

Education, training, life-long learning and capacity building

National Legal Framework is not adequate for education, capacity building and life learning for the population 60 years and over in Bangladesh. Even national education policy 2010 and mass education programme in Bangladesh show no indications of focusing older people's training, capacity building and lifelong learning needs. Currently 72% population in Bangladesh is literate and remaining 28% of population is illiterate. In one estimate 5 million older people are illiterate and so among illiterate population a significant portion are older people in Bangladesh. In data collection and consultation process a brickfield labor Smair (64) said, "I have interest in schooling to be literate but pressure of extreme poverty compelled me not to join school programme, now I have to die without literacy – it hurts me inwardly". But national policy education 2011 has clear mandate and mentioned in 11 page, "the aim of adult education is to make literate to offer them minimum skills to provide them minimum skills in reading, writing and numeracy, to instill them human values and make them aware of health and environment and to increase their professional skills. Efforts will persistently continue till the literacy rate reaches 100% and older people in Bangladesh people become literate. In 2014, Government introduced a law on non-formal education law 2014. This law mentioned continued education and also recommended constitution of non-formal education board. But this Non-formal education law emphasizes mainly dropped out children and youth school and children from the mainstreamed school. But this law has not mentioned older people enrolment and participation of NFP programme. Bureau of Non Formal Education BNFE under the ministry primary and mass education could be a state mechanism to support older people's education, training, life-long learning and capacity building. But BNFE is not responding to the educational and learning needs of older people in Bangladesh.

Availability, Accessibility and Adaptability

Availability of education, lifelong learning and capacity building supports and services for older people don't exist in Bangladesh. No institution works in this areas. Older people individually deal, or meets education, life long learning and capacity building requirements. So majority older people specially poorer groups older people are not getting access to education, life long learning and capacity building supports and services. Some institutions

which are open to all ages theoretically but older people feels invisible barriers to get access to these existing educational programme . As for example open university educational programme . But older people specially young older don't find open university programme as opportunity In Resource Integration Center RIC conducted FGD with illiterate or just literate older people at grass root level , findings are these older people have suppressed demand for education, lifelong-learning and capacity building .But the culture of silence, isolation from the insinuation , information gaps ,misinformation made these older people pessimistic about education and learning. So not only availability is problem , Even available services like open university programme are not used by older people for their perceived barriers of accessibility and adaptability , RIC in their FGDs found lot of misinformation about accessibility and adaptability of Bangladesh open university educational programme. First older people feel open university are not open to old age people . They think there are classroom – where older people become laughing stock. Another issues the purpose of old age education, learning and capacity building raised by the older participants of FGD . The participants opinions finally are being divided in two groups, first group said, in their old age they need now no education, they needs care. Another group they are not majority . They feel education and life – learning have still role to make older people life active and useful. But initially they fail to recommend but few of them recommend government should establish learning center for the older people in both rural and urban sites .

Equality and non-discrimination

In Bangladesh , education for all government efforts have not been translated into education for all ages. After 71 post liberation period literacy campaign was high, opportunity was created to make education and literacy for all ages . But after initial success literacy campaign discontinued leaving thousands of older people illiterate . So government or state did not apply the principle of equality and no discrimination principle in education and literacy campaign in Bangladesh.

Accountability

Lone government document on ageing and older people is national policy on ageing is not expression of strong accountability for older people's literacy , learning and capacity building. In this document under the head line , "Social facilities for the older persons" noted in point 4 in society education and other facilities will be created for the older people. So government is accountable to ensure older people education , learning and capacities development.