

Promoting Human Rights and Education in Bangladesh (PHREB)

BIENNIAL REPORT

2006-2007

Promoting Human Rights and Education in Bangladesh (PHREB) is a non-profit organization without political and religious influences.

Civil society members, Human Rights Activists, and PHREB Alliance Representatives are committed to the Governing Body to direct the organization. Furthermore, PHREB's Managing Director, Programme Director Finance Director, and Board Members are committed to the Board Directors to serve as the highest decision making body.

The organization is financed by Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO, the Netherlands and Rajdulari Foundation for the Girl Child (Sweden), and many privates companies in Bangladesh.

This report summarizes the efforts of PHREB to promote women's rights, gender equality, and respect for human rights international standards included in the UN Declaration.

2006 & 2007 were two great years of achievement for PHREB. Financial support from ICCO (the Netherlands) has been enabling PHREB to fight for adolescent girls' human rights and to campaign against all forms of violence and discrimination against girls and women in Bangladesh. Aside from organizing 338 school workshops for more than 20.000 students of 40 High Schools in Chittagong Division, PHREB was able to organize two Young Women Summits, one in 2006 and another was in 2007 and the Honouring Future Nation Builders Program which awarded 670 adolescents girls for their outstanding success in the SSC examination overcoming violence against girls.

Activities in this report are divided in three pillars:

- 1) STOP Violence Against Girls
- 2) Youth for Human Rights
- 3) Girls' Right to Education

STOP Violence against Women is designed to maintain long term evolution for Bangladeshi society in term of improving women's rights and it is going to be achieved by five-stage strategies:

- Engage in an ongoing campaign to eliminate violence against girls
- Engage international volunteers in a focused campaign through the International Work Camp
- Encourage girls' participation in education through the Honouring Future Nation Builders program
- Provide Education and Legal Aid Support to the adolescent girls

- Provide Non Formal and Vocational Training to the adolescent girls

School Based Intervention has been our main activity since inception of PHREB in 2004 and has been sustained by school workshops, Teachers-Students- School Managing Community Members, BKAF, and Leaders of Tomorrow Club.

Our main achievements in this project are following:

- The project has organized 222 school workshops in 32 high schools and 8 colleges for more than 23.540 students in Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Rangamati Hill District.
- 23 BKAF chapters have been developed with 1390 students of 16 high schools that are committed to stand up against all forms of violence against schoolgirls
- The Kisholoya Adarsha High School BKAF chapter organized SAY NO to Violence against Girls campaign in Shonadia Island 15-18 May 2006. The campaign included a community seminar and a family level mobilization
- Managing Committee of Khisholoya Model Girls High School in Chakaria declared the school as free from violence in May 2006

SCHOOL BASED INTERVENTIONS

Since 2004 PHREB has been engaging school-age children to participate in a youth campaign "Say No to Violence against Girls". 222 school workshops were organized for 32 high school students at 8 colleges in Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Chittagong Hill Tracks.

Table 1: Summary of beneficiaries for a period of November to October 2007

Activities	Nr of events	Male- attendance	Female- attendance	Total
School workshop	222	5490	18050	23540
Advocacy seminars	7	106	76	182
BKAF	23	-	1390	1390
Leaders of Tomorrow Club	6	345	-	345
Day Observation	10	4600	3900	8500
Cultural Function and Sport	6	4500	5600	10100
Total		15041	29016	44057

Teachers-Students-School Managing Community Members –Law Enforcing Agencies’ Dialogue for Safe Schools for Girls

PHREB research on violence against girls in Bangladesh shows that eve teasing is one of the most dangerous forms of violence that girls face in their daily reality. PHREB organized 12

meetings of teacher-student-school-lawyers to discuss ways to decrease eve teasing to minimum.

Leaders of Tomorrow Club

PHREB encourages male students to take apart in the campaign to end violence against women. PHREB has developed 6 groups of Leaders of Tomorrow with 345 male students in Chittagong.

National Girl Child Day & International Human Rights Day

PHREB and Nurul Islam Municipal Girls High School Day 2006 at school auditorium on 30 September 2006 and was held in Chandgaon, Mohora, Balir Hat, Khalipa Para, Hazir Pool Tulip centres. PHREB celebrated Human Rights Day 2006 at Shahid Zia Coastal College, Pekua, Dulahazara College, Chakaria, Rangamati Govt. Women College and in Chittagong Govt. Girls High School on 10 December 2006.

In 2007, PHREB organized cultural functions and debate programmes to celebrate international Human Rights Day 2007 at Aparna Charan City Corporation Girls High School.

COMMUNITY BASED INTERVENTIONS

Family Level Mobilization

PHREB organized 106 family level campaigns at Chandagaon, Chakaria, Moheshkhali, Talukdar Para, Banderban Hill Distric, Rangamati Sadar to mobilize family members to raise their hands against gender discrimination.

International Women's Day

PHREB was celebrating the International Women's Day in 2006 and in 2007 with hundreds of men and women at Shadur Para Slum in Chandagaon, Chittagong. These open sky events gave the opportunity for people from slum to share their stories.

Seminars to raise public awareness of women rights

PHREB organized 3 community-based seminars to raise public awareness of women's rights. These seminars were organized in the hearts of the communities in Chakaria Thana under Cox's Bazar District.

Artists for Human Rights (AHR)

In April 2006, PHREB developed a network of young singers, dancers, cultural activists in age of 15 to 24. There were committed in promoting women's human rights and gender equality. AHR organized various forms of cultural functions and interactive forum theatres at a community level and for a community.

Imams for Women's Rights

This program seeks to re-establish justice through an intervention of religious leaders

Universal Birth Registration

Birth registration helps children to protect their legal identity. We believe that if all birth is registered with the Government, the number of early marriages (currently about 70%) will be halved. In March 2006, we developed working relations with Chittagong City Corporation and five municipalities (Chakaria, Cox's Bazar, Moheshkhali, Chandanish and Banderban) for birth registration.

Table 2: Summary of beneficiaries for the period of November to October 2007

Activities	Nr of Events	Male-attendance	Female-attendance	Total
Family Level Mobilization	106	3456	3870	7326
International Women Day	13	2500	1600	4100
Seminar	3	54	18	72
Artist for Human Rights	45	680	2500	3180
Imams Movement for Women Rights: Weekly Mosque based Women Rights Discussion	-	approx.100,000	-	approx. 100,000
Total		106,690	7988	114,678

BKAF CHAPTER FORMATION:

BKAF collects its members from schools and communities. Every year during the summer vacation, the members of the BKAF School Chapters take initiative to campaign in the community levels for new members. Around 300 members entered BKAF in 2006 and 3000 members in 2007.

BKAF Members' Weekly Motivational Dialogue:

PHREB organizes weekly motivational dialogue for girls only to discuss problems related to gender discrimination. There were 116 weekly meetings in 2006 and 314 meetings in 2007 for more than 3000 members.

Advocacy Training:

To empower adolescent girls to stand up for their rights by developing leadership, PHREB organized 18 training programs for 315 BKAF members.

Cultural Function:

BKAF organizes regular cultural functions that include music, dance and theatre, at the community level to raise public awareness in terms of women's rights. BKAF arranged 76 Cultural Functions in 2006 and 214 in 2007.

Write Letters to the MP, PM Judges and Govt. Officers:

BKAF came up with an idea to encourage girls to write letters on various gender issues to the officials seeking justice for the girls that had been abused. Seeking for implementation of CEDAW and better opportunities for education, the girls on behalf of BKAH wrote 318 letters, from which a number of 200 letters were sent.

Lobby and Advocacy

In 2006 BKAF organized dialogue with Cox's Bazar District High School Education Department to discuss issues regarding violence against schoolgirls at school. BKAF discussed possibilities to increase girl's friendly teachers, to separate toilets for girls and boys, and finally to develop complaining box to report any cases of violence at school.

Young Women Summit 2006

The summit took a place on 15 May and was entitled "Raise your voice to stop violence against adolescent girls". It brought together 30 girls from Moheshkhali, Kutubdia, Chakaria, Pekua, Chittagong Hills Track, Chittagong city, Cox's Bazar Sadar, Eidgaon, Ramu and Ukhia, as following from 24 BKAF chapters all together.

Two days summit started with pre-workshop in purpose of making new friendships within a group. The meeting was honoured by participation of ICCO Programme Officer, Ms. Nellie van der Pasch and representing Amnesty International – Johan Colijns

Young Women Summit 2007

The summit took a place between 13 and 15 March 2007 in Chandgaon, Chittagong and was entitled "Government must ensure safe schools for girls". The number of participated adolescent girls on 13 March was 135 from Chittagong region and divided into 13 groups. They were exclusively taking apart in training programme for BKAF leaders. There was a field tour on 14 March for 13 groups that visited 10 high schools in Chittagong. On 15 March the summit was arranged in CSDF auditorium for 30 girls from different parts of the region. The main discussion was focused on importance for including human rights in a school curricular.

Table 3: Summary of beneficiaries for the period of November 2005 to October 2007

Activities	Quantity	Male-attendance	Female-attendance	Total
BKAF Chapter Formation	42 chapters	-	3400	3400
BKAF Member's Weekly Motivational Dialogue	430 meetings	-	3000	3000
Advocacy Training	18	-	315	315
Cultural Function	290	1200	3000	4200
Write letters to the MP, PM, Judges & Govt. Officers	318	-	2000	2000
Lobby and Advocacy	2 govt. agencies	6	2	8

Young Women Summit	2	600	2000	2600
Total		1806	13,717	15,523

INTERNATIONAL WORK CAMP:

It was designed as an intense program to initiate the Stop Violence against Girls campaign. By utilizing the skills of international volunteers, PHREB aims to generate awareness and receptiveness to the campaign. From 6 January to 6 February international volunteers were organizing following programs:

Workshop on Violence against young women

There were 4 workshops undertaken for youths District and Thana levels. International volunteers were training young people, imams, teachers, journalists and women leaders, which was relevant to the international human rights standards.

Regional Advocacy Workshop

It was held on the 26th of January in Chakaria, Cox's Bazar and it brought Thana level government officers, local council members, political leaders, civil society members, NGO officials together to discuss strategies and policies friendly girls' rights. The main outcome of the workshop was announcement of the 17 Elected Union Council Chairmen regarding creating local village committees to prevent violence against girls. Another significant outcome from the meeting was Chakaria Upazila Nirbahi Officer's promise to eradicate eve teasing.

School workshop

10 workshops were conducted with various games and activities in purpose of developing an understanding of UDHR and its implementation to everyday life.

Essay writing/art competition

In this workshop students were invited to write an essay or to submit an artwork on a topic of human rights. An award was a certificate of "Advocate for Human Rights".

Alliances

Female student were encouraged to join BKAF and male students to work for human rights and gender equality.

Maintaining support

Government officials were approached to develop human rights education in an official part of schooling. Furthermore, teachers were encouraged to cooperate with human rights implementation by introducing of human rights issues' activities in the classes. PHREB is the main partner of providing a school with information regarding example of such exercises. Pamphlets, stickers and other materials were distributed to all students in purpose of maintaining support for human rights.

Honouring Future Nation Builders

PHREB awarded 1230 girls that achieved a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 5 in their secondary school examinations held in March 2006 in Chittagong Division. The awards were presented at a ceremony with a participation of the key community representatives.

Table 4: Summary of beneficiaries for the period of November 2005 to October 2007

Activities	Quantity	Male-attendance	Female-attendance	Total
Workshop on Violence against Young Women	4	65	107	172
Regional Advocacy Workshop	1	89	65	154
School Workshop	10	370	690	1060
Essay writing/art competition	10	60	90	150
Alliances	10	20	90	110
Honouring Future Nation Builders	1	-	1230	1230
Total		604	2272	2876

PHREB TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (PTI)

In 2006 PHREB launched PTI to educate young women, the key community persons, gender, human rights activities, and law enforcing agencies to discuss the issue regarding violation of basic human rights as well as reproductive rights, HIV/AIDS and health and social justice matters. In 2007 PTI trained 565 young women and simultaneously, 286 high school teachers and headmasters, 198 imams and 136 political leaders.

Leadership academy for girls:

In December 2006 PHREB established Leadership Academy for Girls to give them skills in area of handicrafts, computer managing, self-protection, English language, and in area of human resources development.

Courses in 2007

Course	Target Group	Nr of Events	Total Beneficiaries
Handicraft Training	Girls, age 15-19	13	347
English Language	Girls, age 10-18	3	60

Computer managing	Girls, age 10-18	3	80
Life skills and psychological protection	Girls, age 15-24	1	20
Total		20	507

TULIP SCHOOL

PHREB started with Tulip School in November 2006 with 3 schools for 180 female students at Chandgaon thana Chittagong city. In 2007 the program was introduced in slums with 10 schools for more than 775 students with 70% of girls. All schools are free of charge for its pupils. Furthermore, each of the tulip school provide free of charge school dresses and educational materials.

Course	Target Group	Nr of Events	Total beneficiaries
Non formal education	Boys and girls, age 8-19	2 classes	775
Vocational training	Girls, age 10-18	3	54
School dress support	All students of Tulip Schools	3	775
Parents meeting	Parents and people from a community	78	3980
Total			5584

PHREB Fund for Girls' Education

Since an introduction of this program in November 2005 many goals have been achieved:

1. 137 students had been provided with financial support by December 2007
2. 23 girls had been given an ICTs Training
3. 600 students had been provided with school dresses and educational materials.

For more information, please contact our Executive Director Mr. Faridul Alam, email: farid@phreb.org