of Bangladesh) network-meetings were held with persons with deafblindness and their

parents. CDD organized another national-level learning sharing workshop on deafblindness for high level government officials, representatives of donor agencies, non-government stakeholders, and persons with deafblindness & their families.

Galib Thrives to Return to School

Galib (10), a boy from Jashore identified with deafblindness with moderate vision and hearing impairment. The Deafblind Field Educator (DFE) of the project, assessed him functionally to identify his residual visual and hearing capacity. Based on the assessment and discussion with his family, an Individual Education Plan (IEP) was made for him. They provided him home-based pre-schooling support and mobility orientation. A calendar-box was made to train him on Activity of Daily Living (ADL) and his parents were trained on management of children with deafblindness through the home-based support.

Galib was enrolled at grade-1 in a mainstream primary school. The teachers and SMC members were sensitized and trained on deafblindness and inclusive education. These initiatives supported him a lot to continue his education and he was very happy. The project supported him for clinical assessment and based on that he has been supported with hearing aid and spectacles.



When COVID-19 pandemic hit the country, his father lost job and they were facing trouble to manage basic family-needs. The project supported him to access the relief-goods provided as part of Local Government initiatives. Even, Gulib's family was supported with cash money of 15000/- BDT under 'DID TO-35' project with which Galib's mother started pigeon rearing. From this her mother started to earn which supported their family in inverting poverty and to continue his education.

The COVID-19 pandemic also caused the closure of academic institutions. The DFEs, of the CDD-project, continued communication with Gulab and his parents and instructed them on how to support Galib in preparing lessons during the pandemic.