

CSO-NGO Sector with Self-esteem: Campaign on Grand Bargain and Localization

Sylhet Divisional Workshop 30 September 2018, Sylhet

A day-long campaign and workshop titled “CSO-NGO Sector with Self-esteem: Campaign on Grand Bargain and Localization” was held In the conference room of an elite hotel in the suburb of Sylhet city on 30 September 2018. In the workshop, 94 people including Sylhet divisional local NGOs and civil society representatives, rights activists and vocalists, trade unions, feminist organizations, environmental organizations and university teachers were present. The inaugural session began with national anthem. Chief Guest acting Divisional Commissioner of Sylhet division Azam Khan inaugurated the ceremony.

Besides these Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Professor. Zahirul Haque Shakil, President of Sylhet Branch, Aziz Ahmed Selim, General Secretary of Bangladesh Environmental Movement (BAPA) Sylhet branch Abdul Karim Kim, human rights activist and Habiganj Bapa vice-president Tahmina Begum Guinea, member of the central committee of Edab, freedom fighter MK Azad, FIDB representative Ziaul Rahman Sipar, executive director of IDE Nazmul Haque, human rights activist Hasina Mohiuddin were also present on stage as invited guest.

The introductory segment was conducted by Mustafa Kamal Akanda, Assistant Director of the COAST Trust, while the workshop was conducted by Coast Trust Assistant Director Shawkat Ali Tutul.



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At the beginning of the program, Shawkat Ali Tutul, discussed the background of NGO activities in Bangladesh. He said after Independence NGOs started working from humanitarian Values. Now the work horizon has increased a lot. Starting from development activities, human rights including women's rights -NGOs are getting involved in large-scale in different work. After

that he discussed the about international WHS. This international conference discusses the importance of localization. NGOs and civil society at local level in Bangladesh work on self-esteem and Describe program topics to be discussed in this conference. He said we have given eighteen expectations in accordance with WHS results. We are looking forward to further connectivity with grassroots and local NGOs. We will try to give some ideas to our workshop today and you also have to know a lot at your own initiative.

Shawkat Ali Tutul started the discussion with the workshop's policies and values. Coast Trust's Assistant Director Mostafa Kamal added that since 2015 we have been involved in the

localization process. As well as we the local NGO's need to evaluate ourselves and strengthen our position. This divisional conference was organized in this purpose.



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In discussion meeting the Chief Guest, Sylhet Acting Divisional Commissioner Azam Khan said, 'Bangladesh is a small country, but of a huge population. The extent of natural disaster is more here. Local and foreign donor agencies cooperate with different disasters at different times. But after all, we think that the country can continue in its own funds. At present we need to change our point of view and consciousness.no one can solve the problem alone. While working government is

concerned about local government and NGOs. So this discussion is important. If all work together, there will be no more problems.

A member of the central committee of ADAB and freedom fighter MK Azad said that as the discrimination increased, so that local NGOs have to do a lot.

Abdul Karim Kim, general secretary of the Bangladesh Environment Movement (BAPA) Sylhet branch, said the situation to hurt the civil society's self-respect exists in the country currently. Those who represent civil society speak for people, Misfortune is that talking about interest of the people is neglected. Civil Society and NGOs work for the country. But in many cases, those who are in charge of the country do not take it



Abdul Karim Kim



Shamnaz Ahmed

easily. If work with self-respect only then the target will be achieved.

FIABD representative Ziaul Hasan Sipar said, the development of technology has created many fields for acquiring knowledge. So we have to take many initiatives locally. And in the present context, we are no different. So we have to stay together at this type of arrangement.

Oxfam representative, Shamnaz Ahmed said, Self-respecting Society has to be formed. selfrespect along with equal respect. We will honor and respect one another. We have to talk jointly at one platform.

IDEA executive director Nazmul Haque said, Many people say we do not need NGOs now. But the reality is that now the discrimination between the rich-poor has increased, On the other hand, the number of projects decreased. And we need to discuss some weaknesses in ourselves.

In the speech of the invited guest Aware Citizen Committee Sylhet's President Aziz Ahmad Selim said, "In our country in each case, division has now been created. All have to work together in order to increase the social status. Now, due to this division everyone is going to face problems as a representative of civil society, will work to increase social status.

Human rights activist Tahmina Begum Guinea said, 'We have gathered together because there is a lack of self-esteem among civil society and NGOs. Many people cannot be affected if we do not get together.

General Secretary of the Bangladesh Environment Movement (BAPA) Sylhet Branch said, "There is an attempt to destroy the civil society's dignity. Bengalis can not stay long under the umbrella. Nevertheless we have to work together on issues. both civil society and NGOs speak for the country. So everyone has to work in the coordination.

Partnership Policy: Presented by Shawkat Ali Tutul, Assistant Director, Coast Trust

The basis of the Partnership Policy:

1. To conduct humanitarian assistance programs from moral responsibility, Development of the efficiency of partner NGOs and accountability to the affected people.
2. To show respect to the differences of opinion, considering these as assets and recognizing mutual dependence among themselves.
3. Effective Partnership Formation, Hold it and develop it.

Five Partnership Policy:

1. Transparency:
 - Transparency through mutual exchange of information and information sharing through organizations.
 - Increasing trust between transparency agencies at all levels, including communication and financing.
2. **Results based policy:**
Humanitarian activities will be practical and work-oriented. For this reason, a strong management capability and competency-dependent performance coordination between partners.
3. Responsibility:
 - Moral responsibility for the implementing activities correctly of the agencies in the right and relevant way.

- Programs must be started only after necessary management skills, qualifications, capabilities and availability of resources are ensured.
 - Organizations will always be able to resist the overall misuse of these commitments.
4. Supplementary Attitudes:
- Variations of organizations will be the only asset when one recognizes each other's contribution and will serve as complementary to each other.
 - At Local level expertise is one of the resources that need to create and grow.
 - Whenever opportunities come, organizations will try to consider it as an integral part in human activities.
 - Language and culture must not be obstacle and must overcome this obstacle.

Shamsuddin said in the meeting after presentation that those who are working must have to work with professionalism, It can be added. Rezaul Islam Chowdhury says professionalism is Humanitarian. Because the accounting fund should not be more focused than responsibilities. He said that it's about focusing on that professionalism has not only technical, but also maintains humanitarian aspects. Barkat Ullah Maruf said in the discussions on maintaining good relations with the political party, the beauty of democracy is in different openion.

Grand Bargain: Assistant Director of Coast Trust, Shawkat Ali Tutul, presented the presentation.

In 2015, a high level panel on humanitarian funding was appointed by the Secretary General of the United Nations "Too Important to Fail: Addressing the Humanitarian Financing Gap" One of the recommendations was that the necessary preparations to deal with the crisis, to increase investment in disaster mitigation and reducing projects and reduce the amount of humanitarian needs worldwide to increase the amount of resources based human activities. Which included more emphasis on local competence and reduced transaction costs.

To implement these recommendations, more than 35 donor agencies, The United Nations agency, Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the international NGO, signed a compromise agreement called "Grand Bargain". The grand bargain was discussed seriously in the WHS Conference and it was added to the WHS Outcome Report.

Significant commitment to all donors and help organizations, to make the results of humanitarian activity more effective, under the 10 main programs, 52 commitments or implementing the promise "Grand Bargain" agreement has been signed.

Work flow:

1. more clarity
2. Providing more funding strategies and collaboration for national and local response providers
3. Increase effective coordination for the promotion of cash financing based programs
4. Review at regular intervals, reduce the recurrence of management costs
5. Development of joint and neutral demand review system
6. Major changes in the process of participation: Include the affected population in the decision-making process
7. Increase the number of partners involved in humanitarian activities in long-term planning and financing
8. Funding donors or allocating funds for specific programs should be limited to as much as possible.

9. simplify report requirements and procedures
10. Increase communication and connectivity between humanitarian and development organizations

Brief discussion on this later.

Charter for Change: Presented by Coast Trust's Assistant Director Barkat Ullah Maruf

Barkat Ullah Maruf discussed the reasons and strategies for donor funding in his presentation. Regarding taking donors' funds it has been discussed to ensure the equal status of the local organization. It is important to determine the funding of the donor's theme and the implementation strategy of the fund based on the local organization's demand.

150 donors organizations in 43 countries signed eight commitments in the charter for change.

They are-

1. increase direct fund allocation for NGOs in developing countries involved in humanitarian activities
2. Re-affirmation of partnership policy
3. More transparency in national and local NGOs of the Southern countries
4. Stop the tendency to belittle local expertise
5. Emphasis on the importance of domestic organizations and institutions
6. Sub-Contracting Issues
7. Extensive increase in institutional cooperation and efficiency
8. Contact with the public and the media about partners

In the open discussion, Rezaul Karim Chowdhury discussed the role of rights of the civil society and its role in the context of Bangladesh. Asif (Barisal) asked that what could be done about those who did not sign the different agreements. In response, Barkat Ullah Maruf said it will happen gradually. He said about the overall development beside the infrastructural development. Discussed about social development. Now that Rohingyas are coming to Bangladesh, Bangladesh is not liable for this. It's shared responsibility. But donor agencies have no announcement in this regard.

Development Effectiveness from Fund Effectiveness: Presented by Coast Trust's Assistant Director Barkat Ullah Maruf.

AID effectiveness to Development Effectiveness In this discussion, Aid is mainly more commercial than donation. Istanbul principals were created for different levels of NGOs. Through GPEDC's platform we have achieved a moral strength and through this, we can claim for redistribution based on justification

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|---|---|
| Fund effectiveness | Development Functionality: |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Charity ■ Work on signs of poverty ■ Human needs ■ Trickle down ■ Short-term result | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Justice based ■ Work on the main cause of poverty ■ Human rights ■ Equivalent distribution ■ Long-term result |

- Donor agency operated
- Equality of women
- Employment
- Providing non-political services
- All development partners operated
- Gender Equality / Equality
- Dignified work
- Politics is power
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Group work

Participants in the workshop were divided into three groups so that they can discuss their opinions and expectations in the following three topics.

Group 1: Grand Bargain -Localization And on the basis of other international commitments, donor agencies, UN agencies, international NGOs and Above all What do we expect from the government, Make a list by discussing it in their own group. And make sure everyone's opinion while representing to the bigger parties.



Sylhet: Campaign on Localization- Group V

Group 2: What can we do the least to To uphold self-respect and to those who work for them, to the laws of the country, and to give accountability to those who are funding and managing (Donors and donors, UN agencies, international NGOs)

Group 3: What can be done to create integrated unity between local NGOs - CSOs?
Creating a compromise-based list and presenting it in larger groups will enrich them further.

Group 1 Recommendations

1. VGD NGOAB certificates are not required for domestic funds including VGD
2. Here must be a local NGO to implement all development activities
3. Give CBO the priority for giving foreign funds
4. Donors Web should be in Bengal, there should be an option to write PP in Bengal, Circular will be in Bengal.
5. There should be part of the project to enhance local NGO's performance.
6. Contributions must be closed in the project
7. Local NGOs will have to provide government financial patronage to strengthen

Group 2 Recommendations:

1. To maintain our self-esteem, we have to be responsible and zealous
2. Partnership Relationship
3. We will appoint excellent management and skilled manpower
4. To be responsible for the implementation of the global commitment

5. Appropriate use of information technology for transparency and accountability
6. I will obey domestic laws
7. onthly meetings, audits, annual meetings and reporting to authorities.
8. Do not give any gifts

Group 3 Recommendations

1. To increase the involvement of CSOs by creating organizational structure in NGO activities
2. Combine NGOs and CSOs at the grassroots level
3. Cooperate with CSOs for the collection of local resources
4. Include government departments at the local and district levels in each social and developmental activities
5. The government and donor agencies will play a leading role in the development of local NGOs and CSOs infrastructure
6. Compulsory implementation of all activities by leading local NGOs and CSOs
7. During and after the implementation of any program.The government and local people have to ensure accountability.
8. The implementation of the SDG will be adopted and implemented by the coordinated efforts of NGOs and CSOs

At the end of the party presentation, women participants from different district upazilas gave their speeches. Habiganj district represented by Human Rights activist Ahmina Begum Guinea and Assistant Professor Nasreen Haque. Sati Chakraborty represented Sunamganj district. Prava Rani represented Moulvibazar district, Hasina Mohiuddin, general secretary of Divisional Women's Sports Association, from Sylhet district. Workshop and Conference concluded with the concluding speech of Tofazzal Sohail, convenor of Sylhet Divisional Committee, 'Pratishtjan' and a patriotic song.



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Opinion

Volunteers of Srimangal of Moulvibazar and Mac Bangladesh's Executive Director SA Hamid said, there are a lot of government fund for granting for capacity building. If funds are provided by transparency and accountability then the organizations can work for the development of Bangladesh.



Professor. Jahirul Haq Shakil



জয়িউল রহমান শিপার

Moulvibazar's DDS advocate Rinku Chakraborty Joy said, As a result of increase in lower middle-income , many donor organizations are withdrawing donations from our country. So survive stay involved in development activities we need Government and NGOs need coordinated efforts.

Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Professor. Jahirul Haq Shakil said if the financial flow is stopped our NGOs will face a crisis.We have not yet been in that state. But we have to be prepared.



Advocate Rinku Chakraborty



SA Hamid

Referring to the initiative of NGOs established by FIDB representative Ziaul Rahman Shipar,said,wehave to be aware of the concept of changed development.At the same time, the capabilities of the enthusiastic CSOs have to be created. And the donors should be aware of the continuity of local NGOs so they can be in a process consistently.



Kazi Md. Abul Kalam Azad

ADABs central committee member Kazi Md. Abul Kalam Azad said The donor agencies should focus on Organization status and how they response to the social responsibility rather than giving importance to financial ability.