



*MAAPSI*

*NEWS LETTER*

*11 November, 2014*

Volume-1, Issue-1, 2014

## MAAPSI BANGLADESH

### Discussion Meeting on Improving Access to Justice through mediation at Community level

4 November, 2014.

MAAPSI Bangladesh organized a discussion meeting on Improving Access to Justice through mediation at Community level on 4th November at 3 pm at MAAPSI Office. A significant number of grassroots NGO leaders were present in the meeting to share their field experiences on Mediation at community level.



Pranab Chakraborty, Additional Secretary, Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat, Sarder Asaduzzaman, Project Manager, Activating Village Courts Projects, UNDP, Mizanur Rahman, Secretary General, National Disability Forum and Member of Executive Committee of MAAPSI, Sadrul Mazumdar and Mostafa Sohel, Founder and CEO of MAAPSI spoke in the discussion. Nusrat Zabeen, Programme Officer (HR and Communication) of MAAPSI presented the key note paper which prepared by a group of experts of MAAPSI. A number of 26 grassroots NGO representatives were present and spoke in the discussion.

Sarder Asaduzzaman, Project Manager of Activating Village Courts Project, UNDP delivered experiential learning on Mediation. He said, *Mediation* is a much quicker process than litigation or arbitration. The parties also have more control over the final resolution. The parties mutually select the mediator and the mediator helps the parties resolve the dispute in a cost efficient manner.

Mr Asad said, The mediator facilitates dialogue in a structured multi-stage process to help parties reach a conclusive and mutually satisfactory agreement. A mediator assists the parties in identifying and articulating their own interests, priorities, needs and wishes to each other. Mediation is a “peaceful” dispute resolution tool that is complementary to the existing court system and the practice of arbitration.

Mr. Pranab Chakraborty said, ***ADR should be made mandatory in certain cases.*** He Said, To successfully bring ADR to the common man while still reducing the backlog of cases piled up in Courts, radical steps need to be taken. It is important that the legislature introduce certain provisions which discourage initiation of litigation in cases where out of court settlements can easily be worked out.

Mostafa Sohel, CEO of MAAPSI emphasized in ***establishing a state-run parallel authority for ADR.*** ***He said,*** A nationwide network needs to be envisaged for providing solutions through ADR. An apex body viz. a *Commission for Alternative Dispute Resolution* needs to be constituted to lay down policies and principles for making ADR available to the common man to frame most effective and economical schemes for ADR. Mostafa Sohel also discussed about the upcoming events of Mediation at community people where 200 network (Human Rights and Good Governance Network) members of MAAPSI will organize a series of events to make mass people more aware and sensitize on this particular issue.

## Workshop on 'NGO Governance for Sustainable Development'

12 June, 2014.

MAAPSI Bangladesh organized a seminar titled 'NGO Governance for Sustainable development' on 12 June, 2014 at MAAPSI office. A number of 25 NGO representatives participated in this seminar.

The Seminar aims to develop common understanding regarding the governance needs of non-governmental organizations among key nonprofit sector leaders in Bangladesh. Its objectives are to explore the common problems and propose joint solutions to improve the transparency and accountability of NGOs in the long term. Mr. Mizanur Rahman, Secretary General of National Forum of Organizations working with the Disabled chaired in the Seminar.

The speakers said Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are increasingly involved in development policy, and recognize the need to use evidence and engage with policy processes more effectively. Civil Society Partnerships Programme (CSPP) is designed to help them to do this.

This working paper presents a summary of current thinking on issues of NGO accountability, partnership and capacity-building for the small and mid level organizations and provides some examples of current practice among organizations involved in similar work.

The participants proposed to organize another meeting on the recommendations and its proper implementation to improve the situation of NGO Governance.

Among others Tawfik Alahi, Rezaul Haq and Nusrat Zabeen spoke on the occasion.



During the open discussion, the participants also discussed some problems on Mediation at Community level

### ***Lack of precise Rules***

Since no specific Rules of Procedure have been framed for arbitration, the parties are to depend on the Rules of arbitration determined by a Tribunal. This system makes ADR an uncertain event.

### ***No appeal on merit***

Even if a party is not satisfied with the merit of the outcome of a resolution of a dispute through arbitration, there is no room for filing any appeal on merit. Only an award can be set aside if it can be seen that the Tribunal was biased. This aspect of the matter sometimes deters a prospective litigant from choosing arbitration over litigation.

### ***Lack of awareness***

People will have to be made aware of the advantages of ADR and disadvantages of court based litigations. People do not have the requisite knowledge of the system. That is why the system is not becoming common in our country.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN AT DISTRICT LEVEL**

### **Luyauni Tea garden, Kulaura, Moulavibazar.**

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2014

Human Rights Education for women and children at tea garden.

**Key note speaker:** Md. Bodrul Hossan Khan, CEO, Polly Unnayan Foundation.

**Headed By:** Choron Vumiz, Chairman, Garden ponchayet.

**Facilitate BY:** Nurul Islam, Manager, Polly Unnayan Foundation.

Polly Unnayan Foundation and Maapsi Bangladesh organized a meeting to understand the human rights situation in Luyauni tea garden, Moulavibaza. In fact, human rights of the tea gardeners as a whole are yet to be exposed in Bangladesh. In this meeting different aspects of human rights condition of the tea gardeners, focusing on some significant issues of social, economic, political and cultural life of those people were discussed. Special attention was paid on the knowledge of the people regarding gender equity, importance of education, good governance, labor law etc.

## **Discussion meeting on Interactive Popular Theater for Sustainable Development.**

16 September, 2014

MAAPSI Bangladesh- A human rights network comprising 200 NGO's organized a discussion meeting titled "Interactive Popular Theater for Sustainable Development" on 16 September, 2014 at 3.pm at MAAPSI Dhaka office located at Mohammadpur.

Executive Director, Sirajul Karim, SEPDA-a pioneer organization to promote Popular theater in Bangladesh delivered key speech in the discussion. A number of 18 professionals from different Non-Government organizations and journalists took part in the meeting.

The Key note Speaker discussed different types of activities that are effective to create awareness among the audiences on developmental issues. He said popular theater can be a strong medium to establish democracy and good governance at the grass-roots level through peoples' participation and to promote human rights including rights of women, children, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups. NGO should bring back traditional culture, folk into their program.





“The major problems of poor people of this area are dilapidated condition of their houses, lack of scientific sanitation, lack of sufficient source of pure drinking water and very low wage of labour,” said Md. Bodrul Hossan Khan, CEO, Polly Unnayan Foundation. “People need to understand the importance of good governance, and therefore, awareness campaign is a must.”

“The panchayat committee must be strengthened, so that it can play a vital role in resolving any kind of problems occurring in the tea- gardens. The participation of common people in the functions of each panchayat committee must be ensured,” said Choron Vumiz, Chairman, Garden panchayet committee must be ensured,” said Choron Vumiz, Chairman, Garden ponchayet

## MAAPSI Bangladesh formed 10 Youth Study Circle at Jessore

**17 May, 2014.**

MAAPSI Bangladesh formed a number of ten Youth Study Circle on Democracy in Jessore. In this connection, about 105 youths are involved in this process. As MAAPSI formed the Study circle on Democracy- a series of discussions held during 17 -20 May,2014 at MAAPSI branch office in Jessore.



The study circle is a simple process for small-group deliberation. There are just a few defining characteristics:

- A study circle comprises 10-12 people who meet regularly over a period of weeks or months to address a critical public issue in a democratic and collaborative way.
- A study circle is facilitated by a person who is there not to act as an expert on the issue, but to serve the group by keeping the discussion focused, helping the group consider a variety of views, and asking difficult questions.
- A study circle examines many perspectives. The way in which study circle facilitators are trained and discussion materials are written gives everyone "a home in the conversation," and helps the group deliberate on the various views and explore areas of common ground.
- A study circle progresses from a session on personal experience ("how does the issue affect me?") to sessions providing a broader perspective ("what are others saying about the issue?") to a session on action ("what can we do about the issue here?").

# Discussion Meeting held to reduce Gun and Small Arms in Bangladesh

*22 June, 2014*

As part of the International Women's Network's (IANSNA) Global Campaign, MAAPSI Bangladesh- A human rights network comprising 200 NGO's organized a Roundtable to reduce Gun and small arms Violence and Save Life on 22 June,2014 at [3.pm](#) at MAAPSI Dhaka office located at Mohammadpur.

Former Deputy Secretary of Bangladesh Government Mr. Nazrul Islam presented the paper. A number of 21 professionals from different Non-Government organizations and journalists took part in the meeting.

The Key note Speakers identified some reasons for Gun and Small Arms violence in Bangladesh. These are the flowing reasons:

1. Security purpose: Many people including politician try to keep arms for their safety. So there is a potential chance to misuse the arms.
2. External Interest: Many external powers want to create chaos in the internal environment of our Country.
3. Weaker monitoring system: The border monitoring system of our Country is not very strong enough.
4. Lack of concern: Lack of community news cause lack of concern among the people.
5. Poverty and Illiteracy: Most of the people of our Country are poor and illiterate. These are also a remarkable cause of the illegal arms proliferation in Bangladesh.



The participants made some recommendation to reduce the Gun and Small Arms in Bangladesh:

- Restriction on arms license be taken up immediately

- It is very necessary to become concern of civil society about small arms proliferation.
- Political parties be introduced code of conduct for student organization
- Need strong state plan for un-employed youth
- Government, NGOs and Social leaders will arrange awareness meetings at Upazilla and district level.
- Irregular students be identified by College Authority
- Efficient Border Management
- Internal Capacity Building of LAW Enforcing Agencies to reduce illicit arms.
- young generation should be refraining from this by awareness, commitment and knowledge



#### Immediate Outcome

1. The Participants who especially located at Border area will organize grassroots campaign to promote the issue to reduce Gun and small arms Violence.
2. The Network members who attended in the Roundtable discussion to organize staff and beneficiaries meeting immediately to make them sensitized and aware on the issue.

## Press Note

# MAAPSI Day long Network Meeting on Good Governance and Human Rights

**Dhaka, 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2014...** A preparatory day long networking meeting on Human Rights and Good Governance held today at 10:00 am at ESSD Training Center, Dhaka. The initiative was taken by MAAPSI Bangladesh- a non-government organization working in Bangladesh.

Senior Advisor, NDI, Mr. Saiful Islam was present in the occasion.

This time a number of 45 NGOs were attended and participated to determine the objective, strategy and philosophy of the Network. The Speakers said, Good governance is a set of ideas, which promotes legitimacy competence, transparency and accountability of the government in due respect for human rights and the rule of law. For any country to develop there is need of having institutions, which promote ingredients of good governance.



The absence of legitimacy, competence, transparency and accountability gives room to bad governance which hinders the development of any country on earth. Practically, most countries which have developed, it is as a result of a good government framework. Good governance is the essential framework within which business can flourish and provide economic prosperity of all citizens.

Citizen participation in the affairs of their country is a very important aspect of good governance. These same citizens should hold their leaders responsible for all the actions. This requires a well-informed society which can substantiate facts and ensure that all forms of human rights are enshrined in a constitution and adhere to. That's why this Network will be able to create tangible impact in the country

.MAAPSI will organize another meeting with 150 NGOs later this month to mobilize the demands of the grassroots NGOs in the area of Governance and Human Rights.

*Editor: Mostafa Sohel*

*Graphics and design: Nusrat Zabeen Sachiko*

MAAPSI Bangladesh. House-39 (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor), Road-1, Shekertake, Mohammadpur, Dhaka  
Contact: 880-2-9140265, 01711 642346,  
Website: [www.maapsi.org](http://www.maapsi.org),

[www.facebook.com/maapsibangladesh](http://www.facebook.com/maapsibangladesh)