
Conditions of Rohingyas at high risks, TIB urged to create favourable environment for repatriation through mounting pressure and diplomatic initiatives

Forcibly displaced Myanmar Nationals to Bangladesh, the Rohingyas are under grave risk related to food, clean water, clothing, shelter, sanitation and health. Despite diverse efforts of government and private sector with support from national and global level, the afflicted, oppressed and the victims of unprecedented atrocity by the state of Myanmar are being exploited in different ways by a coterie consist of several representatives of displaced refugees, few local public representatives and politically influential. In the face of horrible humanitarian crisis in the history of Bangladesh, the government has set a commendable and humanitarian example by providing shelter and various other basic needs in such a short notice to the Rohingyas from humanitarian perspective. The management of large number of refugees with limited resources and growing challenges pose massive risk of long-term social, economic, environmental and health related disaster including national security to Bangladesh. If these issues cannot be addressed properly, Bangladesh is likely to face greater challenges in future. This was observed in a rapid assessment report by TIB on the relief response and shelter management of displaced Rohingyas.



Appreciating the ongoing various efforts of government and non-governmental institutions, supported by national and international level in tackling diverse challenges regarding Rohingya crisis, the report observed that due to lack of complete list, equity in assistance programs including relief distribution could not be ensured. The camps still lack safe drinking water and hygiene sanitation system. Due to lack of safe sanitation system, there lies risk of outbreak of diseases. The ongoing health service is very inadequate compared to the need and the risks of outbreak of water-borne and communal diseases are increasing. As the winter advances, the displaced will have to face a severe crisis of clothing and shelter in fighting cold winds.

The report revealed number of observations regarding security. Absence of security arrangement in the border points to check trafficking of illegal drug and firearms during the influx of Rohingya people was identified as a big concern. Besides, there is no provision of emergency support for the Rohingyas injured by Myanmar military. Exploitation and extortion of Rohingyas have been happening during the period of border crossing, currency exchange and building temporary shelters. Though Rohingyas are accommodated in camps situated in the land owned by Forest Department, a local syndicate consisting local UP members, local political leaders and some of the Rohingya 'Majhi' have been collecting BDT 2000-5000 from each family for shelter.

The report observed that the Rohingya crisis could emerge as a heavy challenge to the stability and communal harmony in the Chittagong hill Tracts (CHT) area and that might pose a risk of bridging collusion between extremists and Rohingyas in relevant area. If the Rohingyas spread across other areas of Bangladesh, that might result into multifaceted social, economic, national security-related long-term risks. The report identified the growing leadership structure among Rohingyas as a complex and long-term problem which should be controlled immediately. Information regarding increased drug-trafficking and human trafficking were also observed in the report.

The assessment report titled “Problems related to refuge provided in Bangladesh to forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals (Rohingya): an assessment on governance challenges” was unveiled in a press conference at TIB’s Dhaka office on 1 November 2017. TIB’s Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Adviser, Executive Management of TIB Professor Dr. Sumaiya Khair; and Director, Research and Policy of TIB Mohammad Rafiqul Hassan were present in the event while Gulam Mohiuddin, Programme Manager, the Climate Finance Governance unit of TIB presented the research findings. Three other researchers involved with the assessment study were Zafar Shadeq Chowdhury, Deputy Programme Manager, Research and Policy, TIB; Md Razu Ahmed Masum, Assistant Manager, Research, Climate Finance Governance, TIB; and Md. Jashim Uddin, Area Manager, Civic Engagement, TIB.



In the press conference, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, "Bangladesh made an example from a humanitarian perspective by providing shelter in a very short span. Since the Rohingyas were forced to leave Myanmar to escape the atrocities of Myanmar government and army, it is not for Bangladesh alone to resolve the issue, Myanmar government and international community must take the responsibility of one million Rohingya." Stressing on imposing targeted sanctions on Myanmar in order to stop the Rohingya exodus, Dr. Zaman further called on the Bangladesh government to expedite its diplomatic efforts to compel Myanmar to take back their nationals from Bangladesh.

In the recommendations part, the report stressed on strong diplomatic efforts by Bangladesh government through involving all related stakeholders to mount pressure on Myanmar government to repatriate the Rohingyas, and lobbying to take immediate steps by relevant states, stakeholders and international and UN agencies to mitigate the crisis and put diplomatic pressure on Myanmar. It further recommended to estimate national multipurpose-cost in addressing Rohingya crisis with risk assessment to ensure equity and adequacy in relief and other supports distribution properly, and ensure international aid and relief to bear the expenses.

Conducted between September 2017 to October 2017 to review the relief and shelter management of the forcibly displaced Rohingyas of Myanmar and identify the challenges of the overall situation from the governance perspective, the report assessed the collected data in light of four indicators of good governance- transparency, accountability, equity and sensitivity.

In overcoming the socio-economic and security risks of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and establishing good governance in the overall relief and shelter management, the highlighted recommendations of the report among others, included deploy adequate manpower to complete the biometric registration urgently; identify and take legal steps towards the syndicate exploiting Rohingya people during border crossing, currency exchange and building temporary shelters; increase monitoring process of respective assigned organizations and publish monitoring reports periodically; create an integrated website on Rohingya management information; establish an effective grievance redress mechanism; enlist persons with disabilities and orphans urgently and take especial measures for them; develop strategic plan to protect environment, forest and biodiversity of the area; take measures to resist trafficking of illegal drugs and other goods in borders; steps to avoid irregularities in relief token distribution; strengthen security arrangement in camp areas at night; ensure maternal and child health care for pregnant mothers, infants and children and encourage the Rohingyas to adopt family planning methods; address the needs of affected local inhabitants and integrate their demand into overall response program etc.

TIB calls for institutionalising public hearing in preventing corruption including constant follow up for augmented productivity

Public hearing was found as an effective tool in ensuring transparency and accountability in the public offices and importantly, it creates influential impact on people's empowerment and create a space to resolve complaints and grievances. Though a significant number of complainers were not provided with answers yet on their complaints, number of resolutions on raised complaints were found impressive. If institutionalized, public hearing can become one of the most effective tool in corruption prevention in public offices as it opens up ways of developing relationship and trust between service providers and service recipients. This observation was made in a TIB study on Anti-Corruption Commission's (ACC's) Public Hearing as a Means of Controlling Corruption: Effectiveness, Challenges and Way Forward.



“Although public hearing creates an immediate impact, it is not possible for ACC alone to monitor all the institutions of the country all the time. To reduce the lack of trust between the service provider and service recipient, internal monitoring and controlling system should be developed in relevant institutions and areas. Besides, ACC should continue organising public hearing with improved capability and enhanced capacity,” said Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director of TIB. However, to have real fruition of activity like public hearing, it needs to be institutionalized, he added. Dr. Zaman was addressing a press conference to release the study organised by TIB at its Dhanmondi office on 5 November 2017.

Md. Wahid Alam, Senior Programme Manager and Md. Shahidul Islam, Deputy Programme Manager of Research and Policy (R&P) division of TIB presented the study report at the event. Among others, Professor Dr. Sumaiya

Khair, Adviser – Executive Management; Mohammad Rafiqul Hassan, Director, and Md. Rezaul Karim, Programme Manager, of R&P, TIB were present at the event.

In an aim to assess the effectiveness of ACC's public hearing in controlling corruption, the study highlighted on effectiveness of public hearing in redressing complaints regarding corruption and other irregularities, impacts of public hearing in concerned institutions, challenges of arranging and implementing public hearings.

The released study found an encouraging status regarding responses made by concerned authorities. According to the complainer's survey, majority of the complainers (78.0%) got commitment or assurance to solve the problems at the time of hearing events. Afterwards, about one third of the complainers (27.2%) said that they got solutions against their commitments. However, more than half of the complaints (59%) were found unsolved. The prevalent types of complaints included bribery, harassment, negligence of duties, fraudulence and unlawful behaviours of by a section of public officials. The survey findings reveal that complainers in 13 public hearings made complaints against diverse institutions and individuals. Majority of the complaints were made relating to institutions and officials involved in land services (67.0%).



All complainers found public hearing as a positive tool for enhancing accountability of public institutions as it created opportunities for making authorities accountable before the public (75.0%) followed by opportunity to raise complaints before officials (69.0%) and promote commitment to solve complaints (20.0%) etc.

The findings of institution survey show that authorities of the concerned institutions had taken certain measures after public hearing for improving the quality of services. Almost all the measures are related to enhancing transparency, accountability and responsiveness in public services. According to the survey, 77.0 percent of the institutions set up information board after public hearing whereas the percentage before the hearing was 54.0 percent.

The study identified lack of adequate follow up by ACC and concerned institutions for failure of addressing the complaints. Although institutions were found undertaking some encouraging initiatives to improve transparency, accountability and responsiveness in their services, a section of officials were found less responsive to deliver services with commitment and adequate professionalism. Lack of budget, logistics and manpower of the ACC and concerned organisations for arranging public hearing suffer from lack of budget, logistics and manpower.

According to the study, 22.0% complainers could not receive commitment for their solutions. The major reasons for not getting solution of the complaints raised by complainers are non-cooperation from authority (69.0%), demand of

unauthorised payment (27.0%), and lack of initiative (24.0%). In this regard, key informants blamed lack of effective process tracking or monitoring by the ACC and concerned authorities.

Among the identified challenges in three different stages of the study, the notables are: Lack of citizen's awareness on public hearing processes, less about knowledge about services, insufficient publicity, less participation from the marginalized areas, lack of logistics, inadequate human resources and budget allocation, absence of follow up measures, and solutions beyond the jurisdiction of authorities.

As the purview, the study considered 13 public hearings held from December 2015 to June 2016 organised by ACC. Both quantitative and qualitative research techniques were applied where complainers survey and institutions survey were conducted as quantitative technique and the qualitative techniques involved key informant interviews and cases studies.

To enhance effectiveness of public hearing, the study came out with eight points recommendation, of which, the important points are: conduct institution/sector based public hearing; arrange separate public hearing on corruption-prone different institutions and sectors; ensure presence of relevant officials of institutions; ensure solution of the complaints; ensure mechanism to follow up of complaints; allocate budget for public hearing; increased publicity; increase the confidence of complainers etc.

TIB urges government to take proposed financial assistance from ADB for Rohingya refugee crisis as interest-free grant, not as loan

TIB urged the Bangladesh government to receive only interest-free grants, not loans from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to meet various needs of the Rohingya peoples who have taken shelter in the country. In a statement on 7 November 2017, TIB also made a call to government to continue all-out diplomatic efforts to collect interest-free grants from all international sources including ADB for the Rohingyas who have fled to Bangladesh to escape ethnic cleansing by Myanmar military.

“According to media reports, ADB like the World Bank has also proposed to provide financial assistance to Bangladesh to meet the needs of the Rohingya refugees. But it is not clear whether the support will come in the form of loans or interest-free grants,” TIB’s Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said in the statement. “It would be very sad, inhumane and unacceptable if ADB tries to put a burden of loan on Bangladesh in the name of assistance taking advantage of humanitarian disaster”, he added.

Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, “the crime against humanity through planned ethnic cleansing by the Myanmar government and army, and push-in of one million Rohingya refugees to Bangladesh should not be the burden of Bangladesh alone, rather the Myanmar government and the international community also have liability. Considering this, if any international agency or donor country including ADB or the World Bank offer any financial assistance to Bangladesh to tackle the Rohingya crisis, it must be interest-free grant.”

He added that the Myanmar army felt encouraged to carry out such atrocities against the Rohingya people as they have long been enjoying interest-driven support from the global powers. Failure of the international community in taking effective steps including imposition of any sanction against Myanmar’s killing and barbarity and continued economic, investment, development, trade and military assistance on the other have made the possibility of Rohingya repatriation thinner day by day. Stating that it is impossible and illogical for Bangladesh to take the liability of this

burden alone, Dr. Zaman said, “international community must take the burden of this 10 lakh homeless and oppressed Rohingyas”

Dr. Zaman also suggested that as a major donor agency of Myanmar, ADB can assert its position to take the Rohingya refugees back within the shortest possible time.

Serious challenges plague NCTB: TIB places 16 recommendations to improve the governance situation

A TIB study titled ‘National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB): Challenges of Good Governance and a Way-out in its Manuscript Formulation and Publication Management’ revealed that NCTB officials are not only involved in irregularities in publishing and distributing free textbooks, they also arbitrarily changed some of the textbook contents in primary and secondary levels due to political and communal pressures.



Identifying prevailing governance challenges and irregularities at various stages of manuscript formulation and publication processes, TIB proposed 16-point recommendations to ensure transparency and accountability in the operation of NCTB.

Morsheda Akhter, Program Manager, Research and Policy, TIB presented the findings of the study during a press conference on 13 November 2017 at TIB’s Dhaka office. TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Adviser for Executive Management Professor Dr. Sumaiya Khair, Director for research and policy Mohammad Rafiqul Hassan and TIB’s Senior Program Manager for research and policy Shahzada M. Akram were also present.

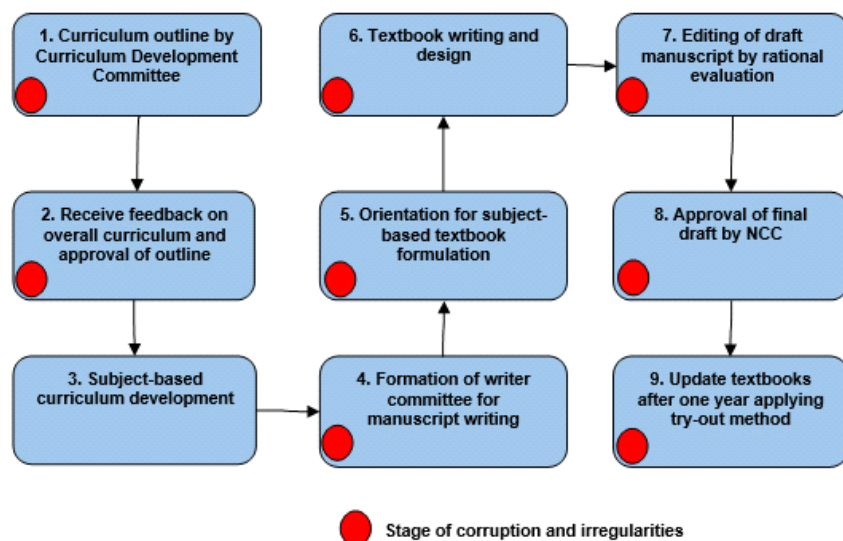
Conducted during October 2016 to October 2017, the qualitative study collected data through key informant interviews and analysis of relevant laws and acts, various publications and reports, annual reports of concerning institutions and published articles in media.

The report identified a number of governance challenges in the process of manuscript development. NCTB operation is unduly influenced and controlled by the Education Ministry though legally it is an autonomous organization. Government finalize selection of writers, curriculum development, technical and other committee members through Education Ministry with recommendations from NCTB where ruling party loyalists get preference and in some cases, members get excluded from it though they are competent. Besides, the study found that selection of participants for

various orientation and workshops during subject-based manuscript development process and formation of writers' panel occurred on personal preferences and nepotism.

The study identified that a total of 16 write-ups from five textbooks at primary and secondary levels were dropped, while 11 poems removed due to demand of a communal group. TIB executive director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said that such changes by the authorities go against the spirit of the Bangladesh's independence. If the anti-liberation forces make their way into textbooks and get institutionalised, it is a matter of grave concern for the next generation, he observed.

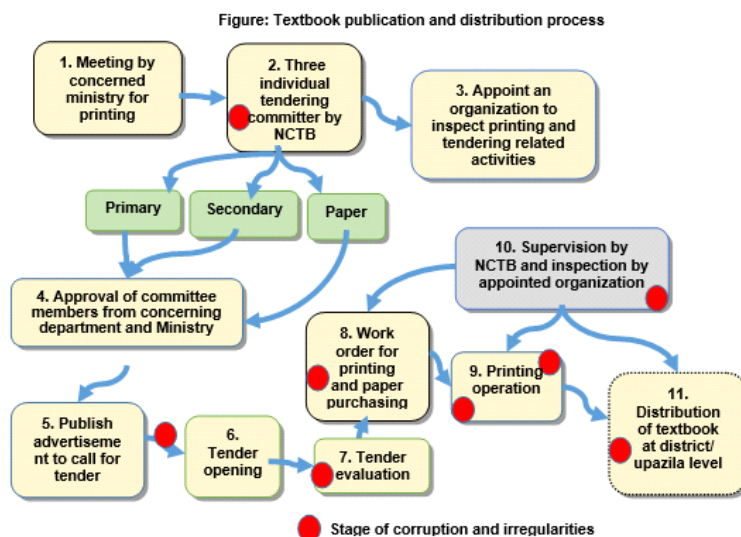
Figure: Manuscript development process of NCTB



In spite of having a rule of subject-based expert recruitment for editing textbooks of all levels, most of the times it didn't happen. Moreover, some other observations on NCTB during manuscript development process revealed in the study include, among others: lack of coordination between writer-editor, adding or removal of topics without notifying the concerned writers, distortion of original poems, spelling mistakes and insertion of incoherent topic and photo, favouritism and lobby in the recruitment of proof-reader, exclude opinions of grass roots levels found through try-out method, absence of proper planning and system for textbook manuscript preservation etc.

Irregularities and corruption also found during textbook publication and distribution process. A section of NCTB tendering committee takes illegal financial benefits by revealing the estimated quote to their preferable printing company prior to call for tenders.

Terming the study findings as good governance challenge, TIB's Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman urged the government to form NCTB as an independent commission through a special committee consists of renowned national and international experts.



To improve the governance in NCTB, the 16-point recommendation of TIB also includes, among others: amend NCTB ordinance 1983; specific policy for curriculum and manuscript development; regular update of curriculum; appointing experienced education and curriculum specialists as NCTB board member; formulate code of conduct for NCTB staff and employees; post qualified subject specialists in NCTB; publish all investigation report online; and introduce agreement with editor, compiler and writer including detail information about work, honorarium, deadline etc. The other recommendations are: recruit subject-based specialists and competent textbook writers for curriculum development; set a standard honorarium scale for writers; document all steps of manuscript development and publication; digital archiving of manuscripts; and introduction of e-tendering for textbook printing etc.

TIB expressed concern about inclusion of Bangladeshi company and individual's name in Paradise Papers; demands legal action to bring back money and exemplary punishment against the involved

TIB has expressed grave concerns over the names of Bangladeshi company and individuals revealed in the 'Paradise Papers' published by the International Consortium for Investigative Journalists (ICIJ). In a statement on 21 November 2017, TIB called for taking necessary steps to bring back the laundered money and subject to proof, ensure exemplary punishment to the involved.

TIB's Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said in the statement, "a coordinated effort involving Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU), Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), National Board of Revenue and Attorney General Office is needed to collect specific information about the names of individuals and companies surfaced in the Paradise Papers and to ensure punishment of those involved in the money-laundering and to bring back the laundered money. TIB also expresses frustration as no effective measures were taken against those individuals whose names were revealed in 'Panama Papers' in 2015."

Dr. Zaman said, "taking advantage of the loopholes in the existing legal and institutional framework at the national and international levels, money is being syphoned off mainly for tax evasion, which has huge negative impact on the national economy. It is the responsibility of the concerned government agencies to take effective measures to prevent money laundering and ensure exemplary punishment for the involved disregarding their status. Many famed banks and accounting companies are involved in the money laundering process. Effective measures should be taken to bring

back the laundered money through international legal and institutional assistance, including the mutual coordination of the country's relevant institutions as well as with United Nations Convention against Corruption.

He said, “the alleged involvement of presidents, prime ministers and other important persons of numerous countries in money laundering proved corruption a global phenomenon. A gradual increase in tax evasion and earning through corruption across the globe is a matter of a lack of good governance concern in global money management”.

TIB believes, it is possible to bring the laundered money back home and ensure punishment of the involved, though it seems difficult. Willingness and effective actions of government and concerned organizations is necessary to make it happen.

TIB calls for taking effective measures to ensure transparency and accountability in Jewellery Sector



TIB called upon the government to take effective steps for ensuring transparency and accountability in the jewellery sector of the country. The call was made during a press conference on November 26, 2017 at TIB's Dhanmondi office to release a research report titled “Transparency and accountability in the jewellery sector of Bangladesh: Challenges and the way forward”. TIB also urged the government to enact a comprehensive law to bring discipline in the much prospective sector. Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director and Dr. Sumaiya Khair, Adviser-Executive Management of TIB were present at the press conference. Mohammad Rafiqul Hassan, Director of the TIB Research and Policy division presented the research report.

The research findings included irregularities and corruption by a section of civil aviation and airport authorities and law enforcement agencies; legal loopholes in preventing gold smuggling; complex legal procedures in importing gold; lack of government monitoring, control and patronization; and a number of irregularities by jewellery business owners. The jewellery market including the quality of gold and jewellery products is under the sole control of the jewellery business owners in the absence of a comprehensive gold import policy and effective government control over the market, the research found. Illegal import of jewellery from different countries including the Middle East is forcing the domestic market to gradually shrink as the local jewellery products are being replaced by the imported products for years. Moreover, there is a lack of a transparent and accountable legal frame in the country to measure the quality of gold and jewellery products and preserve the rights of both the consumers, business owners and jewellers, the research found.

Mentioning the country's jewellery sector as very important and prospective Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, institutionalization of irregularities and black marketing based business in a popular sector like jewellery cannot be expected.

The research was conducted between July and November 2017 to place a set of recommendations to the government with a view to bringing the country's jewellery sector into a stage of transparency and accountability found there is a need of 18-36 metric tons of gold in the domestic market annually and the lion's share of the need is being met through smuggling or black market. Jewellery business owners are gradually becoming dependent on illegally imported gold as they face bad experiences to import gold through legal way for high rate of tax, long and complex procedure of getting approval and unavailability of freight and insurance.

The research report says a section of corrupt people of civil aviation and airport authorities, law enforcement agencies as well as government and non-government air agencies are directly or indirectly involved in gold smuggling. Officers of those authorities and agencies and big heads of gold and jewellery business in the country who are the beneficiaries of the black marketing of gold are active against any initiatives to formulate an effective gold import policy. The research also found some legal loopholes to try the criminals involved in black marketing of gold.

Mentioning that the government is losing a minimum sum of revenue of TK 487-974 crore every year because of illegal import of gold TIB placed some recommendations for the consideration of the government and stakeholders.

Irregularities interrupt remodelling efforts in Subordinate Courts: TIB urges to vest its institutional control and supervision to the Supreme Court



In a research report released on 30 November 2017 that analyses governance challenges of subordinate court system of Bangladesh, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) urges to vest the institutional control and supervision of the court to the apex body of the judiciary of Bangladesh eliminating existing dual control that has been barring the proper functioning of the subordinate courts. The study further observed that the prevailing governance deficiencies cloud over the imperative initiatives taken by the government to increase its effectiveness. In its 18 points recommendations to overcome the identified governance challenges in the study, TIB further stresses on increasing institutional capacity, ensuring transparency, accountability and integrity practices in the subordinate court to increase

its effectiveness and ensure access to justice, so that as an important organ of the state it continue playing vital role in institutionalizing democracy, establishing good governance, transparency and accountability in society.

The research study, qualitative of its kind, titled 'Subordinate Court System of Bangladesh: Governance Challenges and Way Forward' aimed to identify the prevailing challenges in the system, find out the causes behind the challenges, and explore ways out to overcome those.

The study observed significant gaps in prevailing laws in relation to administering subordinate court system. It also identified many infrastructural limitations such as lack of chief judicial magistrate buildings in many places, inadequate number of court rooms compared to the proportion of the judges, lack of sufficient places for the court police to sit in the court premises, inadequate toilets and sitting and waiting places for the litigants and witnesses, separate toilets for female and special facilities for the persons with disabilities. On the other hand, there is inadequate place to sit for the lawyers in court premises. These inadequacies result into in some cases appear to be the hindrance in administering effective judicial procedure. According to the research, due to budget constraint, shortage of human resources, logistics crisis, inadequate training, the subordinate court system faces severe challenges in proper functioning. In addition, appointment, transfer and promotion of Judges and Court Staff; appointment of state prosecutors; and providing license to the lawyers have emerged as challenges for prevailing situation in the lower judiciary.

The study observed that these deficiencies lead to a situation that judicial and administrative works are being impacted and corruption and irregularities including bribery and illegal transaction of money through collusion of different stakeholders take place in some ways. As a result, justice seekers are being victims of harassment and sufferings. The findings of this research suggest that corruption and lengthiness of cases are induced by governance deficits in the subordinate court system of Bangladesh. In some ways, corruption creates lengthiness of cases and lengthiness of cases creates corruption. As a whole, access to justice becomes jeopardized because of the lack of good governance in the court system.

According to the study, number of imperative initiatives have been taken to speed up the effectiveness of the court system which includes: undertaking many projects for developing court buildings in different areas; forming case management committees; developing individual websites for courts of different areas; initiative to record and store case hearings digitally; capacity development initiatives for court officials; introducing alternative conflict-mitigation system; setting up national helpline and informative billboards in court areas; and setting up CC TVs in court areas for ensuring security.

To release the study, TIB organized a press conference on 30 November 2017 at its Dhanmondi head office where TIB Chairperson Advocate Sultana Kamal; Executive Director Dr. Iftekhharuzzaman; Adviser- Executive Management Professor Dr. Sumaiya Khair; and Director of Research and Policy division Mohammad Rafiqul Hassan were present. Shammi Laila Islam and Nazmul Huda Mina, Programme Manager and Assistant Programme Manager of Research and Policy division of TIB respectively presented the study report.

Dr. Iftekhharuzzaman said, "The Subordinate Court system of Bangladesh has been playing important role in ensuring justice for the people of Bangladesh despite many obstacles." Saying that the current dual control and supervision

system has been breeding many difficulties including posing risk to independent judicial system, Dr. Zaman said, “It has been affecting the work-environment of the subordinate courts in some cases being a hindrance in administering the courts.” Mentioning the governance challenges i.e. corruption, leniency of cases in the subordinate courts etc. identified in the study as worrying and embarrassing, Dr. Zaman further called on the relevant all the stakeholders to come forward jointly in tackling those to ensure complainant’s access to justice.

For institutional capacity enhancement, besides stressing on vesting control and supervision of the subordinate court system to the Supreme Court, TIB’s 18 points recommendations includes: formulation of necessary laws and legal reforms should be carried out; sufficient financial allocations; sufficient human resources, infrastructure, logistics and modern technology for all subordinate courts; transparent and Corruption-free speedy recruitment process of the judges, subordinate court staff ; transparent and free from political influence appointment process of public prosecutors; sufficient training courses for the judges, court staff and public prosecutors and equal training opportunity for all judges ; enhancement of capacity of Judicial Administration and Training Institute.

To ensure transparency, accountability and integrity practice, TIB recommends for disclosure of information in court activities; introduction of citizen charters, information centres in the court premises; timely publication of consolidated annual report of all subordinate courts; regular Annual audit with publishing them in the website. In addition, TIB further calls to focus on publishing of Service discipline and conduct rules of the subordinate court judges in a faster way and ensuring strict compliance with codes of conduct by all judicial officers; and separate conduct rules for subordinate court staff; regular monitoring of the court activities and ensuring conduct of judges, court staffs and public prosecutors; regular monitoring system by the Bar Council and local Bar Associations to increase accountability of the lawyers; introduce Complaint box, register to resolve the complaints.

Conducted between January-October 2017, the research study selected 18 districts among 64 have been selected for data collection from both primary and secondary sources considering the divisional representation and number of cases.

CCC NEWS

CCC Barisal urged for keeping out frauds from the Passport and Visa office

Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC), Barisal urged relevant authorities to identify the areas of corruption and irregularities and take proper actions for keeping out the frauds for ensuring good governance at passport and visa services. CCC further pressed on cancelling the provision of attestation & police verification and increasing the number of resource persons and logistics. In a press conference arranged for sharing the findings of a study on Barisal Divisional Passport and Visa Office, CCC-Barisal made a number of suggestions regarding passport and visa services.



Findings of the study were released on 30 November 2017 at Bangladesh Development Society (BDS) auditorium in Barisal. Md. Ali Hossain, Assistant Manager, Research and Policy, TIB conducted the study and presented the findings while Principal Gazi Zahid Hossain, President, Barisal CCC; Prof. M. Moazzem Hossain, Adv. Manabendra Batabyal, Prof Shah Sajeda, Noorjahan Begum, Shaifur Rahman Miron, Shuvankar Chakraborty, member of CCC; and Md. Shahnur Rahman, Programme Manager; Research and Policy, TIB were present at the press conference.

The study included feedback from 350 service recipients of the passport office, interviewed key informants, conducted Focus Group Discussions and reviewed various reports and relevant documents. According to the findings of study, 71.1% service recipients covered by the study have experiences of corruption, irregularities and harassment for getting service at this office. Service recipients paid an undue payment of amount BDT 1854 on an average. The study conducted from November 2016 to August 2017.

LG & Education institutions will practice Integrity Management

With an aim to practice integrity management at institutional level, Integrity Management Workshops were held at education and local government institutions respectively in Gaibandha and Sylhet on 28 November 2017.

In Gaibandha, Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC) and Sadar Upazila Education Office jointly organized the workshop at the conference room of District Primary Education office. Md. Aminul Islam Mondol, District Primary Education Officer of Gaibandha district was the chief guest of the workshop. Mohammad Ali, member of CCC's sub-committee on education



moderated the workshop. Among others, Md. Asaduzzaman Chowdhury and Syed Firoj Iftekhar, Assistant District Primary Education Officer; Md. Abdul Jabber, Sadar Upazila Education officer; Prof. Zahurul Quayum, President, Gaibandha CCC; and Adv. Anis Mostafa Toton, Vice President, Gaibandha CCC were present at the workshop.

In Sylhet, CCC and 3 No. Khadimnagar Union Parishad jointly organized the workshop at the union parishad auditorium on 28 November 2017. Among others, Md. Deloar Hossain, chairman of the UP, elected representatives from different wards of the UP, UP secretary and other officials of the UP attended the event. The participants of the workshop got orientation on strategies and practices of Integrity Management, its challenges and ways of mitigation. UP representatives developed a yearly plan to implement the IM Toolbox at their UP. Mr. Faruk Mahmud Chowdhury, Sub-committee convener of Sylhet CCC on LG issue played a role of Coach for integrity management in the workshop.

TIB staffs facilitated the workshops. Speakers highlighted need to practice integrity management at all level of an institution for strengthening its functions towards corruption free and better service delivery. Such workshops will contribute a lot towards the journey of reducing corruption, the speakers added.

Jhenaidah Municipality meets citizens to improve the services



Citizens of Jhenaidah Municipality raised their voices to organize Ward meetings with an aim to strengthen its services and governance. They also demanded to allocate budget for women development, gender sensitive public toilets, special allocation for horizon communities and initiatives for beautification of Noboganga river. Citizens raised their voices in a 'Face the Public' programme held on 26 November 2017 organized jointly by CCC, Jhenaidah and Jhenaidah Municipality.

Mr. Saidul Karim Mintu, Mayor of Jhenaidah Municipality and Councillors from different wards answered various questions raised by its citizens. The programme was presided over by Abu Taher, CCC President. The authority committed to reform and beautify different roads along with the bank of Noboganga river, establish a school and residential building at Horizon colony and supply pure drinking water at various locations in the city.

The municipality authority shared the progress of their commitments mentioned in previous 'Face the Public' event. Youth Engagement and Support (YES) members of the CCC drove Satellite Advice and Information desk campaign during the event.

Stakeholders' efforts will ensure quality education



A parents gathering was organized at Uttor Shreeramdi Government Primary School of Chandpur Sadar Upazila on 13 November 2017 with participation of the parents of students of the school. The school authority organized the event with the support of CCC, Chandpur and TIB. Kazi Shahadat, President of CCC, Chandpur presided over the gathering while Md. Khorshed Alam, District Primary Education Officer was present as chief guest. Prof. Monohar Ali, convener of the Education sub-committee of Chandpur CCC delivered the welcome speech. Ms Nazma Begum, Sadar Upazila Education Officer and Md. Deloar

Hossain, Assistant Upazila Education Officer were present as special guests in the meeting.

Chief guest Md. Khorshed Alam said, quality education is interlinked with effective participation of all level stakeholders of the school like School Management Committee, teachers, parents and members of Active Mothers Forum. Effective coordination among these stakeholders will make sure good governance and quality education of the school. Guests requested parents to visit school to know status of their children and ensure proper take care of them at home. Parents also raised their voices to solve the problems regarding facilities of the school.

Shah Alam Mollik, President of SMC shared the complied opinion/complaints received from parents. Shahjahan Siddiqi, Head Teacher of the school introduced members of the Active Mothers Forum, which is formed due to initiative of the CCC. Ms Ismat Ara Shafi Bonna, Vice President of CCC moderated the programme.

YES NEWS

Anti-Corruption Cartoon Exhibition, RTI Workshop and Quiz Competition Organized by YES-1



Dhaka YES-1 group organized an anti-corruption cartoon exhibition, workshop and quiz competition on right to information (RTI) at Dhaka International University (DIU) Green Road campus on 8 November to aware new generation about fight against corruption and their right to know information.



Professor Dr. A. T. M. Mahbubur Rahman, Dean of Computer Science and Engineering Department of DIU along with some other teachers of the university inaugurated the cartoon exhibition. A former YES-1 member, Md. Nur Alam facilitated the RTI workshop. Followed by the workshop, a quiz competition on RTI was organized where winners as well as participants were awarded with books.

ISWR, DU organised anti-corruption Youth Grathering marking IACD

To observe the International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD) 2017 YES Group – Institute of Social Welfair and Reasearch (ISWR) , University of Dhaka (DU) organized a day long anti corruption youth grathering on 30 November 2017 in ISWR campus. YES Group organized anti corruption cartoon exsibition, game show, documentary and drama show to awareness the general student aganist corruotion.

The program was formaly inaugurated by the Chairman of the ISWR Director Professor Dr. Tania Rahman, YES adviser Professor Dr. Mohammad Hafiz Uddin Bhuiyan in presence of other teachers of the institute. Followed by the inauguration, the youth took part in an anti-corruption rally in the campus, after which the anti-corruption cartoon exhibition and game show were formally opened for the visitors. In the second part of the program, YES members

ran an anti-corruption documentary and staged a drama show in the auditorium. Through the event, YES members tried to collect the opinion of the youth against corruption on the document and show the social effect of the corruption in the drama. On her speech, Dr. Tania thanked YES members for organising such day-long program. She also hoped that such awareness program will help to reduce corruption in the society. YES adviser Professor Dr. Bhuiyan also thanked chairman for her support.

Campaign against water and electricity wastage at Jahangirnagar University and Ruqayyah Hall, DU



The YES group of Jahangirnagar University organized a utility sticker campaign at its campus on 20 November to aware teachers, students and staffs against water and electricity wastage. The slogan of the campaign was- ‘we prevent waste of water; we save electricity’. Bashir Ahmed, Professor of Government and Politics Department of JU inaugurated the event by putting the sticker at different places of university campus. He said, “We cannot live without water and electricity. Therefore, it is necessary to prevent waste of water and electricity for better living and prosperous development of our country”. Besides of Mr. Ahmed, two other teachers of same department, Kamrul Hasan and Ikhtiar Uddin Bhuiyan along with JU YES group members attended the campaign.

A similar utility sticker campaign was organized by Ruqayyah Hall, Dhaka University YES group on 29 November. Dr. Rumana Islam, House Tutor and Advisor of Ruqayyah Hall YES group inaugurated the campaign. YES members put the stickers at different places of the hall.



Anti-Corruption Mobile Photography and Quiz Competition held at Stamford University Bangladesh



An anti-corruption mobile photography and quiz competition was held on 23 November at Stamford University, organized by the YES Group-Stamford University Bangladesh. A total of 130 Students from different faculties participated in the event. 48 pictures were submitted by the students of Stamford University on the theme 'Corruption and Sufferings of Mass People'. Barkat Ullah Babu and Masum Billah, respectively Programme Manager and Deputy Programme Manager of Outreach and Communication division of TIB were present at the event as adjudicator of the photography competition. Former Vice Chancellor of the Stamford University Bangladesh and Emirates Professor Dr. Firoz Ahmed handed over the prizes to the winners as the Chief Guest. Adviser of the YES group, Mr. Mohshinul Karim was also present in the event.

END

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