



INSIDE

National

- DMCH needs Qualitative changes in human resources, infrastructure and management
- Corruption and mal-governance grip RMG, TIB for strict implementation of laws
- Climate Finance in Bangladesh: Governance Challenges & Way Out
- RAC and TIB sign MoU: demand for speedy passing of ACC (amendment) bill
- Signature Campaign on Climate Finance

CCC NEWS

- Satkhira Sadar Hospital is now Gender Responsive – thanks to the CCC
- Collective initiative to improve quality of education
- Local Government Representatives faces the Citizen
- Pledge to ensure accountability in health service
- Satellite AI Desk at Upazilla Land office

Dhaka YES

- Seminar on RTI at Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University
- Workshop on 'Filling RTI Application' at Jahangirnagar University
- Workshop on "Effective Communication and Anti-Corruption Campaign"

the overall quality of primary education and promote governance. After signing the IP, Alokdia Government Primary School at Madhupur, Tangail marked significant increase in net enrollment, reduction in dropout, competition of fifth and final grades. The school graduated itself from grade B to grade A and became a model in the vicinity.

NATIONAL

GCR on Education released: TIB calls for introducing integrity pledge in primary education

TI's Global Corruption Report (GCR) on Education called upon the governments, international agencies, businesspersons and civil societies across the world to acknowledge education as an effective tool to fight corruption. The call was made during the release of TI's Global Corruption Report (GCR) on Education on 1st October 2013. In Dhaka, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) also organised a press conference to release the report on the same day. The national release urged upon the government and concerned stakeholders to ensure people's participation and introduce Integrity Pledge (IP) in primary education.



Dr Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director, TIB presented findings of the GCR focusing Bangladesh. Dr Syed Manzoorul Islam, Member, TIB Board of Trustees; Dr Sumaiya Khair, Deputy Executive Director and Mr Mohammad Hossain, Deputy Programme Manager (Research & Policy), TIB were also present.

According to GCR, while global rate of bribery in education stood at 12%; it was 12%, 13%, 16% and 48% in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and India respectively. The report identified corruption risks, types of corruption in education quantified its monetary value and recommended a number of measures including leadership, strong political will, impartial and strict application of laws, people's participation in the management of educational institutions. It revealed that 14% of the population considers Bangladesh's education to be a highly corrupt sector. Although incidences of bribery was reduced to 14.8% in 2012 from 39% in 2007, it contributed significantly in increasing the cost of education, reducing its quality, and further squeezing the scope of education for the poor.

GCR's Bangladesh launch gave special emphasis on introducing IP at primary schools. IP is a tripartite agreement signed between school authority, School Management Committee (SMC) and Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC) with an aim to improve

DMCH needs qualitative changes in human resources, infrastructure and management

Participants during a roundtable on “Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH): Progress of Governance, Challenges and the Way Forward” stressed for qualitative changes in overall management of DMCH including human resource and infrastructural development to improve the quality of health services. A TIB study on the same topic was also released to initiate discussion. It was held on 7th October at BIAM Foundation Auditorium.



Prof Dr Khondoker Md Shefyetullah, Director General of the Directorate General of Health Services attended the discussion as the Chief Guest, while Brigadier General Mostafizur Rahman, Director, DMCH attended as Special Guest. Among others Dr Samanta Lal Sen, National Chief Coordinator, Burn Unit, DMCH; and Dr Rashid-e-Mahbub, Chairman of the National Committee of Health Rights Movement (NCHRM) attended. Ms Taslima Akter, Programme Manager, Research and Policy presented the findings of the study and Dr Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director of TIB moderated the event., held at the BIAM Foundation Auditorium.

Dr Shefyetullah said they could not ensure proper and integrated treatment facilities for all due to insufficient allocation of resources. Despite this limitation, DMCH was providing unremitting health services to a huge number of people. Brigadier General Rahman highlighted the lack of skilled human resources and bureaucratic bottlenecks in recruitment and management resulting in disrupted health services. Dr Samanta Lal Sen suggested involving concerned stakeholders in the procurement process to reduce incidences of corruption.

The findings shows absence of long term-plan, lack of transparency and accountability, lack of proper monitoring and evaluation, procrastination in service delivery, absence of regular transfer of hospital staff and absence of Information Officer as major hindrances in establishing good governance at DMCH. Besides, the study also identified a number of challenges including negligence of doctors in maintaining their duty roster; uncontrolled entry of medical representatives, forcing patients to conduct medical tests from chosen diagnostic centers and clinics; bribery to get services ranging from 20-1000 Tk, bribery in procurement and payment and lack of accountability among doctors, nurses and other staff were responsible for inadequate healthcare facilities.

To overcome the existing challenges, TIB proposed a set of recommendations that included among others, appointment of doctors, nurses and other support staff proportionate with the patients; campaign in support of available health services; formation of complaints redress committee; setting up of close circuit camera in the hospital premise; allowing the director to spend up-to 25% of hospital's income and adoption of a long term development plan for the next 30 years.

Corruption and mal-governance grip RMG, TIB for strict implementation of laws

TIB at a press conference tabled 25 recommendations to overcome various limitations and challenges and establish governance in the Ready Made Garment (RMG) sector in Bangladesh. The governance challenges include irregularities in carrying out respective responsibilities by buyers, owners and public watchdogs; corrupt practices by different parties; and lack of transparency, accountability and responsiveness toward the industry stakeholders etc. These mal-practices have institutionalised corruption in the RMG and as a result, tragedies like Rana Plaza and Tazreen Fashions are taking place on regular basis.

The press conference was held on 31 October 2013 to release a TIB study titled "Ready Made Garments Sector: Governance Challenges and Way Forward" at the National Press Club in Dhaka. Mr Sharif Ahmed Chowdhury, Deputy Programme Manager and Nazmul Huda Mina, Assistant Programme Manager, Research and Policy, TIB presented the findings of the study. Advocate Sultana Kamal, Chairperson, Board of Trustees; Dr Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director and Dr Sumaiya Khair, Deputy Executive Director, TIB were also present during the briefing.



The study analysed RMG related laws and policies; roles of public institutions, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), labour organisations and buyers and identified several mal-practices including fake audit report and salary sheet, non-compliance with building and fire safety codes, non-existence of formal appointment and pay slip. Other mal-practices include placement of work orders by buyers to non-compliant factories in exchange of money, delayed payment by buyers on various grounds mainly to get discount or commission, bribery amounting to TK 7 - 20 lacs to obtain clearance certificates and receive services from 17 public institutions, role of trade union leaders in favour of owners, political interference backed by the BGMEA etc. The study also revealed that around 10% of the parliamentarians were involved in RMG business that created risks of taking policy decisions for personal or group interest – mainly in favor of owners.

The TIB study strongly recommended strict implementation of laws and establishment of a separate ministry to address the governance challenges in the RMG sector and make the sector a sustainable one. It also recommended to introduce an integrated code of conduct, separate code of conduct on gender, amendment of labour law to facilitate filing of criminal cases against owners in case of accident, increased compensation for dead and injured workers, introduce trade union within a specific time, speedy trial in labour courts, create a central fund by contributing 1–1.5 cents per exported garment with a 75:25 ratio for buyers and owners, introduce an accountability framework for buyers, transparency in registration of trade unions etc.

RAC and TIB sign MoU: demand speedy passing of ACC (amendment) bill

TIB signed a memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Reporters Against Corruption (RAC) on 9th October at its conference room. Under the MoU, both organisations will work together to raise awareness against corruption, make the Anti Corruption Commission effective and independent and increase professionalism in investigative journalism. Besides, RAC will provide related case studies to strengthen TIB's anti-corruption research. Dr Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director of TIB and Mr Mizan Malik, President of RAC signed the MoU on behalf of respective organisations. In a press statement, both organisations urged the government to immediately pass the bill as part of the electoral pledge of the ruling party to make the ACC effective, independent and impartial.

Signature Campaign on Climate Financing

To generate support in favour of transparency and integrity in climate finance in Bangladesh, TIB's Climate Finance Governance Project (CFGP) with support from Climate Finance Governance Network (CFGN) and 45 CCCs, launched a signature campaign across Bangladesh. More than five thousand people took part in the campaign and signed in support of a) 'new' and 'additional' climate fund as promised by Annex-1 countries; b) ensuring integrity, transparency, accountability and effectiveness in the use of climate funds - both national and international and c) effective participation of people, especially from affected regions in project planning and implementation.

Climate Finance in Bangladesh: Governance Challenges and Way Out

TIB urged the government and concerned authorities to immediately address governance challenges in climate finance to reduce risks of corruption at different stages of project formulation, selection and implementation and fund disbursement. TIB urged this at the press

launch of a study titled "Climate Finance in Bangladesh: Governance Challenges and Way Forward" on 3rd October 2013 at the CIRDA P auditorium.

This report was prepared based on the findings generated through monitoring of fund flow, tracking of projects one from Bangladesh Climate change Trust Fund (BCCTF) and another from Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund (BCCRF). It also identified governance challenges in the approvals and relation of projects submitted by NGOs and think tanks by the Board of the BCCTF and assessing quality of implementation of three selected projects under BCCTF funding. The study revealed a number of irregularities, nepotism and incidences of corruption at different stages of project formulation, NGO selection and implementation.

Ms Mohua Rauf, Assistant Coordinator of Climate Finance Governance Project (CFGP), presented the findings of the study. Dr Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director; Dr Sumaiya Khair, Deputy Executive Director, TIB; Mr Zakir Hossain Khan, Coordinator and Mr Md Mahfuzul Haque, Research Associate, CFGP, TIB were also present.

According to the study till 2013, Bangladesh received only US\$ 594 million from Annex-1 countries as commitment under Bangladesh Climate Change Strategic Action Plan (BCCAP). Mentionable that the country, till June 2013 received US\$ 147 million under Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund (BCCRF) against

commitment of US\$ 170 million for 11 ongoing projects. On the other hand, the government from its own source under Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF) implemented 139 projects at cost of US\$ 340 million and received US\$190.78 million till June 2013 for implementing 139 GoB and

63 NGO projects across the country.

Studying the governance practices of the World Bank led BCCRF project, the report revealed a number of challenges

including faulty disclosure of information, nominal involvement of affected people in project implementation process, political influence in selecting contractors, violation of public procurement rules, lack of accountability and proper monitoring in project implementation; poor quality of construction lack of accountability due to absence of effective complaint redresses mechanisms. Apart from these irregularities, the study also identified project finance being disbursed as credit assistance contrary to principles of climate finance.

The study came up with a set of recommendations including highest disclosure of project related information; inclusion of affected people at every stage of project formulation and implementation; establish complain mechanism and quick disposal of complains. For NGO implemented projects, TIB recommended setting up a watchdog body like an integrated national platform in addition to existing selection and approval committee, full freedom to Palli Karma Shahayok Foundation (PKSF) in selecting NGOs, on the basis of their competency, quick disposal of funds and above all zero political pressure and exemplary punishment for corrupt practice.



CCC News

Satkhira Sadar Hospital is now Gender Responsive – thanks to the CCC

Satkhira Sadar Hospital authority took several initiatives to turn the hospital into a gender responsive one. Thanks to the efforts of the local CCC that identified a number of problems faced by female patients. The female patients said that establishment of separate toilet, ticket counter, spaces for breastfeeding mothers and appointment of female laboratory technicians could easily turn the hospital into a gender responsive one. The CCC then started advocacy with the authority and urged them to implement these recommendations. The hospital authority despite their limitation of resources, managed to solve these problems. They hailed CCC's pro-active role and requested them to continue their efforts.

Pledge to ensure accountability in health service

A Face the Public (FTP) was jointly organised by the CCC Nalitabari and Upazilla health authority on 23rd October. Like other FTPs, the objective of this FTP was also to enhance transparency, accountability and the quality of medical services at the upazilla. Nalitabari Upazilla Chairman Alhaj Badiuzzaman Badsha attended the programme as Chief Guest. Other government officials including the Upazilla Nirbahi Officer (UNO) and Upazilla Health and Family Planning Officer (UHFPO) attended the FTP. The UHFPO presented the overall scenario of the upazilla health facilities, services, budget, limitations, citizen's expectations etc. He said that despite various limitations, upazilla health officials with support from the administration were ready to meet people's demand. Service recipients recommended to make the community clinic more service oriented, improve water and sanitation facilities, control entry of medical representatives, improve pathology and other investigation facilities and ensure presence of doctors and health workers. The UNO expressed his high hope that such involvement of CCC and citizens would reduce corruption and establish accountability of the duty bearers. The Chief Guest requested the CCC to continue such FTP as well as follow up on recommendations.

Collective initiative to improve quality of education

CCC Rangamati organized an opinion sharing meeting with district primary education authority at its office on 7th October. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the state of the quality of education at Jhagrabil Government Primary School and recommend measures to bring more transparency and accountability in the school management and improve the quality of education. CCC members and District Primary Education Officers attended the meeting. CCC Rangamati is long been advocating to improve the quality of education of this school and thanks to their efforts. Discussants recommended a number of measures including installation of drinking water facility; organise regular guardian and SMC meeting; and maintain class schedule. The District Primary Education Officer requested the headmaster to pay attention to these recommendations. He also promised to start Mid Day Meal for the students with the help of local elites; district, upazilla and union parishad parishad officials.

Local Government Representatives faces the Citizen

CCC Patuakhali organised another FTP programme with the Patuakhali Municipality Authority on 5th October at the municipality auditorium. The Objectives of the programme were to



establish a strong, accountable and transparent governance system in the municipality through collective initiatives and cooperation among citizen and municipal authority. The Mayor Dr Md Shafikul Islam attended the programme as the Chief Guest and Acting President of the CCC presided over the event. Participants were briefed about ongoing development initiatives at ward no 2 and 3. The Mayor emphasised on engaging citizens to accomplish planned activities within the timeframe. He thanked the CCC for its positive role and urged to be supportive toward the positive initiatives of the municipality.

Satellite AI Desk at Upazilla Land office



related to the visiting people leaflets.

CCC Lakshmipur organised a satellite Advice and Information Desk (AID) in front of Lakshmipur sadar upazilla land office on October 24. Lakshmipur YES members operated the AID. Professor Mahbub Mohammad Ali, President, CCC and Mr Amir Abdulla Manzurul Karim, UNO, Lakshmipur Sadar Upazilla jointly inaugurated the event. The programme was organised with an aim to empower the service recipients with land related information as well as sensitize them about their civil rights of getting services at ease and without any hassle. At the desk, YES members provided information and advices on services provided by the upazilla land office. They distributed land information

DHAKA YES

Seminar on RTI at Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University

A discussion meeting on "Right to Information Act 2009" was organised by the YES group of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University on 8th October at the university premise. YES members along with YES friends took part in the meeting. A presentation was made focusing on different



aspects of the Act and the role of youth in Bangladesh to effectively apply the law and promote pro-active disclosure of information both by public and private service providers. Participants underscored the importance of RTI Act to fight corruption. Apart from discussion on RTI Act, wide varieties of communication materials were also distributed among the participants to raise awareness on RTI.

Workshop on "Effective Communication and Anti-Corruption Campaign"

TIB organised a workshop on 'Effective Communication and Anti-Corruption Campaign' on 1st October at its conference room. A total of 32 YES members of YES 1 and YES group of Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka took part in the workshop and learned about planning and implementation of anti-corruption communication activities. They were also trained on how to build network and partnership with the media to maximise the impact of any anti-corruption campaign. Later, YES member assembled themselves in two groups and devised two campaign plans as part of workshop deliverables.

Workshop on 'Filing RTI Application' held at Jahangirnagar University

The YES group of Jahangirnagar University organised a day long workshop on "Filing RTI Application" on 1st October at the Seminar Room of the Government and Politics Department of the university. 26 YES members attended the workshop and received hands on training on basic concept of RTI and RTI filing process. RTI workshop for YES members is a regular activity of TIB to empower the youth with the power of information so that they can promote transparency and accountability in their respective fields. The workshop was divided in two parts – the first part focused on need for RTI filing and follow up thereafter while the second part focused on technical aspects of RTI filing i.e. application procedures and techniques.

Editor: S.M. Rezwana-ul-Alam | Sub-Editor: Meer Ahsan Habib | Design: Md. Barkat Ullah Babu

You can write to us at: **Transparency International Bangladesh**, e-mail: advocacy@ti-bangladesh.org
www.ti-bangladesh.org www.facebook.com/TIBangladesh