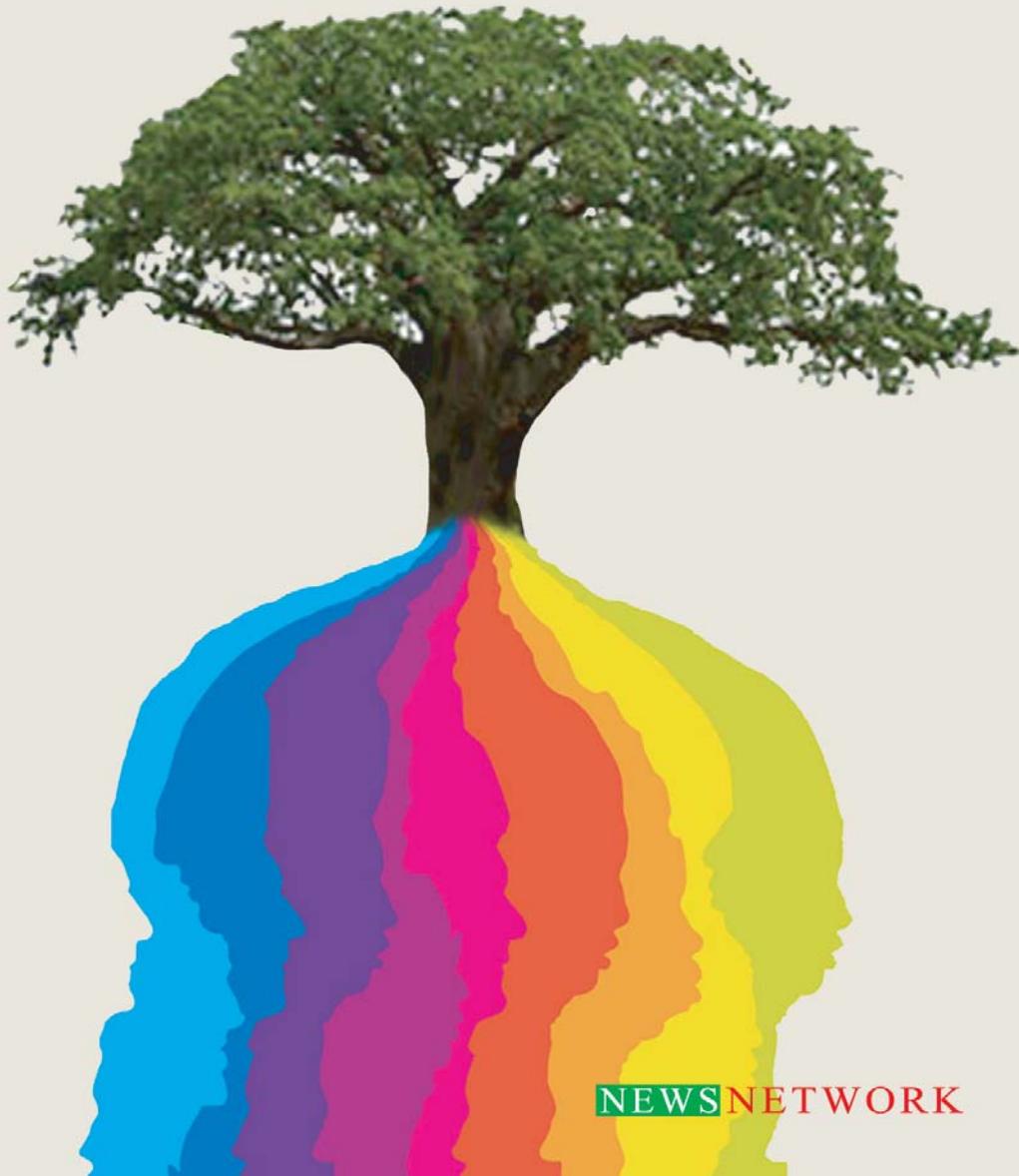


ANNUAL REPORT
2008



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Annual Report 2008

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Preface

News Network is one of the reputed organizations in Bangladesh promoting human rights, freedom of expression, good governance and gender equality. In 2008, it carried out various programmes for the skill development of local journalists and released news-features on various social issues. It lately introduced an education programme for Harijan children. Harijan is one of the neglected minority groups in Bangladesh.

UNESCO, Free Voice of the Netherlands, the Royal Danish Embassy in Dhaka, Taiwan Foundation for Democracy and Anne Frank-Fonds of Switzerland provided assistance for implementing the programmes.

I hope that the report will give you a clear picture of News Network's detailed activities, achievements and expenditures of the year 2008.

Shahiduzzaman
Editor, NewsNetwork

Executive Summary

In 2008, News Network completed the first phase of a project titled 'Programme for Building Teenagers as Good Citizens', funded by the Royal Danish Embassy in Dhaka, in February 2008. Free Voice provided support for a two-year-three-month project 'Development Programme for Female Journalists'. This project, kicked off in February 2007, is still going on.

UNESCO extended support for a 12-month project titled 'Fellowship Programme for the Capacity Building of Young Journalists'. This project completed in due time. Besides, a new programme, 'Educational Support Programme for Harijan Children', started in the middle of the year. It is being supported by Switzerland-based Anne Frank - Fonds.

Objectives of the projects:

1. Increasing the number of skilled female journalists
2. Educating the Harijan children
3. Capacity building of local journalists
4. Motivating school students for building themselves as good citizens

To achieve the objectives, the following activities were either implemented or under implementation:

- (i) Provided six-month fellowships to female graduates on practical journalism,
- (ii) Arranged motivational lectures for the 14-15 age group school students on how to be good citizens
- (iii) Set up primary schools for Harijan children in Bogra town, a northern district headquarters
- (iv) Organised skill development training for the journalists working at the district level.

The progress of the projects is satisfactory and most of the activities were successfully completed in time.

Under the Free Voice-assisted project, 80 female graduates were awarded fellowships in two years. The project has earned the appreciation of Bangladesh media experts as it proved to be highly effective. It includes six-month skill development training aiming to motivate female graduates to take up journalism as their profession and build up their courage. As part of their exercise, the trainees have to cover various events and file stories, particularly news-features.

The news-features filed by the fellows were released to the newspapers and newsmagazines for publication. Meanwhile, many of them have joined various media houses and started their career as journalists. However, some of its activities are yet to be completed, including organizing a weeklong training workshop in the port city of Chittagong for female journalists. This project is scheduled to be ended in April 2009.

News Network also maintains a website (www.newsnetwork-bd.org). It's an initiative to provide backup information to the media people, experts, students and other interested people living at home and abroad. The site is full of various information, reports, clippings and links to other websites. A search engine is also there on the website. Concerned staff members are updating it everyday. Besides, it exchanges items with Women Feature Service, a New Delhi-based international feature agency.

The budget for 2008 was BDT 6,901,296 and the total expenditure was BDT. 6,129,674



Programmes

Supported by:



Royal Danish Embassy



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



DUTCH SUPPORT FOR MEDIA IN DEVELOPMENT

ANNE FRANK-Fonds

1. Projects at a glance

Projects	Funded by	Implementing period	Cost of the project
Development Programme for Female Journalists	Free Voice	February 2007 to April 2009	96,92,800
Programme for Building Teenagers as Good Citizens	Royal Danish Embassy	December 2006 to February 2008	34,50,000
Fellowship Programme for Capacity Building of Young Journalists	IPDC/UNESCO	9 April 2007 to 8 April 2008	12,76,000
Educational Programme for Harijan Children	Anne Frank Fonds	July 2008 to June 2009	5,50,000
Profiles of Ethnic Minorities	Taiwan Democracy Foundation	December 2007 to June 2009	2,45,700

2. Major activities of the year:

1. A six-month fellowship programme on practical journalism for female graduates
 2. Publishing books compiling the items filed by the fellow members
 3. Arranging motivational lectures on good citizens and their responsibilities for secondary school students
 4. Organising an award distribution ceremony for the winners (secondary school students) of the essay competition on 'How to be a Good Citizen'
 5. Organising a month-long training programmes for local journalists
-

3. Progress of the Projects

3.1 Development Programme for Female Journalists

It was a two-year-three-month-long project funded by Free Voice of the Netherlands, which will be completed in April 2009. The objective of the project was to raise the number of female journalists in Bangladesh, and encourage them to take up journalism as profession. In four different phases, 80 women were awarded for a six-month fellowship on practical journalism. By the time many of them joined different print and electronic media houses.



The last batch of the fellows is seen in the picture.

Senior journalists conducted the courses dealing with techniques of information gathering, taking interviews, field visits, covering assignments and filing stories. They were also motivated raising their confidence level.

The fellow members who have completed their courses said they found the programme very effective and helpful in building their career in journalism.

Fellows are receiving certificates from the Netherlands Ambassador to Bangladesh.



Bea ten Tusscher, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Bangladesh, visited the News Network office on 19 August 2008 and distributed certificates among a group of fellows who completed a six-month training programme on practical journalism.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Bea ten Tusscher said: "Today, only a few women work in Bangladesh media as they only account for 5 percent."

He said, "In most countries, Bangladesh is no exception, the media keep presenting a negative and often a stereotyped image of women, which does not reflect their diverse lives and their valuable contributions to society. Also, women still have limited access to information that is relevant to and empowering their lives."

"Yet, women are hardly presented, nor appreciated, as equal partners in development: as professionals, productive labourers, farmers etc. But the fact is that women are contributing substantially to the economy, both in formal and informal ways, as garment and domestic workers, scientists, architects, engineers, teachers, business personnel, doctors, development activists, lawyers, journalists, filmmakers, to name a few," she added.

Ambassador Tusscher said, "Not only do we need more female journalists, but the often gender stereotyped way in which women are presented in the media should also be changed. Therefore, this type of training, aiming to increase the number of skilled female journalists is of great importance."

"Last but not least, I encourage all of you to work as journalists, establishing gender-balanced groups of media professionals and promote more women to be engaged in this profession and enhance the coverage as well as the presentation of women and children in the media," the Ambassador commented.

Former US Ambassador to APEC Lauren Kaheaokakai Moriarty visited the News Network office on 13 November 2008 and took part in an experience-sharing meeting with the fellows.

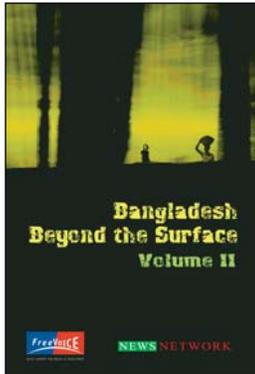
She said, "Allover the world policymakers start their day by checking the media reports. The policymakers need to know what is happening. They do not want to be surprised. They want to know that the information they are getting is accurate. They want to know what other policy makers are reading, watching and listening to. News reporters can help change the world."



Former U.S. Ambassador to Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Lauren K. Moriarty delivering speech on the occasion.

Ambassador Lauren urged the fellows never to be cowed into self-censorship nor accept bribe to distort the truth. "Let your reports be known for its truth and accuracy, its fairness and balance," she suggested.

In 2008, the fellow-members submitted some 150 news-features on various social issues, including good governance, human rights, women rights, corruption and gender equity, and some of the items were disseminated to the newspapers and subsequently published with due



credit. The items were prepared both in English and Bengali. Besides, a good number of items were released to international media in cooperation with Women Feature Service (WFS).

In 2008, News Network published two books, titled 'Bangladesh Beyond the Surface Part II' in English and 'Shaharajoner Etikatha' - (Tales of Millions) Volume III" compiling the features of the fellows in Bengali.

It was earlier mentioned that the project was funded by the Free Voice. In June 2008, Victor Joseph, Regional Officer Asia of the Free Voice, came to Dhaka to observe the progress of the project. He talked to the News Network staff and a number of fellows either receiving training or completed their course and working in different media houses.



Victor Joseph, Regional Officer Asia of FreeVoice, talking to fellows during his visit to News Network.

Items of former fellows

Cross-examination of rape victims in court is nothing but a mental torture

Snigdha Madhuri

Jerin Rahman, a pretty but meek schoolgirl, is full of dreams. Why not? After all she is a good student. Her mother wants to achieve through her what she could not do in her student life. But one day, some local goons shattered all of their dreams.

The wayward youths who had long been teasing Jerin (not her real name) picked up her on her way to school and gang-raped her in an abandoned house of Mohammadpur area barely six months ago.

Upset, Jerin's parents filed a case with a Women and Children Repression Prevention special court seeking justice only to see they are awaiting another humiliation.

During the trial, the defence lawyer asked Jerin a volley of sensitive questions what she found indecent. In a crowded court, the lawyer asked the distressed girl to describe how she was raped.

At one stage of the trial, Jerin became mentally ill and attempted to commit suicide.

Jerin, who was a student of class IX when the worst thing happened to her, never visited her school since then.

Another girl, Hasna Banu (name changed to protect privacy) from Manikganj fell victim to a rapist, Rahim Miah, a few months back. Hasna Banu filed a case against Rahim, seeking justice. During the trial, the teenager became mentally ill and began considering herself guilty of the rape.

I've been harmed physically, socially due to the rape. But the way the defence counsel asked me obscene questions it was more harmful and disgraceful for me. Now I rather wish to die. It's a sin to be born as a girl, Hasna says.

Undoubtedly, rape is the most terrible thing for a woman. Due to rape, a woman is harmed not only physically and socially, but also

mentally as the victim is haunted by trauma. Her behaviour changes and she starts hating herself and distrusting others.

Ishrat Jahan Bithi, a psychologist of Bangladesh Rehabilitation Centre for Trauma Victims, says, After being raped, a woman develops a number of psychological problems along with physical problems. She loses her confidence all together. She is embarrassed when she is asked filthy questions in court. In such a situation, a victim may even try to commit suicide.

Kaniz Fatema, programme officer of human rights organisation Odhikar, says, It s a legal process that in a rape case the defence lawyer will question the victim. But, in court such indecent questions and gestures are asked and made in presence of many, which mentally devastate a victim. In many cases, many victims withdraw their cases to avoid this type of unwarranted situation.

In the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 2003, a section, Trial in camera , has been included so that during cross-examination the victim does not face inhuman and uneasy situation. Under this section, the victim is supposed to be questioned in a closed room in presence of only the judge and the lawyers from both sides. And the victim s statement is recorded and heard again, if necessary.

Section 20(6) relating to the trial process of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 2003 states that the trial proceedings of the crime can take place in a closed room under section 9 of the law.

But the trial in camera section is hardly practiced, says Farida Yasmin, deputy director (Law) of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) and a Supreme Court lawyer.

She says, The questions defence lawyers ask the victims are very shameful, disgraceful, humiliating and objectionable. In most cases, defence counsels intentionally ask obscene questions to get some sort of pleasure. They also try to prove the victims as characterless by diverting the cases to other directions. Since the cross-examinations take place in front of many people, victims feel humiliated and get demoralised. Some victims even commit suicide.

She says, In court, efforts are made by the defence lawyer to find the sexual history of the complainant. To win the case, the defence lawyer asks irrelevant questions one after another. The raped woman is asked how many men raped her, how much of the penis entered, if she tried to resist at that time and if she got any pleasure. This is how the woman is re-raped by the court.

Lawyer Salma Jabin, coordinator of the litigation unit of Ain o Shalish Kendra, says till now there has been no enforcement of the trial in camera section. She emphasises the amendment to the law for imposing some restrictions on questioning in court.

Bangladesh Mohila Parishad general secretary Ayesha Khanam says, In court, lawyers torture women time and again with their filthy words. This type of harassment in the trial proceedings is the reflection of gender insensitiveness and perversion of all concerned. Everyone must change this mentality.

From the psychological perspective, the questioning of victims in court about rape is very damaging and inhuman, says Dr Mahmudur Rahman, chairman of Dhaka University's Psychology department. A victim never has the mental strength to speak up standing in courts. This process of questioning in courts of our country is inhuman.

Eminent lawyer Anisur Rahman, also a teacher of Stamford University in Dhaka, says, If the court atmosphere is not friendly, the victim will be in an uncomfortable situation in describing the incident. Restrictions should be imposed on cross-examinations by lawyers by amending the rape-related laws.

He says, In court, defence lawyers ask such questions, which are irrelevant in many cases. The lawyers try to make the whole environment juicy to be relished by perverted people and that is unfortunate.

Anisur Rahman lays emphasis on change of mentality of the lawyers, having separate courts for trying rape cases, full enforcement of the trial in camera section, imposing some restrictions on questioning and appointment of female public prosecutors and assistant public prosecutors to conduct rape cases.

Rehana Sultana, a lawyer of Bangladesh Mohila Ainjibi Parishad, says under the Witness Act of 1872, a lawyer has the right to ask

any question to prove any incident. But, a lawyer should not cross the limit of decency by asking obscene and irrelevant questions.

Trial in camera section is not enforced due mainly to lack of clear idea about human rights law among lawyers.

About enforcement of the trial in camera, she says, The judges and lawyers must have a clear idea about law and the lawyers for victims should apply to court for having trial in camera. ■

Premarital medical test needed for healthy conjugal life

Shilpi Rani Roy

Nothing worse can happen to Rahmat Ali and his wife Laila Perveen. Rahmat is suffering from liver cirrhosis while Laila from Hepatitis B. Rahmat passes his time waiting to meet the angel of death on a hospital bed in Old Dhaka. Laila too spends her time bedside her husband thinking about their gloomy future.

The ill-fated couple has given up all the hopes when doctors advised them not to take any baby.

According to their doctors, they could have averted this terrible consequence had Rahmat undergone medical test before their marriage to detect whether he was carrying any contagious disease.

Laila's mother says her daughter was married off with Rahmat, an expatriate, barely two years ago. As distant relatives, they knew each other. Therefore, there was no query before the marriage.

A few days after their marriage, Rahmat was down with fever and he gradually started showing some more symptoms like headache, fatigue, loss of appetite and vomiting. Laila's mother-in-law, an old-fashioned woman, started giving Laila a hard time because of Rahmat's illness. She was pretty sure Laila is influenced by demon. The family is in real trouble.

Rahmat confesses that during his stay in Dubai he got affected by Hepatitis B virus. And its ultimate consequence is liver cirrhosis or cancer. He was aware of the disease before the marriage. He kept it secret fearing that the other side could stop the marriage.

Laila's sister-in-law says, "The marriage took place quickly due to pressure from their side. I can't realise how they could do that knowingly. Laila would not have to face this fate had Rahmat disclosed the fact before their marriage."

In Bangladesh, most marriages are settled by the families of brides and grooms, and emphasis is given mainly on family status, beauty and profession. In most cases, physical problem is concealed by the families.

According to World Health Organization, about five percent of Bangladesh's total population is long-term carriers of Hepatitis B virus. Of them, 20 percent may die of liver cancer and cirrhosis. In practice, Hepatitis B is 100 times more infectious than AIDS and it causes more deaths than AIDS.

Let's see what happened to Nitu Islam (not her real name), a student of Political Science at Dhaka University. She married her classmate after a long affair. A few days after the marriage, Nitu was tested Hepatitis C positive.

Nitu's in-laws always give her hard time for bearing the virus and try to keep her husband away from Nitu. "Had I undergone medical test before the marriage, I wouldn't have got married. Now I suffer from a sense of guilty feeling. I always remain sacred of the fact that my husband might be affected with this deadly disease," says Nitu.

According to doctors, both bride and groom should undergo medical test before marriage to be sure whether they are carrying any communicable disease.

World Health Organization Report 2004 says there are about 40 lakh people in Bangladesh who are affected with Hepatitis B virus.

Dr Mahbub Alam, a specialist of medicine at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), says people need to be aware about various communicable diseases, including Hepatitis B and C, AIDS, Syphilis and Gonorrhoea. He apprehends that Hepatitis B and C may break out in an epidemic form in Bangladesh for lack of awareness of the people.

Another doctor, Abdur Rahman, of the same hospital, says, "In most cases marriage means union of two unknown individuals. The couple

needs to know each other before marriage. And as part of that process, both the possible bride and groom should undergo medical test. Concealment of health problems may lead to many physical problems, divorce and transmission of diseases to their future kids.''

The World Health Organization emphasizes safe sex in order to prevent STDs. ''Find a faithful partner to remain healthy,'' it says.

Dr Shafiqul Alam, a liver and medicine specialist, says, ''Most people in Bangladesh don t even know what STD is. For enjoying a health life, everyone will have to know how STDs spread. Besides, every citizen needs to have health card to easily identify patients.''

According to a Dhaka University Psychology professor, premarital medical tests are very essential for ensuring a safe and healthy life. Besides, the would-be husband and wife should know each other's physical and mental health. The issue of STDs should be included in textbooks too.

Rabbi Alam, a human rights activist, says, ''The number of conscious people in our country is very negligible for lack of education and poverty. Premarital medical tests are good for both the possible bride and groom. And it s also a moral right for both.''

Reazul Islam Azad, a lawyer of the Bangladesh Supreme Court, says, ''There is no law in the country to deal with STDs and other communicable diseases. It s one type of crime to get married hiding the facts of contagious diseases. In this case, the cheated person can file a case for concealing information. Besides, proper enforcement of Safe Blood Transfusion Act is also very important.''

Specialist doctors say everyone should also know how to prevent STDs. These are personal hygiene, refraining from illicit sexual relationships, using disposable syringes and ensuring the use of germ-free equipment while undergoing dental treatment and taking vaccines at right time. ■

3.2 Fellowship Programme for the Capacity Building of Young Journalists

The IPDC/UNESCO-funded project was launched in October 2007 and continued till 8 April 2008. With this assistance, News Network organized two one-month fellowship programmes - one in Khulna city, a southern divisional headquarters, and another in Bogra town, an important northern district headquarters.

The programme in Khulna was held in 2007 while the programme in Bogra from January-February 2008, benefiting a total of 50 journalists.



Participants of a one-month workshop on journalism in Bogra town and resource persons are seen in the picture

During the training, the journalists were taught about ethics of journalism and motivated about human rights and their social commitments. Senior journalists from various media houses are conducting the courses.

The participants found this programme very effective for their professional development. The programme has been able to draw attention of various levels, particularly the media houses in Bangladesh and different local press clubs. They requested the News Network for continuing this programme in other parts of the country.

IPDC/UNESCO also found the programme effective and agreed to continue support for another year to organize three programmes in three divisional cities in the same manner.

3.3 Programme for Building Teenagers as Good Citizens

This project was funded by the Royal Danish Embassy to make aware the students about the benefits of to be good citizens. A function to distribute awards among the best 24 essay writers (three students from each district) was held on February 26, 2008 in the city.

Danish Ambassador to Bangladesh HE Einar H Jensen distributed the awards among the winners at the function held at Alliance Française in Dhanmondi, Dhaka. The essay competition



Ambassador Einar H. Jensen, News Network Editor Shahiduzzaman, Chief Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha(BSS) Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury, International President of Commonwealth Journalists' Association(CJA) Hasan Shahriar, Bureau Chief of Associated Press(AP) in Bangladesh Farid Hossain and the prize winners are seen in the picture.

titled 'How to be a Good Citizen' was organised by News Network in eight districts with support from the Danish Embassy in Dhaka. About 5,000 students took part in the competition.

About 120 guests, including students, guardians, civil society members and journalists, from different media houses and resource persons of the programme attend the function.

Speaking on the occasion, the Danish Ambassador said children are considered as long-term resources in the development process of Danish development cooperation policy.

He said the obligation in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is a direct point of departure for Denmark's development efforts.



Ambassador Jensen handing over certificate to a winner.

Ambassador Jensen said assistance to the efforts designed to promote respect for human rights and governance is a central and integrated element of Danish development cooperation policy. "Thus, the awareness of democratic and governance principle in improving the human rights situation and the overall democratization process is essential," he told the function.

The Ambassador said the objective of the Danish grant is to facilitate the process to raise the level of awareness of school students on human rights issues, including child rights and women rights, and motivating them for promoting peace and tolerance in the society.

He said school is the appropriate place to teach children about the challenges they would face in their everyday life. Unfortunately, he said, most of the children are growing up knowing little about their rights as citizens and how the country's laws protect the rights of the people.

The Ambassador said if the level of understanding of school students regarding human rights could be raised from the early age, there would be a far-reaching positive impact on the society.

Recommendations of the students (essay writers) on building a good nation include;

1. Introducing a subject in school on qualities of good citizens
2. Carrying out a campaign on promoting tolerance and honesty in society
3. Making people aware about social responsibilities
4. Ensuring education for all
5. Raising the level of understanding of people about human rights
6. Promoting woman and child rights
7. Promoting secularism and peace among ethnic communities
8. Taking effective steps to reduce domestic violence against children and women
9. Educating people about democracy and democratic values.
10. Persuading people to pay taxes and work unitedly for building a prosperous Bangladesh.
11. Combating corruption.
12. Involving an increasing number of people in development activities.
13. Making people aware about the laws of the land and its constitution.
14. Changing the country's political culture of violence.
15. Bringing a meaningful change in society through introducing fair politics.
16. Establishing rule of law.
17. Putting an end to militancy and terrorism.
18. Taking steps for rapid poverty alleviation.

The school authorities, teachers, civil society members were highly impressed with the programme as they found it interesting and useful. The schoolteachers said the programme should be continued in the future as such activities can help make children aware of their rights and social responsibilities, and build them as good citizens. The teachers also said there should be similar programmes for themselves, as many of them are not well aware of the issues.

Embassy officials were also impressed seeing the great impact of the project. Therefore, the embassy came forward to support again for its continuation. Accordingly, plan has been taken to implement the activities in 10 different new districts of the country.

3.4 Programme for Promoting Human Rights of Ethnic Minorities



A young indigenous mother standing in front of her shanty with her kid on her back

There are 27 ethnic communities in Bangladesh who mainly live in the country's four regions -- the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), northwest, mid-north and the country's northern districts. There is always a human rights issue when it comes to the state of minority communities in Bangladesh, as they are victims of repression and deprivation. In the name of majority rule or democracy, they have been marginalized socially, politically and economically. They always suffer from a sense of insecurity.

To change the present odd situation, massive activities need to be taken for multiple years. However, News Network took up a 17-month project to identify the problems of these ethnic minorities, raise mass awareness about racial tolerance and promote their human and democratic rights.

Taiwan Foundation for Democracy is providing support for this programme. With this support News Network will prepare and publish the profiles of 27 minority groups.

3.5 Education Programme for Harijan Children

With support from the Switzerland-based Anne Frank-Founds, two elementary schools for Harijan children have been set up in Bogra city, a northern district of the country. The main objective of the project is to provide education to children of the Harijan community.

The schools have been opened with class one for the 5-year olds and the classes will gradually be expanded the following years when the old batches will complete their initial classes. Every year after the first year another new class will be introduced until the schools have 5 classes, if the fund is available.

Harijans are the poorest of the poor in the country. They are living in an inhuman condition, as they have very little access to education, healthcare, sanitation and safe water.

It may be mentioned that they are one of the most politically and socially ignored minority groups in Bangladesh. They are also called 'Dalits' as they came from the lower cast of the Hindu community. The exact size of the Harijan population in Bangladesh is not known. They are likely to be several millions scattered across the country.



A four year-old girl writing in her classroom of her school run by News Network for Harijan children in Bogra town.

Harijans deserve a better deal from the society. The kids of these harijan families remain uneducated. They are also victims of social violence and intolerance with women and children being the worst victims.



Finance

1. Budget 2008								
Sl.	Head of Account	Free Voice	Royal Danish Embassy	UNESCO	Taiwan Foundation for Democracy	Anne Frank-Fonds	News Network	Total
1	Interenship programme for female journalists	2,696,482	0	604,000	0	0	80,500	3,380,982
2	Interaction with the female journalists and important personalities	50,711	0	0	0	0	0	50,711
3	Publishing Books	200,000	0	0	245,700	0	0	445,700
4	Motivational lectures on human rights and other related issues	0	5,353	0	0	0	0	5,353
5	Eassay competition	0	114,550	0	0	0	0	114,550
6	Workshop and award ceremony for the students	0	643,000	0	0	0	10,000	653000
7	Telephone, fax, postage & other utilities	210,000	16,000	6,000	0	24,000	0	256,000
8	Office supplies & conveyance	267,000	2,000	12,200	0	0	0	281,200
9	Office rent & Rent for school rooms	416,500	0	0	0	144,000	0	560,500
10	Salary and honorarium	605,800	0	0	0	130,000	0	735,800
11	Audit fee	18,000	20,000	12,000	0	2,000	10,000	62,000
12	Cost of information gathering	0	0	0	0	0	87,500	87,500
13	Editing	0	0	0	0	0	17,500	17,500
14	Honorarium for feature writers	0	0	0	0	0	10,500	10,500
	Educational materials	0	0	0	0	90,000	0	90,000
	Dress/Uniforms	0	0	0	0	150,000	0	150,000
	Total	4,464,493	800,903	634,200	245,700	540,000	216,000	6,901,296
Financial Arrangement								
Heads							Cost in BDT	
Total project cost							69,01,296	
Donors' contributions (Free Voice, Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, Royal Danish Embassy, UNESCO & Anne Frank- Fonds)							66,85,296	
News Network contribution							2,16,000	
*The budget prepared on the basis of the donors' commitments and local contributions.								

2. Financial Statement

NEWS NETWORK RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2008		
PARTICULARS	DETAILS	AMOUNT
RECEIPTS:		
OPENING BALANCE (01.01.2008)		
Cash in hand	8,261.10	
Cash at Bank	<u>9,34,020.80</u>	9,42,281.90
FUND INFLOW		
Fund received from:		
Free Voice	31,84,458.74	
Taiwan Foundation for Democracy	2,39,469.75	
Anne Frank- Fonds Switzerland	4,96,462.00	
UNESCO	<u>20,50,620.00</u>	59,71,010.49
Temporary loan from the Executive members		8,41,000.00
Sale of different publication		1,18,775.00
Bank interest		12,701.09
Subscription from the Executive members		<u>2,100.00</u>
	TOTAL TK.	<u>78,87,868.48</u>
PAYMENTS:		
FUND OUTFLOW		
Salaries		6,04,800.00
Internship programme for journalists		33,29,253.00
Interaction with the female journalists & other personalities		54,500.00
Publication		2,12,000.00
Telephone, internet & other utilities		2,38,557.00
Conveyance		94,981.00
Office rent		4,14,000.00
Office supplies		1,78,108.00
Audit fee		50,000.00
Information gathering		18,000.00
Editing		17,000.00
Rent for school rooms		12,000.00
Educational materials		52,000.00
Dress/Uniforms		75,000.00
Communication cost		6,348.00
Motivational lectures on human rights		3,882.00
Essay competition		1,15,000.00
Award ceremony for the students		6,51,970.00
Bank Charge		2,275.00
Loan refunded		2,40,000.00
Unused fund refund to the Danish Embassy		3,869.49
Advances		1,59,500.00
CLOSING BALANCE (31.12.2008)		
Cash in hand	1,613.74	
Cash at Bank	<u>13,53,211.25</u>	13,54,824.99
	TOTAL TK.	<u>78,87,868.48</u>

3. Project wise budget and expenditure

Project (s)	Budget	Expenditure	Variation
Fellowship programme for capacity building of young journalists funded by UNESCO	6,34,200.00	5,65,162.88	+ 69,037.12
Programme for building teenagers as good citizens funded by Royal Danish Embassy	8,00,903.00	7,96,757.00	+ 4,146.00
Development programme for female journalists funded by the Free Voice	44,64,493.00	44,94,913.57	- 30,420.57
Programme for promoting human rights of ethnic minorities funded by Taiwan Foundation for Democracy	2,45,700.00	-----	+ 2,45,700.00
Education programme for harijan children funded by Anne Frank-Fonds	5,40,000.00	1,39,264.46	+ 4,00,735.54
News Network	2,16,000.00	1,33,576.09	+ 82,423.91
Total BDT.	69,01,296.00	61,29,674.00	+ 7,71,622.00

4. Auditor's Certificate

M. M. HOSSAIN & COMPANY CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

PRINCIPAL:
MD. MOAZZEM HOSSAIN
FCA

HEAD OFFICE:
MOULALI TOWER (4TH FLOOR)
ROOM - 512
83/B NEW CIRCULAR ROAD
DHAKA-1217, BANGLADESH
TEL: 9353216

FORM FD-4 CERTIFICATE GIVEN BY THE AUDITORS

We have audited the accounts of NEWS NETWORK Dhamondi, Dhaka Registration no. FDR-922, dated 20.3.1995 for the Year ended 31st December, 2008 and examined all relevant books and vouchers and certify that according to audited accounts.

- The brought forward foreign donation at the beginning of year 1st January, 2008 was Tk. 1,07,727.52
- The foreign donation amounting to Tk. 59,71,010.49 was received by the organization during the period.
- The balance of unutilized foreign donations by the organization at 31st December, 2008 Tk. 82,640.10
- Foreign donation amounting to Tk. 59,96,097.91 have been utilized for the following purposes (shown project wise).

NAME OF THE PROJECT:	1. Fellowship programme for capacity building of young journalists 2. Programme for building teenager as good citizen 3. Developmental programme for female journalists 4. Programme for promoting human rights of ethnic minorities 5. Education programme for harizan children
FUNDING AGENCY:	1. Unesco New Delhi 2. Royal Danish Embassy 3. Free voice Netherlands 4. Taiwan Foundation 5. Anne frank fonds Switzerland

Name of the project (s)	Budget for this year	Amount spent this year	Difference
Fellowship programme for capacity building of young journalists	6,34,200.00	5,65,167.88	+ 69,032.12
Programme for building teenager as good citizen	8,00,903.00	7,96,757.00	+ 4,146.00
Development programme for female journalists	44,64,493.00	44,94,913.57	- 30,420.57
Programme for promoting human rights of ethnic minorities	2,45,700.00	-----	+ 2,45,700.00
Education programme for harizan children	5,40,000.00	1,39,264.46	+ 4,00,735.54
News Network	7,16,000.00	1,33,576.09	+ 82,423.91
Total Taka	69,01,296.00	61,29,674.00	+ 7,71,622.00

- The organization maintained the accounts of foreign donations and records relating their to in the manner specified in section 5 of the foreign donation (voluntary activities).
- The information furnished above is correct and checked by us.

M. M. Hossain
M. M. HOSSAIN AND COMPANY
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Dated: 22.03.2009

NGO BUREAU- Enlisted No. 92 ABBU/NIP-2 Auditor Ta /450-4/2005-1150 Dated 11-05-2008



5. Budget 2009										
Sl.	Head of Account	Free Voice	Royal Danish Embassy	UNESCO	Taiwan Foundation for Democracy	Anne Frank-Fonds	DAI/USAID	News Network	Total	
1	Interenship programme for the female journalists	221,047	0	1,706,600	0	0	3,677,500	14,000	5,619,147	
2	Training program for the female journalists	590,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	590,500	
3	Interaction with the female journalists and important personalities	0	400,000	0	0	0	0	0	400,000	
4	Publishing Books	88,000	0	0	245,700	0	0	0	333,700	
5	Motivational lectures on human rights and other related issues	0	1,675,000	0	0	0	0	0	1,675,000	
6	Essay competition	0	1,460,000	0	0	0	0	0	1,460,000	
7	Workshop and award ceremony for the students	0	714,000	0	0	0	0	15,000	729,000	
8	Telephone, fax, postage & other utilities	0	126,000	14,700	0	0	90,000	0	230,700	
9	Office supplies & conveyance	0	120,000	14,700	0	7,652	324,000	10,000	476,352	
10	Office rent & Rent for school rooms	0	0	0	0	132,000	318,600	0	450,600	
11	Salary and honorarium (Including teachers honorarium)	50,400	420,000	0	0	130,000	813,000	0	1,413,400	
12	Audit fee	18,000	20,000	14,000	0	12,000	0	30,000	94,000	
13	Cost of information gathering	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
14	Editing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
15	Honorarium for feature writers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
16	Educational materials	0	0	0	0	38,000	0	0	38,000	
17	Dress/Uniforms	0	0	0	0	75,000	0	0	75,000	
18	Training Module, Materials and guideline	0	0	0	0	0	637,000	0	637,000	
19	Experience sharing with important persons on different issues	0	0	0	0	0	140,000	0	140,000	
20	Final fellowship experience sharing conference	0	0	0	0	0	129,500	0	129,500	
21	Office equipment	0	0	0	0	0	341,000	0	341,000	
	Total	967,947	4,935,000	1,750,000	245,700	394,652	6,470,600	69,000	1,48,32,899	

Set up in 1994 to meet the readers' need and bridge the information gap, News Network has become a leading news-feature agency of Bangladesh. By the time, the agency has been able to earn the appreciation of all quarters for its comprehensive works and its success can be measured by the acceptance of our newspapers as well as the readers.

NewsNetwork prepares news-features, news analysis and graphics, and conducts studies/surveys on various issues like democracy, environment, gender and rights of women and children. It also has a regular training programme for local journalists, aiming to develop their skills.

Other activities of the agency include organising workshops, seminars, symposiums and dialogues on crucial social issues. The agency also provides client specific services to different national and international organisations.

For further information please contact us.

NEWS NETWORK

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