

NEWS NETWORK

working for social change and empowering people



www.newsnetwork-bd.org



News Network envisions a stable nation, where citizens are aware of their rights, enjoy freedom of expression, live with dignity and enjoy gender equality and where the media is free.

It promotes freedom of press and expression, human rights along with the rights of the minorities & ethnic groups and access to information. It promotes good governance, accountability and transparency at all levels. It also seeks to develop the capacity of media and bring in more women in journalism.

ABOUT US

News Network was launched in June 1994 and since then it has grown into a strong non-profit organisation earning good reputation among journalists, policy makers, members of the civil society and organisations related to media, advocacy and human rights. Shahiduzzaman, the founder Editor and Chief Executive Officer of the News Network, has been able to involve into it a new generation of journalists, writers and experts committed to exposing the wrongs in the society and bringing about a change for the better.

Set up under the law of the land News Network began its modest but arduous journey with the financial support from the Ford Foundation. Through its good work it has been able to attract support from a number of international donor agencies as well as some foreign missions in Bangladesh.

THINGS WE DO

The organisation has a wide range of activities across the country. It focuses on activities related to media development, capacity building of the working journalists, training female journalists, organising seminars, conferences, workshops and conducting media campaign on public issues. There are also programme to promote the rights of religious minorities and ethnic groups. The News Network has also taken up activities to make the information understandable and meaningful to the people and it seeks to bridge the information gap.

Our programme also include skill development trainings for journalists, workshops to sensitise the media about the right to information, gender-based violence including domestic violence against women, promotion of human rights, governance & development issues, food security, climate change & environment, health & sanitation and other important issues. We conduct media training on investigative, in-depth and development reporting. We are implementing a special programme for the development of women journalists in the country.



Young women who have completed a nine-month long fellowship programme on journalism in 2012 are seen in the picture. Most of them are well placed in the mainstream journalism.

OUR AGENDA

- Promotion of freedom of expression, freedom of media, human rights and gender equality
- Work for developing the professional capacity of journalists, promotion of investigative journalism
- Encourage young women to take up journalism as a profession.
- Promoting investigative journalism and right to information
- Sensitise media people on crucial social issues including Right to Information Act, democracy, good governance, transparency and promotion of access to justice
- Motivate children and youths to build themselves as good citizens
- Promote secularism, tolerance and peace in the society, and also the rights of ethnic and indigenous people of the country.
- Organise dialogues, seminars, workshops and discussion meeting on issues of national importance.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT

We are different from others, as we develop journalists, especially women journalists. We are gender responsive, and the women are trained to look across the fringe and dig deeper into the contents. In doing this, News Network runs a six-to-nine month-long journalism fellowship programme for young women who are interested in taking up journalism career. It is known as one of the most successful programme of the organisation. The News Network also runs a News-Feature Service along with development news services, which are different in many ways from the ones provided by the traditional news media. It analyses news and also conducts surveys/studies and organises opinion polls & dialogues and seminars on the issues of public interest.



Dhaka, 3 June 2012: US Ambassador to Bangladesh Dan Mozena gives certificate to a young woman who has completed a nine-month fellowship on practical journalism organised by the News Network and supported by The American Center. Also in picture are Managing Director and Chief Editor of United News of Bangladesh (UNB) Enayetullah Khan, Chief Editor and CEO of Maasranga TV Syed Fahim Munaim and Editor of News Network Shahiduzzaman.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR WOMEN JOURNALISTS

We have been running a fellowship programme for over a decade to encourage young women to take up journalism as a profession and increase their number in media. It is one of the most successful programme of News Network. Many of those fellows are now well placed in print and electronic news media. This programme has been highly appreciated by the news media, universities and civil society. The programme has been able to attract international organisations, donors and some foreign missions in Bangladesh. They are supporting News Network for carrying out this programme. As many as 250 women have been trained under this programme till 2012. About 60 percent of them are already working in the mainstream journalism.

WE FOCUS ON MINORITY'S NEEDS



News Network had assigned a journalist for an in-depth reporting on Harijan communities during 2007, who are most neglected and untouchables of the country. He went to the community people interview and asked them about their trying demand. All of them said they need supports to educate their children. Very shortly we had began communicating the international organisations for raising funds in order to establish schools for their children. Switzerland based Anne Frank-Fonds responded immediately and allocated a grant. We could setup two elementary schools in Bogra district town with that support. Still a long way to go, because, thousands of Harijan people are living in immense inhuman sufferings in the different parts of the country without any humanitarian support.

NEWS NETWORK PROGRAMME ON RURAL JOURNALISTS

Rural journalists can play a vital role in promoting good governance, freedom of expression, human rights, gender equality and empowering people at local level. But they need training to improve their capacity and skills. To fulfill the need News Network has taken up a programme to train rural journalists from print, electronic and broadcast media. The training focuses on building professional skills, code of conduct and ethical behaviour for journalists based in the remote districts and upazilas. Training or workshops usually are held for duration ranging from three days to four weeks.



Dessi Damianova, Programme Coordinator of Free Press Unlimited talks to young women journalists during a break of training for rural journalists in Bogra to the north of Bangladesh.

TRAINING OF JOURNALISTS' TRAINERS

News Network has developed a group of journalists as trainers at district and upazila levels. Until 2010 it has trained 45 senior and mid-career journalists outside the capital city Dhaka as trainers.



Alphons J.A.J.M.G Hennekens, The Netherlands Ambassador to Bangladesh distributes certificate to a journalist, a participant of a 15 day-long ToT programme, organised in Chittagong in 2010. A total of 15 journalists were trained.

SENSITISATION PROGRAMME FOR MEDIA PEOPLE

Journalists need to understanding better crucial social issues such as gender-based violence, child rights, right to information, access to justice, health, climate change and livelihood, and other rights-based issues. Accordingly, News Network has undertaken programme to sensitise journalists on these issues. These have been highly appreciated by the media people and houses, civil society and public representatives, government officials, ministries and the organisations involved in advocacy and lobbying.



The photo shows State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury with officials of PLAN Bangladesh, organisers and experts at the end of a two-day workshop to sensitise media about gender based violence (GBV) against girl children and young women. The workshop was held in Dhaka on 20 December 2011. A total of 25 journalists from major national print and electronic news media participated in the programme. Dr. Chaudhury appreciated the initiative and underlined the need to continue the programme.

SHORT STUDIES AND IN-DEPTH REPORTING



News Network conducted about 76 short studies and in-depth reports on important social and national issues including corruption, women in politics, local government, primary education, plight of the citizens living along border with India, women prisoners, gender equality, life of coastal people, dowry, acid, terrorism against women. Media people, students, teachers, experts and people and organisations working in the relevant fields use the publications as books of reference.

DEV NEWS

The organisation is running a feature service since its inception. Till now it had Produced more than a thousand features on various social issues and released them to local and national newspapers for publication. It also has a programme to exchange feature stories some foreign news agencies. News Network plans to reorganise the service focusing more on development oriented news both in text and video format.

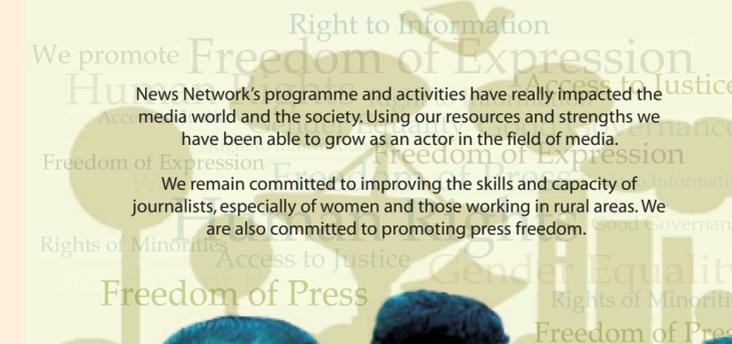
TEENAGERS AS GOOD CITIZEN

The programme had been implemented during 2007-2010 at district level schools. As many as 10,000 secondary school students of 18 districts had participated in the programme. The programme consisted participatory discussion with the students on how to become a good citizen. They participated in essay competitions on how to become good citizens.

Danish Ambassador Einar H Jensen with guests, organisers and the prize winning students at an award distribution ceremony in 2008 in Dhaka.



OUR PARTNERS



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