



Strengthening agencies of Women with Disabilities to promote inclusion and diversity

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About CDD and CIRDAP

Centre for Disability in Development, is a non-Government organization in Bangladesh. Established in 1996, advocating for disability inclusive development both at national and international level..

CIRDAP and CDD are in technical cooperation on inclusive and integrated rural development

CDD, and its partners, with the assistance of different funding agencies are implementing projects to create an enabling environment for persons with disabilities to enjoy rights and entitlements with dignity.



Background....

A virtual presentation by Ms. M. J. Williams in October 2020 on Gender in Rural Aquaculture & Fisheries” in a webinar to observe “Int. Day” of the Rural Women” organized by the CIRDAP.

I was invited to speak perspective of Rural Women with Disability.





A Befitting Connection in the context of COVID 19

Globally, with few exceptions, every gender and development indicator for which data is available shows that rural women fare worse than rural men and urban women & disproportionately experience poverty, exclusion and the effects of climate change. Recent COVID-19 pandemic again reproduced all barriers.

Overcome the [#COVID19](#) pandemic depends on the **health, wellbeing and resilience of rural women and girls,**

Women who belong to most marginalized face worst consequences of inequality and discrimination. (in terms of ethnicity, disability, minority status, hard to reach areas, profession, gender identity etc) due to negative social and cultural attitude , practices and institutional barriers.



In April 2020, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) said: **‘While the COVID-19 pandemic threatens all members of society, persons with disabilities are disproportionately impacted due to attitudinal, environmental and institutional barriers that are reproduced in the COVID-19 response.’**

A key UN priority is safeguarding the human rights of people whose lives are most adversely affected.





**Centre for
Disability in
Development**

Bringing hope, dignity and meaning to life





Challenges faced by the Women with disabilities

- Income reduced
- Lack of access to Government benefits
- Less awareness or lack of right information - diverse stream of income
- Unable to access health & rehabilitation services
- Unpaid Care burden
- Multiple layers of discrimination due to gender status, social exclusion, stigma etc
- Not collectivized







Measures for a healthier and more resilient future for all

Support to create organization – Facilitate and formation of Self Help Group, Organization of the women with Disabilities and strengthening their organizational capacity in order amplify their voices in local development process.

Build capacity of Women with Disabilities in financial literacy, business skills, entrepreneurship etc (how to catch fish Or fish net or making dryfish!! 😊).

Education on Nutrition and Foods to cultivate and information on good food, source of easily available nutrition at Rural areas etc. (significanc of dried fish o



Measures for a healthier and more resilient future for all

achieve real resilience.....for ALL

Men Care approach for shared Care: Awareness on shared care and educate community on More Shared Responsibilities for Care Work so that women can participate more in community and outside home

Representation of Rural Women with disabilities in local Government Institutes at Sub-Urban level as local leader. Enhance the political participation by connecting them to the broader women's movement and local governance mechanisms.

Administering Gender transformative Social Accountability Tools: Inclusive Citizen Voice and action to create linkages with duty bearers to improve responsiveness and better service delivery.



Food for thought before next GAF conference !!

Tapping untapped voices and powers & resources

We can initiate targeted intervention for Women with Disabilities/persons with disabilities around aquaculture and fishing, that would create alternative means of livelihoods for persons with disabilities.

Together with organization working in disability we can think about reasonable accommodation and scope of inclusion for different types of women with disabilities

By engaging all sections within the community , it can be more resilient

Without a resilient and inclusive communities development won't be sustained

Thank you GAF8 😊 !