



Observing Child Situation of Bangladesh: Eight National Newspapers Report Monitoring by MJF

News reporting period: January -December 2020

The objective of the initiative is to understand the situation of violence against children through national newspapers. The initiative was planned by MJF's Protection of Working Children (PWC) team. According to instructions of MJF management, information and data collected from print media.

Findings:

Newspapers findings suggest that a total of 1521 children affected by specific incidences within the reporting period were as follows:

- 626 children raped
- 350 children died on road accident
- 101 children became victim of child marriage
- 165 children murdered
- 34 children committed to suicide as failed to get justice
- 165 children drown into pond/river across the country

To disseminate the findings MJF organised a virtual national press conference on violence against children during Covid-19 pandemic situation. As a result, this has created a space for advocacy with policy makers for taking appropriate measures to protect children from various aspects of abuse especially at home, community, workplace etc during the pandemic situation.

Recommendations:

- MJF urges the concerned ministries and law enforcing agencies to prioritise protecting children during Covid-19 period;
- Accelerate safe homes for violence survivors; Within the earliest time arrest and trial of the perpetrators;
- Ensure health, legal, counselling, food, livelihoods and other supports for survivors by the government;
- Take measures to pass the "Virtual Court Ordinance" to ensure uninterrupted activities of Children Repression Prevention Tribunals during Covid-19 period;
- Increase awareness raising initiatives all over the country to reduce domestic violence against children
- Government need to be more alert to stop child marriage; and
- MJF has urged to government for taking effective measures by prioritising issues of violence against children in official Covid-19 National Response Plan.