

Child Rights in Bangladesh

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Abstract

Bangladesh is a densely populated country with populations about 160 millions. About half of the populations of Bangladesh are under the age of 18 who are considered as children and more than 20 million of them are under the age of 5. About 73% of children live in the rural areas and 27% live in the urban areas. One-third of these children continue to live below the international poverty line. The violation of child rights is a common matter in Bangladesh. The children have basic rights to education, balance diet, health and nutrition, protection, participation, recreation, safe water, sanitation, and hygiene. Most of the children of Bangladesh are deprived from these basic rights. The GoB with UNICEF has taken steps for schooling all the children and to decrease child labors and other child abuses. An attempt has been made here to discuss the aspects of child rights to create a child-friendly environment in Bangladesh.

Keywords: Child labor, child crime, child oppressions, GoB, street children, UNICEF, violation of child rights

1. Introduction

By naturally the children are human beings who need moldings to become adults through learning and life experiences. The social structures of Bangladesh have failed to give all the children a natural opportunity for growth. The age for admission to employment under different existing laws varies from 14 to 18 years under the new labor law, enacted in 2006.

About 13% of the children of Bangladesh are involved in child labors and they are deprived from education and other child rights. Sometimes the children are involving crimes of carrying arms, drugs and other illegal materials.

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In 2003 more than 12,000 children under 18 were imprisoned in Bangladesh. Some of them were accused of crimes; some were vagrants, while others were simply reported as lost. Bangladesh has one of the lowest rates of birth registration in the world that makes difficult to protect children from trafficking, child labor, child marriage and other child oppressions (Mohajan 2012a).

In Bangladesh about 30% of the people live in extreme poverty and many families are quite unable to fulfill the basic needs which compel them to engage their children in risky works. About 22% of the children in Bangladesh are illiterate, 30% know how to signature their names, 36% of the children have primary education and only 10% have secondary education. Approximately 80% of students enrolled in grade one complete primary school. High drop-out rates due to poverty and poor quality of teaching and learning are serious problems for primary schools. Only 46% of boys and 53% of girls attend secondary school. About 50% of primary and 80% of secondary level students drop out of school in Bangladesh.

Due to poverty and social structure children rarely have opportunities to express themselves. Most cases expression of independent opinions and participation in decision-making are impossible because parents often control them to work or study hard. Most of them (even who are from rich family) especially who live in the cities, find no support to perform their physical fitness by taking parts in various sports in the open field and some of them cannot enjoy in various traditional festivals.

Deprivation of seven human needs such as health, nutrition, education, water, sanitation, shelter, and information are higher among children living in the income poor families than their counterparts.

Children oppression is a frequent matter in Bangladesh. It is due to the unwillingness of the Government to identify the priorities or issues that require the most urgent attention either with regard to the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child or promotion and protection of human rights in general (Asian Indigenous & Tribal Peoples Network, AITPN Report 2003).

In Bangladesh neonatal death and maternal mortality rates are very high, because most deliveries are taken place at home with the help of unskilled midwives and without access to proper medical care. About 22% of infants are born with low birth weight and about 46% of children under-5 are underweight due to malnutrition.

Bhattacharya (2007) discusses about child labor and child abuse and Sharma (2007) tried to find the linkage between child labor and trade. Kabeer (2001), Kabeer et al. (2002) and Ray (2001) have found the linkages between child labor and educational issues and Castle et al. (2002) show the domestic and international initiatives to reduce child labor. Khanam (2006) discussed that the trend and incidence of child labor has been increasing in Bangladesh even though child labor is on a declining trend in other southern Asian countries, which she explains with the irrelevance or inadequacy of existing child labor laws in Bangladesh.

To improve survival, development, protection, and participation of children and women both, The United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) have taken the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the Millennium Declaration (United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF 2009).

Bangladesh experiences continuous natural disasters such as, floods and cyclones, which devastate communities and increase the vulnerability, risk of abuse, neglect, exploitation, family separation, migration and trafficking of children (Mohajan 2012a).

2. Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is to discuss the child rights of Bangladesh. Bangladesh is a developing country in the southern Asia. The people of this country are not conscious about child rights. In this paper we have tried to show who are children, what are their rights, how to decrease child oppressions, and the benefit of the country if the child rights are implemented properly. We have stressed on child trafficking and child crimes, and have tried to discuss aspects of negative effects of these two items. We have emphasized to remove these two heinous and criminal activities from the society.

3. Definition of Children in Bangladesh

Children in Bangladesh are different in different laws. The Employment of children Act of 1938 does not allow the employment of children below 12 years in regular jobs, with the exception of apprentices; while the Factories Act of 1965 prohibits employment of children below the age of 14 years in any factories. The age for admission to employment under different existing laws varies from 14 to 18 years under the new labor law, enacted in 2006. The United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) defines a child as an individual less than 18 years old, where The Children Act of 1974 defines children as less than 16 years old individuals. The Anti-women and Children Oppression (Amendment) Act, 2003 regards a person not over 16 years of age as a child. According to the Court of Wards (Amendment) Act, 2006 any orphaned child who has reached 18 years has the right to claim the property or sell it which he/she is supposed to be legally inheriting (Mohajan 2012a).

Under national Muslim law, a child becomes an adult on attaining the teenage, which is usually set at the age of 12 years for girls and 15 or 16 years for boys (Siddiqui 2001).

4. Basic Rights of the Children

Children have basic rights to education, balance diet, health and nutrition, protection, participation, recreation, safe water, sanitation and hygiene. Unfortunately these rights of children are violated in Bangladesh. The rights of children are violated due to poverty, ignorance, lack of social consciousness and discrimination. The majority of children are deprived of food, shelter, adequate sanitation, information, and education.

4.1. Rights of Food

Bangladesh is a developing country in the world. About 26% of its populations still live below the poverty line (less than \$1.00 a day or unable to afford to buy food providing a daily intake of 2,100 kilocalories).

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)/ World Food Programme (WFP) study in mid-2008 expressed that natural disasters and rising food prices had increased the number of poor people by 7.5 million, to a total of 65 million and real household income had dropped by 12% and one in four households had become food insecure, with female-headed households hit hardest (FAO and WFP 2008). Later the food price decreases but the children who are excluded from school could not return to school due to irregularities in the school.

4.2. Rights of Nutrition

Well nourished children perform better in school, grow into healthy adults, and can serve the country better than malnourished children. Rural children are more likely to be malnourished than urban children. Undernourished children have lowered resistance to infection and are more likely to die from common childhood diseases, such as diarrhea and acute respiratory infections. In Bangladesh about two-fifth of children under-5 are underweight, and nearly half of them suffer from chronic malnutrition. A conservative estimate of the number of under-5 children suffering from wasting (weight-for-height) in Bangladesh is 2.2 million. More than half a million of these children are in the severe category of acute malnutrition and face elevated risks of mortality. Some children of wealthy families in urban areas of Bangladesh are over weighted because of taking excess fibreless junk food. These children are not actually healthy. In real life obesity is a major disease which creates Type 2 diabetes and cardiac attack. Iodine deficiency disorder (IDD), the world's leading cause of preventable mental disability and impaired psychomotor development in young children. The vitamin A supplementation programme for children is a success story in Bangladesh. Vitamin A prevents the children from night blindness (Mohajan 2012a).

4.3. Rights of Health

People lacking access to safe water, hygienic sanitation, and hygiene awareness also lack the good health and social resources needed to pull themselves out of poverty (The United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF 2007). The National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction II (Fiscal year, FY 2009–2011) acknowledges the links between poverty and children's rights.

It realizes that *"the survival and development of many Bangladeshi children is still threatened by malnutrition, disease, poverty, illiteracy, abuse, exploitation and natural disaster."*

Bangladesh is successful in immunization, and vaccine-preventable diseases are not major causes of child death. The following are the examples of this success in the period 2005–2007 (UNICEF 2009):

- Full immunization coverage of one-year olds with valid doses of all recommended antigens increased from 64 to 75% nationally.
- The proportion of one-year-old children immunized against measles, an MDG indicator, rose from 71% to 81%. In 2006, the world's largest measles campaign achieved 98% coverage of children of ages 9 months to 10 years. No measles outbreaks were reported in 2007.
- Neonatal tetanus elimination was confirmed in 2008.
- After importation of polio in early 2006, polio-free status was regained by the end of the year and has been sustained.
- The central cold chain capacity doubled, and a control room was established to electronically monitor the cold rooms 24 hours a day.

4.4. Rights of Education

Bangladesh has made remarkable progress over the past two decades in increasing primary enrolment. The absolute number of children enrolled nearly doubled between 1985 and 2005. The national Household Income and Expenditure Surveys (HIES) show net primary enrollment rising from 75% to 80% between 2000 and 2005. Although the enrollment rates in school are increasing but drop out of students is also a common situation in Bangladesh. In 2008 about 14.5% for Grades 1–4 and 5.2% for Grade 5 dropouts. In terms of dropout, the official data collected from schools indicate that about half of the children who enroll in primary school fail to complete Grade 5. A child who completes primary school can easily enter in the secondary school. The official estimate of the transition rate to secondary school was 95.5% in 2006 but Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS) (MICS 2006) found a transition rate of 89%. Transition rates are consistently higher for girls than for boys. The secondary school net attendance ratio was 38.8%, with girls (41.4%) having much higher net secondary attendance than boys (36.2%), (UNICEF 2009).

5. Child Laborers in Bangladesh

In Bangladesh child workers are less expensive than adult workers. Many employers consider children capable of hard work, easy to control, and less demanding. Some reserve dirty or low status works for children because adults are unwilling to do them. The rates of child labor are higher among boys than girls (17.5% vs. 8.1%) and slightly higher among children living in rural areas relative to those in urban areas. Child labor is also exceptionally high in the indigenous communities (18%). About 45% of child laborers do not attend school. A large proportion of children's works such as domestic work, commercial sex work, and smuggling in Bangladesh are hidden and therefore unlikely to be captured in the official figures. Children also provide services that are unlikely to be defined as work, such as housework, caring for younger children, running household errands, collecting water and fuel wood, looking after livestock, and contributing to household crop production (UNICEF 2009).

In Bangladesh poverty is the main reason of child labor. Poverty is strongly positively correlated with child labor. Free and compulsory education of good quality up to age 20 year to enter into employment is a key tool in preventing child labor. Poverty is multidimensional and can be considered from different perspective as follows (Mohajan 2012a):

- absolute and relative poverty,
- below \$1.00 per person per day poverty,
- human poverty,
- human dignity/human rights-based approach to poverty,
- poverty and squared poverty gaps,
- people's own perception-based poverty, and
- endemic/widespread and sudden poverty.

The children of poor families of Bangladesh suffer from hunger and mental agony which harms a child's development. Some of the children from these families have to go in works instead of going to school, which is against child rights. About 40% of the siblings and the children in Bangladesh are earning members of the family.

They are involved in unskilled manual works like rickshaw-pulling (17%), day labor (18%), transport work (12%), agricultural activities (10%) etc. Child labor is declining in other southern Asian countries but it has been increasing in Bangladesh which is a failure of both GoB and civil society (Mohajan 2012a).

Cain (1977) first focused on children's work activity in rural Bangladesh. He studied the economic contributions of children to the household economy and attempted to determine their productivity while living as subordinate members of their parents' household. He found that children in rural Bangladesh contribute to their family's income as early as five years of age.

The GoB estimates that about 6.6 million children whose ages are between 5 and 14 years work in various sectors of the 22.8 million work places (Khair 2005). Working children were found engaged in 200 different types of activities, of which 49 were regarded as harmful to children's physical and mental well being. Child workers represent about 12% of the total labor force of the country. Many child workers are not paid regular wages and sometimes are paid very low wages. Most of the cases the girl workers are not paid and the employers only pay food of low qualities, especially in domestic works in rural areas.

The emergence and widespread of garment industry in Bangladesh during the 1980s and child labor increased alarmingly in this industry. In 1990s garment factories topped the list with the highest numbers of child laborers, then the USA and other foreign buyers refused to import garments from Bangladesh as long as child labor was being used by this industry. After this situation the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) sign the Memorandum of with International Labor Organization (ILO) and UNICEF. According to agreement about 50,000 children were dismissed from garment factories immediately but later these dismissed children compelled to join in more hazardous and exploitative occupations than the garment industry (Rahman et al. 1999). Some of the dismissed girl laborers were victim of child marriage and some were trafficked in the Middle East, India, Pakistan and other counties of the world, some took the domestic works and others became laborers in the risky and more difficult jobs and the BGMEA or the Government took no steps to assist for these dismissed poor laborers.

An increase in working hours increased the likelihood of health complications, children working in more hazardous sectors face more health problems than those working in comparatively less hazardous sectors, and children that enter into work at an early age face more health complications than those entering work at an older age (Mamun et al. 2008).

Many child workers actually like their work and take a lot of pride in what they do, though many of them do not realize the negative long-term effects of their early work has (Ehsan 2001).

Of the total child workers, 2.89% are engaged in domestic services. The girl domestic working children are also subjected to sexual abuse, harassment and torture. If money or any valuable things or ornaments are missing, first the blames come to the domestic workers and are tortured mercilessly. Most of the cases they are innocent. The domestic working children have to work from morning to mid-night without any break and find very low qualities of food and also very low qualities of dresses. SHOISHOB, an organization working with child domestic labor in Bangladesh, estimates that there are between 250,000 and 300,000 resident child servants in Dhaka city and more than 20% of child domestic workers were between 5 and 10 years old.

In the construction industry in Bangladesh, children are used in stone breaking. In the construction or welding sectors about all employers eager to employ the children, as these risky works are often avoided by the adults with low wages. It is estimated that 30% of construction workers are children. The total number of bidi (cheap rate cigarette) factory child laborers is 15,544, where usually they have to work from morning to 11 pm.

5.1. Worst Form of Child Labor

The worst form of child labor (WFCL) or hazardous work is a common situation in Bangladesh and the employers find no punishment for engaging the children in these types of works. Hazardous works includes all the works are done by children which are hazardous either by the nature of the work itself, such as work with aggressive chemicals or sharp tools.

Hazardous circumstances would include long working hours (in excess of 43 hours per week), work in restricted conditions or under poor lighting, or work at night. The unconditional WFCL includes the most abusive and damaging, such as trafficking, forced or bonded labor, child soldiers, use of children in prostitution or pornography etc.

The National Child Labor Survey estimated that about 1.3 million children were engaged in hazardous works. The worst forms of child labor in Bangladesh include child domestic work, commercial sexual exploitation, waste picking, employment in construction, bidi (cheap rate cigarettes) and match factories, hotels, restaurants, brickyards, and workshops for welding, automobile repair, lathe operations, the repair of electrical appliances, tannery, battery shops, helpers in buses and tempos, porter and rickshaw pulling. A recent Non-Government Organization (NGO) supported study found that the ship-breaking industry, where labor is extremely hazardous, also employs some children. The employers do not take any responsibility when the child workers are wounded at the time of doing risky works (UNICEF 2009).

5.2. Domestic Child Workers

Child domestic work can be defined as the engagement of a child less than 18 years of age in doing domestic everyday jobs in another's household, regardless of the amount wages. According to surveys supported by ILO and UNICEF in 2005–06, Bangladesh has more than 420,000 child domestic workers, and more than three-quarters of them are girls. The common tasks for domestic girl workers are washing dishes, cooking, serving food, washing clothes, babysitting for their employers' children, and cleaning floors. Among boys, the most common tasks are purchasing daily essentials, cleaning floors, raising cattle and gardening. Almost all child domestic workers live at their employers' homes and work seven days a week at an average 10 to 12 hours per day and find three meals a day. More than 90% said that they received some kind of medical treatment when they were sick, though one-third reported that they had to work while they were ill and only 37.5% of employers said they had given them time off due to illness. Among them only 11% find opportunity of going to school. The parents of 80% of these children had no formal education, and the parents of only 6% had primary level education or above (UNICEF 2009).

Child domestic workers are highly vulnerable to abuse. A qualitative study of 80 child domestic workers in Dhaka found that half of the girls and one-third of the boys considered themselves to be physically abused by their employers (Blanchet 1996). In the ILO-supported survey, 19% of child domestic workers said they were slapped or beaten, and 0.8% of the girls reported that they experienced sexual abuse. The vulnerability of child domestic workers to sexual abuse is widely recognized in Bangladeshi society but parents of victims are hopeless and have no alternate ways to send their daughters to another suitable work, and some are orphans. Most cases sexually abused girls remain silence due to the stigma. Most employers called the domestic girl workers with a common detestable name *Bua* instead of their original name.

Domestic child workers also face restrictions on their movements and freedom of association, and employers often forbid them from interacting with the servants of other families. Blanchet (1996) realized that many employers locked their domestic servants inside their homes because of fears that they would steal from them, reveal private household matters, and develop networks that would empower them to challenge their employers' authority.

5.3. Child Labor Law

There are 25 special laws and ordinances in Bangladesh to protect and improve the status of children. But there is a lack of harmony among laws that uniformly prohibit the employment of children or set a minimum age for employment (US Department of Labor, US DOL 1994). In 1993, the GoB established a National Labor Commission to revise and harmonize labor laws. Current laws include The Employment of Children Act of 1938, The Factory Act of 1965, Shops and Establishments Act 1965, Children's Act 1974 and Children's Rules of 1976. The Employment of Children Act of 1938 prohibits children as young as 12 years from being employed in leather tanning workshops and in the production of carpets, cement, matches, and fireworks, among other items (US DOL 2002). The Factory Act of 1965 also prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 in any factory. This law further adds that young workers are only allowed to work a maximum of five hours day and only between the hours of 7 am and 7 pm. The penalty for violation of this Act (Article 44(1)) is a fine of Tk.1,000 (US DOL 1994).

The Children's Act of 1974 prohibits the employment of children less than 16 years of age in begging, and the exploitation of children in brothels (US DOL 2003).

Bangladesh's labor law does not make any reference to the problem of child labor in the agricultural sector. About 65% of the total child labor force of Bangladesh works in this sector. Also small-scale business informal sector and household employment are exempted from these laws. Hence more than 80% of the economic activity of children falls outside the protection of the labor code (Khanam 2006). The GoB must take necessary steps to enact labor laws in these sectors.

5.4. Physical Health of Child Laborers

Childhood laborers cause serious physical health problems which negatively affect the children's physical growth. Most of the child laborers come from very poor families and they are physically unfit due to malnutrition. Hence risky hard working of the children creates various diseases and they cannot take proper treatment because of financial crisis. About 60% cases they have to work on an average of 14 hours daily, which must create both short-term and long-term health problems. In the welding and construction sectors child laborers face skin diseases and eye sight problems and these children may attack by danger disease such as cancer if they work in the long-term. More than 90% child laborers are affected by physical pain during working hours or afterwards (Mohajan 2012a).

5.5. Psychological Condition of the Child Laborers

The child laborer's psychosocial growth cannot build up properly. Among them who are in risky jobs their mental feelings of frustration and insufficiency are grown very rapidly. Sometimes their psychological immaturity and abnormal psychological problems are created if they remain in risky jobs for a long time. They have no opportunity to build up their natural psychosocial development as they are deprived from about all the scopes of mental development. They cannot mix with the children of high societies, because they are detestable to the children of the civil societies. They have no opportunity to take part in sports and recreational activities. Actually the child laborers find no proper care of their mental development in Bangladesh (Mohajan 2012a).

6. Street Children of Bangladesh

Ahmed Ishtiaque, the head of the Apareyo Bangladesh (AB), expresses that there are main two reasons that the children become street children. First one is the poverty, which leads children to migrate from the villages to the urban sectors for searching jobs. The second factor is the massive unplanned urbanization in Bangladesh.

UNICEF assessment of street children, 2012 defined street children as those boys and girls aged under 18 for whom the street has become home and/or their source of livelihood, and who are inadequately protected or supervised. In briefly, street girls are those girls who live, feed and work in street or sometimes work as sex worker. Of an estimated 400,000 street children in Bangladesh, about 10% have been forced into prostitution for survival. We can assume that a great proportion of these street children are street girls. From human rights perspectives street girls are fully excluded from enjoying declared universal human rights (Mozdalifa 2012).

Many children live and work on the streets in urban areas. Some of them are separated from their families and have no one to care for them, some have parents who also live on the street and some work on the street but live with their families in slum areas. Street children are especially vulnerable to violence, sexual abuse, hazardous work, conflict with the law, and trafficking. They also suffer from abysmal sanitation and hygiene conditions, poor health, and limited access to any kind of education. Street children have no education and they are not allowed to attend school because they wear dirty clothes. They faced various problems such as, cold weather in the winter, wetness during the rains, sleep deprivation, exposure to mosquitoes, theft while they sleep, and sexual abuse. Street children in all areas of work are victim of police abuse and are driven them away (UNICEF 2009).

Street children are abandoned, orphaned, or rejected by their parents and they choose to live in the streets because of mistreatment or negligence of the general people and employers. They also work in the streets because their incomes are needed for their families (Mozdalifa 2012). The street children are increasing in the developing countries (Pare 2003) and world's one billion children are suffering from deprivation of basic needs (Gordon et al. 2003).

Most of the street children survive by begging in the cities. Others involve in rag-picking and selling various goods and some were drawn into smuggling or political activities. Sometimes they are torture or harassment from the police, and they have to pay bribes to traffic police. Many girls are victims of sexual abuse and exploitation by rickshaw pullers, hoodlums and the police.

About 37.50% street children are flower sellers. They buy flowers from whole sellers and sell them to the passerby and earn some for them. Furthermore, 18.8% are prostitutes, 6.25% are garments worker, 6.25% are beggars, 12.50% are shopkeepers and 6.25% are paper hawkers.

7. Violence of Child Rights in Bangladesh

Violence of children is a common matter in Bangladesh but rarely reported to the related authorities for justice. Official data and media accounts provide little information on the nature and extent of the abuse that children experience. Bangladeshi children's like and dislike are depending on according to adults like and dislike, though Government make laws to say 'yes' to the children. Physical, verbal, humiliating, and threatening forms of discipline or punishment are the adult behaviors which children most dislike. Unfortunately, most children are subjected to these behaviors, and many forms of child abuse are accepted in the civil society, even by children themselves. Because, they have no alternative ways to get rid of from these violence and they are adopted from the childhood (UNICEF 2009).

7.1. Oppressions on Girls of Bangladesh

Girls often face gender-based discrimination that puts them at risk of poverty, violence, ill health and a poor education and deprive from basic human needs. UNICEF discussed about current situation, deprivation and exploitation of girls from diverse perspectives in Bangladesh, they are fed last, and less than their brothers. They are more vulnerable to trafficking, sexual abuse, rape, acid throwing and other forms of exploitation, including child labor and child prostitution. Many are married by age 15 and their families must pay heavy dowries. Dowry violence, such as murder and induced suicide, still poses real threats to girls of Bangladesh. The Bangladesh Health and Injury Survey reported that more than 2,200 children committed suicide in one year and suicide is the biggest killer among this age group (UNICEF 2005).

7.2. Abuse to Children

Child abuse takes place in homes, schools, workplaces, institutions and public areas. Among child abuses sexual abuses are difficult to assess because of the sense of shame they create and the risks children face in reporting them. In child beating Bangladesh is in the top position in the world and physical punishment starts in their homes. The main reason for violence against children could be the conflict of interest and power between adults and children. Parents often hit their children out of anger and frustration, as they have no idea about the adverse impact of physical punishment. Among school-going children, 91% reported that it takes place at their schools. The majority of teachers believe that physical punishment is the best means of discipline and they are not aware about the negative impact of physical punishment. About two-thirds of teachers, both male and female, punish students physically. Teachers hit them with a stick or belt or other object; kicking, shaking, or throwing children; scratching, pinching or pulling their hair; and locking or tying them up are some of the most common examples of physical punishment and twisted their ears. A child who is constantly exposed to physical punishment faces a risk of losing his/her self-confidence and self-esteem, and as a result may develop negative personality traits such as being excessively aggressive. Sometimes the female students become victim of sexual behavior from their male teachers. The students from rich and masterminded families find low punishment or find no punishment. Some teachers who are involved with private tuitions punish only those students who do not involve with private tuitions. Physical punishment is slightly more common in primary schools than in madrasas and less common in NGO schools (UNICEF 2009). Recently the GoB prohibited physical and mental punishment to the children in schools.

Among those who were working, one-quarter reported that physical punishment occurs in their workplaces. The employers often tortured physically and sexually abuse the child workers. Sometimes the employers do not pay their wages or pay very less. The employers beat mercilessly the workers in the pretext of theft or when something is broken carelessly by them (Mohajan 2012a).

Children become victim of physical abuse during arrest and interrogation, and children accused or convicted of crimes are often held with adult prisoners from whom they are vulnerable to abuse. Street children and child sex workers always falls victim of verbal, physical, and sexual abuse from police, gangster and the general public (Mohajan 2012a).

7.3. Gender Discriminations

In most of the families of Bangladesh male child finds more facilities than female child. Some parents prohibit the adolescent girls to play in the open fields, dance and sing but these are open for boys. NGO-supported schools have opportunities of all kinds of recreational facilities such as reading books, playing games, learning life skills and raising their social awareness. Parents give especial social and religious training to prepare them to behave in their in-laws' homes in a way that enhances the reputation of their natal families. Rich families spent more for the boys and they think that the boys will give more fortune to the families in future. They spent low for the girls, as they will develop their laws' house in future. After marriage laws' members engage them in household works and to give child birth (Mohajan 2012a).

7.4. Eve Teasing to Girls

The people of Bangladesh are facing many problems such as economic, political, corruption etc. and eve teasing is one of them which means teasing girls who are at their early age of youth or at the early stage of their sexual growth. Eve teasing is a kind of sexual harassment which is a common situation to girls of Bangladesh which is destroying the social balance. Almost every young girl is a victim of teasing, especially by the local young teaser. Eve teasing contributes to maintaining the low status of girls which hinders girls in participating in the formal employment sector. The teasers wait in schools, colleges or outside the house gate and as soon as girls walk passed by them they start teasing with ribald comments, dirty jokes, coarse laughter, sly whistles and even offensive revelation. Many girls are committing suicide to save them from the teasers which is not only frightening but threatening as well to us. If this eve teasing problem exists for a long time, Bangladesh will let down from worse to worst in terms of female education (Mohajan 2012a).

Very recently it has created a various kind of irritate among the girls students due to the over use of the modern technology which employed by eve teasers. For example, making sort video film and other off Sean images recorded by the eve teaser and is spreading it in the various websites in the internet. When the recorded video of the girl will be watched by everybody then cannot go outside freely and ultimately will be self-killed from to live of shame of eve teasing. Some socially conscious people who publicly protested against the harassment have been killed brutally (Mohajan 2012a).

According to the Bangladesh National Women's Lawyers Association, BNWLA (2008) 90% of girls aged 10–18 victim of this heinous crime. In 2008 at least 12 girls have committed suicide due to eve teasing. The girls who are subject to sexual harassment, the experiences are distressing and can leave deep psychological scars. Due to eve teasing girls have to drop-out from school and the drop-out rate of female students is increasing day by day. Because, parents concerned about their daughter's honor or safety sometimes keep their daughters home and/or compel to marry them off at an early age before they are physically or mentally prepared. Mothers in aged 15 to 19 face a 20–200% greater chance of dying in pregnancy than women aged 20 to 24. In Bangladesh between 2002 and 2006, there were over 5,000 reported incidents of eve teasing and raping of girls. More than 2,000 of those rapes were of girl children and 625 of the victims were killed after they were raped and 69 killed themselves. Hence eve teasing in Bangladesh has reached its maximum range which is against the women rights (BNWLA 2008).

Adolescent girls often experience in public areas of *eve teasing* by the evil boys. Eve teasing can involve throwing letters (full of illegal sentences) or flowers to girls, singing rough songs, proposing sexual activity and/or marriage, whistling, making inappropriate or vulgar comments, threatening them, touching them, or trying to come close to them on public transportation. Boys of wealthy or influential families prey upon girls from poor or middle-class families and the victims are threaten not to file any case or complain against them. Adolescent girls often do not tell their parents about the eve teasing because they believe that their parents would react by taking them out of school immediately. Sometimes the victim girls take the way of suicide due to intolerable shames (UNICEF 2009).

Article 76 of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police Ordinance and Article 509 of the Penal Code of 1860 affirm that any acts, conducts, or verbal abuses are considered as eve teasing. Eve teasing that is used to disgrace girls and women are punishable by law (Rashid 2007). Although eve teasing is a crime but the law enforcing authorities have failed to protect women and girls from eve teasing. The GoB must be strict to protect eve teasing by enforcing the laws, arresting the perpetrators, and bringing them to trial.

The Government has taken a step against the eve teaser and has started judge by mobile court, sending to locker and demanding money yet social revolution should be made by the media for opposed the eve teasing and will be assumed which are good to society. The 13 June has been designated 'Eve Teasing Protection Day' by the education ministry in Bangladesh (Mohajan 2012a).

The GoB and various social organizations have taken various steps against eve teasing but these are not enough to protect eve teasing. UNICEF and its partners are working to create awareness by establishing and supporting local adolescent groups called 'Kishori Clubs'. The aim of the clubs is to provide a safe environment where girls and boys can come together and socialize in positive ways. Club members participate in a variety of activities and information sessions and are empowered to become agents of change. There are now close to 3,000 Kishori Clubs operating in approximately 30 districts across Bangladesh (Mohajan 2012a).

8. Effects of Child Marriage

Once the child marriage was compulsory in Bangladesh but the practice of child marriage has decreased over the last 30 years, and it remains common in rural areas and urban slums, especially among the poor. Parents of girls support early marriage due to financially beneficial for her family and she remains no longer a financial burden, and the marriage of a younger daughter often requires a smaller dowry than the marriage of an older daughter in Bangladesh. A girl as young as 12 years of age is eligible for marriage and a man very eager to marry such a girl without dowry and the parents of the girl take this opportunity. Sometimes traffickers marriage a young girl without dowry and later sell her in the brothel or traffic her in other countries. Child brides are often exposed to serious health risks such as premature pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (UNICEF 2009).

Early marriage of both girls and boys is a violation of child rights. Most of the parents are not aware about the negative impact of early marriage and parents do not hesitate to arrange early marriage. Various studies show that in 2001, women who were killed by their husbands were aged between 13 and 18 years (Mohajan 2012a).

9. Disasters Affect the Children

Every year Bangladesh faces natural disasters such as heavy flooding, tornados and cyclones which cause homelessness and displacement of millions of people as well as death. During emergencies, traditional care arrangements are not functioning well and weakened due to the breakdown of family and social structures. Due to natural disasters children become more vulnerable, facing higher risk of abuse, neglect and exploitation, including further family separation, migration and trafficking.

The UNCRC reported that disasters adversely affect all aspects of children's daily life. Children's rights to survival, to protection, to clean water, sanitation, food, health and education remain in serious threat due to disasters. Infants, young children, and pregnant and lactating women are vulnerable to malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. Due to disaster they cannot find balance diet. It is observed that children are in more vulnerable situation in every disaster. A number of children drowned as a result of swimming in flood areas every year. Most of the people who died and/or injured during the Cyclones were women and children (CDRRAP 2010).

10. Child Trafficking in Bangladesh

The UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons defines trafficking as follows:

“Trafficking in persons’ shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”

The US Government definition of trafficking in persons is as follows:

“All acts involved in the transport, harboring, or sale of persons within national or across international borders through coercion, force, kidnapping, deception or fraud, for purposes of placing persons in situations of forced labor or services, such as forced prostitution, domestic servitude, debt bondage or other slavery-like practices.”

The United Nations (UN) protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children, supplementing the UN Convention against Transportational Organized Crime, trafficking is defined as any activity leading to recruitment, transportation, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or a position of vulnerability. Trafficking in people, especially women and children, for prostitution and forced labor is one of the fastest growing areas of international criminal activity and one that is of increasing concern to the US Administration, Congress, and the international community (Miko and Park 2002).

When the methods of trafficking may be such as coercion, luring, duping, abducting, kidnapping etc. then these happens due to social and economical constraints of the victims which make them vulnerable. Human trafficking is considered as the third largest source of profit for organized crime, following arms and drug trafficking. Trafficking is performed for various purposes such as labor, prostitution, organ transplant, drug couriers, arm smuggling etc. (Miko and Park 2002, Sarkar 2011).

The United Nation's former definition of a 'victim of trafficking' perceived women mostly as a group which surfaces as a variable only under specific circumstances. This has been visibly appropriate in the adaptation of the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of Traffic in Persons and its further development is found in 2000. After much debate, an internationally agreed definition of human trafficking now exists in Article 3 of the Palermo Protocol.

This definition focuses on exploitation of human beings, be it for sexual exploitation, or other forms of forced labor, slavery, servitude, or for the removal of human organs. As per the definition, “trafficking takes place by criminal means through the threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of positions of power or vulnerability” (DeStefano 2007, Mohajan 2012b).

Recently trafficking of human being increased alarmingly due to globalization and liberalization. People tend to migrate in search of better opportunities to make themselves rich and wealthy which is a positive trend the people for developing countries. But it sometimes creates problems such as smuggling of people across borders and unsafe migration by unscrupulous touts and agents. Increase trafficking also creates an adverse impact on the problem of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). The girls migrated for better ambition but at last they are sold in brothel by the traffickers and they have to confine for longtime in the brothel which sometimes cause HIV infection due to poor negotiation for safe sex methods. If a girl is HIV infected then she may be return to his own country and her country has to spend huge costs for health and rehabilitation sectors. The UN estimates that about 4 million people trafficking in a year are treated against their will to work in some form of slavery, many of them are children. It is roughly estimated that in the last 30 years trafficking in women and children for sexual exploitation in Asia alone has victimized more than 30 million people (Mohajan 2012b).

Due to absence of social protection, economic security and legal support, an alarming number of women from the poor families become easy victims of trafficking. As trafficking and sexual exploitation is a crosscutting issue in this subcontinent, it has become a growing concern especially across borders. The problem is more acute for a country like Bangladesh that shares a porous border with India. As there is a heavy demand of girls, traffickers takes trafficking as a highly profitable business. The organized gangs of traffickers often lure young women and girls with false promises of better jobs or false proposals of love and marriage. Bangladeshi and Nepalese women and girls are more innocent and attractive, so that they become the first target of traffickers. Victims of trafficking are generally trafficked for forced prostitution, for purposes of organ transplants and slave labor. Accurate statistical data about the number of women trafficked from Bangladesh to serve the sex trade in neighboring countries is absent.

The trafficked victims end up in brothels where they are sold for sexual exploitation or serve as street sex workers in India, Pakistan and the Middle East. Although the government has enacted stringent laws and implemented various policies to combat this menace, trafficking continues to be a significant problem in Bangladesh (Farouk 2005, Mohajan 2012b).

In Bangladesh trafficking becomes an importance issue regionally, nationally and internationally. There is well organized channel of trafficking in women and children constituted by the traffickers of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Middle East. Bangladesh is a poor developing country in the world, the density of population is very high, most of the populations are illiterate, natural disaster is recurrent, gender inequality prevails in every society, erosion of river bank due to over flood make shelter less women and girls. The traditional social structure, economic system, cultural condition and geographical setting of Bangladesh are vulnerable. As a result Bangladeshi children become easy victim of human traffickers. Easily crossable boarder with India which extends over 4,222 km is one of the contributing factors for trafficking in women and children to India. The women are generally instructed to wear a particular band or amulet on their arms for easy identification at the transit points and destinations. At the border, the women and girls are kept in particular houses for prearranged fees and then simply walk across fields adjunct to the border at a convenient time (Paul and Hasnath 2000). Due to monetary gain and individual sexual favors, a number of dishonest border police in Bangladesh assist in carrying trafficked women across the national border (Momen 1998). Western border districts of Bangladesh, particularly Jessore and Khulna are widely used by traffickers for trafficking purposes. A small number of women are taken directly by air from Bangladesh to Middle East and European markets. Corrupt officers at the airport and travel agents are involved in issuing the documents necessary for international air travel for a specified amount of money (Sarker and Panday 2006).

About 40,000 to 50,000 young women and children are being victim of trafficking every month from Bangladesh. About 600,000 women and children per year are being victims of trafficking to India, Pakistan, Middle East, Africa (especially in Libya), Europe and the USA in search of work and they become vulnerable to exploitation and unprotected law due to their illegal status. Many of them are forced to work for extremely low wages, while other auctioned for sex work to develop tourism or forced marriage, which is often a form of slavery. The traffickers lure the poor families of the rural area of Bangladesh with the false promise of employment, marriage without dowry and better quality of life. The traffickers use the technique of illegal border crossing. The trafficking women and children are compelled to involve in sex-trade with the probability of HIV/AIDS infection, domestic work, harmful industrial work, debt bondage labor, forced marriage, forced begging, camel jockeying, adoption trade and sometimes trafficked victims are killed for organ harvesting.

The illegal trafficking of Bangladeshi women have started for the first time when the large scale migration of both male and female laborers to the Middle East commenced in 1976. In 1981, a presidential order was announced, allowing only professional women to migrate. An organization of migrant workers in Kuwait together with an Islamic organization in Bangladesh forced the government to stop the migration of women. They argued that women's honor could only be protected if women were not allowed to leave their families, their communities and their home (Sarker and Panday 2006). Many women who legally entered in the Middle East prior to 1982 face the ill-treatment and offensive behavior included overburden, whipping, dishonor, insufficient food, sexual persecution and rape (Hossain 1993, Paul and Hasnath 2000).

The trafficking strangely and instinctively exaggerated in early 1982, when the GoB in response to the problems generally faced by maids employed there, passed protective legislation to dissuade the migration of women workers to the Middle East.

Bangladeshi police estimated that there are between 15,000 and 20,000 children engaged in street prostitution. About 10,000 girls are active in prostitution inside the country. Over the last decade, 200,000 Bangladeshi girls were lured under false circumstances and sold into the sex industry in nations including Pakistan, India and the Middle East. About 40,000 children from Bangladesh are involved in prostitution in Pakistan. Bangladeshi girls are also trafficked to India for commercial sex trade. About 10,000 Bangladeshi children are in brothels in Bombay and Goa of India (Mohajan 2012a).

10.1 Anti-Trafficking Policies

Bangladesh government accepted to the UN Optional Protocol to the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. The government has promulgated a numbers of laws and formulated policies to prevent trafficking in women and children. The Suppression of Immoral Trafficking Act of 1993 provides stringent penalties for forcing a girl into prostitution. The Children Act of 1974 and 1993, seek to protect children from exploitative and hazardous conditions. The Anti-Terrorism Ordinance of 1992 makes all types of terrorism including the abduction of women and children a punishable offence. The Penal Code of 1860 contains strict provisions and penalties for kidnapping.

The Women and Children Repression Prevention Act of 1995, which was replaced by the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act of 2000, act specifies that trafficking a woman for prostitution or unlawful or immoral purposes or import or export or buying or selling or renting or engaging in any other form of transportation of women is a subject to life imprisonment and fine. Kidnapping a woman for illegal or immoral purposes such as prostitution, non-consensual marriage or forced or falsely enticed coitus is an offence punishable by life punishment, 10 years rigorous punishment and fine. Illegally importing, exporting, buying or selling a child, keeping a child or transferring a child to another is subject to the death penalty or life imprisonment. However, enforcement of these laws is weak, especially in rural areas. The Government also has enacted laws specifically prohibiting certain forms of discrimination against women, including the Anti-Dowry Prohibition Act of 1980, the Cruelty to Women Law of 1983 (Sarker and Panday 2006).

The GoB has introduced National Action Plan in consultation with NGOs which gives priority in 14 ministries and divisions under initiative of The Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs. Besides, UN Task Force in Bangladesh, UNAIDS in Bangladesh, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), ILO-IPEC supports NGO program, International Organization of Migration (IOM), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and World Health Organization (WHO) are involved for combating the trafficking of women and children.

Many international NGOs such as, Save the Children Alliance, The Asia Foundation, Plan International, Action Aid, etc are working against human trafficking. In addition, some major INGOs and donor organizations such as Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), OXFAM, CEDPA, Population Council, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Red Barnet, Trafficking Watch Bangladesh, etc. are involved in anti-trafficking programs (UNIFEM 2003, Sarker and Panday 2006).

The GoB established a Police Monitoring Cell at the Police Headquarters in 2004.

Its functions include collection of information and intelligence regarding human trafficking specially trafficking in women and children, and the monitoring of the movement of criminals involved in human trafficking, arrest of criminals, rescue/recovery of trafficked persons, assisting in prosecuting relevant cases, rehabilitation of trafficked persons and subsequent follow up, and regularly following up the progress of disposal of such cases. The Monitoring Cell at the Police Headquarters maintains the database of cases related to trafficking. A monitoring unit has been formed in each of the 64 district headquarters and it sends updated statistics to the police headquarters (Bangladesh Country Report 2007).

The Border Guard of Bangladesh (BGB), the Bangladesh Police, the Bangladesh Coast Guard and also the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) have been given strict instructions to prevent any trafficking in women and children, and apprehend the traffickers. About 407 traffickers have been arrested since 15 June 2004 to 15 February 2007 and in this connection, 373 cases were instituted in different police stations (Bangladesh Country Report 2007).

A monthly meeting is held regularly in the Ministry of Home Affairs with the representatives of the US Mission in Bangladesh wherein updated information is given on different aspects of the problem and ideas are exchanged. The US Mission officials have also attended inter-ministerial meetings and the meeting with the NGOs to see the working of such committees. As a result of the endeavors so made, Bangladesh was cited as a positive example in combating trafficking in persons in two hearings before the US Congress.

Again in an interim assessment report prepared recently by the US State Department, it has been mentioned that Bangladesh has made clear and significant progress in combating trafficking in persons (Bangladesh Country Report 2007).

11. Child Crimes in Bangladesh

In Bangladesh an estimated 35,000–45,000 children are believed to be involved with criminal gangs engaged in arms and drug trading. They carry pistols, revolvers, bullets, pipe guns, short guns, cut-rifles, AK-38's, SMG's, hand bombs, knives, swords and razors.

The children who live on the streets, in squat or in low-income settlements involved with activities of carrying firearms and these children are stigmatized by the society. Adult criminals and organized crime syndicates use children to carry out such acts and they confront the law and punishment. More girls involve themselves with criminal activities than boys due to poverty. The children face difficulties to manage a suitable work as they are unskilled. Sometimes they have to starve due to unemployment and compel to involve themselves in criminal activities. Some street children have no parents or guardians and they have to manage food, shelter and clothes for themselves by any necessary means. The criminals try to allure them into committing criminal activities in exchange for food, shelter, and money. The drug smugglers give the children more money than they get from daily labor and more cases they became addicted to drugs. Sometimes the criminal groups engaged the children in theft, vandalism, and mugging. Some involve in criminal activities because their senior family members are already involved with these activities and they (children) are encouraged to do the criminal acts. Common criminal activities include drug addiction (44%), theft (21%), trafficking (14%) etc. In the big cities the poor children see that some people became rich by the criminal activities and they are honored in the society. Some children take criminal activities to become rich in illegal ways. To keep the children free from criminal activities we need to take the following steps (An Assessment Study for Children at Risk of Coming in Contact With Criminal Activities 2008):

1. To identify the manner in which children get involved in crime related activities and the reasons why such undesirable associations occur at all.
2. To analyze the factors that encourage children's involvement in crime related activities.
3. To identify the people who encourage such children.
4. To devise achievable recommendations to combat the problem.

The minimum age of criminal responsibility was raised from 7 to 9 years in 2004, but it still falls far short of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) Committee's recommended age of 12, and the death penalty can be imposed on children who are 16 years of age or older. Arrest, detention and sentencing of children are often arbitrary and sometimes illegal. Physical abuse and torture have been applied during arrest and interrogation. The law requires separate detention facilities for children and adults, but many children including those detained while awaiting trial are imprisoned with adult prisoners.

The Children Act 1974 requires Courts at all levels to follow special juvenile court procedures when hearing cases involving a child under the age of 16 (UNICEF 2009).

12. Attempts to Establish Child Rights in Bangladesh

The GoB and UNICEF have cooperated in promoting children's rights since Bangladesh attained independence in 1971. The Government is now preparing a Five Year Plan consistent with a long-term vision of economic growth, poverty reduction, and a more inclusive and equitable society.

The GoB has various social safety net programmes which address the particular gender needs of women along with their children. For ensuring social safety net protection for extremely poor vulnerable women, Vulnerable Group Development Program (VGD) is being implemented. This programme is providing extreme poor and distressed women with food assistance at the rate of 30 kg rice or 25 kg fortified wheat per woman. Women are participating in microcredit programs which are helping them to develop self employment (Children and Disaster Risk Reduction in the Asia Pacific, CDRRAP 2010). Due to above steps the children of these families find opportunities to take education and need not do risky jobs. The GoB is also vigilant about the children of the aided families.

Vitamin A, zinc, worm killing tablets and iron foliate are providing freely to the children and mother of Bangladesh to create healthy nation. After cyclone Sidr in 2007, 240 Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs) and after Aila in 2009, 140 SFSS were opened in the affected areas with UNICEF assistance. Since June 2009, more than 8,000 children aged 6–12 and 200 adolescents have benefited from this programme.

In the CFSs children, teenagers, pregnant and lactating women receive the following services (CDRRAP 2010):

- Two meals a day, one in the morning and one hot meal, access to clean drinking water, recreation, medical and psychological care and hygienic latrines.
- Birth registration of all attending CFSs.
- Ensure that the affected children resume their study in schools.
- Psychological training to teachers.
- Not engage the children in child labor.

- Psychosocial and child protection in emergency training to child facilitators.

CFSs provide safe spaces for children to play, learn and socialize with a provision of hot meals, access to clean drinking water, medical and psychosocial care and hygienic latrines. It has helped in re-establishing normalcy and improving psychosocial well-being among children affected by natural disasters in the immediate phase. It has also offered families the opportunity to concentrate on rehabilitating their homes and rebuilding their livelihoods while children are playing and learning in a safe space.

The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, UNICEF, NGOs and other civil societies and humanitarian organizations have agreed to establish the Child Protection Cluster (CPC) network in Bangladesh at national and local levels. The children in the disaster affected areas are helped by providing books and study materials often free of cost, waiving examination fees and rescheduling public examinations.

15. Recommendations

The GoB and social organizations must be conscious about the rights of the children. The most important integrative measures for the child rights would be as follows (Uddin et al. 2009):

- ❖ take measures to improve basic education in order to reduce child labor,
- ❖ take the particular contexts of poor families into account by creating a non-formal education system parallel to primary education,
- ❖ create awareness among parents about the consequences of risky child labor,
- ❖ provide allowances for the poor families,
- ❖ accelerate the food for education program at a large scale,
- ❖ improve the health services for children in areas where it is known that child workers are living and working,
- ❖ improve the health services of rural health centers, and
- ❖ create mobile medical teams that visit and treat child workers at their work places.

Compulsory schooling for children, food security for the children, school enrolment subsidy, free study materials, improvement of school infrastructure and the quality of education, flexibility in school schedules and adult literacy campaigns make the awareness of child rights in the society (Khanam 2006).

To prevent child trafficking we need to create aware of its negative effects through seminar, symposium, movies and leaflets, strength the security patrol at the border areas, provide special training and motivation to the police, exemplary punishment to child traffickers (Mohajan 2012a). Employment opportunities must be created, so that no parents want to leave their children and send their children to school. At the same time, gender violence should be eradicated from family and the societies. Education for all must be ensured through initiative of compensation and subsidize for those street children (Mozdalifa 2012).

The GoB must ensure protection of children from all forms of abuse, violence, discrimination and exploitation. It creates an environment to secure the well-being of children, including those who are vulnerable. It also takes recovery and reintegration steps into the society for child victims and children of adult victims of abuse, violence, discrimination and exploitation. It identifies and addresses the root causes of children's vulnerabilities, which lead to sexual abuse, discrimination, violence and exploitation, and devise and implement preventive strategies (National Plan of Action for Children Bangladesh 2005).

Employers should not employ the children in the risky works. They must know all the laws and policies related to child labor. They also responsible for treating child workers with dignity and respect, providing them with adequate compensation, honoring all contractual arrangements with them, ensuring that their work is safe and suitable to their ages and abilities, ensuring their access to education, and providing vocational skills that will help them in their future lives (UNICEF 2009).

14. Conclusion

Bangladesh is a poor densely populated country with populations about 160 millions and most of the people are illiterate. In Bangladesh child abuses are common matters and both children and parents are not aware about the child rights.

Bangladeshi children are deprived from basic rights to education, balance diet, health and nutrition, protection, participation, recreation, safe water, sanitation, and hygiene. The rights of children are violated due to poverty, ignorance, lack of social consciousness and discrimination. The laws and policies regarding child labor, physical punishment, violence against girls, sexual exploitation, imprisonment of children with adults, trafficking, child marriage, and other aspects of child protection are routinely violated. In most cases, people are not aware of the laws and take these violence as common matters. Street children are more vulnerable, as they to manage their own foods, clothes and shelter. They find no treatment when they become sick. The GoB and the national and international NGOs have taken various steps, such as free primary education, cash transfer for children, nutrition, registration of birth etc. to save the children. Educating girls achieve a multiplicity of benefits, including marriages in matured age, reduced fertility rates, decreased infant and maternal mortality, improved health and nutritional status, and greater participation of women in political and economic decisions. The GoB has taken many steps to educate the girls to empower them in the society.

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