The condition of creative marginalized artist in Bangladesh at COVID-19 situation

BITA (Bangladesh Institute of Theatre Arts) conducted an online research to identify the livelihood condition of Artist in several sector in the COVID-19 pandemic situation. Main stakeholders of the research were creative artist. The vision of the survey was aware the Gov’t, Non-Gov’t organizations personnel to prepare guideline and the living condition of artist in the COVID-19 situation. 47 districts from 8 divisions covered in this research. Artist divided into 6 categories in whole country of several sectors. Questionnaire used for the online interview of artist and Gov’t, Non-Gov’t personnel. 257 artists and 43 Gov’t, Non-Gov’t patronizes organizations personnel participated in the interview. They delivered their opinion by the questionnaire. The 6 category of the artist were pottery artist, folk artist, musical instrument maker, town based artist of different sector, technical artist and patronize organization. For collection the information one focal person’s help received from per district. The living condition, Livelihood picture, difficulties of profession, risk of profession change, decrease of income of marginal artist taking in the research. In eagerness of new generation artist to the profession and the help from Gov’t and Non-Gov’t organizations also taking in the research in broad based approach. The research activities conducted by Ashok barua and Sarmin Sultana by the direction and planning of BITA executive director Sisir Dutta. Pritom Bhattacharjee gave the technical support of this research.

An online press conference arranged on 31 August 2020 on this research

Recommendation

- To declare as an artist by the Gov’t of the potter, cultural instrument maker, folk artist and technical artistic skill persons and prepare database with detail information of them.
- Give the yearly accord by classification of database included artist as worth.
- Ascertainment the loss of artist that has sustain a loss for COVID-19 and take step for their rehabilitation.
- After the COVID-19 to arrange the cultural fair at every district of Bangladesh by the Gov’t.
- To increase the artist honorarium in the Gov’t, non-Gov’t channel, particularly Radio and Television channel by the reassessment.
- Arrange the training for Folk artist that marginal artist to increase the skill of modern information technology by the Ministry of Cultural affairs and Jela Shilpa Kala Academy and introduce them with digital instrument.
- Help the folk artist to get loan without interest by the corporate organization, Bank, Insurance, PKSF.
- Manage one time accord for the marginal artist by the social liability program.
- After the COVID-19 to prepare a guideline by the Ministry of cultural affairs for create a conductive environment of all arts publicity, extension and marketing.
- To take active initiative to increase the pragmatic dignity of marginal artist.
Awareness workshop on COVID-19

ROSC project arranged an awareness workshop on 22 August 2020 at the Circuit House of Chittagong. BITA-ROSC school CCF and teacher and officers attended in the workshop. The Chief guest of the workshop was Mrs Yeasmin Pervin Tibriji, DC (In-charge), Chattogram. The special guest of the program was Md. Mahbub Hasan Shahin, (Deputy Secretary) Project Director (Additional charge) ROSC (Phase-2) Project. The workshop presided over Mr. Jahir Uddin Chowdhury, Asst. district Primary Education Officer. There are also attended in the workshop Md. Mosharakul Alam Assistant Director ROSC (Phase-2) project, Kazi Sultan ahmed, Deputy Director, ROSC-2 project TA and Focal person EYE Program, save the Children, ROSC-2 project supervisor Mr. Sukumar Das. Project Director said that ROSC teachers are front line warrior. He give thanks to the teacher for continue the education activity by home visit at the time of COVID-19 pandemic situation by maintain health rules. Chief guest said to implement the Bangabandhu’s dream everybody should do his responsibility honestly and sincerely. She advised to give the moral education, to develop their mentality, to ensure quality education, to develop the humanity and mentality of the learners. She also advised to develop skill of the teacher. She give inspiration to the teacher and discuss the social position of the women.

National Mourn day 2020 celebration

National morn day celebrated in the BITA-ROSC school. Painting, essay competition and discussion meeting arranged in the 40 ROSC school. The chief Guest of the discussion meeting was Mr. Mahbub Hasan Shahin, Project Director, ROSC. Executive Director of BITA Mr. Sisir Dutta was also present in the meeting. Chief Guest said that if you want to know “Bangabandhu” you should read. He discusses the sacrifice of Bangabandhu from 1966 to 1971. He give the “Unfinished Autobiography of Bangabandhu” to the ROSC learners.
Orientation for peer adolescents on covid-19 prevention

BITA- ESHRHC have organized 5 peer group orientations in 5 social hubs’ locations so that adolescents can keep movement in protected manner and promote Child protection risks prevention and protection awareness messaging covering COVID-19 in their respective communities. 75 adolescent boys in host community areas and 20 adolescent boys in camp areas and 60 adolescent girls in both communities participated in the orientations. They are currently protecting themselves from COVID-19, the peer group members reported following guidance on washing hands frequently for 20 seconds, staying home, and wearing mask and maintain social distance. They reported a similar approach to protecting their families and community people from COVID-19, they would ensure frequent hand washing, not letting family members leave the home unless for an emergency, asking them to keep physical distance and making sure that if anyone goes outside, they are wearing masks.

Interaction with religious and community leaders

BITA organized 3 nos of interaction with religious and community leaders for positive messaging and supporting adolescents engagement to combat Covid-19 response in Burmapara, Jamtoli and Jadimura Social Hubs under the ‘Establish Social Hubs for Rohingya and Host Community Adolescents and Youth’ project. A total of 61 participants including community leaders, Mazhi and religious leaders have been oriented about prevention techniques of COVID-19 and also importance of role of youth to ensure safety and wellbeing. They knew their responsibilities in both host and Rohingya communities for awareness rising through different mechanisms on health, hygiene practices, child protection risks (including violence in home, violence against children, neglect, child labour, psychosocial distress and risks of trafficking) and pandemic related precautionary measures, and therefore a priority life-saving activity in current context in Ukhiya and Teknaf region. Religious and community leaders are being explaining how the virus spreads, how people can protect themselves and their families, symptoms and care-seeking to minimize the risks to both communities and also establishing similar preparatory measures for mitigating risks during corona situation among the community people.

U-Reporting: Engaging Adolescents and Youth in Information Flow

U-report is an open platform for adolescents and youth to express views and opinions openly about the matters that affect their lives, safety and wellbeing. Here community adolescents and youth are engaged as U-reporters and involved to find out knowledge or understanding level of community people on current issues. U-Reporting is one of the different activities under ESHRHC project implemented by BITA in support with UNICEF and funded by European Union. We have 400 U-Reporters in 5 Social Hubs at Teknaf and Ukhiya Upzila under the project. For capacity building, BITA has conducted training with the U-reporters on communication, U-reporting, positive messaging, social cohesion etc. Having trained, they have gained knowledge on data collection and U-reporting Apps using. Now the reporters have been collecting data from their community based on various topics through the digital approach (Tabs) and also mobile SMS, face book messenger through one to one interaction and door to door visit. For U-reporting there are two options: Digital tabs for Rohingya community in English and Burmese language and mobile SMS and face book messenger for host community in Bangla and English language. During July – September 2020, the U-reporters collected data on Covid-19 related issues like as hand washing and social distance from 1365 adolescents (Boys 1013, Girls 352). Currently they are collecting data on human trafficking.
Introducing meeting of Y-Moves project

Introduction meeting of Y-Moves project held on 18 July, 2020 in the Teknaf upazila by maintaining social distance. NCTF president of Baharchara union delivered welcome speech in the meeting. Teknaf upazila parisad chairman Nurul Alam was the chief guest. Tahera Akter Mili, vice-chairman, upazila parisad, Md. Abul Monsur, Assistant commissioner, land, Md. Shawkat Hossain, upazila women affairs officer, Teknaf upazila were the special guest of the program. The meeting presided over honourable upazila nirbahi officer of Teknaf upazila Md. Saiful Islam. Md. Haroon-ur-Rashid, Manager, Program assessment and monitoring, BITA delivered the opening speech. The arbitrator of the meeting was Md. Ibrahim, project officer, Y-Moves project. The mission of the project are capacity building of the young girl on child rights, reproductive health etc. Girls will be the agent of social change and they will implement the rights of reproductive health.

NCTF committee formed in Teknaf Upazila

National Children Task Force (NCTF) general and executive committee formed in the Baharchara union of Teknaf upazila. BITA, Y-Moves project personnel contacted with the children’s family several time. Executive committee consisted by 11 members whereas 5 girls and 6 boys. Total 35 children of Shilkhali, Chawkiderpara and Puranpara jointly fomed this committee to monitor the plan implementation against sexual harassment and child trafficking. Members of the NCTF discuss their meeting about child rights situation, health service in the area. They also organize awareness program against child marriage.

Urban Initiatives : Covid-19

Spray for disinfection in two working area

We have taken initiatives under the EWASC project to spray for disinfection in the lane (inner road) of two working area. For this we have purchased 5 spray machine and chlorine for disinfection. Chlorine mixed in the water and then sprayed it in the road. 5 young person’s spray weekly in the road covering total 7 road/lane weekly. People cross this way for multiple purposes. A total of around 2800 people use daily these roads. As the prevention of CORONA virus we are sparing weekly these roads.
Hand washing centre established

We have fixed 7 hand washing centre in this reporting period. Hand wash is one of the most important elements of prevention from CORONA virus. People have no place to wash their hand in the outside of their home. So we have taken this initiative for easy access of hand washing in the outside.

We fixed it 7 point of our working area where more people come and go. The places are in front of shahid lane primary school, shahid lane bazar, beltoli of Pahartali and in front of councillor office 29 no ward, Jugichand lane bazar, halapukurpar, udayan gali of Matherbari. Soap and water are available in the hand washing point. Our youth members supply it regularly. We established 4 hand washing centre in 29 no ward and 3 hand washing centre in Pahartali. Anybody can wash his hand in the hand washing point. It is easy for children also. About 1150 people wash their hands regularly in these 7 hand washing points.

Food and hygiene kit distribution

BITA youth group members formed COVID Response team. They consisted one central response team and four area response team like Udayangali response team, halapukurpar response team, shahidlane response team and Beltoli response team. There were 8 members in central team, 8 members in Udayan Gali team, 6 members in Halapukurpar team and 8 members in Shahid lane team and five member in Beltoli response team. The team members at first selected 498 vulnerable families. They listed out 498 persons from 498 families. After the selection BITA purchase the food and hygiene kits according the procurement rule. Two types of package were approved by ActionAid. One for one month and another for fifteen days. The goods were in the package per family Rice, Lentil, Potato, Onion, salt, oil, Flour, soap, detergent powder, menstrual kit. After purchasing all food packages were carrying to the working area. BITA youth group (COVID response team) received the food package area wise. They selected four spot for food distribution like-UdayanGali, Halapukurpar, New Shahid Lane, Beltoli in 29 no and 9 no ward of Chittagong City Corporation. We distributed 498 pac among 498 persons whereas 411 male and 87 female. They covered 498 families. We distributed in 4 spot (UdayanGali, halapukurpar, new shahid lane, beltoli). About 2241 persons benefited by this relief in the COVID-19 situation. The situation of Chattogram is not good. So they are very happy to get these foods.
BITA Organized Fruits Tree Handover Campaign in Teknaf

BITA In accordance with government instruction to observe Hundred Years of MUJIB Birth anniversary celebration in Unchiprang Teknafin 13th August’20 Thursday at Safe Space. The Campaign started at 10.00 AM. All the BITA BCTIP staffs on the Project were present at the campaign. More than 50 Family benefitted from this Fruits Tree Handover Campaign for Tree Plantation in their residence. Various kinds of fruits tree like, Mango, Guava & Olive were distributed among the beneficiaries in BITA Working area Teknaf. Among the beneficiaries Mrs. Yeasmin Akther said that “Fruit Tree will not only save our environment it also give us Oxygen. In future, our Children can get a great source of nutrition without any cost, I wish all the success of BITA’S such an revolutionary Green endeavors”.

Relief distribution by BITA at Ukhiya, Teknaf & Ramu

BITA distributed relief among the poor family in the Teknaf upazla, Ramu upazila and Ukhiya Upazila at Teknaf Upazila Complex Adarsha School, Ramu Girls High school and Ukhiya Upazila Hall Room. BITA distributed among 1680 persons within 140 family. The chief guest of the program was Upazila Nirbahi Officer in Teknaf, in the Ramu Assistant Commissioner (Land) and Upazila Nirbahi Officer in Ukhiya. Program Officer, Winrock International and Field Coordinator, BITA, Capacity Development and Communication Officer, BITA BCTIP project, Counsilor were also present in the program.

Celebrates his 12th death anniversary Professor Zia Haider

Professor Zia Haider. Poet, researcher, translator and playwright. Founding President of Bangladesh Institute of Theater Arts (BITA). At the time of his death he was associated with this organization as president. His contribution to the inclusion of Bangladeshi drama in institutional education and his constant efforts to enrich drama with his creativity and wisdom will be remembered forever. 02 September 2020 is his 12th death anniversary. Tribute to him from the BITA family. The BITA family virtually celebrates his death anniversary.
World Bank Country Director visit BITA PVT Program

Mercy Miyang Tembon, Country Director of the World Bank in Bangladesh, met with the BITA trained students of Ramu Upazila, Cox's Bazar District for the purpose of exchanging views with the employed students of Pre-Vocational Skills Training of ROSC-II Project. Md. Mahbub Hasan Shahin, (Deputy Secretary) Project Director (Additional charge) ROSC (Phase-2), Md. Moshrakul Alam Assistant Director ROSC (Phase-2), Save the Children’s Program Director (EYE) Kazi Sultan ahmed, Deputy Director, ROSC-2 project TA and Focal person EYE Program, save the Children, Mr. Md. Al Mahbub Chowdhury, Manager (EYE) Mr. Md. Nurul Haque, Executive Director, BITA Mr. Sisir Dutta and the proprietor of the employer organization also present there. During the visit, the trainees shared with the delegates what kind of training they have received and what they have gained from the training. They also discuss whether more training opportunities can be created in the future if possible.

BITA activities were visited by the DG of Islamic Foundation, Bangladesh at Rohingya Camp

BITA initiated the Community Accountability and Information Services project in partnership with UNICEF since 16 November 2018 and added Religious Leaders Part in July 2020 under CIAS project. BITA designed this project for both 10 IFCs (Information and Feedback Center) and Religious Leaders part (RL) as well. Working with Communication for Development (C4D) of BITA, CIAS project selected 180 Community Religious Facilitators from 23 Rohingya camps to disseminate lifesaving messages in camps on health, Covid-19, hygiene, education, nutrition, WaSH, child protection, monsoon preparedness through Daily community based IPC sessions. Advocacy meeting, Community Consultation Meeting and other communicating with Communities (CwC) activities.

Anis Mahmud, Director General of Islamic Foundation, Bangladesh visited the activities of CIAS project. Other Gov’t officials and NGO representatives were with him. Alamgir Sikdar, Communication for Development (C4D) Specialist UNICEF Bangladesh delivered overview of the project during conducting the meeting and specially brief discusses regarding as an influencer community Rohingya camps as well. In his speech he reminded all audience about BITA-UNICEF long term partnership experience. The members of the visit team members were- Mr. Anis Mahmud (Director General of Islamic Foundation, Bangladesh), Mr. Altaf Hossen Chowdhury (Deputy Secretary Ministry of Religion Bangladesh), Mr. Mohammad Shamsu Douza (Additional RRRC Cox’s Bazar), Mohammad Alamgir Sikdar (Communication for Development (C4D) Specialist UNICEF Bangladesh), Pulak Kanty Chakraborty (Camp in Charge -23), Mostafizur Rahaman (Assistant Camp in charge -23), Abdullha al Mamun (senior site management assistant IOM)
Youth volunteers take pioneer roles to mobilize his own community

From the time of COVID-19 arrive in Bangladesh and WHO declare it as pandemic Rohingya Youth Volunteers take pioneer roles to mobilize his own community to prevent COVID-19 using loudspeaker, IEC materials and conducting one to one IPC session and Courtyard meeting. As a result COVID-19 confirm patient in the Rohingya camp is very low than civil society said as Rohingya camps are most vulnerable area for COVID-19.

Report on Community Consultation Meeting with Religious Leaders

BITA organized a consultation meeting coordination with the Islamic Foundation on 22 and 23 September, 2020 at Mozjide abubakkar Block B-1, camp 23 and CiC conference room at camp 1E. At beginning of the meeting Mu. Golam Mostofa, DPM, RL gives his introductory speech about the purpose of this meeting. As he mentioned; in July 2020, BITA introduced Religious leader’s activities in the 23 camps, where RL mobilizing their community people through conducting IPC, Courtyard meetings and using loudspeakers. RL conducting IPC sessions with individuals in shops, block, and mosque. Other hand, courtyard meetings conducting in Moktob, shops and Mosque (after prayer). The main purpose of today’s meeting is increase social bonding and social cohesion among two communities. In the meeting Isolation Center In-Charge, Dr. Moninul Hoque invited so that the Refugee can get their unknown question regarding the Isolation center from the doctor. CiC gives them floor to ask anything regarding the Isolation center or medical treatment center. The participants of the meeting were Mr. owsheribna Halim, CiC, Camp 23, Md. Sarwar Akbar, AD, Cox’s Bazar, Md. Fajlur Karim, Field Officer, Cox’s Bazar, Abdullah All Mamun, SMA, IOM, Mominul Hoque, Isolation Center, In-Charge of camp 23, Swati Chakma, Site Coordinator, unicef, Mu. Golam Mostofa, DPM, RL, Sugoto Jibon Chakam, DPM, IFC, Mr.Mahfuzur Rahman, CiC, Camp 1E, Md. Sarwar Akbar, AD, Cox’s Bazar, Md. Fajlur Karim, Field Officer, Cox’s Bazar, Keya Sultana, Site Coordinator, unicef, Mu. Golam Mostofa, DPM, RL. Tha facilitators of the meeting were Abdullah All Mamun, CEO, BITA and Jahed Alam, CEO, BITA.
Weaving the dream on thread needle

A group of young women in the new shahid lane of Pahartali, Chattogram weaving their dream on thread and needle. They are the member of BITA youth group of EWASC project. They believe one time they will be establish and share their success with other. They will develop their community also. Nobody of them are solvent. They are only 5 young women Romija Sultana Promi, Nurbanu Akter Rubi, Tania Akter, Nasrin Akter and Papri Akter. All are equal aged. Two of them are student. Promi and Nasrin are reading in H S C 2nd year. Ruby, Tania and Papri leave education long time before. But they all are expert in their work, all are equal. The urge of work together gave them inspiration of become entrepreneur. They think one time they will be a known businessmen. To implement this dream of them BITA A4I project sowing the seed.

They said that they received tailoring training from the Youth development office by the help of BITA. After that BITA A4I project gave them seed money for purchasing sewing machine and other materials. Then they started tailoring in their community. They collect order and made dress to supply, sometime they made dress and sell it to the community in cheap rate. But in the beginning they faced more difficulties. Not their family but by the community. When they were new nobody want to give them order. But they did not stop their work. At the beginning they started to sewing their family dress. Then they show it and starting home visit to collect order in their colony. Gradually they find the way of mitigate the problem. Now their acceptation is very good in the community. They take order and supply it timely. They earn money and help their family. Their dream up to sky.

They said that they will grown-up their business by their own capital. They think they will establish a shop and will collect the order by offline and online. They want to give the training of tailoring to the under privileged young women in their colony. They want to establish another young women by small business. They think about two thousand people and their family will be benefited by this work. There will be a girl or young woman have earning person in every family. Thus women empowerment will be ensure. They said,” Many drops make like work”.

Undefeated Mother

Mother and daughter. Mother’s age is 50 and daughter is just 14. 37 years difference but they are friend. To deface the disability of daughter Meherunnesa (mother) is continuing struggle. She want to prove that autism is not hindrance but it is a stage of awake the hidden power of a mother, girl or woman. Her way of walk with her disable daughter Nusrat. In 2017 Mother Meherunnesa admitted her daughter Nusrat at BITA-ROSC school in class I. Now she is in class V. Nusrat is the youngest of 4 children of Meherunnesa. At the time of birth Nusrat was not disable but after when she grown up then it is clear to see of her disability. Gradually her ability of speak become stop. Her mother took her to doctor. Doctor advised if she grow an intimacy with others she can be develop gradually. If she can get admission in the school her communication will be increase.

As the advice of doctor her family searching the school for her admission. But at the first time no school authorities agree to give admission Nusrat in their school. At last they got admission of Nusrat in the BITA-ROSC Ananda School. Mother and daughter’s new way of walk have started. Everyday mother bring out the daughter to the school and wait up to break up the school. Meherunnesa said that she is very glad to the teacher that they are inward to Nusrat. Mother observing some physical change to her daughter after admission the school. She does not speak but she understand, she can write, she can help her mother in home based work and she can do work herself. Nusrat love to sing by the humming sound. Teacher said that Nusrat is very calm she love to stay by herself. Mother’s vision to establish her child in the society by learning. Nusrat is going forward by the help of school teacher, mother, family and friends. Nusrat’s mother Meherunnesa, a woman, a mother, undefeated over all.
The publication tries to reflect the initiative of BITA with community. The contents of this publication are sole responsibility of BITA.