

# SOUND OF SILENCE: SCOPING STUDY OF CHILD VULNERABILITY IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS IN BANGLADESH

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FUNDED BY

MANUSHER JONNO FOUNDATION

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# **SOUND OF SILENCE: SCOPING STUDY OF CHILD VULNERABILITY IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS IN BANGLADESH**

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**A.K.M. Mustaque Ali**

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction & Methodology of the Baseline Study

### 1. INTRODUCTION

According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), around 57 million children lived in Bangladesh in 2018. Children are the most vulnerable section of our community. Regardless of their gender, they are exposed to physical and sexual violence. But children from low-income families are often forced to work to support themselves and their families in various exploitative ways. They fail to acquire relevant capacities, which may consign them to persistent poverty, abuse and exploitation. The number of deprived children with disabilities (CWDs), urban slum dwellers, indigenous, children from chars (isolated islands of the big rivers) and haors (big lakes) areas constitutes a significant portion of the total population (Human Rights in Bangladesh: ASK 2009) and are frequently subject to violence.

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) is working across the country in partnering with other civil society organisations, NGOs, CBOs and government agencies. It provides funding and capacity building support to the organisations working on critical issues related to human rights and governance. It endeavours to build the poor and marginalised people's capacity to fulfil their rights and entitlements and raises their voice against all sorts of violations. MJF works with duty bearers to ensure their responsiveness and accountability towards these groups.

MJF is implementing a program from 2021 to 2022 in Bangladesh to protect children from abuse and violence and ensure their wellbeing with the active support of the community, with the cooperation of Porticus, an international organisation well-known for its experience and commitment to children and their wellbeing. The project is attempting to understand root causes and systematic conditions that perpetuate violence and abuse against children. The main goal is to protect children from abuse, neglect, exploitation and other forms of violence within families and communities in Bangladesh. The three main issues this grant seeks to address are:

- Lack of comprehensive data and evidence on the extent of violence and abuse against children
- Non-implementation of existing laws, policies and international commitments
- Lack of engagement and understanding between communities and elected representatives, concerned authorities.

This study attempts to narrow down the data gaps and furnish a comprehensive strategy for intervention to strengthen the child protection endeavours in Bangladesh based on the outcome of the research.

## 1.2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

### 1.2.2.1 Overall objective

The overall objectives of the assignment are as follows:

1. To address the problem of lack of comprehensive data on child abuse and neglect, assess the extent of vulnerability of children in order to develop strategies for implementation.
2. To understand levels of engagement of community and concerned authorities.

### 1.2.2.2. Specific Objectives

1. To map child vulnerability of children within targeted areas in Bangladesh, covering a cross-section of the population concentrating on locations and situations where children are most likely to face violence and abuse.
2. To Identify and explore key areas and extent of child vulnerability.
- 3, To propose action points of how these vulnerabilities can be addressed.
4. To provide strategic direction for child protection and include existing best practices that can be built on or replicated that MJF can test and invest in the future.
5. To review existing laws, policies related to child protection, instruments and international Commitments (CRC) and identify reasons for lack of implementation
6. To identify scope for reform and way forward.

## 1.3. SCOPE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

Scopes of the assignment following the Specific Objectives are as follows:

Specific Objectives	Scope of the Assignment
1. To map child vulnerability of children within targeted areas in Bangladesh covering a cross-section of the population concentrating on locations and situations where children are most likely to face violence and abuse.	Explore child rights and other rights situations in the selected areas.
2. To Identify and explore key areas and extent of child vulnerability.	Explore dimensions, types and nature of violence and identify the prevalence rate of violence against children. Identify the Pattern of violence and types of the perpetrator and their behaviour concerning violence.
3. To propose action points of how these vulnerabilities can be addressed.	Assess the degree of awareness of caregivers and different stakeholders regarding violence against children. Situation of child protection reporting and responding mechanism and monitoring system in the community by govt, and civil society.
4. To provide strategic direction for child protection and include existing best practices that can be built on or replicated that MJF can test and invest in the future.	Assess the existing community watch group's role and capacity, trace interfaces, and propose link these entities with existing institutional structures (e.g. UP) to prevent and protect violence in the community.
5. To review existing laws, policies related to child protection, instruments and international Commitments (CRC) and identify reasons for lack of implementation	Review existing law, policy, strategy in line with Child Protection to identify gaps, loopholes and ways forwards to prevent and protect children from violence. Existing linkage and gaps between social protection mechanisms and violence against children (CP). Map existing interventions /prevention opportunities and channel of complaints/reporting of violence in different set-ups.
6. To identify scope for reform and way forward.	Produce recommendations through local and national level consultation with children and different stakeholders to jot down action points to curb down incidents and violence against children Identify structures, systems and interventions that can be drawn upon to develop more robust programs for violence against children.

#### **1.4. TARGET GROUPS**

The target groups of this assessment were the children (both boy and girl) vulnerable to violence against violence and adults (both male and female).

**Individual interviews** were carried out with the following categories of respondents to collect quantitative data.

- Children living with family
- Street Children
- Working Children
- Sexually Exploited Children
- Children living in institutions
- Indigenous children
- Children with disabilities
- Parents of all categories of children

**Key informant interviews** were carried out with the following categories to add a qualitative dimension to the report.

- NGO officials/workers
- Community representatives and parents
- Civil society organisations (CSOs) representatives
- Community-based organisations (CBOs) representatives
- Government officials/Duty bearers (relative ministries)
- Local government representatives
- Local authorities
- Service providers/public institutions

**Focus group discussions and workshops** were carried out with the following categories to add a qualitative dimension to the report.

- Children living with family
- Street Children
- Working Children
- Sexually Exploited Children
- Children Living in institutions
- Indigenous children
- Children with disabilities
- Parents of all categories of children
- NGO officials/workers
- Government officials/Duty bearers
- Local government representatives
- Civil society organisations (CSOs) representatives
- Community-based organisations (CBOs) representatives
- Service providers/public institutions
- Representative of Network Partners

## 1.5. THE STUDY AREA

The geographical location/administrative units are as follows:

Division	District	Thana/Upazilla
Dhaka	1. Dhaka	Pallabi, Motijheel, Keraniganj, Jatrabari, Kamlapur railway, Darussalam, Demra, Mohammadpur, Hazaribag, Gopibag, Lalbag, Mughda
	2. Manikganj	Manikganjsadar
	3. Gazipur	Joydebpur, Gazipur sadar, Kapasia, Sreepur
Khulna	1. Jessore	Jessore sadar, Monirampur
	2. Jhenaidaha	Jhenaidahasadar, Kaliganj
	3. Khulna	Rupsa, Khalishpur, Khulna sadar, Daulatpur
Barishal	1. Barishal	Barishalsadar
	2. Bhola	Bhola sadar
	3. Patuakhali	Patuakhali sadar
Chattogram	1. Kumilla	Kumillasadar
	2. Rangamati	Rangamati sadar

Not all types of children and parents could also be reached at the same time. As such, the survey team had carefully chosen the time and place of FGD and Key Informant Interview sessions categories of respondents for each area.

## 1.6. THE STUDY SAMPLES

The study has covered equal numbers of girls and boys. For selecting boys and girls for interview, the stratified sample technique of random sampling methods was used because stratified random sampling allows obtaining a sample population that best represents the entire population being studied. The age of children from 5-17 has been chosen because they can respond through interaction by using interview tools. 5-17 years old children are seen outside of the home, and they are potentially vulnerable. The interviewers were able to speak to them using appropriate tools. The distribution of the quantitative and qualitative sample sizes is described below:

### Distribution of Quantitative Survey Samples: Children

	Urban			Rural			Total		
	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total
Dhaka	402	381	783	45	48	93	447	429	876
Manikganj	51	50	101	119	120	239	170	170	340
Gazipur	101	99	200	119	141	260	220	240	460
Jessore	49	59	108	121	121	242	170	180	350
Jhenaidaha	99	101	200	119	121	240	218	222	440
Khulna	250	234	484	48	53	101	298	287	585
Barishal	216	234	450	99	100	199	315	334	649
Bhola	146	136	282	97	104	201	243	240	483
Patuakhali	116	120	236	105	100	205	221	220	441
Kumilla	107	105	212	98	99	197	205	204	409
Bandarban	30	30	60				30	30	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>1567</b>	<b>1549</b>	<b>3116</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>1007</b>	<b>1977</b>	<b>2537</b>	<b>2556</b>	<b>5093</b>

## Distribution of Quantitative (Survey) Samples (Parents)

	Urban			Rural			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Dhaka	4	4	8	2	2	4	6	6	12
Manikganj	2	2	4	3	3	6	5	5	10
Gazipur	2	3	5	4	1	5	6	4	10
Jessore	2	2	4	3	3	6	5	5	10
Jhenaidaha	2	2	4	2	2	4	4	4	8
Khulna	4	4	8	2	2	4	6	6	12
Barishal	4	4	8	2	2	4	6	6	12
Bhola	2	2	4	2	2	4	4	4	8
Patuakhali	2	2	4	2	2	4	4	4	8
Kumilla	3	3	6	2	2	4	5	5	10
Rangamati	2	3	5				2	3	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>105</b>

## Distribution of Qualitative Survey Samples

District	Focus Group Discussion			Key informant interview
	Children	Parents	Total	
Dhaka	4	1	5	2
Manikganj	1	1	2	2
Gazipur	1	1	2	2
Jessore	1	1	2	2
Jhenaidaha	2	1 (Indigenous)	3	2
Khulna	1	1	2	2
Barishal	1	1	2	2
Bhola	1	1	2	2
Patuakhali	1	1	2	2
Kumilla	1	1	2	2
Rangamati	2	1 (Indigenous)	3	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>22</b>

### 1.7. METHODOLOGY OF DATA COLLECTION

As per the methodology, the study intends to comprise of two phases:

1. **Phase one:** an extensive literature review to examine existing policies, researches, studies, surveys, rapid assessment and databases etc., relevant to violence against children; to highlight the gaps and analyse the situation.
2. **Phase two:** primary data collection involving questionnaires and focus group discussion/Interview guides with GOs and NGOs, violence against children, and other stakeholders/actors to identify existing systems and interventions, their appropriateness, and gaps.

The proposed study had generated both quantitative and qualitative data. As such, the *review methodology* had been included:

1. Review of literature and records, and
2. Consultation with knowledge institutes
3. Interviews with key informants
4. In-depth interview and Case Study
5. Focus Group Discussion (FGD)
6. Workshop
7. Short questionnaire

- **Data Collection through Review of Literature**

Secondary data include current situation analysis and research documents of the selected sources.

- **Interviews with key informants**

To help focus the study, in terms of locations to be researched and topics to be examined, INCIDIN Bangladesh had carefully selected, listed, interacted with and interviewed both children, adults, outreach workers of social services or GoB officials, other individuals on the grounds of their comprehensive knowledge on child sexual exploitation. The key informants were asked to give the research team information on selected localities and facilitate visits to children working in exploitative situations.

- **In-depth interviews and case stories**

INCIDIN Bangladesh had carried out formal and informal interviews and discussions with children where possible, and with GO/NGO workers, policymakers and all other individuals who could help understand the prevailing perceptions and attitudes and why the child is being deprived of their rights and provisions as well as the prevailing situation of the child rights. When interviewing children, great care has been taken to avoid causing the child any harm. Techniques included personal histories, recall of activities of the previous day, story narration, recall of participation in past projects or research, etc. Questions had been geared towards the respective target group, the list of questions had been pre-tested, the interviews had been kept short and focused on specific issues, yet time had been allowed for rapport building with the interviewee.

- **Focus Group Discussions**

Discussions with small focus groups of 6 -12 persons, including groups of children and other relevant groups, had been conducted by INCIDIN Bangladesh.

- **Questionnaires for survey**

The questionnaires had been administered basically for the survey. Short questionnaires were used in various settings to obtain information on children and other sources to cross-check information obtained through interviews.

Depending on the cultural context and social sensitivity, a few questions were selected for the respondents of specific age groups and selected settings. For such cases, the enumerators were trained to ask questions based on the standard list of specific sections, but they would not use to other children during the interviews.

• **Objective-Data Collection Method Analysis**

The following table presents the appropriate tools that had been applied against the Broad and Specific objectives for collecting different types of information for the study:

Broad Objective	Specific Objective	Tools to be Applied
1.To address the lack of comprehensive data on child abuse and neglect, assess the extent of vulnerability of children to develop strategies for implementation.	1.1. To map child vulnerability of children within targeted areas in Bangladesh covering a cross-section of the population, concentrating on locations and situations where children are most likely to face violence and abuse. 1.2. To Identify and explore key areas and extent of child vulnerability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rapid survey</li> <li>• In-depth interviews with the children and parents</li> <li>• Consultation with children and parents</li> <li>• Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with children and parents</li> <li>• Workshop with children</li> </ul>
2.To understand levels of engagement of community and concerned authorities.	2.1. To propose action points of how these vulnerabilities can be addressed. 2.2. Provide strategic direction for child protection and include existing best practices built on or replicated so that MJF can test and invest in the future. 2.3. To review existing laws, policies related to child protection, instruments and international Commitments (CRC) and identify reasons for lack of implementation 2.4. To identify areas of reform and a way forward.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rapid survey</li> <li>• Institutional Inventory</li> <li>• Focus Group Discussion (FGD)</li> <li>• Literature review</li> <li>• In-depth interviews</li> <li>• Focus Group Discussion (FGD)</li> <li>• Gap Analysis</li> <li>• KII</li> </ul>

• **Objective-Data Collection Method And Respondent**

The following table presents the appropriate tools and Respondents that had been applied against the objectives for collecting different types of information for the study:

Sl.	Specific Objective	Variable	Respondent	Tools
1.1.	To map child vulnerability of children within targeted areas in Bangladesh covering a cross-section of the population concentrating on locations and situations where children are most likely to face violence and abuse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore child rights and other rights situations in the selected areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children</li> <li>• Parents and caregiver</li> <li>• Secretary or Joint Secretary or other officials, Ministry of Labor &amp; Employment and Ministry of Women and Children affairs</li> <li>• Deputy Directors and Officers, Department of Women &amp; Children Affairs (district) and Social Welfare (Upazila)</li> <li>• Other Government officials/Duty bearers</li> <li>• Local government representatives</li> <li>• Female Vice Chairmen of Union Parishads</li> <li>• CSOs and CBOs representatives</li> <li>• NGO officials/workers</li> <li>• Service providers/public institutions</li> <li>• Representative of Network Partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rapid survey</li> <li>• In-depth interviews with the children</li> <li>• Observation</li> <li>• Focus Group Discussion (FGD)</li> <li>• Case Stories</li> <li>• Observation with set of questionnaires designed to assess psychological state.</li> </ul>
1.2.	To Identify and explore key areas and extent of child vulnerability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the Pattern of violence and types of the perpetrator and their behavior concerning violence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children</li> <li>• Parents and caregiver</li> <li>• Secretary or Joint Secretary or other officials, Ministry of Labor &amp; Employment and Ministry of Women and Children affairs</li> <li>• Deputy Directors and Officers, Department of Women &amp; Children Affairs (district) and Social Welfare (Upazila)</li> <li>• Other Government officials/Duty bearers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-depth interviews</li> <li>• Observation</li> <li>• Focus Group Discussion (FGD)</li> </ul>

Sl.	Specific Objective	Variable	Respondent	Tools
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local government representatives</li> <li>Female Vice Chairmen of Union Parishads</li> <li>CSOs and CBOs representatives</li> <li>NGO officials/workers</li> <li>Service providers/public institutions</li> <li>Representative of Network Partners</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess the degree of awareness of caregivers and different stakeholders regarding violence against children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children</li> <li>Parents and caregiver</li> <li>Secretary or Joint Secretary or other officials, Ministry of Labor &amp; Employment and Ministry of Women and Children affairs</li> <li>Deputy Directors and Officers, Department of Women &amp; Children Affairs (district) and Social Welfare (Upazila)</li> <li>Other Government officials/Duty bearers</li> <li>Local government representatives</li> <li>Female Vice Chairmen of Union Parishads</li> <li>CSOs and CBOs representatives</li> <li>NGO officials/workers</li> <li>Service providers/public institutions</li> <li>Representative of Network Partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rapid survey</li> <li>In-depth interviews with the children</li> <li>Observation</li> <li>Focus Group Discussion (FGD)</li> </ul>
2.1.	To propose action points of how these vulnerabilities can be addressed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess the existing community watch group's role and capacity, trace interfaces, and propose link these entities with existing institutional structures (e.g., UP) to prevent and protect violence in the community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children</li> <li>Parents and caregiver</li> <li>Secretary or Joint Secretary or other officials, Ministry of Labor &amp; Employment and Ministry of Women and Children affairs</li> <li>Deputy Directors and Officers, Department of Women &amp; Children Affairs (district) and Social Welfare (Upazila)</li> <li>Other Government officials/Duty bearers</li> <li>Local government representatives</li> <li>Female Vice Chairmen of Union Parishads</li> <li>CSOs and CBOs representatives</li> <li>NGO officials/workers</li> <li>Local authorities</li> <li>Service providers/public institutions</li> <li>Representative of Network Partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In-depth Interviews</li> <li>Focus Group Discussion (FGD)</li> <li>Key Informant Interviews</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Situation of child protection reporting and responding mechanism and monitoring system in the community by govt, and civil society.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children</li> <li>Parents and caregiver</li> <li>Secretary or Joint Secretary or other officials, Ministry of Labor &amp; Employment and Ministry of Women and Children affairs</li> <li>Deputy Directors and Officers, Department of Women &amp; Children Affairs (district) &amp; Social Welfare (Upazila)</li> <li>Other Government officials/Duty bearers</li> <li>Local government representatives</li> <li>Female Vice Chairmen of Union Parishads</li> <li>CSOs and CBOs representatives</li> <li>NGO officials/workers</li> <li>Service providers/public institutions</li> <li>Representative of Network Partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rapid survey</li> <li>In-depth interviews with children</li> <li>Focus Group Discussion (FGD)</li> <li>Success Stories.</li> <li>Document Review,</li> <li>Consultation with community-based Child protection committees.</li> </ul>

Sl.	Specific Objective	Variable	Respondent	Tools
2.2.	Provide strategic direction for child protection and include existing best practices built on or replicated so that MJF can test and invest in the future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Map existing interventions /prevention opportunities and channel of complaints/reporting of violence in different set-ups.</li> <li>Documentation of best practices from NGOs and GoB.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children</li> <li>Parents and caregiver</li> <li>Secretary or Joint Secretary or other officials, Ministry of Labor &amp; Employment and Ministry of Women and Children affairs</li> <li>Deputy Directors and Officers, Department of Women &amp; Children Affairs (district) and Social Welfare (Upazila)</li> <li>Other Government officials/Duty bearers</li> <li>Local government representatives</li> <li>Female Vice Chairmen of Union Parishads</li> <li>CSOs and CBOs representatives</li> <li>NGO officials/workers</li> <li>Service providers/public institutions</li> <li>Representative of Network Partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In-depth interviews</li> <li>Focus Group Discussion (FGD)</li> <li>Document Review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Project/program activities for the safeguarding of children within the organisation/institution</li> <li>✓ Strategies for the organisation/institution to ensure child protection in different levels where children interact with other stakeholders.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2.3.	To review existing laws, policies related to child protection, instruments and international Commitments (CRC) and identify reasons of lack of implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review existing law, policy, strategy in line with Child Protection to identify gaps, loopholes and ways forwards to prevent and protect children from violence.</li> <li>Existing linkage and gaps between social protection mechanisms and violence against children (CP).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children</li> <li>Parents and caregiver</li> <li>Secretary or Joint Secretary or other officials, Ministry of Labor &amp; Employment and Ministry of Women and Children affairs</li> <li>Deputy Directors and Officers, Department of Women &amp; Children Affairs (district) and Social Welfare (Upazila)</li> <li>Other Government officials/Duty bearers</li> <li>Local government representatives</li> <li>Female Vice Chairmen of Union Parishads</li> <li>CSOs and CBOs representatives</li> <li>NGO officials/workers</li> <li>Service providers/public institutions</li> <li>Representative of Network Partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In-depth interviews</li> <li>Focus Group Discussion (FGD)</li> <li>Consultation</li> <li>Workshop</li> <li>Gap Analysis</li> </ul>
2.4	To identify areas of reform and a way forward.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produce recommendations through local and national level consultation with children and different stakeholders to jot down action points to curb incidents and violence against children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children</li> <li>Parents and caregiver</li> <li>Secretary or Joint Secretary or other officials, Ministry of Labor &amp; Employment and Ministry of Women and Children affairs</li> <li>Deputy Directors &amp; Officers, Department of Women &amp; Children Affairs (district) and Social Welfare (Upazila)</li> <li>Other Government officials/Duty bearers</li> <li>Local government representatives</li> <li>Female Vice Chairmen of Union Parishads</li> <li>CSOs and CBOs representatives</li> <li>NGO officials/workers</li> <li>Service providers/public institutions</li> <li>Representative of Network Partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In-depth interviews</li> <li>Focus Group Discussion (FGD)</li> <li>Consultation</li> <li>Workshop</li> <li>Gap Analysis</li> </ul>

### **1.8. DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENTS**

Following data collection, instruments were used to interview the respective category of respondents.

- Guideline for FGD involving the children
- Guideline for FGD involving the parents
- Guideline for FGD involving community members
- Guideline for Workshop
- Guideline for an in-depth interview
- Guideline for Key informant interview
- Questionnaire for survey

The data collection instruments were prepared to cover the assessment objectives and finalised after pre-testing in the actual field situation and consultation with MJF.

### **1.9. DATA PROCESSING**

Data processing work consisted of registration of In-Depth Interviews, FGD Reports and Case Studies, editing, preparation of dummy tables/tabulation plan (as and if needed), and analysis. To ensure proper management and processing of qualitative data, three qualitative data processing experts (Co-Investigators) were employed to process the collected data manually. One Data Processing Manager had managed the quantitative data and was assisted by coders (for the quantitative elements).

### **1.10. REGISTRATION OF SCHEDULES**

There was one registration desk in the headquarters at Dhaka. The primary responsibility of this desk was to keep track of the In-Depth Interviews, household surveys, FGD Reports, Case Studies reports, and other necessary papers. A person was trained to assign the unique serial number to each different category of data collection formats/reports received from the field, store these in batches, and deliver and receive these from other desks like the editing and coding desks.

### **1.11. ANALYSIS PLAN**

In this Rapid Assessment, primarily descriptive analysis of both qualitative and quantitative data has been made. This information had been presented in tabular form as may be appropriate. However, the narrative style pre-dominates the presentation to suit the purpose of the study. The information was analysed by category of respondents. Descriptive statistics (percentage, ratio, average etc.) had been used for relevant variables. Suitable graphical representation (bar diagram, pie chart, networks, etc.) may also be made wherever necessary. The information from the discussions with all responders had been written up and included in the report. Based on the findings of the investigation, the report includes a series of suggestions. As the project progressed, the analytical strategy became more detailed.

### **1.12. ETHICAL CONSIDERATION**

Children were involved in the research process to ensure their safety and mental health during and after the interviews. The data were gathered very cautiously, giving special attention to non-discrimination and diversity, considering factors such as gender, age, ethnic origin, ability, and socioeconomic status. The interviewers explained to potential respondents the purpose, content, and outcome of the data collection. Only after the child consented to participate in the study were interviews conducted. The interviewers probed and asked questions in an age and culturally appropriate manner. The interviewers exercise extreme caution in avoiding using words or scenarios that could elicit anxiety or trauma in the children. Apart from that, the research team included trained interviewers with backgrounds in psychosocial counselling and trauma management who could assist children in an emergency.

## Chapter 2

# Child Rights and Child Protection Situation in Bangladesh

### 2.1. BANGLADESH AT A GLANCE

Bangladesh, with 1,47,570 sq./km landscapes and around 166.50 million people, is considered one of Asia's emerging economies. The country is situated in the eastern part of the South Asian sub-continent and lies between latitudes 20°34' and 26°38' North, and longitudes 88°01' & 92°41' East. The population growth rate of the country is 1.37 percent, and population density Per sq./km is 1116. Bangladesh is administratively divided into 8 Divisions, 64 Districts, 492 Upazilas and 4,571 Unions. Over the last ten years, Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in reducing poverty by ensuring sustained economic growth.

Progress is underpinned by steady growth in GDP, which averaged 6.5 percent in the last decade. Currently, the per capita income of Bangladesh is \$2,064. Life expectancy, literacy rates and enrollment in primary education have increased significantly. At present, the literacy rate is 73.20 percent. Bangladesh has achieved remarkable progress in reducing the infant and under-five mortality ratio and improving immunisation coverage. Presently, infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) is 5.4 in Bangladesh. According to the Global Childhood Report 2019 of Save the Children, Bangladesh is most successful among the South Asian countries in reducing child mortality for the last 20 years. However still, a considerable portion of the population lives below the poverty line in the country. Currently, the poverty rate of Bangladesh is 29.5 percent. According to the data of UNICEF, at present around 64 million children are living in Bangladesh which covers around 40 percent of the total population<sup>1</sup>. Despite significant progress in major human development metrics, Bangladesh still has roughly 26 million children living below the national poverty line.<sup>2</sup>

#### 2.1.1. Situation of Children

**Educational status of the children:** In children's education, the country still could not be in the position as expected. The country has legal bindings to ensure education for every child up to the fifth grade. Bangladesh has remarkable achievement in ensuring primary education for Children. According to the data of World Bank and Annual Primary School Census 2019 conducted by the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, 97.74 percent of children attended primary Schools (boys 98.01 percent and girls 97.65 percent). Between 2010 and 2019, primary education cycle completion rate rose from 60 percent to 82.10 percent, which is also encouraging. However, the persistence of the high dropout rate is still a significant concern. At the lower-secondary level, the dropout rate stood at 38 percent, which is alarming. Around 42 percent of girls drop out of school before completing grade 10 due to various causes such as poverty, family duties, safety concerns, and early marriage.

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<sup>1</sup> Children in Bangladesh: UNICEF Bangladesh

<sup>2</sup><https://www.unicef.org/bangladesh/en/children-bangladesh>

EDUCO, one of the INGOs working in Bangladesh, has expressed concern that the Covid-19 Pandemic could hamper its plan to eliminate various forms of child labour by 2025.<sup>3</sup>

**Children with Disability:** According to the Situation Analysis on Children with Disabilities (2018), among 64 million children, children with some forms of disability were found to be range from under 805,000 to 10 million. The report has estimated that the proportion of children with disabilities in Bangladesh might range from less than 1.4 per cent to 17.5 per cent. The report also identified inadequate and inaccessible health care, poor nutrition, inadequate water and sanitation, and accidents as the leading immediate cause of disability among children. Children with disabilities face discrimination in the family, the community and the workplace. They are also got less exposure in the national policy discourse. They are among the most vulnerable to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect. According to researchers, children with physical, sensory, intellectual or mental health impairment are at increased risk of becoming victims of violence. The National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect has reported that children with disabilities are sexually abused at a rate 2.2 times higher than that for children without disabilities<sup>4</sup>. The study reveals that the ratio of sexual abuse among children with disabilities regarding sex is nearly equal. One of the groundbreaking researches by BPF showed that among the respondents, 48 percent of the boys and 52 percent girls with disabilities were found abused sexually.

**The situation of children living on the street:** Children living on the street are the direct consequence of poverty, over-population, migration, internal trafficking, unemployment and illiteracy, and unplanned urbanisation. They are the most vulnerable section among the children in Bangladesh. The number of children living on the street has been increasing rapidly in Dhaka city in recent years. According to the Institute of Development Studies (BIDS),<sup>5</sup> the number of street children is around 1.6 million in 2018, and it is predicted to reach 1.8 million in 2025. Children living on the street face a rampant violation of rights, cruelty, and all forms of violence discrimination and disempowerment, making them less protected and with low self-esteem and low self-concepts.

**Child Labour Situation:** Bangladesh is among the 74 countries where child labour and forced labour are still found. The government has set the age of admission to employment at 14 years with conditions and has taken legal steps to monitor the admission to employment. Despite this, 4.7 million children (13.4 percent of children ages 5-14) are now involved in child labour. The children of Bangladesh in the urban areas do 300 different types of work. Out of these, 47 types of work are categorised as more harmful for the children. In these jobs, children often become exposed to excessive heat, toxic chemical reagents and many more hazardous consequences. Working children suffer from health problems such as fever, stomach problems, dengue, measles etc. The recent Covid-19 Pandemic has put economic pressure on the economies of the world. Save the Children International has predicted that some 9.7 million children worldwide could drop out of schools due to increasing poverty

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<sup>3</sup> <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/public/national/covid-19-pandemic-to-increase-child-labour-in-bd-educo-1592058348>

<sup>4</sup> **A Report on the Maltreatment of Children With Disabilities**, National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, Administration for Children and Families, Crosse SB, Kaye E, Ratnofsky AC, US Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC; 1993

<sup>5</sup> **A Baseline Survey of Street Children in Bangladesh**, Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), Department of Social Services (DSS), 2004.

and budget cuts. This economic cost of the crisis would hinder thousands of children from going back to school. Furthermore, the economic toll on parents would push children to join the workforce for extra income for the families survival.<sup>6</sup>

### **2.1.2. Status of Policies and Practices Affecting Children's Rights**

Bangladesh has ratified several international declarations and conventions and uphold child rights within national, regional and global governances. Bangladesh is a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the ILO Convention against the worst forms of child labour (No.182), ILO Forced Labour Convention (No. 29), ILO Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (No.105); SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution and SAARC Convention on Regional Arrangements for the Promotion of Child Welfare etc. These accords include several provisions for the achievement of child rights and a duty bearer role for states in the fulfilment of children's rights.

The Constitution of Bangladesh has recognised the fundamental rights of all citizens, including children. Articles 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 of the Constitution emphasise the special initiatives for the compulsory primary education of all children, including children with disabilities. Fundamental rights of all human beings, including the children, are also ensured by articles 27, 28, 29, 31, 34, 38, 39, 40 and 44.

Different Articles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) address specific or clusters of issues for fulfilling children's rights within a right-based approach. Children face multi-dimensional forms of rights violations and UNCRC vouch to safeguard these rights through sets of articles of the convention like: non-discrimination (UNCRC, article 2); Right to Survival(UNCRC article 6and 24) which includes safe birth and access to health care and proper nutrition; birth registration (UNCRC article 7); right to development(UNCRC article 28, and 30) which includes right to education; right to recreation (UNCRC article 31);right to privacy (UNCRC, article 16); rights to participation(CRC, articles 17); right to information and right to be heard (UNCRC article 12); right to protection(UNCRC, article 36) which includes protection from exploitation, protection from abuse (UNCRC, article 34); protection from violence and torture (UNCRC, article 19 & 37); protection from trafficking (UNCRC, article 35); the right to taken care by their families (UNCRC, article 18) and promotion of physical and psychological recovery and social integration of child survivors (UNCRC, article 39).It is important to note that the Government of Bangladesh has still held reservations on CRC Article 14 (Freedom of Thought, Conscience, and Religion) and Article 21 (adoption).

The last decade onward could be viewed as the decade devoted to formulating child-centric policy for Bangladesh. The Government of Bangladesh formulated **National Children Policy 2011**, which gives a broader observation and direction regarding what should be done for ensuring and enabling a conducive environment for child development. According to the UNCRC, this policy, in general, defines children as individuals under 18 years. Furthermore, it has subdivided Children within the 14-18 age group as adolescents. National Children Policy 2011 firmly asserted its commitment to eliminate all forms of child abuse and discrimination under fundamental principles 4.3 and emphasised the female child under article 4.4 of the same section. National Children Policy 2011 has defined the National

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<sup>6</sup> <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/education/nearly-10m-children-may-never-return-to-school-after-covid-19-pandemic-1594625466>

Committee for Women and Child Development (NCWCD) as the core authority to provide necessary directions in matters of best development and protection of children, implementation of Child rights Charter and proper application of related laws and provisions. GoB enacted **Children Act-2013** to benefit its estimated 64 million children, repealing the Children Act - 1974. The preamble to the Children Act-2013 states that it has been enacted to implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The law defines a child as anyone up to the age of 18 years (Section 4). Probation officers, the establishment of Child Welfare Boards, and other additional provisions have been incorporated into the law (national, district and Upazila level), Child-specialised police desk, Children's Court, bail for children, diversion, detention of children, Legal representation, privacy, and a minimum age of criminal responsibility.<sup>7</sup>

### **2.1.3. Status of Administrative and Legislative Framework for the Realisation of Rights of the Children.**

#### **2.1.3.1 Administrative Framework and Special Committees**

The nodal Ministry for children issues, the **Ministry of Women and Child Affairs (MOWCA)**, is responsible for implementing the UNCRC and reviewing the status of implementation and formulation and implementation of child-related policies. Furthermore, MOWCA is responsible for coordinating inter-ministerial cooperation on children's issues as well as organising/coordinate the annual child rights week. Another critical role of MOWCA is to allocate governmental resources for children issues.

**Ministry of Home Affairs:** The Ministry of Home Affairs has a vital role in rescuing and repatriating trafficked survivors through its agencies like BGB, Police and Ansar/VDP. They perform their responsibilities in collaboration with NGOs and communities. It should be noted, for the cross-border repatriation, both Ministry of Home Affairs and the Foreign Ministry work in collaboration. The GoB has already set up a monitoring cell to look after trafficking cases at the district and divisional levels under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Home Affairs. The main tasks of the cell are to monitor pending cases of human trafficking, collecting information on survivors and identifying traffickers, providing shelter to survivors in GO/NGO shelter homes and follow-up on the status.

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs:** The Ministry of Foreign Affairs plays a significant role in rescuing and repatriating trafficked children and adults. Most of the cross-border negotiations and agreements are carried out by Bangladesh missions abroad. The Ministry also has a vital role in establishing bilateral agreements that facilitate the repatriation process and provide joint initiatives with neighbouring countries.

**Ministry of Social Welfare** deals with human resource development, poverty alleviation, welfare development and empowerment of the neglected and disadvantaged groups of the society in both rural and urban settings of the country. This Governmental body is solely responsible for the programs and provision of social, rehabilitative services to ensure the overall wellbeing of most marginalised groups belonging to society.

**Ministry of Education and Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MOPME)** is responsible for policy formation, planning, evaluation and execution of plans and initiating legislative

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<sup>7</sup>**The Children Act, 2013:** Ministry of Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Implementation of the convention on the Rights of the Child: Ministry of Women and Children affairs, Government of Bangladesh, 2019.

measures relating to primary, secondary and NFE. The central role of these two Ministries is to include and establish new subjects in the school curriculum. The Ministry plays a vital role in the prevention measures of sexual abuse and to establish child rights by including the UNCRC and safety education in the school curriculum.

**Ministry of Information (Moi):** The Ministry of Information, a branch of the GoB, is the apex body for formulating and administering the rules and regulations and laws relating to information, broadcasting, the press and films in Bangladesh. It is responsible for releasing government information, media galleries and unclassified non-scientific data to the public and international communities. The Ministry is responsible for all the press and broadcasting arms of the Bangladesh Government. The Bangladesh Film Censor Board is the other vital body under this Ministry responsible for regulating motion pictures shown in Bangladesh. Through Press Council, Moi can put restrictions on the media so that the victims' privacy is protected.

The **Ministry of Food and Disaster Management (MoFDM)** is responsible for promoting food security, providing necessary assistance and support of food and relief to vulnerable people, and achieving a shift in disaster management strategies from conventional response and recovery to a more comprehensive risk reduction culture. The MoFDM also tries to mainstream Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) across line ministries and agencies at all levels, local governments, NGOs, CBOs, civil society and the business sector by integrating hazard and risk analysis into development planning processes at national and community levels.

**Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism (MoCAT):** In 1986, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism was re-established as a ministry and has continued since then. The MoCAT is responsible for ensuring safe, orderly and expeditious operation of international and domestic air traffic within the territorial air space and developing tourism infrastructure to popularise tourist products of Bangladesh. The primary functions include formulating and implementing laws, policies and guidelines relating to civil aviation and tourism.

**Ministry of Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs** act as nodal Ministry in enacting new law or legal reformation, such as preparing, examining, and scrutinising all draft legislative bills to be introduced in the Parliament on behalf of the GoB. Bangladesh is still in possession of old laws contradictory to modern international standards, particularly to the UNCRC.

Under the **Ministry of Local Government Rural Development and Cooperatives**, LGD has attempted to register all births, deaths and marriages. The objectives of these efforts are to strengthen the registration system, improve the collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated vital statistics, establish the right to identity of children, including girls and boys, and facilitate the protection of married women's rights. Along with the enforcement and simplification of registrations of birth, death and marriage, there are also provisions for orienting Union Parishad (UP) members, local NGOs and women's organisations and government functionaries regarding the importance of this legislation its potential to prevent trafficking or facilitate rescue activities. Local Governments in urban and rural areas are entrusted bodies elected by the people.

**Members of Parliament play an important role as** elected people's representatives regarding the formulation of policies and laws, amend laws and constitution, and raise people's issues in the Parliament.

**The National Children Committee (NCC)**, set up in 1995, is the highest policy-making body on UNCRC issues and is responsible for monitoring the progress of the UNCRC, National Children Policy and NPA. The NCC comprises 10 members, including MOWCA as the chair and other relevant ministries, members of Parliament and people with expertise on children's issues.

**The UNCRC standing committee**, chaired by the secretary of MOWCA comprising representatives of all ministries dealing with any aspect of the rights and welfare of the child, is expected to review the information provided by various ministries about their current and planned activities concerning children affairs. The committee is chaired by the full-time Member of the Commission and comprises three of its Honorary Members. To make its composition broad-based and representative, the committee has co-opted several international and non-governmental. Representatives of the concerned Ministries of the Government are also invited to the committee's meetings. The committee monitors the compliance of Bangladesh's national laws with the provisions of CRC, implementation of relevant UPR recommendations, submission of the report to the UN Child Rights Committee, and general issues of concern, including corporal punishment, child marriage, child labour, sexual abuse of children, trafficking and exploitation of children. This committee also submitted Report on Child Rights in Bangladesh. The committee had made several recommendations for incorporation in the Children Act, 2013.<sup>8</sup>

**The National Steering Committee in the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MOLE)** deals specifically with the issue of child labour and supervises the implementation of the International Programme on "Preventing and Eliminating Worst Form of Child Labour (ILO-IPEC). MOWCA is also representing this committee.

**South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC)** is an inter-governmental body of 8 SAARC countries- Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka with a vision that all children, girls and boys, throughout South Asia enjoy their right to an environment free from all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation, neglect and discrimination. It commits to ensuring attention to ending violence against children and ensuring adequate focus and promotion of women, children, and youth in the South Asia Region.

Presently, SAIEVAC is working into the following Thematic Areas:

- Child Marriage
- Sexual abuse and exploitation
- Child Labour
- Corporal Punishment
- Trafficking

Activities of SAIEVAC are decided by the Board Members representing member countries and other stakeholders, and its coordination is managed by a permanent Regional Secretariat hosted by the Government of Nepal.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup>**Periodic report of Bangladesh on its implementation of the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child:** Government of Bangladesh Study on Child Rights Governance Situation in Bangladesh: Save the Children

<sup>9</sup><https://saievac.org/>

Furthermore, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA) is mainly responsible for the overall coordination and implementation of the policies. Besides the ministries, private sector, civil society organisations (CSOs), and NGOs are also working to protect rights and ensure the welfare of children throughout Bangladesh. Despite these combined efforts, implementation of policies and action plans are not yet up to the mark due to lack of coordination, lack of capability in implanting action plans, lack of human resources are mainly liable in ensuring proper and strict implementation of current policies for ensuring the Rights of Children in all settings.

### **2.1.3.2 Legislative Framework**

The government of Bangladesh has formulated a wide number of policies and laws such as the National Children Act-2013, National Child Policy 2011, National Child Labour Elimination Policy 2010, National Domestic Labour Policy 2015, Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017 etc., to recognise and protect the Rights of Children. Moreover, the government has recently added a segment titled 'children budget' to reflect the government's commitment to financing on the wellbeing of children.

**The Children Act-2013:** In 2013, Bangladesh enacted new legislation to benefit its estimated 57 million children, repealing the Children Act, 1974. The preamble to the Children Act, 2013 ('the Act'), officially known as the Shishu Ain, 2013, states that it has been enacted to implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children (UNCRC), 1990. The Act received the assent of the President and was published in the Official Gazette on 20th June 2013. By a subsequent Gazette notification dated 18<sup>th</sup> August 2013, the Act was made effective from 21st August 2013. The new law reflects some of the provisions of the UNCRC. It also appeared to have several provisions added in reaction to Supreme Court orders and the obligations of other international documents, such as the Beijing Rules. At the outset, it is to be noted that this is a special law with overriding effect. Notwithstanding anything contained in any other existing law, the provisions of this Act shall prevail (Section 3). The law defines a child as anyone up to the age of 18 years (Section 4).

New provisions<sup>10</sup> of this Act

- Probation officers
- Establishment of Child Welfare Boards (national, district, Upazila level)
- Child-specialised police desk
- Children's Court
- Bail for children
- Diversion
- Detention of children
- Minimum age of criminal responsibility
- Legal Representation
- Privacy

**The National Child Policy 2011:** Government of Bangladesh formulated National Children Policy 2011, which gives a broader observation and direction regarding what should be done for ensuring and enabling a conducive environment for child development. According to the UNCRC, this policy, in general, defines children as individuals under 18 years. Furthermore,

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<sup>10</sup>**The Children Act, 2013:** Ministry of Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Implementation of the convention on the Rights of the Child: Ministry of Women and Children affairs, Government of Bangladesh, 2019

it has subdivided Children within the 14-18 age group as adolescents. National Children Policy 2011 firmly asserted its commitment to eliminate all forms of child abuse and discrimination under fundamental principles 4.3 and emphasized the female child under article 4.4 of the same section. National Children Policy 2011 has defined the National Committee for Women and Child Development (NCWCD) as the core authority to provide necessary directions in matters of best development and protection of children, implementation of Child Rights Charter and proper application of related laws and provisions. The major highlights of the policy are that children below 14 years cannot be employed as full-time workers, playgrounds must be provided in all schools, day-care centres are provided in all prisons, child-friendly health services provided in all hospitals, education in mother languages provided for ethnic minority children in schools. According to the draft, the GoB would appoint an ombudsperson for children to ensure the implementation of the UNCRC.

The National Parliament adopts the **National Education Policy 2010** at the end of 2010. In the newly approved policy, various concerns related to child protection are highlighted, including Inclusive Education, Education for Employment, Physical and Humiliating Punishment (PHP), and Protection Education.

Regarding Inclusive Education, policy includes equal facilities and opportunities for education for children (Objective 8). Education for Employment policy emphasises the need for Technical and Vocational Education to establish linkages between relevant and quality in education outcomes (Goal 6, 13 & 16), and PHP policy highlights that children's protection shall be ensured violence-free school compound (Goal 15). Furthermore, the policy emphasised the need to ensure education for Bangladesh's various disadvantaged children, such as ethnic children, by providing education in their language and making provisions for street children to attend government primary schools.

**The National Plan of Action (NPA)** for children was approved by the cabinet in 2005 and updated in 2010. It is regarded as the guiding document for realising children's rights. However, the implementation, allocation of budget and coordination among the different ministries remains a significant constraint. It needs a continuous follow-up mechanism to support its implementation.

**Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017:** Child marriage is a wide-ranging problem in Bangladesh. According to the data of UNICEF, Bangladesh has the fourth highest prevalence rate of child marriage in the world and the second-highest number of absolute child brides. In February 2017, Parliament adopted the Child Marriage Restraint Act. The 'Child Marriage Restraint Bill 2017' puts boys below 21 and girls below 18 years in the underage category.

**Child Marriage Restraint Rules 2018** Government of Bangladesh published the "Child Marriage Restraint Rule" in October 2018, including further explanation and implementation mechanism of the "Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017". The rule also explains the formation of committees at national and local levels to restrain child marriage and the roles and responsibilities of the committees.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup><https://reliefweb.int/report/bangladesh/review-effectiveness-new-legal-regime-prevent-child-marriages-bangladesh-call-law>Draft Rules of the Child Marriage Restraint Act: A New Hope, Tahsin Noor, Daily Observer, 2021.

**The Mobile Court Act 2009** can be exercised in child marriage as defined in this Act. Local government representatives, including Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), Executive Magistrate, Upazila Women Affairs Official, Upazila Social Service Officer, Upazila Primary or Secondary Education Officer, Officer-In-Charge of the police station concerned, can take necessary measures and legal actions to stop child marriage upon receiving written or verbal complaint. The court can stop child marriage. The punishment for breaching the law is a maximum of six months imprisonment or not more than Tk. 10,000 fine or both. Apart from exceptional cases, if a man or a woman marries any child, they can face a maximum of two years imprisonment or not more than Tk. 100,000 fine or both. Section 7 (2) of the law says any underage boy and girl would have to undergo detention of 30 days or pay Tk50,000 as a fine or both for child marriage.<sup>12</sup>

However, there is considerable concern regarding the particular provision of this Act allowing child marriage in 'special cases'. The Act does not explicitly define what those "special cases" might be. There are fears that such a provision would legitimise statutory rape and encourage child marriage.

**Prevention of Women and Child Repression Act 2000 (Amended in 2003):** Prevention of Women and Child Repression Act 2000 mainly deals with the violence's against women and children. This Act was amended in 2003 and introduced some more specific provisions in a polished manner. There are 34 sections in this Act, and they are divided into three parts. The first part includes a short title, definition and supremacy of the Act, the second part is about punishments for perpetrators, and the third part is about the trial, procedure, investigation, cognizance, jurisdiction, appeals etc. This Act was formulated to protect women and children from heinous crimes such as rape, dowry and grievous injury. The Act makes provision for the punishment of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. The law also has put restrictions on the media so that the victims' privacy is protected. The introduction of the concept of safe custody is one of the most critical features of the law. This Act introduced capital punishment in cases of rape and grievous injuries.

The essential features of the Act are<sup>13</sup>:

- Speedy investigation and trial of cases would be held in tribunals, and all crimes under the ambit of the law are non-bailable, with few exceptions.
- A summary tribunal titled Women and Children Repression Tribunal would be formed for every district town to dispose of the related cases.
- The tribunal would complete the trial process within 180 days.
- The investigation should be completed within 60 days of the order by a magistrate or filing of the case.
- A rapist is required by law to pay for the upkeep of a kid born due to rape.

**Domestic worker protection and welfare policy-2015** were approved on 21st December 2015;the cabinet approved the draft 'domestic workers protection and welfare policy 2015'.

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<sup>12</sup>Domestic workers rights in Bangladesh-ILO, 2017

<sup>13</sup>The Prevention of Women & Children Repression Act 2000: A. Study of Implementation Process, Dr. Md. Emran Parvez. (<https://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/asia/bangladesh/2000/prevention-of-cruelty-against-women-and-children-act-2000>)(<https://tbsnews.net/bangladesh/court/why-3-sections-women-children-repression-prevention-act-not-be-declared>).

The policy suggests that children under the age of 14 years shall not be employed in domestic work. Children below the age of 12 should not be allowed to engage in domestic work. The draft policy also contains many beneficial provisions, including the provisions for having a contract with the employer and the parents and guardians of the child domestic workers giving details of the type of engagement, the wages, working hours, rest and recreation time, arrangement for education, type of work, board and lodging etc. There is also a suggestion to have an employment identity card containing details of the child, his parents, and address and details of the employer, including his age, date of employment, type of work. There is also the suggestion to have a registration authority who would record details of the domestic workers within the local government setup. It also suggests for complaint procedure for their grievance.<sup>14</sup>

**Supreme Court judgment 2011 to ban corporal punishment**<sup>15</sup> Government has banned corporal punishment/Physical and Humiliating Punishment (PHP) in educational settings through 2011 Supreme Court judgment. According to this order, corporal punishment is banned in all educational institutions across the country. Physical and humiliating punishment causes harm to children in the short and long-term on their mental and physical health, education and cognitive development. Still, corporal punishment is widely practised due to its social acceptability.

**Proposed Amendment Bill of Children Act-2013**<sup>16</sup> Corporal Punishment to children is socially and culturally accepted in most parts of Bangladesh. Their parents and teachers are physically or mentally torturing children. Priorities should be given to protect children's rights if the government wants to fulfil the SDGs. 54 countries in the world have already introduced laws or amended their respective children's acts to end mental or physical torture. In 2015, the United Nations' Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Bangladesh should enact laws to stop physical and mental torture on children in the name of punishment. Unfortunately, the issue of corporal punishment was not adequately addressed in the Children Act-2013. Due to ambiguity in section 70 of the Children Act-2013, taking legal action against culprits involved in physical and mental torture on children are being obstructed in most cases. Considering the scenario, 'Coalition to ban PHP', a network prepared a Proposed Amendment Bill of Children Act-2013 to incorporate a provision to protect children from physical and mental torture they face, especially in educational institutions, in the name of punishment.

**Comprehensive Early Childhood Care and Development Policy**<sup>17</sup> A child's first eight years is a critical formative stage known as early childhood. Within this stage, the groundwork for lifelong learning is established. Basic needs for safety, food, shelter and health ensure physical growth and development. The government of Bangladesh feels a solid need to converge and integrate all these services into a common platform, and as a continuation of the process, the Comprehensive Policy for Early Childhood Care and Development has been approved with the leading of Ministry of Women's and Children's Affairs (MoWCA). The Comprehensive Policy for Early Childhood Care and Development applies to all Bangladesh

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<sup>14</sup>Domestic workers rights in Bangladesh-ILO, 2017.

<sup>15</sup>Bangladesh 2011 Supreme Court judgment- Report of Global initiative to end corporal punishment, 2018

<sup>16</sup><https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/amend-law-stop-punishment-schools-speakers-1844956>.

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/bangladesh/en/early-care-growth-and-development> Early Childhood Care and Development Policy: Ministry of Women and Children Affairs

children from conception to age eight. This policy aims to nurture and raise all children with care, security, dignity, affection, and love and establish a strong foundation for their development, irrespective of ethnicity, geographical location, gender, religion, special needs, and socio-economic conditions.

**The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>18</sup>**, also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. The 17 SDGs have been integrated—that is, they recognise that action in one area would affect outcomes in others and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability. The SDGs aim to improve the lives of children through several clear goals and targets. The issue associated with the Rights of Children would be addressed by Goal 1-Poverty reduction, Goal 3-Health, Goal 4-Education, Goal 5-Gender equality. Alongside Goal 16.2- "End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children", 'Eliminating' any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers' (16.2.1), 'human trafficking (16.2.2) and 'sexual violence (16.2.3) are also highlighted the issues associated with the Rights of Children. Despite apparent focus on children's interests, the SDG discussions, unfortunately, left out goals and targets that explicitly address children's rights, and the adopted agenda neglects a rights framework, failing to reference children and individuals as rights holders appropriately.

**Eighth Five Year Plan (2021-2025):<sup>19</sup>** Government of Bangladesh approved the Eighth Five Year Plan (2021-2025) of Bangladesh. The duration of the Seventh Five Year Plan (7FYP) ended in June 2020. However, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic the 8FYP has been delayed. This 8FYP focuses on a pro-poor growth strategy. This strategy includes seven themes. These are labor-intensive, export-oriented manufacturing-led growth, agricultural diversification, dynamism in cottage, small and medium enterprises, modern services sector, ICT based entrepreneurship, and overseas employment.

The 8 FYP aims to have 8.5 percent GDP growth by 2025. There are also targets for many indicators including inflation, public and private investment, employment, poverty reduction, revenue mobilisation, allocation for Annual Development Plan (ADP), and sectoral performances including education and health. During the implementation period of the 8FYP, the government would face several challenges like the Covid-19 Pandemic, graduation from the least developed country (LDC) category, the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) climate change vulnerability. 8th Five-Year Plan, which would be very much effective to attain the desired development of the country. The government is implementing the UN-formulated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); however, during the COVID-19 pandemic, many barriers were created to achieve the desired target. Covid-19 Pandemic has put pressure on the economy, which has resulted in a rise in poverty and inequality. The most affected segments are workers from the informal sector, the urban poor, migrant workers, small businesses, and women. Before the outbreak of the Pandemic in Bangladesh, some of the macroeconomic indicators were under

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<sup>18</sup> **Children Rights and the SDG's**, Child Rights International Network Sustainable development goals: UNDP SDGs and country process in Bangladesh: Equity BD

<sup>19</sup>**Expectations from the Eighth Five Year Plan:** Center for Policy Dialogue, 2020.

<https://tbsnews.net/bangladesh/8th-5-year-plan-quick-recovery-pandemic-shocks-gets-top-priority-138880>.

pressure. Therefore, while working towards achieving the economic indicators, during the first phase of the 8FYP, policymakers need to control the pandemic and ensure public health safety.

**National Child Labor Elimination Policy (NCLEP)**<sup>20</sup> was approved in 2010 and addresses the safety and security of child labourers at the workplace and the Code of Conduct for employers of child laborers regarding working hours, wages, and age of the children. There are a couple of inter-ministerial committees that deal with essential child rights issues. An inter-ministerial committee has been established under the chairmanship of the principal secretary to the prime minister to protect children who come in conflict with the law and improve the administration of juvenile justice. The government recognises the need to harmonise national laws on juvenile justice in line with the UNCRC. Recently Draft of the National Plan of Action in Elimination of child labour (2020-2025) was submitted to the Ministry.

The **Penal Code of 1860**, as amended, provides criminal penalties for kidnapping, abduction, slavery, forced labour, rape, wrongful confinement, selling or buying minors for prostitution, and other offenses, with punishments of seven years or more and/or fines. However, the Penal Code has not been effective in curbing these activities and several revisions and new acts have been put in place, culminating in the passing of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act of 2003. The Act also includes creating alternative custodial care or "safe houses" for trafficked persons to avoid further violations while being held in custody or threats from trafficking groups when providing evidence. Furthermore, it includes reporting crimes involving Gender-based violence, whereby a survivor can go straight to a doctor or hospital where evidence is collected.

The government has started to enforce the **Birth and Death Registration Act, 2004** to ensure citizens' rights and protect children from early marriage, child labour, child prostitution and youth detention.

**Pornography Control Act-2012:**<sup>21</sup> To control the spread of pornography across the country, the Government of Bangladesh approved Pornography Act-2012 on 8th March 2012. According to this Act, talking, gesture, acting, nude or half-nude dance, video or still picture, magazine, book, statue, cartoon, leaflet, which increase sexual desire and have no use in education and arts, would be considered pornography. This Act bans the making or selling of any pornographic material. This Act also enacts provisions to punish peoples who deal with porn videos as well as their distribution. According to the Pornography Control Act 2012, punishment of a maximum of 8 years along with a fine of up to TK 200,000 is applicable for capturing pornographic images or video. According to Section 8(3) of this Act, the user may face up to 5 years in prison and a fine of TK 200,000 for distributing such material via the internet and mobile phone. Making such a pornographic video with a minor is a severe violation under Section 8(6), which carries a sentence of ten years in prison and a fine of five lakh taka. As a continuation of the intervention, in 2019, the High Court Division has ordered the concerned authorities and 5 mobile operators to block all the websites containing porn or offensive content.

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<sup>20</sup>**National Plan of Action to Eliminate Child Labour (2020-2025)**, Ministry of Labour and Employment, 2020

<sup>21</sup>**Pornography Control Act 2012**, Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division, Government of Bangladesh <https://www.newagebd.net/article/76196/the-pornography-control-act-2012>

**ICT Act 2006, amended in 2013:** The free flow of information, which nowadays depends heavily on the information and communication technology (ICT), promotes economic and social development. There are both uses and abuses of ICT. Proper use of ICT promotes the development of a nation while misusing ICT (Pornography, Hacking, Virus introduction, Violation of privacy rights, fraud using electronic document, etc.) destroy lives, economy and cultural heritage of a country. According to the need of time, in 2006, the Government of Bangladesh enacted the ICT act but initially, that Act was proved not enough because the law was proved as the only law for digital signature and authentication of e-communication not to regulate the Internet activities and crimes. Internet was proliferating in our country during that period, and crime related to the internet and computer (Pornography, hacking, virus introduction, etc.) was accelerating at the same pace. So, the need has been felt to enact appropriate ICT laws, which are indispensable to legalise and regulate the Internet in Bangladesh.

**National Plan of Action to Eliminate Child Marriage (2018-2030)** National Action Plan to Eliminate Child Marriage 2018-2030 (NAP) was launched in 2018 under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs leadership. The goal of the NAP is to end the marriage of girls below 15 years of age, reduce by one third the rate of marriage for girls below 18 years by 2021, and eliminate child marriage by 2041. There are five implementation strategies in the NAP:

Strategy 1: Take action to implement sector-specific policies as per demand and necessity of children and adolescents.

Strategy 2: Ensure amendment and implementation of laws, proper formulation of policies and accountability.

Strategy 3: Develop positive social values and norms by influencing, supporting, and engaging families, communities, and policymakers to prevent child marriage.

Strategy 4: Ensure empowerment of adolescent girls and boys as an agent of social change.

Strategy 5: Promote the digitalisation of education, legal, reproductive health facilities of adolescents, and the social protection system of children and ensure appropriate incentives for adolescent girls.

**National Plan of Action to Prevent Violence Against Women and Children (2018-2030):**<sup>22</sup>National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and Children focused on legal protections, social awareness, protection services, rehabilitation services, inter-sectoral cooperation, and community involvement to prevent all sort of violence against Women and Children. This NPA includes several necessary measures and interventions, including the creation of nine One-Stop Crisis Centers in major hospitals, connecting victims with services, and monitoring and following up on cases; a 24-hour national helpline for violence against women and children; and a database compiling data from all of the above institutions.

Bangladesh ratified the **UNCRC's Optional Protocols** on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict and the International Labour Organization's **Convention 182** on the Elimination of the worst forms of child Labour.

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<sup>22</sup>**National Plan of Action to Prevent Violence Against Women and Children**, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs.

The **SAARC Convention on preventing and combating trafficking of women and children for prostitution** signed by the heads of governments in July 2002 expedited the national efforts to implement the commitments made in the convention. The counter-trafficking framework report states that the Bangladesh perspective has provided a guideline to fight against heinous crime through a multicultural approach.

## **2.2. EXTENT OF VIOLENCE TOWARDS CHILDREN**

In Bangladesh, many children are deprived of fundamental human rights due to unacceptable health, nutrition, education, and social conditions. In addition, violence against children can be found in all classes of society in Bangladesh. It occurs within the family, in schools and diverse communities. Children are vulnerable to severe forms of violence, which takes many forms, including physical or corporal and psychological punishment, sexual violence, abuse, exploitation, child marriage and neglect or negligent treatment at home, in institutes, in the workplace, in the community, and at the street.

- **Physical and Humiliating Punishment (PHP):**

Despite the ban on corporal punishment in Bangladesh, according to the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and UNICEF,<sup>23</sup> 89 percent of children (88 percent of boys, 90 percent of girls) are still facing physical punishment at home.<sup>24</sup> The government has banned corporal punishment/Physical and Humiliating Punishment (PHP) in educational settings through the 2011 Supreme Court judgment. Still, this is widely practiced, as corporal punishment is socially acceptable. Physical and humiliating punishment causes harm to children in the short and long-term on their mental and physical health, education and cognitive development. There are misconceptions among parents, teachers and caregivers in Bangladesh that corporal punishment teaches children how to behave. In reality, corporal punishment increases anti-social behaviour, damages family relationships. This also increases aggression in children linked with intimate partner violence and inequitable gender attitudes.<sup>25</sup>

- **Sexual and Gender Base Violence (SGBV)**

The taboo to speak of sexual related issues prevents children from voicing their complaints against close family and community members who are often perpetrators. Child sexual abuse and gender-based violence happen in families with poor socio-economic backgrounds and the middle and upper stratum of society. Most of the girls in Bangladesh are affected by some forms of Sexual and Gender-based violence, including sexual assault, rape, forced marriage, physical violence, early marriage, etc. According to the survey report of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and UNFPA<sup>26</sup>, more than 70 percent of women or girl children have to face different forms of intimate partner abuse.

According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics 2008 pilot survey on "Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children," it was found that 83 percent of the children engaged in sex work are girls and the rest, 17 percent are boys. Some of the child prostitutes are working in the brothels, but most live and are exploited in the streets.

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<sup>23</sup>Baseline Report on Violence Against Children in Bangladesh: Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and UNICEF, 2013

<sup>24</sup>Corporal punishment of children in Bangladesh, Updated Report of 2020

<sup>25</sup>Corporal punishment of children in Bangladesh - Report of Global initiative to end corporal punishment, 2018

<sup>26</sup>Report on Violence against Women Survey, 2015: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, UNFPA and EU

According to Odhikar, a renowned Bangladeshi human rights organization, over 3300 women and girl children were murdered only because of dowry disputes between 2001 and 2019, illustrating the harsh reality of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in a social context. According to Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), 722 children were victims of various forms of violence from January to June 2020, including rape, sexual assault, kidnapping, eve-teasing, and online sexual harassment.<sup>27</sup>

**Table: Violence Against Children during January-June 2021**

Age Nature of violence	0- 6	7-12	13-18	Age not mentioned	Total	Casesfiled
Torture of Domestic worker		9	2		11	7
Student tortured by teacher		12	2	5	19	11
Sexual harassment by teacher		1		2	3	2
Physical torture	8	16	29	19	72	27
Torture in domestic sphere	4		2	5	11	5
Injured by Gunshot			3		3	
Tortured by Law Enforcing Agency					0	
Missing children		1	2	5	8	
Sexual harassment (boys)	1	20	5	22	48	32
Sexual harassment (stalkers)		1	5	16	22	12
Trafficking attempt					0	
Online sexual harassment/ Pornography				3	3	2
Abduction			2	6	8	5
Acid Throwing	1		1		2	1
Abandoned Bomb blast	2	1			3	
Rape	36	82	104	198	420	291
Attempt to Rape	16	26	8	37	87	56
Attempt to Rape (Boy)		1		1	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>453</b>

Sexual and gender-based violence against children has escalated at an alarming rate during the COVID-19 pandemic. From January to October 2020, 410 no. of BRAC Human Rights and Legal Aid Clinics around the country received a total of 25,607 complaints about sexual and gender-based violence.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>27</sup><http://www.askbd.org/ask/2021/07/11/violence-against-children-jan-june-2021/>

<sup>28</sup><http://blog.brac.net/30-ways-brac-prevents-violence-against-women-and-children-in-bangladesh/>

- **Early Marriage**

In Bangladesh, a significant issue for girls is the threat of child marriage, which can have harmful repercussions in their lives. Bangladesh has one of the highest rates of child marriage in the world. One-third of Bangladeshi women aged between 20 and 24 were married off by the age of 15. In slum areas, 80 percent of girls aged between 12 and 18 get married.<sup>29</sup> One of the reports indicates that in Dhaka, almost 29 percent of girls between 15 to 19 years of age have already started childbearing, with the vast majority taking place within marriage (NIPORT et al., 2013). Another study indicated that these rates are significantly higher in the slums, where nearly 52 percent of girls aged 15-19 years have had at least one child. Adolescent fertility is a major issue in Bangladesh, with 80.6 births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 19, more than twice the Asia region, and a current contraceptive prevalence rate of 61 percent among girls in the Dhaka slums, similar to the national average.<sup>30</sup>

Child marriage rates and adolescent birth rates indicate that many girls enter into sexual relationships during early adolescence in Bangladesh. Morbidity and mortality from unsafe abortions are common in Bangladesh. The average annual abortion ratio in 1982–1998 for adolescents was 30 per 1,000 pregnancies and more than 24 for adults. The abortion ratio of adolescents under 18 was much higher than that of 18 and 19-years-old. The same study identified that most respondents, irrespective of working mothers, know the law against early marriage. Yet, there are frequent cases of early marriage in the slum areas, most probably due to social custom and fear of incidence of violence against the girls.<sup>31</sup>

- **COVID-19 pandemic and violence against children**

The outbreak of the pandemic The COVID-19 crisis is wreaking havoc on children, with long-term consequences. This epidemic poses a major threat to children's safety around the globe, making them more prone to psychological distress, violence, and social exclusion, particularly during lockdowns. People who live in urban slums are mostly employed in the informal economy and rely on their daily wages. During the lockdown, a considerable number of these employees had already lost their jobs. Because the majority of them have no other resources or possessions, they are in a precarious situation. As a result, their anxiety, fear, and stress are fueling domestic violence towards children and women during this pandemic.<sup>32</sup> It has also been noted that 1,319 children experienced violence for the first time in their life.<sup>33</sup> This pandemic and the economic crisis that accompanied it put poor children at greater danger and worsened existing disparities.

Girl children are more vulnerable to gender-based and domestic violence, early marriage, sexual exploitation etc. According to MJF data, 92 percent of girls were sexually assaulted by their parents or other family members. Fourteen (14) girls were raped, 16 had faced rape attempts, 2 were kidnapped, and 10 were sexually abused in April 2021. According to the report, vulnerable girls who have lost their parents may turn to transactional sex to pay for food and other necessities.

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<sup>29</sup> **A Study on Situation of Girl Children of Slums in Dhaka City**, Democracy Watch, 2010.

<sup>30</sup> **Knowledge Brief: Health, Nutrition and Population Global Practice**, World Bank Group, 2014

<sup>31</sup> **A Study on Situation of Girl Children of Slums in Dhaka City**, Democracy Watch, 2010

<sup>32</sup> **A Telephonic Survey: Violence against women and children: COVID-19**, Manusher Jonno Foundation, 2020

<sup>33</sup> *ibid*

## Chapter 3

# Socio Economic Profile of the Children and Parents

### 3.1. DEMOGRAPHIC SKETCH OF THE CHILDREN

This chapter discusses the socioeconomic factors that contribute to children's exposure to violence and vulnerability to adversity. A subsequent chapter discusses how socioeconomic factors such as age, gender, marital status, the family structure of the child, and the child's relationship with their parents all contribute to the child's exposure to violence and harm in the home, community, and workplace. Additionally, this chapter notes other socioeconomic factors such as poverty, family income, migration, child labour, living quarters and companions, and children's and parents' awareness of various social issues that have been found to influence children's experience of violence, abuse, exploitation, and neglect, as well as trafficking.

#### 3.1.1. Sex and Category of the Children

As evident from the study's sample size, more than half (50.2 percent) of the children are girls and about less than half (49.8 percent) of the children are boys. More than three-quarters (79.8 percent) of the children live in the household among the studied children, and the other 20.2 percent of children live without a family.

Table 3.1: Demographic Sketch of the Children						
	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Table 3.1.1: Category of the Children						
Children living in the household	2032	80.1	2034	79.6	4066	79.8
Children living without family	505	19.9	522	23.4	309	20.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>2537</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2556</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5093</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>%</b>	<b>49.8</b>		<b>50.2</b>		<b>100.0</b>	

#### 3.1.2. Age of the respondents (Children and Parents)

Notably, the mean age (Table 3.1.2a) of children is 13 years. It is further evidence that the mean age of both boy and girl children is the same (13 years). The study shows that nearly half (45.8 percent) of the total children are in between 12 to 14 years. That means nearly half (45.8 percent) of the children are in their post-puberty.

Table 3.1: Demographic Sketch of the Children												
	Children						Parents					
	Boy		Girl		Total		Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Table 3.1.2.a: Age of the Children												
5-11 Years	562	22.2	544	21.3	1106	21.7						
12-14 years	1174	46.3	1157	45.3	2331	45.8						
15-17 years	801	31.6	855	33.5	1656	32.5						
<b>Total</b>	<b>2537</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2556</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5093</b>	<b>100.0</b>						

Table 3.1: Demographic Sketch of the Children												
	Children						Parents					
	Boy		Girl		Total		Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Average age (Year) of the Children</b>	<b>13</b>		<b>13</b>		<b>13</b>							
Table 3.1.2b: Age of the Parents												
18 - 35 Years							11	20.8	29	55.8	40	38.1
36 - 50 Years							34	64.2	22	42.3	56	53.3
51 - 59 Years							6	11.3			6	5.7
59 + Years							2	3.8	1	1.9	3	2.9
<b>Total</b>							<b>53</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Average age (Year) of the Parents</b>							<b>43</b>		<b>36</b>		<b>40</b>	
Table 3.1: Demographic Sketch of the Children												
	Children						Parents					
	Boy		Girl		Total		Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Table 3.1.3: Religion of the Respondents												
Islam	2394	94.4	2414	94.4	4808	94.4	44	83.0	46	88.5	90	85.7
Sonatan/Hindu	112	4.4	100	3.9	212	4.2	9	17.0	4	7.7	13	12.4
Christian	1	.0	12	.5	13	.3						
Buddhist	30	1.2	30	1.2	60	1.2			2	3.8	2	1.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>2537</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2556</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5093</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>100</b>
Table 3.1.4: Ethnicity of the Respondents												
Bengali	2489	98.1	2500	97.8	4989	98.0	51	96.2	50	96.2	101	96.1
Chakma	27	1.1	29	1.1	56	1.1	1	1.9	2	3.8	3	2.9
Marma	5	0.2	7	0.3	12	0.2						
Saontal	16	0.6	19	0.7	35	0.6						
Tripura			1	0.1	1	0.1	1	1.9			1	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2537</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2556</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5093</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>100</b>

Again, Table: 3.1.2.b. shows that the mean age of parents is 40 years. It is further evidence that the mean age of male parents is more (43 years) than the of female parents (36 years). The study found that more than half (53.3 percent) of parents are between 36 to 50 years.

### 3.1.3. Religion of the respondents

The Table. 3.1.3. shows that mainly two religious categories are predominant in the sample children and parents, i.e. Muslim and Hindu. Among the surveyed children, 94.4 percent are Muslim, 4.2 percent are Hindu, 1.2 percent Buddhist, and 0.3 percent Christians. On the other hand, 85.7 percent of parents are Muslim, 12.4 percent are Hindu, and 1.2 percent Buddhist.

### 3.1.4. Ethnicity of the respondents

Table. 3.1.4 denotes that within the sample children, almost all the children are Bengali (98.0 percent). Other than that, only 2.0 percent children are Indigenous children i.e. from Chakma (1.1 percent), Santal (0.7 percent), Marma (0.2 percent) and Tripura (0.1 percent) community. Within the sample parents, almost all the parents are Bengali (96.1 percent). Other than that, only 3.9 percent of parents are from the Indigenous community, i.e., Chakma (2.9 percent) and Tripura (1.0 percent) community.

Table 3.1: Demographic Sketch of the Children						
	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Table 3.1.5: Marital Status of the Children</b>						
Unmarried	2537	100.0	2485	97.2	5022	98.6
Married			66	2.6	66	1.3
Abandoned			5	.2	5	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2537</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2556</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5093</b>	<b>100</b>
Average age (Year) of the children at the time of marriage			<b>14</b>		<b>14</b>	
<b>Table 3.1.6: Do you have any children? (Children)</b>						
Yes			26	36.6	26	36.6
No			45	63.4	45	63.4
<b>Total</b>			<b>71</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>The average number of children</b>			<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>	

### 3.1.5. Marital status of the Children

According to the field study, their community, where the tradition of early marriage is still evident, is a source of concern. Even though early marriage only accounts for 1.4 percent of the population, it raises concerns about the acceptability of this harmful practice. Table 3.1.5 demonstrates that almost all of the children in the survey are unmarried (98.6 percent). According to the data, 1.4 percent of youngsters are victims of early marriage. 1.3 percent of these kids are married, while 0.1 percent are abandoned.

### 3.1.6. Parental Status of the Children

Pregnancy and childbirth are also a threat to the health of married children. According to field data, just over one-third (36.6 percent) of the total married children (Table: 3.1.6.) have given birth throughout their conjugal life.

### 3.1.7. Literacy Status of the Children

When probed about their literacy status (Table: 3.1.7), more than three-quarters of the children (83.4 percent) said they could read and write. It has been discovered that more boys (84.7 percent) can read and write than girls (82.1 percent). Aside from that, 1.9 percent of children said they could only count, and 11.0 percent said they were alphabetic. According to the survey, only 2.4 percent of children are unable to read and write.

### 3.1.8: Birth Registration Status of the Children

Girls have completed birth registration at a lower rate than boys. When combined with the rate of early marriage in the locality, this fact poses a threat to girls chance of early marriage. When asked about their birth registration status (Table: 3.1.8.), over three-quarters of the children (87.2 percent) said they had finished it. Boy children completed their birth registration at a higher rate (91.5 percent) than girl children (82.9 percent).

Table 3.1: Demographic Sketch of the Children						
	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Table 3.1.7: Literacy Status (E01)</b>						
Can read only	24	.9	44	1.7	68	1.3
Can count only	41	1.6	54	2.1	95	1.9
Can read and write	2149	84.7	2098	82.1	4247	83.4
Alphabetic	269	10.6	292	11.4	561	11.0
cannot read and write	54	2.1	69	2.7	123	2.4

Table 3.1: Demographic Sketch of the Children						
	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2537</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2556</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5093</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 3.1.8: Birth Registration status (F08)						
Yes	2322	91.5	2120	82.9	4442	87.2
No	91	3.6	188	7.4	279	5.5
Don't know	124	4.9	248	9.7	372	7.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>2537</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2556</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5093</b>	<b>100</b>

### 3.1.9. Disability Status of the Children

The findings in the field also raise concerns about children with disabilities (1.9 percent). It raises the issue of these children's access to specialised treatments due to their families' financial circumstances and the nature of the relationship of them with their parents and guardians. Only 1.9 percent of the children in the sample are differently able (Table: 3.1.9.a.). More girls (2.6 percent) than boys are reported differently able from the children surveyed (1.1). Less than one-tenth (3.5 percent) of the households surveyed have differently able children. It has been discovered that more girls (5.1 percent) than boys have disabilities (1.9 percent).

Table 3.1: Demographic Sketch of the Children												
	Disability status within the household						Disability status of the surveyed children					
	Boy		Girl		Total		Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Table 3.1.9a: Have positive disability status</b>	48	1.9	131	5.1	179	3.5	28	1.1	67	2.6	95	1.9
Table 3.1.9b: Number of disabled members in the household												
1 Disable member in the HH	40	83.3	116	88.5	156	87.2						
2 Disable members in the HH	4	8.3	10	7.6	14	7.8						
2 + Disable members in the HH	4	8.3	5	3.8	9	5.0						
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>100</b>						
The average number of disabling members in the household	<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>							
Table 3.1.9c: Type of disabilities												
Physical disability	23	47.9	61	46.6	84	46.9	14	50.0	22	32.8	36	37.9
Intellectual disability	15	31.3	39	29.8	54	30.2	7	25.0	20	29.9	27	28.4
Sight disability	7	14.6	15	11.5	22	12.3	2	7.1	12	17.9	14	14.7
Auditory disability			14	10.7	14	7.8	1	3.6	6	9.0	7	7.4
Speech disability	3	6.3	17	13.0	20	11.2	3	10.7	5	7.5	8	8.4
Auditory & Sight disability			2	1.5	2	1.1			2	3.0	2	2.1
Autistic	2	4.2	4	3.1	6	3.4	2	7.1	4	6.0	6	6.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>100</b>
Table 3.1.9d: Reasons for disabilities of the children												
By birth							22	78.6	37	55.2	59	62.1
Due to accident							3	10.7	11	16.4	14	14.7
Due to sickness							3	10.7	19	28.4	22	23.2
<b>Total</b>							<b>28</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 3.1.9.c shows that physical disability (46.9 percent), intellectual disability (30.2 percent), sight disability (12.3 percent), speech disability (11.2 percent), and auditory disability and Autism (4.5 percent) affect the children. Nearly two-thirds of differently able

children (62.1 percent) are impaired from birth, whereas less than a quarter (23.2 percent) are disabled due to illness or accident (14.7 percent).

Among the HH with disabled members (Table: 3.1.9.b), more than three-quarters (87.2 percent) has one disabled member, less than one-tenth (7.8 percent) has two disabled members, and the rest (5.0 percent) of the HH has 2+ disable members in the households. Among the HH with disabled members (Table: 3.1.9.c), more than one-third (37.9 percent) of the members have a physical disability, more than a quarter (28.4 percent) have intellectual disability, more than one-tenth (14.7 percent) has sight disability, less than one-tenth has (8.4 percent) has speech disability and 7.4 percent members have an auditory disability.

### 3.2. CHILDREN WITHIN THE HOUSEHOLD

According to the data obtained from the children living with families, the girls come from families with fewer fathers and mothers living together. It also means that more girls are growing up in broken and split households, where one or both parents have died. It is clear from the above features of girls' parental status that more girls than boys are out of strong family safety nets.

#### 3.2.1. Family Structure

According to the survey results (Table: 3.2.1), the mother and father of the majority of the children (85.1 percent) live together. Less than a tenth of the children (8.6 percent) said they came from a broken family or had single parents. A small percentage of children (3.8 percent) said they had lost one or both parents (2.6 percent). According to the survey results, more boys (87.3 percent) than girls (87.3 percent) live with both their father and mother (82.8 percent). Girls reported being from a broken home or having a single father (9,6 percent) and having lost one or both parents (4.5 percent) more than boys (7.5 percent, 3.0 percent and 2.0 percent, respectively).

Table 3.2: Children within the Household						
	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	percent	N	percent	N	percent
<b>Table 3.2.1: Family Structure</b>						
Mother and father are living in the same place	2216	87.3	2117	82.8	4333	85.1
Broken family or have single parent	192	7.5	244	9.6	436	8.6
Either father or mother has died	77	3.0	114	4.5	191	3.8
Father and mother both are died	52	2.0	81	3.2	133	2.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>2537</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2556</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5093</b>	<b>100</b>

#### 3.2.2. Profession of the Earning Members of the Family

The majority of the family's earning members are either employed in menial labour or small and medium businesses, as shown in Table (Table: 3.2.2). It has been found that among the family's earning members, less than a quarter (25.7 percent) are day labourers, and less than a fifth (15.7 percent) are private job holders and active in medium business (15.4 percent). Other than that, Rickshaw/van pullers (11.7 percent), small business owners (10.7 percent), household workers (9.5 percent), skilled workers (9.1 percent), tailors (3.0 percent), factory workers (2.9 percent), and government employees (1.3 percent) were found.

<b>Table 3.2: Children within the Household</b>						
	<b>Boy</b>		<b>Girl</b>		<b>Total</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Table 3.2.2: Earning Professions of the family</b>						
Medium business	366	15.4	372	15.4	738	15.4
Tailoring	39	1.6	106	4.4	145	3.0
Private job	384	16.1	370	15.3	754	15.7
Agricultural works	22	.9	37	1.5	59	1.2
Construction laborer	17	.7	22	.9	39	.8
Motor car driver	317	13.3	233	9.7	550	11.5
Teacher/tutor	10	.4	18	.7	28	.6
Government Job	22	.9	41	1.7	63	1.3
Day Labor	575	24.2	656	27.2	1231	25.7
Immigrant worker	15	.6	35	1.5	50	1.0
Livestock harvesting	1	.0	14	.6	15	.3
Rickshaw/van Driver	266	11.2	295	12.2	561	11.7
Domestic worker	149	6.3	307	12.7	456	9.5
Factory laborers	65	2.7	76	3.2	141	2.9
Small business	234	9.8	280	11.6	514	10.7
Skill based worker	195	8.2	240	10.0	435	9.1
Carpenter	2	.1	10	.4	12	.3
Begging	9	.4	15	.6	24	.5
Skilled professionals	3	.1	3	.1	6	.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2379</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2411</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4790</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Table 3.2.3: Monthly Family Income</b>						
TK. <= 5,000	280	11.0	313	12.2	593	11.6
TK. 5,001 - 10,000	903	35.6	833	32.6	1736	34.1
TK. 10,001 - 25,000	1207	47.6	1211	47.4	2418	47.5
TK. 25,001 - 50,000	68	2.7	124	4.9	192	3.8
TK. 50,000 +	9	.4	10	.4	19	.4
Don't know/can't say	70	2.8	65	2.5	135	2.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>2537</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2556</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5093</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Average monthly family income (BDT)</b>	<b>12,202</b>		<b>12,804</b>		<b>12,504</b>	

### 3.2.3. Family Income

In Table 3.2.3, it is shown that the average family income is Tk. 12,202. The average family income of girls is higher (Tk. 12,804) than the boys' average family income (Tk. 12,202). About half (47.5 percent) of the family/households' income is concentrated in the income range of Tk 10,001 - 25,000. On the other hand, more than a third (34.1 percent) of a family's income is concentrated in the Tk. 5,001-10,000 range, while only 11.6 percent of a family's income is concentrated in the Tk. 5,000 range. Although the average family income of girls appears to be higher than that of boys, closer examination reveals that the majority of girls' family income is concentrated in the income ranges of TK. 10,001 - 25,000 (47.4 percent) and TK. = 5,000. (12.2 percent).

### 3.2.4. Living Companions of the Children within the Household

Almost all (91.1 percent) of the children (Table: 3.2.4) live with both parents. It is worth noting that only around a tenth of children (4.3 percent) live exclusively with their mother, while 2.0 percent live with relatives, and only 1.2 percent live exclusively with their father. Almost every boy (94.3 percent) lives with both parents. It is also worth noting that among boys, less than one tenth (2.8 percent) lives only with mother, relatives (1.8 percent), and a small number with the father (0.9 percent). Moreover, three-quarters of girl children (88.0

percent) live with both parents. It is worth noting that only around a tenth of girls (5.9 percent) live alone with their mothers and relatives (2.2 percent), with only a tiny percentage living with their husbands and fathers (1.5 percent).

Table 3.2: Children within the Household						
	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Table 3.2.4: Living Companion of the Children (B09)</b>						
With both Parents	2184	94.3	2050	88.0	4234	91.1
Only with Father	20	.9	34	1.5	54	1.2
Only with Mother	64	2.8	138	5.9	202	4.3
With Relatives	42	1.8	51	2.2	93	2.0
With Non-relative	7	0.3	23	1.0	30	0.6
With Husband/wife			34	1.5	34	0.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>2317</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2330</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4647</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Table 3.2.5: Sleeping Companion (Children-B11)</b>						
Parents	1210	52.2	1180	50.6	2390	51.4
Siblings	501	21.6	612	26.3	1113	24.0
Non-relatives	17	.7	75	3.2	92	2.0
Relatives	51	2.2	109	4.7	160	3.4
Husband			17	.7	17	.4
Alone	538	23.2	337	14.5	875	18.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>2317</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2330</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4647</b>	<b>100</b>

### 3.2.5. Sleeping Companion of the Children

Some children are found to be sleeping with relatives and non-relatives (5.4 percent). Boys and girls may be at risk of sexual violence since they share their beds or sleeping area with non-family members. It has been observed that (Table. 3.2.5), more than half of the children (51.4 percent) sleep alongside their parents. It is worth noting that less than a quarter (24.0 percent) of children sleep with siblings, less than a fifth (18.8 percent) of children sleep alone, and less than a tenth (3.4 percent) of children sleep with relatives and non-relatives (2.0 percent). More than half of boys (52.2 percent) sleep with their parents, nearly one-quarter (23.2 percent) sleep alone, little more than one fifth (21.6 percent) sleep with siblings, and only a few (2.2 percent) sleeps with relatives and non-relatives (0.7 percent). About half of the girls (50.6 percent) sleep with their parents, more than a quarter (26.3 percent) sleep with siblings, less than a fifth (14.5 percent) sleep alone, and less than a fifth (4.7 percent) sleep with relatives and non-relatives (3.2 percent).

## 3.3. CHILDREN LIVING WITHOUT FAMILY

It has been observed that, compared to boys, more girls living without family have lost both of their parents. This gender-segregated finding raise concerns regarding these girls as they are more exposed to abuse and violence due to the lack of a familial safety net.

### 3.3.1. Family Structure

According to the survey data (Table: 3.3.1a), slightly more than a third (38.4 percent) of children are either from a broken family or have a single parent, more than a quarter (26.2 percent) of children reported their mother and father live in the same place, slightly less than a quarter (24.9 percent) of children reported their father and mother both died, and roughly one-tenth (10.6 percent) of children reported their father and mother both died.

Table 3.3: Children Living Without Family						
	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Table 3.3.1a: Relationship among the parents of the children</b>						
Mother and father are living in the same place	55	25.0	62	27.4	117	26.2
Broken family or have single parent	91	41.4	80	35.4	171	38.4
Either father or mother has died	24	10.9	23	10.2	47	10.6
Father and mother both are died	50	22.7	61	27.0	111	24.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>100.0</b>

According to the survey data, less than half (41.4 percent) of boys in the same category are either from a broken family or have a single parent, a quarter (25.0 percent) of children reported their mother and father live in the same place, a little less than a quarter (22.7 percent) of children reported their father and mother both died, around one-tenth (10.9 percent) children reported that either one of their father or mothers had died. The girls in the same category reported that a little less than one third (35.4 percent) are either from a broken family or have single parents, more than a quarter (27.4 percent) of children reported their mother and father are living in the same place and their father and mother both had died (27.0 percent), and around one-tenth (10.2 percent) children reported that either one of their father or mothers had died.

### 3.3.2. Family Income and Profession of the Family Members of the children living without family

According to the field data, the average family income of girls living without a family is lower than the average family income of boys in the same group. The girl children's family's economic vulnerability may motivate them to leave home or migrate, mainly for economic reasons. It has been found that the family income of children living without a family is much lower (Tk. 6,637) than the family income of children living with their families (Tk. 12,504). It should also be mentioned that the household income of this category of boys is higher (Tk. 7,333) than that of the girls (Tk. 5,949)

While considering the income range of the HH, more than two-fifths (33.2 percent) of the household's income is concentrated within the range of TK. <= 5,000. On the other hand, nearly one-fifth (18.4 percent) of the family's income lies within Tk. 10,001 - 25,000, and 14.6 percent of the family income is concentrated within the range of Tk. 5,001 – 10,000.

It is revealed that (Table: 3.3.2), the major professions of the earning members are day Labourer (27.6 percent), household or domestic labourer (20.2 percent), rickshaw/van puller (17.7 percent), small business (11.8 percent), private job (11.3 percent) and motor car driver (10.3 percent). Other than that, the beggar (5.9 percent), medium business (5.4 percent), Skill-based workers (3.4 percent) are also found.

Table 3.3: Children Living Without Family						
	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Table 3.3.2: Earning Professions of the family</b>						
Medium Business	7	7.1	4	3.8	11	5.4
Tailoring	2	2.0	2	1.9	4	2.0
Private job	10	10.2	13	12.4	23	11.3
Agricultural works			3	2.9	3	1.5
Motor car driver	17	17.3	4	3.8	21	10.3
Teacher/tutor			1	1.0	1	.5
Government Job			3	2.9	3	1.5
Day Labor	22	22.4	34	32.4	56	27.6
Livestock harvesting			3	2.9	3	1.5
Rickshaw/van Driver	18	18.4	18	17.1	36	17.7
Domestic worker	23	23.5	18	17.1	41	20.2
Factory laborers	5	5.1	4	3.8	9	4.4
Small business	10	10.2	14	13.3	24	11.8
Skill based worker	4	4.1	3	2.9	7	3.4
Begging	4	4.1	8	7.6	12	5.9
Total	98	100	105	100	203	100
<b>Table 3.3.3: Monthly Family Income</b>						
TK. <= 5,000	84	38.2	111	49.1	195	43.7
TK. 5,001 - 10,000	35	15.9	30	13.3	65	14.6
TK. 10,001 - 25,000	52	23.6	30	13.3	82	18.4
TK. 25,001 - 50,000			2	.9	2	.4
Don't know/can't say	49	22.3	53	23.5	102	22.9
Total	220	100.0	226	100.0	446	100.0
<b>Average monthly family income (BDT)</b>	<b>7,333</b>		<b>5,949</b>		<b>6,637</b>	

### 3.3.3. Location and Place where Children Without Family Live

During the discussion, many children who live on the street stated that they sleep in the following locations: footpaths, railway station platforms, in front of mosques, parks, in front of markets, and bus stations. These children who live in these locations are undoubtedly vulnerable to many forms of violence and exploitation. When observed present dwelling places (Table: 3.3.4) of the children who are living without family, it is found that more than half (54.9 percent) children are living at street/park/footpath, a more than a quarter (28.7 percent) of children are living at shelter home and only meagre percentage (0.9 percent) of children living in the slum. It is noted that more boy children (71.8 percent) living at street/park/footpath than girl children (38.5 percent). More (28.7 percent) of girls live in NGO managed shelter homes than boys (24.5 percent).

Table 3.3: Children Living Without Family						
	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Table 3.3.4: Location and Place where Children Live</b>						
At street/park/footpath	158	71.8	87	38.5	245	54.9
Shelter home	54	24.5	74	32.7	128	28.7
Slum			4	1.8	4	0.9
No specific living place	8	3.6	61	27.0	69	15.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Table 3.3.5: Living Companion of the Children</b>						
Shelter home companion	54	24.5	74	32.7	128	28.7
Alone	79	35.9	76	33.6	155	34.8
Colleagues	8	3.6	1	0.4	9	2.0
With Non-relative	67	30.5	75	33.2	142	31.8
Friends	12	5.5			12	2.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 3.3: Children Living Without Family						
	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Table 3.3.6: Sleeping Companion of the Children</b>						
Alone	100	45.5	78	34.5	178	39.9
Non-relatives	66	30.0	73	32.3	139	31.2
Relatives			1	0.4	1	0.2
Shelter home companions	54	24.5	74	32.7	128	28.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### 3.3.4. Living Companion of the Children

When the survey data is compared to the living companions of the children, the data shows that a considerable number of children in the category of living without family are at a higher risk of being vulnerable to all types of violence as they stay alone or with non-relatives. Among the children (Table: 3.3.5), more than one-third (34.8 percent) of the children in this category live alone. According to the gender-segregated data, more than one-third of the boy and girl children live alone (35.9 percent and 33.6 percent, respectively). Here is to mention that more than a quarter (28.7 percent) of children live with shelter home companions, less than one-third (31.8 percent) of children live with non-relative and a very meager percentage of children live with friends (2.7 percent) and live with colleagues (2.0 percent).

### 3.3.5. Sleeping Companion of the Children

The sleeping companion of the children living without families depicts their vulnerabilities of sexual violence as the majority of them either sleep alone or with non-relatives in relation to their living places. Among the children (Table: 3.3.6), more than one third (39.9 percent) of the children sleep alone, less than one third (31.8 percent) of the children sleep with non-relatives and more than one quarter (28.7 percent) of the children sleep with shelter home companions. Here is to mention that only 0.2 percent of children sleep with relatives. According to the gender perspective, more boys (45.5 percent) sleep alone than girls (34.5 percent) and more girls (32.3 percent) sleep with their non-relatives than the boys (30.0 percent).

## 3.4. EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF THE CHILDREN

During the discussion with parents, guardians, and children, it was revealed that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the economic status of most working families has deteriorated. As a result, many of them find themselves unable to cover their children's education costs. This circumstance has a significant impact on the educational engagement of girl children.

### 3.4.1. Schooling Status of the Children

Among the children, it has been noted that (Table: 3.4.1), more than three-quarters (83.4 percent) of the children are presently enrolled in any educational institutions. Among these children, more boy children (84.7 percent) are enrolled in any educational institution presently than the girl children (82.1 percent).

### 3.4.2. Level of Education of the Children

In terms of children's level of education (Table: 3.4.2), it is found that more than one-third (36.8 percent) of the children are enrolled at the primary level (class I-V), more than a quarter (29.3 percent) of the children were found to be studying at Junior level (Class VI-VIII) and more than a quarter (27.7 percent) were found to be studying at Secondary level (Class IX-X). Only 4.5 percent of children are found enrolled at Maktob/Madrasha.

### 3.4.3. Reasons for not attending school

Those children who are not attending school reported that (Table: 3.4.3), due to scarcity/poverty (33.8 percent), lack of awareness of parents (31.1 percent), no one to take the responsibility of providing cost of studying (23.9 percent), due to parental loss (22.1 percent), lack of interest in attending school (19.9 percent), unable to pay school fees and other expenses (17.8 percent) and has to work for family (11.5 percent) as the main reasons for not attending school. More girl children (40.6 percent) are not attending school due to poverty than boys (25.8 percent).

Table 3.4: Educational Status of the Children						
	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Table 3.4.1:</b> Children are presently enrolled in any educational institution	2149	84.7	2098	82.1	4247	83.4
Table 3.4.2: Level of Education of the Children						
Pre-school Education/Patshala	52	2.4	21	1.0	73	1.7
Maktob/Madrasha	116	5.4	74	3.5	190	4.5
Primary (Class 1-5)	922	42.9	642	30.6	1564	36.8
Junior (Class 6-8)	553	25.7	690	32.9	1243	29.3
Secondary (Class 9-10)	506	23.5	671	32.0	1177	27.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>2149</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2098</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4247</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Table 3.4.3: Reasons for presently not attending school						
Has to work for family	39	10.1	58	12.7	97	11.5
Lack of awareness of parents	120	30.9	143	31.2	263	31.1
For not having a parents/guardian	100	25.8	87	19.0	187	22.1
Unable to pay school fees and other expenses	56	14.4	95	20.7	151	17.8
School was far away	19	4.9	11	2.4	30	3.5
Lack of interest in attending school	104	26.8	64	14.0	168	19.9
Did not enjoy the school education system	24	6.2	19	4.1	43	5.1
Failed in the annual examination	10	2.6	23	5.0	33	3.9
There was no one to take the responsibility of teaching	76	19.6	126	27.5	202	23.9
Due to scarcity/poverty	100	25.8	186	40.6	286	33.8
Due to marriage	1	0.3	35	7.6	36	4.3
Excessive workload	6	1.5	13	2.8	19	2.2
Due to bad behavior of the teacher (beating)	2	0.5	7	1.5	9	1.1
The school did not admit	3	0.8	19	4.1	22	2.6
Due to the disability	6	1.5	5	1.1	11	1.3
Due to strict family rule	2	0.5			2	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### 3.5. CHILD LABOUR SITUATION OF THE CHILDREN

Among the child labour, it has been seen that significant numbers of children are involved in hazardous child labour with a meagre earning. A significant number of girl children are secluded within a male charged environment during the working hour. Due to the nature of the job and the workplace, the girls in such categories are separated from the broader social safety net, which may interoperate in higher physical, mental, and sexual abuse incidents. It has been observed that a significant number of children are forced to engage in child labour due to parental pressure. It ultimately reveals a link between this group of children's economic susceptibility and their vulnerability to violence. More girl children (25.8 percent) also indicated that they were forced to engage in child labour for better life security, making them more vulnerable from a protection standpoint. The economic vulnerability of girl

parents or caregivers plays a pivotal role in their involvement in hazardous child labour, where they are at high risk of sexual abuse due to their age and severe physical injury due to the job's hazardous nature.

It is disconcerting that more girl children (33.9 percent) reported having to undertake complete body massaging of their owners as extra work beyond their designated duties than the boys (25.2 percent). These abusive attitudes increase the likelihood of girl children being sexually abused and exploited in the workplace. More than two-thirds (69.2 percent) of boy children said they were forced to do a hand-foot pressing of their owners as extra work outside of their specific duties. This type of physical closeness has a higher risk of leading to abusive physical relationships and could led boys to be the victims of physical and sexual abuse at work.

### **3.5.1. Occupation of the Children**

It has been found that (Table: 3.5.1), among the children, those who are involved in child labour are working as factory labourers (23.2 percent), workers of hotels or shops (18.6 percent), vendors (15.4 percent), day labourers (12.6 percent), household labourer (8.7 percent), the beggar (5.9 percent), net making and fishing (5.2 percent), are involved as Handicrafts labourer (3.5 percent), transport worker (3.2 percent) and garments worker (2.0 percent).

Among the boy children, more than one-third (34.0 percent) are involved as a factory worker, a bit more than one fifth (20.3 percent) as a day labourer, less than one fifth (17.0 percent) as a worker of hotel or shop, more than one-tenth (15.1 percent) as a vendor, less than one-tenth (6.1 percent) as transport worker. A small percentage of boys are also beggars (4.0 percent) and net makers and fishing (2.6 percent). Among the girl children, a little more than one-fifth (20.4 percent) are involved as a worker in hotel or shop, nearly one fifth (18.6 percent) are involved as a household labourer, more than one-tenth (15.6 percent) are involved as a vendor, a bit more than one-tenth (11.1 percent) are involved as a factory labourer, less than one-tenth (8.2 percent) are involved in net making and fishing, begging (8.0 percent), handicrafts labourer (6.9 percent), as garment worker (4.2 percent) and as Day labourer (4.0 percent).

### **3.5.2. Income of the Children**

It has been noted that (Table: 3.5.2), the average income of the child labour stands at Tk. 2,828. While gender-segregated, boy child labour earns more (Tk. 3,287) than girl child labour (Tk. 2,312).

Table 3.5: Child labour situation of the children						
	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Table 3.5.1: Occupation of the Children</b>						
Household labourer			70	18.6	70	8.7
Factory laborer	144	34.0	42	11.1	186	23.2
Hotel laborer	72	17.0	77	20.4	149	18.6
Begging	17	4.0	30	8.0	47	5.9
Small business	64	15.1	59	15.6	123	15.4
Transport labourer	26	6.1			26	3.2
Sex worker			9	2.4	9	1.1
Net making and fishing	11	2.6	31	8.2	42	5.2
Day laborer	86	20.3	15	4.0	101	12.6
Garment worker			16	4.2	16	2.0
Handicrafts	2	0.5	26	6.9	28	3.5
Private service	1	0.2	2	.5	3	0.4
Rickshaw/van puller	1	0.2			1	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>100</b>

When the children's income is considered from a gender-segregated perspective, around half (51.5 percent) of the girls' income is concentrated within the range of Tk. 1,001 - 3,000, whereas more than 58.3 percent of boys income lies within the same amount range (Tk. 1,001 - 3,000).

Table 3.5: Child labour situation of the children						
	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Table 3.5.2: Income of the Children</b>						
TK. <= 1,000	49	11.6	116	30.8	165	20.6
TK. 1,001 - 3,000	247	58.3	194	51.5	441	55.1
TK. 3,001 - 5,000	65	15.3	36	9.5	101	12.6
TK. 5,000 +	63	14.9	31	8.2	94	11.7
Total	424	100	377	100	801	100
<b>Average monthly income (BDT)</b>	<b>3,287</b>		<b>2,312</b>		<b>2,828</b>	
Table 3.5.3a: Children's involvement with work (average hours/day)	<b>9</b>		<b>7</b>		<b>8</b>	
<b>Table 3.5.3b: Children's involvement with work (average days/week)</b>						
1 - 3 Days	20	4.7	10	2.7	30	3.7
4 - 5 Days	34	8.0	48	12.7	82	10.2
6 - 7 Days	370	87.3	319	84.6	689	86.0
Total	424	100.0	377	100.0	801	100.0
Children's involvement with work (average hours/day)	<b>6</b>		<b>6</b>		<b>6</b>	

### 3.5.3. Working Hours of the Children

It is also observed that (Table: 3.5.3.a), children are working on average for 8 hours per day. It is also apparent that boy child labour works more hours (9 hours) per day than girl child labour (7 hours). It has also been found that (Table: 3.5.3b), irrespective of gender, 86.0 percent of children are working 6 – 7 days per week. Among children, 87.3 percent of boys work 6 – 7 days per week, whereas 84.6 percent of girls work 6 – 7 days per week. It is also observed that children are working on average for 6 days per week.

### 3.5.4. Working Conditions of the Children

It has been noted that (Table: 3.5.4a), more than one-fourth (26.3 percent) reported that the children are compelled to be involved with work. While gender-segregated, more girls (31.8 percent) chose the work under compulsion than boys (21.5 percent).

When enquired about the extra works that the children had to do for the employer besides their assigned responsibility (Table: 3.5.4c), more than one-third (34.6 percent) of the children complained that they had to work extra outside their assigned responsibility. It is interesting to note that boys (37.5 percent) must work outside of the specific work.

<b>Table 3.5: Child labour situation of the children</b>						
	<b>Boy</b>		<b>Girl</b>		<b>Total</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Table 3.5.4a: Children are compelled to involve into this work	91	21.5	120	31.8	211	26.3
<b>Table 3.5.4.b: If you are compelled to do this work, what are the reasons behind your involvement?</b>						
Parents compelled to do	52	57.1	75	62.5	127	60.2
Parents/household have debt to employer/other person	48	52.7	27	22.5	75	35.5
For interest of stepfather/stepmother	16	17.6	15	12.5	31	14.7
For getting assistance from the relatives for the family	27	29.7	28	23.3	55	26.1
Relatives/friends/neighbor to get benefit	17	18.7	9	7.5	26	12.3
Assurance for better life	6	6.6	31	25.8	37	17.5
I came here after married and got engaged to this job			3	2.5	3	1.4
Forbearing the cost of study	9	9.9	3	2.5	12	5.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Table 3.5.4c: Children have to do anything other than the specific job at the owner's will	159	37.5	118	31.3	277	34.6
<b>Table 3.5.4d: Type of extra works that Children have to do other than the specific job at the owner's will</b>						
Whole body massaging	40	25.2	40	33.9	80	28.9
Hand-foot pressing	110	69.2	53	44.9	163	58.8
Shopping	65	40.9	16	13.6	81	29.2
Cooking	33	20.8	26	22.0	59	21.3
Kitchen dish washing	51	32.1	38	32.2	89	32.1
Sweeping the house of the owner	20	12.6	32	27.1	52	18.8
Mopping the house of owner	44	27.7	22	18.6	66	23.8
Shoe cleaning	9	5.7	14	11.9	23	8.3
Toilet cleaning	4	2.5	5	4.2	9	3.2
Cleaning the waste of the owner's young children			3	2.5	3	1.1
Have to work as security guard	1	.6	4	3.4	5	1.8
Have to bring water	1	.6	3	2.5	4	1.4
Have to bring tea-cigarette	6	3.8	2	1.7	8	2.9
Have to carry goods	2	1.3			2	.7
Have to do work for others'	1	.6	1	.8	2	.7
Have to clean the car	2	1.3			2	.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>100</b>

When enquired about the types of extra work (Table: 3.5.4d), more than half (58.8 percent) of the children reported that they must do hand and foot massaging. Other than that, about a bit less than one third (32.1 percent) of children must wash dishes, more than a quarter (29.2 percent) of children must do shopping, children must do whole body massaging (28.9 percent), less than a quarter (23.8 percent) of the children must mop the floor, more than one fifth (21.3 percent) of the children must do cooking, and less than one fifth (19.8 percent) of the children must sweep the house of the owner. More boy children (69.2

percent) must do hand-foot pressing than the girl children (44.9 percent), and more girl children (33.9 percent) have to do whole body massaging than the boy children (25.2 percent). The nature of extra work with physical close contact with adults increase the likelihood of children being sexually abused and exploited in the workplace.

Table 3.5: Child labour situation of the children						
	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Table 3.5.4e: Behavior towards Child Labors at working place</b>						
Good behaviour	70	16.5	30	8.0	100	12.5
Normal behaviour	133	31.4	177	46.9	310	38.7
Not serving enough food	24	5.7	12	3.2	36	4.5
Not provide sufficient clothes	19	4.5	4	1.1	23	2.9
Not provide comfortable sleeping place	53	12.5	10	2.7	63	7.9
Lack of time for taking rest	83	19.6	42	11.1	125	15.6
Often victim of bullying	267	63.0	169	44.8	436	54.4
Not get proper respect	51	12.0	44	11.7	95	11.9
Physically tortured	95	22.4	78	20.7	173	21.6
Sexually abuse	1	.2	29	7.7	30	3.7
Confinement			8	2.1	8	1.0
Do not allow studying	11	2.6	12	3.2	23	2.9
Owner fined for minor mistake	23	5.4	25	6.6	48	6.0
Do not allow to go outside	9	2.1	6	1.6	15	1.9
Do not take initiative for necessary treatment	6	1.4	7	1.9	13	1.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Table 3.5.4f: What kind of environment do you work in?</b>						
Extreme heat, dark and insufficient light & ventilation	168	39.6	95	25.2	263	32.8
Has to do extremely hard work	221	52.1	153	40.6	374	46.7
Mental stress	136	32.1	110	29.2	246	30.7
Comfortable working environment	103	24.3	74	19.6	177	22.1
Don't know/can't say	25	5.9	49	13.0	74	9.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>100</b>

When enquired about the types of behaviour at work (Table: 3.5.4e), more than half of the children (54.4 percent) had reported that they are often victims of bullying, and about 38.7 percent of children reported that their employers behave normally behave good (12.5 percent) with them. Children from the boy category (63.0 percent) reported being more victims of bullying than the girl children (44.8 percent). Other than that, they are the victim of physically tortured (21.6 percent), do not get adequate rest (15.6 percent), and do not get proper respect (11.9 percent).

When enquired about the work environment (Table: 3.5.4f), nearly half of the children (46.7 percent) had reported working in an extremely tough working environment. They complained about extreme heat, dark and insufficient light and ventilation (32.8 percent), under mental stress (30.7 percent), and 22.1 percent noted that they work in a comfortable working environment.

### 3.5.5: Nature of Child Labour

According to Table: 3.5.5., it has been seen total (32.5 percent) of children are involved with hazardous work among the child Labour, which is more than the national count. **It is found**

in a national child labour survey that hazardous child labour stands for 12.6 percent of the total child labour.<sup>1</sup>

Among the child labour, nearly one-third of the children (32.5 percent) are engaged in the hazardous sector, and more than two-thirds of the children (67.5 percent) are involved with non-hazardous sector work. It has also been noted that more boy children (44.8 percent) are involved with hazardous sectors than girl children (18.6 percent).

	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Hazardous Sector	190	44.8	70	18.6	260	32.5
Non-hazardous Sector	234	55.2	307	81.4	541	67.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### **3.6. MIGRATION AND MOBILITY OF THE CHILDREN**

It is worth noting that girls are more vulnerable to unsafe migration than boys. The study results point to a critical issue: in the case of girls, the percentage of non-parental companions for migration is relatively more significant, rendering them more exposed to unsafe migration, sexual abuse, and exploitation. When children were grouped under their category, it became clearer that street children and sexually exploited children were more vulnerable to unsafe migration due to the reason of migration, decision-maker, and companion of migration than the migration process of children from the category of children living with family.

#### **3.6.1. Migration Status of the Children**

When enquired about their migration history (Table: 3.6.1.a), more than one-third (37.3 percent) of children responded that they had migrated from elsewhere to their current area of living. It is noticed that more boys (50.9 percent) reported migration than girls' (15.8 percent).

<sup>1</sup>Child Labour Survey 2013, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

<b>Table 3.6: Migration and mobility of the Children</b>						
	<b>Boy</b>		<b>Girl</b>		<b>Total</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Table 3.6.1.a:</b> Children have migrated into here from permanent living place	1587	50.9	313	15.8	1900	37.3
<b>Table 3.6.2:</b> Average age (year) of the children at the time of last Migration	8		8		8	
<b>Table 3.6.3a: Key causes of migration and mobility of children</b>						
For education	139	15.2	58	5.9	197	10.4
For better living standard	773	84.7	718	72.7	1491	78.5
Due to misbehavior of stepparents	107	11.7	172	17.4	279	14.7
Allure by other	17	1.9	26	2.6	43	2.3
Compelled by other	70	7.7	94	9.5	164	8.6
Due to the strict discipline of the family	34	3.7	29	2.9	63	3.3
Due to Natural Disaster	64	7.0	131	13.3	195	10.3
Due to marriage	4	.4	15	1.5	19	1.0
Due to the death of parents	43	4.7	74	7.5	117	6.2
Communal Violence	1	.1	3	.3	4	.2
Due to misbehavior of parents	86	9.4	62	6.3	148	7.8
Sexual abuse	1	.1	13	1.3	14	.7
Sold/Abduction	2	.2	6	.6	8	.4
Due to love affairs			18	1.8	18	.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>987</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1900</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### 3.6.2. Age of Migration

Notably, the average age of children at the migration time (Table: 3.6.2) was 8 years. The mean age of boys and girls children is the same (8 years). At the time of migration, the study found that more than one third (40.3 percent) of the children were between 6 to 10 years.

### 3.6.3. Key causes of migration and mobility of children

When enquired about the children's critical causes of migration and mobility (Table: 3.6.3a), more than three-quarters (78.5 percent) of the children have migrated for better living standards. Aside from that, more than one tenth (14.7 percent) has been migrated owing to misbehaving stepparents, for schooling purposes (10.4 percent), due to natural disaster (10.3 percent), and less than one-tenth (8.6 percent) has been migrated due to the coercion and misbehavior of parents (7.8 percent). According to the gender category, more boys (84.7 percent) have migrated for better living standards than girls (72.7 percent). More boys (15.2 percent) have been migrated for education than girl children (5.9 percent). Nearly one-fifth (17.4 percent) of the girls have migrated due to misbehaving of stepparents than the boys (11.7 percent). Other than that, more girls (13.3 percent) have migrated due to natural disasters than boys (7.0 percent).

### 3.6.4. Companion of Migration

When enquired about their companion of migration of children (Table: 3.6.4.b), more boys (68.6 percent) of this category have migrated with their both parents than the girls (57.6 percent). Other than that, more than one-tenth (16.8 percent) of children migrated with siblings, with non-family members (14.5 percent), with relatives (14.2 percent), children migrated with only single parents (10.2 percent), and children migrated alone (10.1 percent). According to the gender category, more boys (11.5 percent) migrated alone from elsewhere to their current living area than the girls (8.7 percent).

<b>Table 3.6: Migration and mobility of the Children</b>						
	<b>Boy</b>		<b>Girl</b>		<b>Total</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Table 3.6.3b: Companion of Migration</b>						
Single parents	73	8.0	121	12.3	194	10.2
Both Parents	626	68.6	569	57.6	1195	62.9
Siblings	133	14.6	187	18.9	320	16.8
Husband/Wife	24	2.6	19	1.9	43	2.3
Relatives	146	16.0	124	12.6	270	14.2
Non-family members	132	14.5	143	14.5	275	14.5
Nobody	105	11.5	86	8.7	191	10.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>987</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1900</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Table 3.6.3.b: Key Decision Makers Regarding Child Migration</b>						
Own initiative	110	12.0	94	9.5	204	10.7
Parents/guardian	682	74.7	712	72.1	1394	73.4
Brother-sister	26	2.8	13	1.3	39	2.1
Husband/wife			10	1.0	10	.5
Relatives	28	3.1	40	4.1	68	3.6
Non-relatives	67	7.3	118	12.0	185	9.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>987</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1900</b>	<b>100</b>

### 3.6.4.1. Companion of Migration of the Sexually exploited, Street Children and Child Labourer

When enquired about the companion of migration (Table: 3.6.3.b), to the Sexually exploited children, more than half (51.3 percent) of the children migrated from elsewhere to the current area of living with non-relatives, more than one-tenth(17.9 percent) of the children migrated with relatives and with spouses (12.8 percent). It is seen that more than three-quarters (80.1 percent) of child labour migrated with both parents, more than one quarter (21.5 percent) with siblings, more than one-tenth (14.8 percent) with relatives and with single parents (10.2 percent). Other than that, more than half (51.8 percent) of street children migrated with non-relatives, a bit more than one-tenth (10.6 percent) with relatives. Interestingly, more than a quarter (29.1 percent) of street children migrated alone.

<b>Table 3.6: Migration and mobility of the Children</b>			
	<b>Street Children (%)</b>	<b>Child Labour (%)</b>	<b>Sexually exploited children (%)</b>
<b>Table 3.6.4.b: Companion of Migration</b>			
Single parents	4.3	10.2	7.7
Both Parents	8.2	80.1	5.1
Siblings	.7	21.5	7.7
Husband/Wife		1.2	12.8
Relatives	10.6	14.8	17.9
Non-Relatives	51.8	8.2	51.3
Nobody	29.1	7.0	7.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### 3.6.5. Key Decision Makers Regarding Child Migration

When enquired about the key Decision Makers regarding child migration and mobility (Table 3.6.3.b), nearly three-quarters (73.4 percent) of the children said their parents/guardians were the critical decision-makers regarding migration. Other than that, a bit more than one-tenth (10.7 percent) of children migrated according to their wish, and less than one-tenth (9.7 percent) of children reported that non-relatives decide for their migration. According to the gender category, more boys (74.7 percent) reported that their parents/guardians

decided to migrate than the girls (72.1 percent). More boys (12.0 percent) had migrated according to their wish than the girls (9.5 percent). On the other hand, more girls (12.0 percent) migrated by the decision of their non-relatives and relatives (4.1 percent) than the boys (7.3 percent and 3.1 percent respectively).

### 3.6.5.1. Key Decision Makers of the Sexually exploited, Street Children and Child Labourer

When enquired about the critical decision-makers regarding child migration and mobility of the sexually exploited, street children and child labourer (Table 3.6.4.1.a.), more than three-quarters of child labour (88.3 percent) reported that their parents/guardian were key decision-makers regarding migration. More than one third (42.9 percent) of the street children and two-third of the sexually exploited children reported that non-relatives were the key decision-makers for their migration. More (35.1 percent) of street children migrated according to their wish than the child labourers (5.9 percent) and sexually exploited children (5.1 percent).

Table 3.6: Migration and mobility of the Children			
	Street Children (%)	Child Labour (%)	Sexually exploited children (%)
Table 3.6.4.5.a. Key Decision Makers Regarding Child Migration			
Own initiative	35.1	5.9	5.1
Parents/guardian	14.9	88.3	10.3
Brother-sister	.4	2.7	5.1
Husband/wife			7.7
Relatives	6.7	2.7	10.3
Non-relatives	42.9	.4	61.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### 3.7. AWARENESS LEVEL OF THE CHILDREN

When asked about their perceptions of child rights, according to the field data, both children and parents did not specify any issue related to child protection, indicating a poor degree of competence in addressing and acting against protection-related concerns. The impact of negligence as a child protection issue is likewise utterly absent among the responders. Surprisingly, all children and most of their parents support physical punishment as an acceptable way of disciplining children. Apart from that, both children and parents view physical torture, mental torture, eve-teasing, and sexual violence/torture as significant areas of violence, but they do not consider neglect or parenting style as factors encouraging violence.

#### 3.7.1. Perception about Child

Nearly two-thirds of children (61.9 percent) and more than half of parents could not define a child based on age. Another concerning finding is that slightly more than one-fifth (20.2 percent) of children and slightly more than one-tenth (12.4 percent) of parents acknowledged not knowing children's age-based definition. These data reveal the children's and parents' level of awareness on the essence of UNCRC and the population category for which child protection is essential.

When inquired about the age definition of a child (Table: 3.7.1), among the children, 38.1 percent answered correctly, 39.8 percent answered incorrectly, and 22.0 percent did not know about it. Among the parents, 41.9 percent answered correctly, 45.7 percent answered incorrectly, and 12.4 percent had no idea.

During the discussion, the majority of the participants defined children as a person who is below 7/8 years of age and dependent on others", some of the participants defined children as the person "who is below 12 years of age". Most the participants opined that, " a person with tender age who is dependent on others are considered as children".

Characteristics of a children	
➤	Loving and affectionate
➤	Friendly
➤	Inquisitive
➤	Enthusiastic
➤	Dependent
➤	Clever
➤	Incapable to earn
➤	Courageous

### 3.7.2: Perception of Child Rights

Nearly two-thirds of children (66.1 percent) and parents (65.7 percent) hear about child rights, according to Table 3.7.2.a. When parents are questioned about children's rights, their understanding proves to be very fluid. They were associating rights to material needs for growing up, but not to other dimensions of child rights such as social, cultural, and self-development. Table: 3.7.2.b shows that nearly nine-tenths (88.4 percent) of the parents perceive child Rights as Rights to education, 65.2 percent perceives child Rights as Rights to live a healthy life, 30.4 percent perceives child Rights as Rights to express an opinion and 29.0 percent perceives child Rights as Rights to play games. On the other hand, only 2.9 percent of parents stated they do not know child rights.

Table 3.7: Awareness level of the Children												
	Children						Parents					
	Boy		Girl		Total		Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Table 3.7.1: About the age definition of a child (PR-D03) (CH-F02)</b>												
Correct	741	29.2	1201	47.0	1942	38.1	19	35.8	25	48.1	44	41.9
Incorrect	1190	46.9	839	32.8	2029	39.8	27	50.9	21	40.4	48	45.7
Don't know	606	23.9	516	20.2	1122	22.0	7	13.2	6	11.5	13	12.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2537</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2556</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5093</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>100</b>
Table 3.7.2a: Hear about Child Rights (PR-D01) (CH-F01)	1576	62.1	1789	70.0	3365	66.1	35	66.0	34	65.4	69	65.7
<b>Table 3.7.2b: Type of Child Rights (Parents- D 02)</b>												
Rights to live a healthy life							27	77.1	18	52.9	45	65.2
Rights to education							32	91.4	29	85.3	61	88.4
Rights to play games							16	45.7	4	11.8	20	29.0
Rights to express the opinion							11	31.4	10	29.4	21	30.4
Rights to recreation							6	17.1	3	8.8	9	13.0
All the rights mentioned above									3	8.8	3	4.3
Do not know							1	2.9	1	2.9	2	2.9
<b>Total</b>							<b>35</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>100</b>

### 3.7.3. Perception of Violence against children

When asked about their perceptions of violence against children (Table: 3.7.3a), more than three-quarters of the children (80.9 percent) and nearly nine-tenths of the parents (89.5

percent) said they had heard about it. More girl children (81.7 percent) were aware of that than boys (80.0 percent). On the other hand, female parents (92.3 percent) were more likely to hear about violence against children than male parents (86.8 percent).

Table 3.7: Awareness level of the Children												
	Children						Parents					
	Boy		Girl		Total		Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Table 3.7.3a: Know about violence against Children	2030	80.0	2089	81.7	4119	80.9	46	86.8	48	92.3	94	89.5
<b>Table 3.7.3b: Perception about the types of Violence against Children (PR- E01, 02) (CH-G01, 02)</b>												
Physical punishment	1531	75.4	1484	71.0	3015	73.2	37	80.4	39	81.3	76	80.9
Mental torture	1440	70.9	1127	53.9	2567	62.3	33	71.7	30	62.5	63	67.0
Sexual violence/torture	430	21.2	672	32.2	1102	26.8	21	45.7	22	45.8	43	45.7
bullying	545	26.8	462	22.1	1007	24.4	7	15.2	5	10.4	12	12.8
Eve teasing	262	12.9	457	21.9	719	17.5	6	13.0	7	14.6	13	13.8
Less importance to opinion	80	3.9	133	6.4	213	5.2	4	8.7	9	18.8	13	13.8
Early marriage	219	10.8	141	6.7	360	8.7	4	8.7	4	8.3	8	8.5
Prohibit from IGA	37	1.8	73	3.5	110	2.7						
Forced to work	95	4.7	263	12.6	358	8.7	4	8.7	3	6.3	7	7.4
Prohibit from sleeping on the footpath	48	2.4	27	1.3	75	1.8						
Provide no food/less food	10	0.5	35	1.7	45	1.1			1	2.1	1	1.1
Verbal warning	151	7.4	177	8.5	328	8.0	2	4.3	2	4.2	4	4.3
Confined	39	1.9	47	2.2	86	2.1			3	6.3	3	3.2
Forced to watching to the sun	3	0.1	14	0.7	17	0.4						
Burn with something hot	2	0.1	25	1.2	27	0.7						
Beating after hanging on the tree	7	0.3	9	0.4	16	0.4			1	2.1	1	1.1
Confined into toilet	1	0.1	8	0.4	9	0.2						
Pull the ears and make them sit up	262	12.9	50	2.4	312	7.6	1	2.2			1	1.1
Bullying	4	.2	16	0.8	20	0.5	8	17.4	2	4.2	10	10.6
Banish from stay	24	1.2	11	0.5	35	0.8						
<b>Total</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2089</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4119</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>100</b>

Both children and parents view physical torture, mental torture, eve-teasing, and sexual violence/torture as significant areas of violence, but they do not consider neglect or parenting style significant areas of violence. When asked about the types of violence against children (Table: 3.7.3b), nearly three-quarters (73.2 percent) of children related violence with physical punishment, mental torture (62.3 percent), sexual violence/torture (26.8 percent), neglect/rebuke (24.4 percent), and to eve-teasing (17.5 percent). On the other hand, more than three-quarters (80.9 percent) of parents related violence with physical punishment, mental torture (67.0 percent), reported sexual violence/torture (45.7 percent), eve-teasing (13.8 percent) and reported bullying (12.8 percent).

### **Children's views on types of violence against children**

Children living in urban and rural areas are exposed to severe forms of violence and exploitation at home, the workplace, institutions, streets, and other public places. During the discussion, participants expressed their opinion regarding different types of violence and exploitation which they are facing in their daily life:

### **Violence and exploitation faced by the children**

- Beating
- Slapping
- Beating with stick
- Collision/kickback
- Not encouraging at creative works and disgrace
- Bullying
- Rebuke
- Pinching
- Giving pressure for study
- Call by ridiculous name (call by the name of animals)
- Neglecting
- Deprived from recreational activities
- Disregard their opinion
- Touching without permission
- Bad touch
- Forced to get involved into sexual relation
- Forced to get involved with work
- Excessive restriction
- Restriction in passing time with friends
- Mental torturing by father, mother and relatives
- Eve teasing
- Passing bad word/slang to someone
- Forced to get involved into amoral activities
- Forced to get involved into hazardous work
- Rape
- Providing no scope for study
- Sexual Harassment
- Vulgar conversation
- Bad posture
- Lack of affection

#### **3.7.4. Knowledge and Perception about Early Marriage**

The findings show that many people are still unaware of the dangers of early marriage. It has also been revealed that a segment of the population accepts early marriage for social and economic reasons. When enquiring about the legality of child marriage (Table: 3.7.4.a), about three-quarters of the children (75.3 percent) and more than three-quarters of the parents (87.6 percent) affirmed that they are aware of the illegality of child marriage. It is important to note that more girl children (80.9 percent) are informed about the illegality of child marriage than boy children (69.6 percent). On the other hand, more male parents (90.6 percent) are informed about the legality of child marriage than female parents (84.6 percent). It is interesting to note here that, when considering the legal age of marriage of the female (Table: 3.7.4b), more than half, 58.5 percent of the children and nearly two-third 65.7 percent of the parents, answered correctly. When asked about the legal age of marriage of the male (Table: 3.7.4c), nearly one-third (32.6 percent) of the children and more than one-third (35.2 percent) of the parents answered correctly.

When inquiring about the reason for early marriage to the respondent who supported early marriage (Table: 3.7.4e), it is found that nearly two-thirds (65.0 percent) of the parents said that they allow early marriage for girls because girls are being sexually harassing by the

boys. Other than that, 40.0 percent of the parents consider young age is perfect age for marriage, 40 percent support early marriage due to poverty and 30.0 percent support it to avoid dowry. Interestingly, more male parents (88.9 percent) identified harassment and eve-teasing towards girl children as reasons for allowing child marriage and more female parents (54.5 percent) believe that young age is good for starting a family by girl children.

Table 3.7: Awareness level of the Children												
	Children						Parents					
	Boy		Girl		Total		Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Table 3.7.4a: Know about the forbidden of child marriage	1765	69.6	2069	80.9	3834	75.3	48	90.6	44	84.6	92	87.6
<b>Table 3.7.4b: Legal age of marriage (Female) in Bangladesh</b>												
Correct (18 years)	1393	54.9	1587	62.1	2980	58.5	37	69.8	32	61.5	69	65.7
Incorrect (<&> 18 Years)	570	22.5	574	22.5	1144	22.5	14	26.4	17	32.7	31	29.5
Don't know	574	22.6	395	15.5	969	19.0	2	3.8	3	5.8	5	4.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>2537</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2556</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5093</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Table 3.7.4c: Legal age of marriage (Male) in Bangladesh</b>												
Correct (21 years)	719	28.3	941	36.8	1660	32.6	14	26.4	23	44.2	37	35.2
Incorrect (<&> 21 Years)	1237	48.8	780	30.5	2017	39.6	37	69.8	26	50.0	63	60.0
Don't know	581	22.9	835	32.7	1416	27.8	2	3.8	3	5.8	5	4.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>2537</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2556</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5093</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>100</b>
Table 3.7.4d: Parents allow early marriage for girl child							9	17.0	11	21.2	20	19.0
This is the perfect age							2	22.2	6	54.5	8	40.0
Facing difficulties by the boys							8	88.9	5	45.5	13	65.0
Less attentiveness into education							2	22.2			2	10.0
Considering girl children as a burden							2	22.2	1	9.1	3	15.0
Protecting girl children from abuse & exploitation							1	11.1	2	18.2	3	15.0
For avoiding social scandal							1	11.1	1	9.1	2	10.0
No dowry is needed							4	44.4	2	18.2	6	30.0
Considering young age as good for marriage							4	44.4	4	36.4	8	40.0
Poverty							2	22.2	6	54.5	8	40.0
<b>Total</b>							<b>9</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100</b>

### 3.7.5: Knowledge and Perception about Discrimination between Boys and Girls

According to the study, both children and parents rightly identified girls are more vulnerable to discrimination. As a result, girls are underrepresented and underpowered in many aspects of their lives. However, both children and parents failed to link interrelationship between discrimination and inequality that increase their chances of becoming victims of sexual assault and exploitation.

When inquired about the discrimination between boys and girls (Table: 3.7.5a), it has been found that more than half (55.4 percent) of the children said that boys are less discriminated than girls. More (75.5 percent) male parents said that boys are less discriminated than the girls than female parents (55.8 percent). It is found that more than one-fourth (27.9 percent) of the children do not know about discrimination.

Table 3.7: Awareness level of the Children												
	Children						Parents					
	Boy		Girl		Total		Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Table 3.7.5a: Who are more discriminated between boys and girls?</b>												
Boys	136	5.4	157	6.1	293	5.8	5	9.4	6	11.5	11	10.5
Girls	1392	54.9	1427	55.8	2819	55.4	40	75.5	29	55.8	69	65.7
Don't know	776	30.6	646	25.3	1422	27.9	4	7.5	8	15.4	12	11.4
No discrimination	233	9.2	326	12.8	559	11.0	4	7.5	9	17.3	13	12.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2537</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2556</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5093</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Table 3.7.5b: Area of discrimination for Boys</b>												
Free opinion	35	25.7	57	36.3	92	31.4	3	60.0	2	33.3	5	45.5
Food	65	47.8	19	12.1	84	28.7	3	60.0	1	16.7	4	36.4
Importance	26	19.1	24	15.3	50	17.1	1	20.0	4	66.7	5	45.5
Education	62	45.6	41	26.1	103	35.2	1	20.0	1	16.7	2	18.2
Salary	11	8.1	6	3.8	17	5.8			1	16.7	1	9.1
Security	11	8.1	14	8.9	25	8.5	1	20.0			1	9.1
Early marriage	38	27.9	12	7.6	50	17.1			1	16.7	1	9.1
Social dignity	29	21.3	12	7.6	41	14.0	1	20.0			1	9.1
Free Movement	28	20.6	20	12.7	48	16.4						
Treatment	4	2.9	8	5.1	12	4.1						
Vocational training	6	4.4	16	10.2	22	7.5						
Job	2	1.5	20	12.7	22	7.5	1	20.0	1	16.7	2	18.2
Property inheritance	3	2.2	12	7.6	15	5.1						
Entertainment	9	6.6	4	2.5	13	4.4	1	20.0			1	9.1
Household work	2	1.5	6	3.8	8	2.7						
Buying clothes/toys							2	40.0	2	33.3	4	36.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Table 3.7.5c: Area of discrimination for Girls</b>												
Free opinion	567	40.7	569	39.9	1136	40.3	24	60.0	15	51.7	39	56.5
Food	453	32.5	318	22.3	771	27.4	12	30.0	5	17.2	17	24.6
Importance	230	16.5	331	23.2	561	19.9	9	22.5	2	6.9	11	15.9
Education	412	29.6	369	25.9	781	27.7	11	27.5	8	27.6	19	27.5
Salary	66	4.7	100	7.0	166	5.9	2	5.0	3	10.3	5	7.2
Security	416	29.9	298	20.9	714	25.3	17	42.5	9	31.0	26	37.7
Early marriage	415	29.8	511	35.8	926	32.8	13	32.5	18	62.1	31	44.9
Social dignity	219	15.7	153	10.7	372	13.2	6	15.0	5	17.2	11	15.9
Free Movement	737	52.9	488	34.2	1225	43.5	23	57.5	8	27.6	31	44.9
Treatment	5	.4	21	1.5	26	.9			2	6.9	2	2.9
Vocational training	15	1.1	52	3.6	67	2.4						
Job	16	1.1	80	5.6	96	3.4			2	6.9	2	2.9
Property inheritance	23	1.7	129	9.0	152	5.4	3	7.5	2	6.9	5	7.2
Entertainment	19	1.4	58	4.1	77	2.7			1	3.4	1	1.4
Household work	10	.7	187	13.1	197	7.0	2	5.0	5	17.2	7	10.1
Buying clothes/toys									3	10.3	3	4.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1392</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1427</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2819</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>100</b>

When considering the areas of discrimination (Table: 3.7.5b), children reported that boys are discriminated on education (35.2 percent) while expressing their opinion (31.4 percent), food (28.7 percent), importance and early marriage (17.1 percent), Free Movement (16.4 percent) and social dignity (14.0 percent). When considering the areas of discrimination (Table: 3.7.5c), children reported that girls are discriminated against on free movement (43.5 percent), while expressing their opinion (40.3 percent), early marriage (32.8 percent), education (27.7 percent), food (27.4 percent), security (25.3 percent), importance (19.9 percent) and social dignity (13.2 percent). When enquired about how this discrimination between boys and girls could be mitigated (Table: 3.7.5d), parents of the children suggested that, through awareness-raising (72.5 percent), providing education (60.0 percent), by providing job opportunity (35.0 percent), Through skill enhancement (21.3 percent) and only 6.3 percent admitted that they do not know. More parents of the male category

stressed awareness raising (80.0 percent) than parents of the female category (62.9 percent). Interestingly, more parents of the female category (8.6 percent) admitted that they do not know/cannot say that of the parents of the male category (4.4 percent).

Table 3.7: Awareness level of the Children												
	Children						Parents					
	Boy		Girl		Total		Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Table 3.7.5d: In your opinion, how can the inequality between boys and girls be reduced?</b>												
Provide education opportunities							26	57.8	22	62.9	48	60.0
Provide job opportunities							15	33.3	13	37.1	28	35.0
Through awareness-raising							36	80.0	22	62.9	58	72.5
Through skill enhancement							11	24.4	6	17.1	17	21.3
Through discussion							1	2.2	2	5.7	3	3.8
Do not know/cannot say							2	4.4	3	8.6	5	6.3
<b>Total</b>							<b>45</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>

### 3.7.6. Knowledge and Perception about Child Trafficking and Risk of Child Mobility

According to UNICEF and IOM definitions, child trafficking is described as recruiting, harbouring, transportation, providing, or obtaining a child for labour or services via force, deception, or coercion. It also involves luring, housing, transporting, giving, or procuring children for prostitution or pornography, as well as profiting financially from a child's commercial sex act. Child trafficking occurs when children are forced into vulnerable positions, and trafficking victims are frequently coerced to participate in profiting others. During the study, children identified various elements of trafficking, such as being sold out, abducted, deceived, forced into sex work, and so on, but they lacked conceptual clarity about trafficking. They were sometimes unable to discern between sexual exploitation and human trafficking. This lack of awareness may operate as a triggering element, making people more prone to human trafficking or dangerous migration.

When inquired about trafficking (Table: 3.7.6.a), 72.4 percent of children and 86.7 percent of parents reported being aware of it. Girl children (76.7 percent) are more aware of trafficking than boys (68.2 percent). On the other hand, Male parents (88.7 percent) are more aware of trafficking than female parents (84.6 percent).

When enquired Ideas about child trafficking (Table: 3.7.6.c), among the children 79.7 percent understand that child trafficking means sold out, 64.0 percent thinks that it is abduction, 32.0 percent understand it means temptation for better future, 22.4 percent thinks it means deceiving and 21.5 percent understand it means engaging sex-work by using force. On the other hand, among the parents, 80.2 percent understand that child trafficking means sold out, 78.0 percent thinks that it is abduction, 40.7 percent understand it means engaging sex-work by using force, 40.7 percent thinks it means temptation for better future and 20.9 percent understand it means deceiving.

Table 3.7: Awareness level of the Children												
	Children						Parents					
	Boy		Girl		Total		Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Table 3.7.6a: Know about child trafficking	1729	68.2	1960	76.7	3689	72.4	47	88.7	44	84.6	91	86.7
<b>Table 3.7.6b: Sources of knowledge about Child trafficking</b>												
Self-experience	254	14.7	132	6.7	386	10.5	11	23.4	4	9.1	15	16.5
NGO	481	27.8	483	24.6	964	26.1	8	17.0	13	29.5	21	23.1
Social environment	135	7.8	213	10.9	348	9.4						
Street drama	142	8.2	213	10.9	355	9.6	6	12.8	4	9.1	10	11.0
Electronic media	932	53.9	1050	53.6	1982	53.7	43	91.5	35	79.5	78	85.7
Doctor	33	1.9	6	0.3	39	1.1	1	2.1	1	2.3	2	2.2
Health & family planning worker	164	9.5	45	2.3	209	5.7	1	2.1	4	9.1	5	5.5
Educational institutions	657	38.0	671	34.2	1328	36.0	3	6.4	3	6.8	6	6.6
Friends	240	13.9	261	13.3	501	13.6	16	34.0	2	4.5	18	19.8
Print media	48	2.8	140	7.1	188	5.1	7	14.9	3	6.8	10	11.0
Relatives	50	2.9	185	9.4	235	6.4	5	10.6	6	13.6	11	12.1
Neighbors	123	7.1	148	7.6	271	7.3	9	19.1	7	15.9	16	17.6
Employer/colleague	99	5.7	40	2.0	139	3.8						
Broker	2	0.1	4	0.2	6	0.2						
Employer/Colleague			1	0.1	1	0.1	1	2.1			1	1.1
Text book	537	31.1	350	17.9	887	24.0	1	2.1	1	2.3	2	2.2
Family environment			7	0.4	7	0.2						
<b>Total</b>	<b>1729</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1960</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3689</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Table 3.7.6c: Ideas about child trafficking</b>												
Abduction	1190	68.8	1172	59.8	2362	64.0	41	87.2	30	68.2	71	78.0
Sold out	1575	91.1	1364	69.6	2939	79.7	44	93.6	29	65.9	73	80.2
Forcibly engaged in sex work	360	20.8	433	22.1	793	21.5	25	53.2	12	27.3	37	40.7
Deceiving	459	26.5	366	18.7	825	22.4	8	17.0	11	25.0	19	20.9
Temptation for better future	446	25.8	735	37.5	1181	32.0	11	23.4	26	59.1	37	40.7
Organ harvesting	13	0.8	2	0.1	15	0.4						
<b>Total</b>	<b>1729</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1960</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3689</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>100</b>

When enquired about the sources of knowledge about trafficking (Table: 3.7.6b), parents (85.7 percent) and the children (53.7 percent) identified electronic media as their main source of knowledge regarding trafficking, respectively. Children reported educational institutions (36.0 percent), NGO (26.1 percent), textbook (24.0 percent), friends (13.6 percent), Self-experience (10.5 percent), Street drama (9.6 percent) and social environment (9.4 percent) as their source of knowledge regarding trafficking. On the other hand, parents reported NGO (23.1 percent), friends (19.8 percent), Neighbors (17.6 percent), self-experience (16.5 percent), relatives (12.1 percent), Street drama and Print media (11.0 percent) and educational institutions (6.6 percent) as their source of knowledge regarding trafficking.

## Chapter 4

# Violence against Children and Their Vulnerability

### 4.1. EXPOSURE AND EXPERIENCES OF CHILDREN TO VIOLENCE

Almost all of the children who took part in the study said they had experienced some form of violence at some point in their lives. It is also found that girls' exposure to violence is slightly higher than the boys. The study's field findings have debunked a prevalent notion that "the house is the heaven for the children" that is popular not only in our nation but around the world! It has been found that children living with their parents or guardians have had to undergo various forms of violence (which may vary in intensity depending on the type of violence) as a hefty price to pay for being a part of a snapshot known as family. Almost all the children living in households (95.2 percent) had experienced violence within their households. The exposure of girls' to violence (95.4 percent) was a bit higher than the boys (95.0 percent).

Violence occurs in the home considerably more than in schools, communities, workplaces, and institutions where children receive services and stay. Only physical violence is present in 86.2 percent of households, 81.8 percent of educational institutions, 66.9 percent of community levels, and 55.3 percent of workplaces. This paints a bleak picture for the children, for whom we believe the home is a secure haven.

4.1. (A). Victim of Physical Violence of Children Living in the Household									
	Boy			Girl			Total		
	N	%		N	%		N	%	
Yes	2133	92.1		1871	80.3		4004	86.2	
	Educational institute			Workplace			Institute		
	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total
<b>Table 4.1.B.</b> Children faces Physical Violence	91.9	71.4	81.8	64.2	45.4	55.3	3.8	44.8	26.9
Physical violence at the community level									
	Boy			Girl			Total		
	N	%		N	%		N	%	
<b>Table 4.1.C.</b> Children faced Physical Violence at Community level	1820	71.7		1585	62.0		3405	66.9	

In this sub-section, also an attempt is made to shade focus on the perpetrators based on their existence in different settings where children stride while growing up. When investigating the perpetrators of violence against children, it was surprising to discover that they are the most influential people in their world! In whatever setting the child is surviving in, the prime suspects are adults and significant people in their lives. It is found in the study that, at the household level, the standard form of violence is physical punishment which is enveloped under the pretext of disciplinary measures and the parents and guardians are the main executioners (according to children 90 percent and parents 97.6 percent). Both boys (86.2 percent) and girls (86.1 percent) saw the general teacher as the main perpetrator in educational institutes. Aside from that, the Head teacher, physical instructor, religious teacher, security guards, institution personnel, and members of SMC as abusive agents on some occasions. However, the Supreme Court had already issued a ruling forbidding corporal punishment in educational institutions, but it is not appropriately implemented. Children also reported being victims of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse and bullying at educational institutions by other children of similar age and senior students.

Another aspect of violence against children is that while some incidents are reported, most incidents are kept hidden by the children due to the nature of the abuse. According to the findings of the study, non-reporting of sexual abuse cases is considerably greater (51.9 percent) than non-reporting of physical (18.0 percent) and emotional violence instances (20.5 percent). In terms of sexual abuse reporting, it has been discovered that more girls (63.9 percent) did not disclose sexual abuse than boys (37.2 percent). It has also been found that more girls kept incidences of physical (30.4 percent) and emotional (33.8 percent) violence in their hearts more than boys (5.4 percent and 7.1 percent, respectively).

When it comes to physical and emotional abuse, the majority of the children (93.1 percent) said they usually disclose it to their parents or guardians, relatives, neighbours, friends, senior children, and in certain extreme cases, local elites, LEB members, and law enforcement agencies. Only half of the children (50.4 percent) told their parents or guardians about sexual violence. Other than that, they inform the abuser's family, relatives, the institute's management where they take services and stay, and teachers. Under extreme circumstances, they also report to members of the LEB and local elites. Because of the It Boys' social mobility, they have access to the local power structure, allowing them to reach out to local elites for adjudicators. According to the results of a field survey, more boys (12.8 percent) than girls (3.7 percent) have reported emotional assaults to the local elite.

Shame, apprehension, a lack of understanding of violence, and a lack of safe places to report are the main reasons for the non-reporting of violent incidents. Fear and shame are responsible for 61.7 percent of sexual assault non-reporting, as well as 51.1 percent and 43.0 percent of physical and emotional abuse non-reporting, respectively. In the event of sexual violence, boys were less likely to disclose incidents to their parents and guardians (37.4 percent) than to the abuser's family members due to embarrassment (48.6 percent).

Parents seem to pay more attention to their children's education and schools than their activities and well-being in the community and at work. Another concerning issue is that many children have reported being subjected to violence by unknown individuals in the community and elsewhere, reinforcing the parents' lack of monitoring and supervision in those situations. Many parents due to their negligence were not adequately engaging with their children to know about their well-being regularly, nor were they advising them on proper life skills and self-protection strategies for keeping themselves safe from danger in places where children move around.

#### 4.1.1. Children's Exposer to Violence

When questioned about their experiences with violence (Table 4.1.1.a), almost all children (95.0 percent) said they were exposed to it daily. Almost all of the boys (94.5 percent) and girls (95.5 percent) who responded said that they had experienced violence in their lives.

4.1.1.a. Total Children Victim of Violence												
	Boy			Girl			Total					
	N	%		N	%		N	%				
Yes	2397	94.5		2440	95.5		4837	95.0				
No	140	5.5		116	4.5		256	5.0				
<b>Total</b>	<b>2537</b>	<b>100.0</b>		<b>2556</b>	<b>100.0</b>		<b>5093</b>	<b>100.0</b>				
Category of Violence against Children												
	Physical			Emotional			Sexual			Total		
	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total
Yes	91.4	80.7	86.0	90.2	89.4	89.8	33.4	62.7	48.1	94.5	95.5	95.0
No	8.6	19.3	14.0	9.8	10.6	10.2	66.6	37.3	51.9	5.5	4.5	5.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

When asked about the types of violence, more than three-quarters of children said they had experienced emotional (89.8 percent) and physical (86.0 percent) violence. Apart from these, less than half of the children (48.1 percent) reported sexual violence. More boys (91.4 percent) and girls (90.2 percent) were subjected to physical and emotional violence, respectively, but more girls were exposed to sexual violence (62.7 percent) than boys (33.4 percent).

**Violence against Children within the Household:** Domestic violence has been observed in nearly all children living in homes (95.2 percent). Girls (95.4 percent) were slightly more exposed to violence than boys (95.0 percent).

	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	2201	95.0	2222	95.4	4423	95.2
No	116	5.0	108	4.6	224	4.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>2317</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2330</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4647</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Violence against Children within Educational Institute:** The survey found that more than three-quarters of children in educational institutions (Table 4.1.1.c) had experienced emotional (85.9 percent) and physical violence (81.8 percent). Apart from these, just over a quarter of children (21.9 percent) had experienced sexual violence.

	Children living in the household	Children living on Street	Working Children/ Child Labor	Children involved with the sex profession	Children living in an institution	Children with disability	Indigenous Children	Total
Physical Violence	82.5	9.1	84.2		16.7	66.7	91.1	81.8
Emotional Violence	86.7	9.1	85.7		22.2	75.0	93.7	85.9
Sexual Violence	22.3		28.6		2.8	5.6	8.9	21.9

**Violence against Children in the Community:** At the community level, the study found that (Table 4.1.1.d), children had experienced emotional violence (84.3 percent) more than physical violence (66.9 percent) or sexual violence (35.9 percent). Specifically, more than half of the girl children in the survey (58.6 percent) said they had been subjected to eve-teasing.

Table 4.1.1.d. Violence against Children at Community Level								
	Children living in the household	Children living on Street	Working Children/ Child Labor	Children involved with the sex profession	Children living in an institution	Children with disability	Indigenous Children	Total
Physical Violence	64.7	87.4	71.4	92.3	49.6	66.7	81.8	66.9
Emotional Violence	85.1	86.4	82.4	100.0	51.3	75.9	91.9	84.3
Eve-teasing	55.2	81.8	69.7	94.7	71.6	26.7	67.3	58.6
Sexual Violence	32.5	63.1	43.3	97.4	41.0	13.0	40.4	35.9

**Violence against Children within the Workplace:** According to Table 4.1.1.e, within the workplace, as well as at the community level, more children were exposed to emotional violence (72.0 percent) than to physical (55.3 percent) and sexual violence (36.5 percent).

Table 4.1.1.e. Violence against Children (Workplace)								
	Children living in the household	Children living on Street	Working Children/ Child Labor	Children involved with the sex profession	Children living in an institution	Children with disability	Indigenous Children	Total
Physical Violence	58.3	60.1	52.2	76.3	29.4		50.0	55.3
Emotional Violence	66.7	74.2	72.4	81.6	50.0		55.0	72.0
Sexual Violence	41.7	48.5	26.4	71.1	14.7		35.0	36.5

#### 4.1.2. Physical Violence

The study found that physical violence was visible in every aspect of children's lives. Almost all of the children had stated that they had been subjected to physical violence everywhere under the guise of disciplinary strategy! Most adults also agreed to use physical punishment as a disciplinary measure when their children behaved in ways that went beyond their parents' expectations in the home.

4.1.2 (a). Victim of Physical Violence of Children Living in the Household							
	Boy		Girl		Total		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Yes	2133	92.1	1871	80.3	4004	86.2	
No	184	7.9	459	19.7	643	13.8	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2317</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2330</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4647</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

**Physical Violence as Disciplinary Action within the household:** According to Table 4.1.2.a, more than four-fifths (86.2 percent) of the children in the study had experienced physical violence at home. Boys (92.1 percent) were more likely to be exposed to physical violence within the household than girls (80.3 percent).

Table 4.1.2.b. Status of disciplinary actions against children within the household							
	Children (C06-C09)			Parents (C07-10)			
	Boy	Girl	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Table 4.1.2.c. Children faced disciplinary actions within the Household	88.4	83.7	86.1	84.9	76.9	81.0	
Table 4.1.2(c). Actors who take disciplinary actions against children							
Parents/guardian	91.4	89.6	90.5	100.0	95.0	97.6	
Siblings	21.0	21.2	21.1	31.1	32.5	31.7	
Other members of the family	28.8	33.6	31.1	2.2	15.0	8.2	
Neighbors	16.9	20.2	18.5				
Relatives	12.8	11.9	12.4				
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

Status of disciplinary actions against children within the household						
	Children (C06-C09)			Parents (C07-10)		
	Boy	Girl	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>Table 4.1.2.d. Type of disciplinary actions taken against children</b>						
Pushing/kicking	36.1	30.7	33.4	44.4	37.5	41.2
Slapping/beatng by hand	86.8	66.1	76.7	88.9	75.0	82.4
Beating by belt/stick	25.2	22.6	23.9	20.0	37.5	28.2
Pulling hair/pinching/squeezing ears	19.2	8.7	14.1	26.7		14.1
Verbal abuse	40.2	64.6	52.1	48.9	65.0	56.5
Confining	5.9	2.9	4.4			
Providing no food/less food	8.6	3.8	6.3	2.2	2.5	2.4
Pull the ears and make them sit up	3.7	3.8	3.7	4.4	5.0	4.7
Pinching	0.8	1.9	1.4			
Push the neck	9.9	4.5	7.2	8.9	2.5	5.9
Looking at the sunlight	0.7	0.8	0.8			
Standing with one leg	0.6	1.0	0.8			
Nose manure	0.1	0.2	0.1	2.2	2.5	2.4
Standing with heavy weight on two hand	0.2	0.1	0.2			
Beating after hanging in the tree	0.1	0.1	0.1		2.5	1.2
Burnt with something hot	0.1	0.7	0.4		2.5	1.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Table 4.1.2.e. Reasons for taking disciplinary actions against children</b>						
Failed to satisfy parents/guardians	65.8	55.3	60.7	80.0	65.0	73.0
Slept during working period	30.5	19.0	24.8	13.3	7.5	10.6
Delayed in accomplishing work	11.9	14.9	13.3	8.9	7.5	8.2
Could not perform well in study	28.6	30.8	29.7	51.1	45.0	48.2
To watching TV and participate in games & sports	22.5	27.4	24.9	24.4	27.5	25.9
Watching/participating in Jatra, drama etc.	6.2	2.3	4.3	4.4	2.5	3.5
For damaging/breaking household utensils	6.5	5.5	6.0	2.2	7.5	4.7
Stealing money from parents	6.2	1.4	3.8	2.2	10.0	5.9
For excessive demand	3.1	10.7	6.8	4.4	7.5	5.9
Misconduct with relatives	2.5	4.8	3.6	6.7	2.5	4.7
Not participating in religious activities	0.7	2.5	1.6	15.6	7.5	11.8
Roaming without parents' permission	17.7	19.2	18.5	17.8	25.0	21.2
For escaping from school	21.1	9.0	15.2	8.9	7.5	8.2
Because of being stepchild	0.1	0.4	0.2		2.5	1.2
For stealing fruits from other's garden and fish from other'	0.4	0.8	0.6			
For grazing cattle in others field	0.4	0.1	0.3			
For involved in love affair	0.2	2.9	1.5		5.0	2.4
Collision/fighting with friends/neighbors	12.1	7.0	9.6	17.8	7.5	12.9
Returning house at late night	1.1	0.8	1.0			
Using drugs	0.4	1.0	0.7	2.2		1.2
Excessive usage of internet/mobile phone	0.9	4.9	2.9	4.4	5.0	4.7
Due to telling a lie	3.5	3.5	3.5			
Without any reason	0.1	.3	0.2			
Due to disability	0.1		0.1			
Due to family conflict				4.4	5.0	4.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

When inquired about the violence perpetrated under the guise of disciplinary action, it was discovered that more than four-fifths (86.1 percent) of respondents are subjected to disciplinary action. Over three-quarters, (81.0 percent) of parents indicated that they take disciplinary action against their children when they behave “inappropriately” by their standard. When children and parents were asked who the enforcers of disciplinary acts inside the household were, a stark contrast in opinion was noticed. While neighbours and relatives were not featured on the parents' list of executors of physical punishment but were on the children's

list. Later on, we would observe that neighbours and relatives were equally responsible for inflicting various forms of violence on children. Additionally, it demonstrates parents' shortsightedness regarding their children's protection and their involvement in their child's everyday life. According to Table 4.1.2.e, most children (60.7 percent) and parents (73.3 percent) cited the child's failure to behave as the primary reason for imposing physical punishment as disciplinary measures. Apart from that, the reasons include not performing well in class, watching TV or playing games, and wandering away from home without permission.

**Physical violence at Educational Institute:** According to Table 4.1.2.f, more than three-quarters of children (81.8 percent) have complained about being subjected to physical punishment in educational institutions. There were more occurrences of physical assault reported by boys (91.9 percent) than by girls (71.4 percent).

Physical violence, according to the Children experiences									
	Educational institute			Workplace			Institute		
	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total
Table 4.1.2(f). Children faces Physical Violence	91.9	71.4	81.8	64.2	45.4	55.3	3.8	44.8	26.9
Table 4.1.2(g). Types of Physical Violence									
Pushing/kicking	33.4	24.6	29.6	36.4	62.0	46.3		70.0	65.6
Slapping/beatng by hand	85.4	50.1	70.2	82.4	73.1	78.8		66.7	62.5
Beating by belt/stick	42.5	42.4	42.4	30.5	19.3	26.2	100.0	10.0	15.6
Pulling hair/pinching/squeezing ears	25.9	6.7	17.6	19.5	23.4	21.0		20.0	18.8
Pull the ears and make them sit up	16.3	32.8	23.4	22.1	15.8	19.6	50.0	16.7	18.8
Throwing chalk/duster	7.9	25.2	15.4						
Throwing	7.7	2.5	5.5	2.9	7.0	4.5			
Beating into any part of the body	1.8	0.5	1.2	14.7	6.4	11.5	50.0	3.3	6.3
Pulling or cutting hair Hurt								6.7	6.3
Hurt into the hand by using pencil	1.3	7.3	3.9						
Push the neck	7.7	3.4	5.9	18.4	9.9	15.1		13.3	12.5
Standing outside of the class	0.9	4.5	2.4						
Looking at the sunlight	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7		3.3	3.1
Standing with one leg	1.6	3.3	2.4	3.3	0.6	2.3			
Standing like a chicken	5.7	.9	3.6						
Head down under the table	0.3	1.0	0.6						
Nose manure	0.3	.4	0.3	0.4	1.2	0.7			
Standing with heavy weight on two hands	0.1		0.1		.6	0.2			
Detained/confined				3.7	1.8	2.9			
Beating after hanging in the tree	0.1		0.1		.6	0.2			
Stand up on the bench	0.1	0.1	0.1						
Injured the cheeks				0.4	1.2	0.7			
Burning with something hot				1.1		0.7			
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

When queried about the sorts of physical punishment they received (Table 4.1.2.g), more than two-thirds (70.2 percent) of children reported being slapped on the face, hit with a stick, scale, or cane (42.4 percent), shoved, or kicked (29.6 percent). Aside from that, the children reported sitting down while holding their ears (23.4 percent), pulling their hair (17.6 percent), and being hit by an object such as a duster or chalk thrown at them (15.4 percent). Additionally, the data indicates that boys were more prone to slapping (85.4 percent), pushing (33.4 percent), pulling hair or squeezing ears (25.9 percent), while girls were more prone to slapping (50.1 percent) but were exposed to less physical contact-based punishments. These contactless punishments included being beaten with a stick (42.4 percent), being forced to sit up while holding one's ears (32.8 percent) and being slapped with a duster or chalks (25.2 percent).

**Physical violence at Workplace:** According to Table 4.1.2.e, more than half (55.3 percent) of children had complained about workplace physical punishment. Additionally, boys (64.2 percent) reported receiving more physical punishment than girls (45.4 percent).

When asked about types of physical punishment (Table 4.1.2.f), children reported slapping (78.8 percent), pushing away with force (46.3 percent), beating with a stick or cane (26.2 percent), pulling hair and squeezing ears (21.0 percent), sitting up by holding ears (19.6 percent), pushing by the neck (15.0 percent), and randomly hitting any part of the body (11.5 percent). It is worthy to note that more girls are subjected to punishment that requires direct physical contact such as slapping (73.1 percent), pushing (62.0 percent), pulling hair and squeezing ears (23.4 percent), randomly hitting any area of the body (6.4 percent), and being pushed by the neck (9.9 percent). Apart from that, girls also faced contactless physical abuse at the workplace, like being beaten with a stick (19.3 percent) or thrown heavy objects at them (7.0 percent).

**Physical violence at institutions where children take services and stay:** It has been observed that somewhat more than a quarter (26.9 percent) of children have been subjected to physical violence in institutions (Table 4.1.2.f). It was discovered that less than half of girls (44.8 percent) and a minimal proportion of boys (3.8 percent) reported being subjected to physical violence.

According to the report (Table 4.1.2.g), all boys were beaten with sticks or canes; more than half (50.0 percent) were compelled to sit up by gripping their ears and being struck on various body parts. Girls in institutions were also subjected to physical punishment produced by physical contact, including pushing (65.6 percent), slapping (62.5 percent), pulling hair and squeezing ears (18.8 percent), pressing by the neck (12.5 percent), and randomly striking any portion of the body (6.3 percent).

**Physical violence at the Community level:** According to Table 4.1.2.h, slightly more than two-thirds of children (66.9 percent) have experienced physical violence in their communities. It was discovered that more boys (71.7 percent) had been subjected to physical abuse than girls (62.0 percent). At the community level (Table 4.1.2.i), children are victims of physical violence for ignoring commands of adults (80.3 percent), playing in public or private place (46.2 percent), work-related causes (28.0 percent), Due trespass in public or private place (20.6 percent), and telling lies (13.3 percent). Nearly a tenth (7.5 percent) of children reported being beaten for unknown reasons. Other than that 0.8 percent of children reported for being indigenous and 1.7 percent of children for their disability had endured physical punishment at community level.

Physical violence at the community level						
	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Table 4.1.2.h.</b> Children faced Physical Violence at Community level	1820	71.7	1585	62.0	3405	66.9
<b>Table 4.1.2(i). Reasons for Physical Violence against children at the community level</b>						
Disobeying Directions	1452	79.8	1281	80.8	2733	80.3
Due trespass in public or private place	508	27.9	192	12.1	700	20.6
Work related reasons	542	29.8	410	25.9	952	28.0
playing in public or private place	838	46.0	734	46.3	1572	46.2
Not following the rules of the organization	101	5.5	48	3.0	149	4.4
For being indigenous	19	1.0	8	.5	27	.8
For being special children	27	1.5	30	1.9	57	1.7
For getting into others personal space	19	1.0	80	5.0	99	2.9
Being over demanding	10	0.5	17	1.1	27	0.8
For telling lie	257	14.1	195	12.3	452	13.3
Don't know/without any reason	126	6.9	129	8.1	255	7.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1820</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1585</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3405</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### 4.1.3. Emotional Violence

According to Table 4.1.3.a, more than four-fifths (89.8 percent) of children have encountered emotional violence. Boys were slightly more exposed to emotional violence (90.2 percent) than girls (89.4 percent).

4.1.3.(a). Victim of Emotional Violence						
	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	2288	90.2	2284	89.4	4572	89.8
No	249	9.8	272	10.6	521	10.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>2537</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2556</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5093</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Emotional Violence within the Household:** According to Table 4.1.5.b, over one-third of parents (33.3 percent) reported that their children had been subjected to emotional violence in the last year. Female parents admitted to a higher rate of emotional violence against their children (40.4 percent) than male parents (26.4 percent).

When parents were asked about the types of emotional violence their children had experienced in the home (Table 4.1.3.c), they reported mental torture (80.0 percent), bullying (31.4 percent), verbal abuse (14.3 percent), and disregarding the child's opinions and interfering with their studies and play (8.6 percent respectively).

Victim of Emotional Violence						
	Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Table 4.1.3.b.</b> Children face Emotional Violence within the household in the last 1 year (Parents)	14	26.4	21	40.4	35	33.3
<b>Table 4.1.3.c. Types of Emotional Violence within the household in the last one year (Parents)</b>						
Mental torture	11	78.6	17	81.0	28	80.0
bullying	5	35.7	6	28.6	11	31.4
Neglect opinion	2	14.3	1	4.8	3	8.6
Prohibit from studying and playing	2	14.3	1	4.8	3	8.6
Verbal warning	3	21.4	2	9.5	5	14.3
Total	14	100.0	21	100.0	35	100.0

**Emotional Violence at Educational Institute:** According to Table 4.1.5.a, most children (89.7 percent) have reported being subjected to emotional violence in educational institutions. Boys (89.7 percent) were more likely than girls (82.0 percent) to report experiencing emotional violence at their educational institution.

Table 4.1.3: Emotional Violence according to the Children experiences in Different setups												
	Educational institute			Social environment			Workplace			Institute where children live		
	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total
<b>Table 4.1.3.d.</b> Children faces Emotional Violence	89.7	82.0	85.9	85.8	82.8	84.3	75.9	67.6	72.0	9.6	49.3	31.9
Table 4.1.3.e: Types of Emotional Violence												
Swearing and calling names	81.6	34.0	59.2	84.9	25.2	55.5	78.6	61.2	70.9	60.0	57.6	57.9
Cursing or slandering	31.3	15.6	23.9	29.7	16.0	22.9	22.7	20.8	21.8	20.0	15.2	15.8
Bullying	17.2	90.1	51.6	68.8	91.3	79.9	73.6	91.0	81.3	80.0	87.9	86.8
Threatening	4.9	17.0	10.6	6.9	12.7	9.8	16.1	10.2	13.5			
Passing bad comments about Parents/Family identity/religion/	12.0	14.8	13.3	13.6	11.9	12.8	27.6	13.7	21.5		30.3	26.3
Not giving importance to opinion/not taking opinion	1.1	2.1	1.6	1.5	3.7	2.6	1.9	2.0	1.9		6.1	5.3
Hindering into hobbies	.8	.7	.8	1.1	1.6	1.3		1.6	.7			
Verbal warning	62.7	40.8	52.4	56.5	30.5	43.7	39.4	36.5	38.1	40.0	42.4	42.1
Forcing to work	1.4	.6	1.0	3.4	3.9	3.7	4.3	4.3	4.3		9.1	7.9
Comparing/discriminating with other children	1.9	4.9	3.3	.8	4.1	2.4	2.2	3.1	2.6		6.1	5.3
Not taking steps against injustice	.1	.4	.2	.3	.9	.6		.4	.2		3.0	2.6
Forcing to hide torture	.2	.4	.3	.7	2.2	1.4		.8	.3			
Detaining in the bathroom/indoors/in a dark room	.2		.1	.1	.5	.3		.4	.2			
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

When inquired about the types of emotional violence they had encountered in the educational institution (Table 4.1.3.b), the children identified primarily swearing and calling names (59.2 percent), verbal warnings (52.4 percent), bullying (51.6 percent), cursing (23.9 percent), slandering parents, family identity, or religion (13.3 percent), and threatening (10.6 percent).

Girls reported more emotional violence than boys, including bullying (90.1 percent), threats (17.0 percent), slandering parents or family identity/religion (14.8 percent), discrimination (4.9 percent), and disregarding their opinions (2.1 percent). (17.2 percent, 4.9 percent, 12.0 percent, 1.9 percent and 1.1 percent, respectively).

**Emotional Violence at Community Level:** It has been noted that (Table 4.1.3.a), more than three quarter (84.3 percent) of the children had complained that they faced emotional violence at the community level. A slightly higher percentage of boys (85.8 percent) had faced emotional violence at the community level than the girls (82.8 percent).

When enquired about types of emotional violence at the community level (Table 4.1.3.b), children identified mainly bullying (55 percent), swearing and calling names (55.5 percent), verbal warning (43.7percent), Cursing (22.9 percent), slandering parents or family identity or religion (12.8 percent) and threatening (9.8 percent).Girls had reported emotional violence like bullying (91.3 percent), threats (12.7 percent), discrimination (4.1 percent), being forced to work (3.9 percent), and neglecting their opinions (3.7 percent), being forced to hide violence (2.2 percent) and hindering their hobbies (1.6 percent) more than the boys (68.8 percent, 6.9 percent, 0.8 percent, 3.4 percent, 1.5 percent 0.7 percent respectively and 1.1 percent).

**Emotional Violence at Workplace:** According to Table 4.1.3.a., fewer than three-quarters (72.0 percent) of children reported being subjected to emotional violence at their place of employment. The majority of boys (75.9 percent) reported incidents of emotional violence at work, compared to the majority of girls (67.6 percent).

When children were asked about types of emotional violence at the community level (Table 4.1.3.b), they primarily identified bullying (81.3 percent), swearing and calling names (70.9 percent), verbal warnings (38.1 percent), cursing (21.8 percent), slandering parents or family identity or religion (21.5 percent), and threatening (13.5 percent). Both boys and girls reported being compelled to work against their will (4.3 percent). The number of girls reported experiencing emotional violence, such as bullying (91.6 percent), discrimination (2.0 percent), disregard for their opinions (2.0 percent), and an impediment to their hobbies (1.6 percent), more than boys (73.6 percent, 2.2 percent, 1.9 percent, and 0.0 percent, respectively).

**Emotional Violence at the Institute where children take services and stay:** It has been noted that (Table 4.1.3.a), less than one-third (31.9 percent) of the children had complained that they faced emotional violence at the institutional level. More girls (49.3 percent) had reported incidents of emotional violence at the institutional level than the boys (9.6 percent).

When asked about types of emotional violence, children reported being subjected to bullying (86.8 percent), swearing and calling names (57.9 percent), verbal warnings (42.1 percent), slandering parents, family identity, or religion (26.3 percent), cursing and slandering (15.8 percent), and forced labour (7.9 percent). Boys were more likely to report swearing and name-calling (60.0 percent) than girls (57.6 percent). Girls had reported the bullying (87.9 percent), and verbal warnings (42.4 percent) were more likely to report than boys (80.0 percent and 40.0 percent, respectively). Girls reported exclusively emotional violence, such as slandering parents, family identity, or religion (30.3 percent), forced labour (9.1 percent), discrimination and disregard for their opinions (6.1 percent), and not receiving due justice (3.0 percent).

#### 4.1.4. Sexual Violence Experienced by Children

When asked about their experiences with sexual violence (Table 4.1.4.a.), slightly less than half (48.1 percent) of the children admitted to having experienced sexual violence. Over half (62.7 percent) of girls and slightly more than a third (33.4 percent) of boys had also disclosed experiencing sexual violence.

4.1.4.a. Victim of Sexual Violence						
	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	847	33.4	1603	62.7	2450	48.1
No	1690	66.6	953	37.3	2643	51.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>2537</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2556</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5093</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Sexual abuse in Households:** Over half (55.0 percent) of sexually exploited children admitted that they had experienced sexual abuse at the household level during the field level survey (Table 4.1.4.b). Most sexually exploited boys (60.0 percent) reported experiencing sexual abuse in their homes before entering the profession, compared to the girls (50.0 percent).

4.1.4.b. Victim of Sexual Abuse within the household						
	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	12	60.0	10	50.0	22	55.0
No	8	40.0	10	50.0	18	45.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Sexual Violence at Educational Institute:** According to Table 4.1.4.c the data indicates that less than a quarter (21.9 percent) of children had reported sexual violence in educational institutions. Over half (58.4 percent) of girls and more than a third (33.9 percent) of boys had encountered sexual violence in educational institutions.

Table 4.1.4.c. Sexual Violence according to the Children experiences												
	Educational institute			Community			Workplace			Institute where children live		
	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total
<b>Table 4.1.4c.</b> Children faces Sexual Abuse	22.9	20.8	21.9	32.4	39.3	35.9	36.6	36.3	36.5		11.9	6.7
Table 4.1.4d. Types of Sexual Abuse												
Talking about sex	88.8	75.1	82.3	83.0	62.6	71.8	91.6	57.7	75.7		62.5	62.5
Sexual writing	18.7	22.4	20.5	13.0	14.6	13.9	5.8	16.1	10.6		25.0	25.0
Showing sex videos	49.2	21.7	36.3	45.6	17.8	30.3	51.6	22.6	38.0		12.5	12.5
Showing sexual pictures on computer or magazine	10.2	4.3	7.4	5.8	7.1	6.5	7.1	1.5	4.5			
Touching the whole body				3.4	32.5	19.4		40.9	19.2		37.5	37.5
Touching into sensitive parts of the body	7.1	41.9	23.5	4.6	23.2	14.8	4.5	27.0	15.1		25.0	25.0
Force to touch genitals	1.4	.5	1.0	1.9	5.4	3.8	4.5	4.4	4.5			
Put hands-on chest and press					13.7	7.6		17.5	8.2			
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Apart from that, sexual abuse takes a variety of forms (Table 4.1.4.c), including a conversation with a sexual overtone (82.3 percent), showing sex videos (36.3 percent) and pictures (7.4 percent), sharing sexual notes (20.5 percent), and touching sensitive body parts (23.5 percent). Boys are more likely to be exposed to sex talks (88.8 percent), showing sex videos (49.2 percent), sharing sexual notes (18.7 percent), viewing sexual images on a computer, mobile phone, or magazine (10.2 percent), touching sensitive parts of their bodies (7.1 percent), and being forced to touch others' genitals (1.4 percent). Girls reported being exposed to sexually charged conversations (75.1 percent), touching sensitive areas of their bodies (41.9 percent), sharing sexual notes (22.4 percent), watching sexual videos (21.7 percent), and being pressured to touch other genitals (.5 percent).

**Sexual Violence at the Community Level:** As noted in Table 4.1.4.d, more than a third (35.9 percent) of children reported experiencing sexual violence at the community level. Girls reported sexual violence at a higher rate (39.3 percent) than boys (32.4 percent).

Sexual violence took the following forms (Table 4.1.4.e) at the community level: a conversation with a sexual overtone (71.8 percent), showing sex videos (30.3 percent), touching the entire body (19.4 percent), sharing sexual notes (13.9 percent), touching sensitive parts of the body (14.8 percent), placing a hand on the chest and pressing (7.6 percent), showing sexual images on a computer, mobile phone, or magazine (6.5 percent), and forcing someone to touch them (3.8 percent).

Boys are more exposed to sex talks (83.0 percent), showing sex videos (45.6 percent), sharing sexual notes (13.0 percent), showing sexual images on the computer, mobile phone, or magazine (5.8 percent), touching sensitive parts of their bodies (4.6 percent), touching their entire body (3.4 percent), and forcing them to touch others' genitals (1.9 percent). The girls reported being exposed to sexual overtones in conversation (62.6 percent), touching their entire bodies (32.5 percent), touching sensitive areas of their bodies (23.2 percent), showing sex videos (17.8 percent), sharing sexual notes (14.6 percent), putting their hand on their chest and pressing (13.7 percent), showing sexual images on a computer, mobile phone, or magazine (7.1 percent), and pressurising to touch other's genitals (5.4 percent).

**Sexual abuse at Institutions Level:** Within the institution (Table 4.1.4.d), a few than a tenth (6.7 percent) of children reported experiencing sexual violence. At the institutional level, only girls (11.9 percent) reported sexual violence. Sexual violence manifests itself in a variety of

ways (Table 4.1.4.e), including a conversation with a sexual overtone (62.5 percent), touching the entire body (37.5 percent), touching sensitive parts of their bodies (37.5 percent), sharing sexual notes (25.0 percent), and showing sex videos (25.0 percent) (12.5 percent).

#### 4.1.5: Attitude toward Child-Beating as a Discipline Strategy

According to Table 4.1.5.a, more than three-quarters (75.2 percent) of parents considered beating an acceptable method of discipline. They believe that in some exceptional circumstances, parents and guardians may physically discipline children.

When asked about the reasons for beating the children (Table 4.1.5.c), both children and parents identified not obeying parents and adults (68.4 percent and 79.0 percent, respectively), failing to do well in school (62.8 percent and 70.5 percent, respectively), naughtiness (56.4 percent and 51.4 percent, respectively), and roaming around without parental permission (11.8 percent and 20.0 percent, respectively).

Child-Beating as A Discipline Strategy						
	Children			Parents		
	Boy	Girl	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>Table 4.1.5.a: Do you think it is suitable to discipline children by hitting with a cane or hand?</b>						
Yes (always)				1.9	11.5	6.6
Yes (sometimes)				67.9	69.2	68.6
No				30.2	19.2	24.8
<b>Total</b>				<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Table 4.1.5.b: Who could discipline children by rebuke or physical punishment?</b>						
Parents/guardian	98.5	93.0	95.8			
Neighbor	8.1	11.7	9.9			
Teacher	35.4	21.1	28.2			
Close relative	4.3	6.2	5.3			
Elder Sibling	20.1	10.7	15.4			
Siblings	6.0	6.8	6.4			
Employer/Colleague	0.3	0.7	0.5			
Nobody	0.1	0.1	0.1			
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>			

Child-Beating as A Discipline Strategy						
	Children			Parents		
	Boy	Girl	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>Table 4.1.5.c: In which circumstance children could be disciplined through rebuke or physical punishment?</b>						
For not obeying the parents/adults	72.9	64.0	68.4	88.7	69.2	79.0
If don't study	69.0	56.6	62.8	79.2	61.5	70.5
For naughtiness	64.7	48.2	56.4	66.0	36.5	51.4
For damaging/breaking household utensils	10.9	6.7	8.8	3.8	5.8	4.8
Stealing money from parents	4.9	2.3	3.6	3.8		1.9
Roaming without parents' permission	8.4	15.2	11.8	13.2	26.9	20.0
Due to the complain of neighbors	8.3	9.7	9.0	3.8	13.5	8.6
Passing time with bad friends	3.9	5.8	4.9	1.9	11.5	6.7
For telling lie	0.9	1.3	1.1		1.9	1.0
Escaping after being accused	2.2	4.9	3.5		13.5	6.7
For escaping from school	5.7	5.5	5.6	5.7	3.8	4.8
For love affairs	0.1	5.2	2.7		7.7	3.8
Returning house at late night	0.8	1.2	1.0			
Using drugs	0.7	0.6	0.6		1.9	1.0
Excessive usage of internet/mobile phone	1.5	3.8	2.7	3.8	1.9	2.9
Mistake at work	0.1	0.6	0.4			
Due to income					1.9	1.0
Due to sexually harassed (eve-teasing)					1.9	1.0
If you do not listen to the owner					1.9	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 4.1.5.b illustrates the children's perspective on whom they believe has the authority to discipline them physically. Additionally, the table demonstrates that almost all children (95.8 percent) believe their parents or guardians have the sole authority to discipline them through physical punishment. Apart from that, they believe teachers (28.2 percent), elder siblings (15.4 percent), and even neighbours (9.9 percent) have the authority to administer physical punishments.

#### 4.1.6. Children's Knowledge and Skills to Protect Themselves

To protect themselves from all forms of violence, children must identify threats and possess safety strategies for escaping the trap. Children must knowledge about perpetrators, various forms of violence, and abuse and also critical protection-related issues such as safe space, personal boundaries, and escape measures concerning the various settings in which they live, work, play, and study. This knowledge may be transmitted to children through the family, collaborative knowledge transfer processes, educational system, or mass campaigns utilising print, visual, electronic, and social media.

**Children's Knowledge and Skills to Protect Themselves:** Less than half (48.6 percent) of children and more than half (64.8 percent) of parents stated that they were aware of "good" and "bad" touch. Girls (66.8 percent) are more aware of good and bad touch than boys (30.2 percent). It is worth noting that more female parents (69.2 percent) admitted to being aware of the concept than male parents (60.4 percent).

Children's Knowledge and Skills to Protect Themselves						
	Children			Parents		
	Boy	Girl	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>Table 4.1.6a:</b> Respondents know about Good touch or bad touch	30.2	66.8	48.6	60.4	69.2	64.8
<b>Table 4.1.6.b. Meaning of Good touch</b>						
Handshake	68.8	50.5	56.2	65.6	75.0	70.6
Tapping on the head	81.3	69.8	73.4	87.5	58.3	72.1
Cuddle on the body	0.5	0.9	0.8			
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Children's Knowledge and Skills to Protect Themselves						
	Children			Parents		
	Boy	Girl	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>Table 4.1.6.c: Meaning of Bad touch</b>						
Touching the face (lips), chest, waist, back and thighs	44.9	51.8	49.7	59.4	69.4	64.7
Touching the hidden part of the body between the two legs	31.7	34.2	33.4	31.3	44.4	38.2
Touching or poking under the clothes	13.1	25.1	21.4	21.9	25.0	23.5
The touch which makes us embarrassed	58.6	55.1	56.2	68.8	77.8	73.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Table 4.1.6.d. What could be done to protect oneself from sexual abuse</b>						
If anyone wants to see her genitals, she will leave the place	9.8	20.1	15.0			
Protest vigorously	33.0	28.1	30.6			
Free herself from the oppressor by using force	48.6	25.0	36.8			
Shout and attract people's attention	44.2	47.7	46.0			
Do not know/cannot say	28.5	26.3	27.4			
Share the incident with the parents	0.3	0.4	0.4			
Taking legal support		0.1	0.1			
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>			

Both children and adults had a rudimentary level of understanding of what constitutes a good touch. Most of them regarded good touch (Table 4.1.6.b) as primarily a handshake and a tapping on the head. Apart from that, when the children's responses are considered, it is clear that they considered tapping on the cheek and cuddling on the body to be acceptable touches. Additionally, it was discovered that girls view cuddling on the body as a more positive touch than boys do.

It is alarming to note that their list of bad touches is extremely limited in every way. Both children and parents were straight forward in defining what constitutes a bad touch (Table 4.1.6.c); more than half (56.2 percent) of children and more than three quarters (73.5 percent) of parents associated a bad touch with embarrassment, i.e., "the touch that makes us embarrassed." Apart from that, they had associated bad touch with touching the face (lips), chest, waist, back, and thighs (49.7 percent of children and 64.7 percent of parents), touching the hidden part of the body between the two legs (children 33.4 percent and parents 38.2 percent), and touching or poking beneath the clothes (children 21.4 and parents 23.5 percent).

When children were questioned about their knowledge of sexual abuse safety skills (Table 4.1.6.d), less than half (46.0 percent) stated that they could escape by shouting and attracting people's attention, while more than a third (36.8 percent) stated that they could free themselves from the oppressor by using force. Apart from that, the children noted that they could protest vehemently (30.6 percent) and that if anyone desired to see their genitals, they would flee (15.0 percent). It is concerning to note that more than a quarter (27.4 percent) of children lacked any safety strategy for avoiding sexual abuse. Here, a tiny percentage (0.4 percent) of children opined that they should notify their parents about the incident.

#### **4.2. PERPETRATORS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN THE LOCALITY**

When investigating the perpetrators of violence against children, it was surprising to discover that they are the most prominent people in the child's world! The study has found that the most prevalent form of violence at the household level is physical punishment disguised as disciplinary measures, with parents and guardians serving as the primary executors (according to children 90.0 percent and parents, 97.6 percent).

Boys (86.2 percent) and girls (86.1 percent) identified the general teacher as the primary perpetrator in educational institutions. Apart from that, the head teacher, physical instructor, religious instructor, security guards, institution staff, and in some exceptional cases, members of SMC are deemed to be agents of violence. However, the Supreme Court has already ruled that corporal punishment is prohibited in educational institutions, but its implementation has been less than satisfactory. Children also reported being victims of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse and bullying by peers and senior students at educational institutions.

At the community level, children identified perpetrators of violence as neighbours, coworkers, employers, teachers, unknown individuals, shopkeepers, and members of law enforcement agencies. Children identified coworkers, employers, employer family members, security guards, and supervisors in the workplace. This sub-section attempts to shade the perpetrators based on their presence in various settings where children move around while they grow up.

Additionally, the study discovered that children living in NGO-managed programmes were subjected to physical, emotional, and sexual abuse at the hands of other children their age and institution staff. These facts exposed that the girls are still helpless within institutions as they were victims of violence and lacked protection elsewhere! Additionally, this demonstrates the absence of or ineffective implementation of Child Safeguarding Policies within these NGO-managed programmes.

#### 4.2.1. Perpetrator of Violence by Place of Occurrence

**The perpetrator of Violence within the Household level:** Children reported parents and guardians (90.5 percent) as main disposer of **physical and emotional violence** within household. Other than that, other adult members of family members, (31.1 percent), siblings (21.1 percent), neighbours (18.5 percent) and relatives (12.4 percent) were equally responsible for inflicting physical and emotional violence on children.

Table 4.2.1.a. Actors who take disciplinary (Physical and Emotional) actions against children						
	Boy	Girl	Total			
Parents/guardian	91.4	89.6	90.5			
Siblings	21.0	21.2	21.1			
Other members of the family	28.8	33.6	31.1			
Neighbors	16.9	20.2	18.5			
Relatives	12.8	11.9	12.4			
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>			
4.2.1.b. Perpetrator of Sexual Violence within the Household						
	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Non-relative	6	30.0			6	15.0
Neighbor			2	10.0	2	5.0
Relative	10	50.0	6	30.0	16	40.0
Family member	2	10.0	4	20.0	6	15.0
Friends/lovers	2	10.0	8	40.0	10	25.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100.0</b>

When enquired about the perpetrators of **sexual abuse** (Table 4.2.1.b), two-fifths (40.0 percent) of sexually exploited children stated that the perpetrators were relatives, family members (15 percent), and neighbours (5.0 percent).

**The perpetrator of Violence at Educational Institutions:** When children were questioned about the perpetrator of violence (Table 4.2.2.a), more than three-quarters (86.1 percent) stated that they had been subjected to **physical violence** at educational institutions by the general teacher, less than a quarter (24.0 percent) by classmates or similar-aged students, nearly one-fifth (18.0 percent) by the head teacher and physical instructor, and 14.7 percent by other students. Boys (86.2 percent) and girls (86.1 percent) both have a extremely higher likelihood of being subjected to physical violence by general teachers. It is worth noting that girls (17.1 percent) have been subjected to physical violence by physical instructors, classmates (13.7 percent), religious teachers (12.5 percent), and head teachers (11.7 percent). On the other hand, boys are more likely to face physical violence from classmates or peers (31.8 percent), head teachers (22.8 percent), physical instructors (18.7 percent), senior students (17.6 percent), and religious teachers (11.5 percent). Additionally, both boys and girls identified security guards (7.3 percent and 6.7 percent, respectively) and institution staff (6.5 percent and 1.8 percent, respectively) as physical violence agents.

	Physical violence			Emotional violence			Sexual Violence		
	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total
General teacher	86.2	86.1	86.1	81.2	82.9	82.0	30.5	57.0	42.9
Physical instructor	18.7	17.1	18.0	19.8	18.1	19.0	33.5	20.4	27.3
Religious teacher	11.5	12.5	11.9	2.0	9.7	5.6	6.9	9.2	8.0
Head teacher	22.8	11.7	18.0	19.8	13.4	16.8	18.9	7.6	13.6
Security guard	7.3	6.7	7.1	9.6	7.0	8.4	1.0	26.5	13.0
SMC members	2.5	1.7	2.2	2.5	1.3	1.9	5.1	3.7	4.4
Classmates or same aged students	31.8	13.7	24.0	39.2	15.7	28.1	85.4	28.6	58.7
Senior students	17.6	10.9	14.7	19.5	11.9	15.9	50.4	27.0	39.4
Staff of educational institute	5.5	1.8	3.9	5.5	3.3	4.5	4.1	5.5	4.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

More than three-quarters (82.0 percent) of children reported being subjected to **emotional violence** at educational institutions (Table 4.2.2.a), more than one-fourth (28.1 percent) reported being subjected to emotional violence by classmates or similar-aged students, nearly one-fifth (19.0 percent) reported being subjected to emotional violence by the physical instructor, less than one-tenth (16.8 percent) reported being subjected to emotional violence by the head teacher, and 15.9 percent reported being subjected to emotional violence by the head teacher. It is worth noting that both girls (82.9 percent) and boys (81.2 percent) experienced higher levels of emotional violence from general teachers. Additionally, boys were more likely to face emotional violence from classmates or classmates their age (39.2 percent), headteachers and physical instructors (19.8 percent), and senior students (19.5 percent). On the other hand, girls were more likely to face emotional violence from physical instructors (18.1 percent), classmates or peers their age (15.7 percent), head teachers (13.4 percent), and senior students (11.9 percent).

More than half (58.7 percent) of children reported experiencing **sexual violence** at educational institutions (Table 4.2.2.a) at the hands of classmates or same-aged students, more than two-fifths (42.9 percent) of children reported experiencing sexual violence at the hands of the general teacher, more than a third (39.4 percent) of children reported experiencing sexual violence at the hands of senior students. More than a quarter (27.3 percent) of children reported experiencing sexual violence at the hands physical instructor, head teacher (13.6 percent) and more than one-tenth (13.0 percent) by security guards. Another less than a tenth (8.0 percent) of children identified religious teachers as perpetrators of sexual violence. It is worth noting that boys (85.4 percent) are more likely than girls to face sexual violence from

classmates or peers their age (28.6 percent). Additionally, boys (50.4 percent) are more likely to face sexual violence from senior students, physical instructors (33.5 percent), and head teachers (18.9 percent). On the other hand, girls are more likely to face sexual violence from general teachers (58.4 percent), security guards (26.5 percent), and religious teachers (9.2 percent) than boys (30.5 percent, 1.0 percent and 6.9 percent respectively).

**The perpetrator of Violence at Community Level:** When children were asked regarding the perpetrator of violence at the community level (Table 4.2.3.a), nearly three quarter (74.2 percent) of the children informed that they faced **physical violence** by parents and guardians, more than a quarter (28.1 percent) by the neighbour and more than one-fifth (24.0 percent) by the teacher. Other than that, the children reported about senior children (22.0 percent), unknown persons (17.6 percent) and close relatives (15.3 percent). Here is to note that girls (78.3 percent) have a comparatively higher tendency to face physical violence at the community level by parents and guardians than boys (70.7 percent). Girl children also have a higher tendency of facing physical violence by the neighbour (29.4 percent) and close relatives (16.5 percent) compared to the boys (27.0 percent and 14.3 percent, respectively). On the other hand, and boys have a comparatively higher tendency of facing physical violence by senior children (33.6 percent), teachers (31.5 percent), unknown persons (22.6 percent), friends (4.9 percent), adult colleagues (4.3 percent) and employers (3.1 percent) compared to the girl children (8.6 percent, 15.5 percent, 11.8 percent, 2.1 percent, 3.7 percent and 1.6 percent respectively). Other than that, 3.0 percent boys and 1.1 percent girls reported that they faced physical violence by members of law enforcing agencies.

Table 4.2.3.a: Perpetrators of Violence at the Community Level												
	Physical violence			Emotional violence			Eve teasing			Sexual Violence		
	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total
Parents/guardian	70.7	78.3	74.2	75.1	75.3	75.2						
Neighbor	27.0	29.4	28.1	34.2	33.3	33.7		42.5	42.5	36.5	38.7	37.7
Teacher	31.5	15.5	24.0	14.2	24.3	19.2		5.0	5.0	16.7	32.5	25.4
Close relative	14.3	16.5	15.3	14.8	15.6	15.2		10.7	10.7	17.6	36.5	28.0
Unknown person	22.6	11.8	17.6	16.3	10.6	13.5		53.1	53.1	47.6	34.4	40.3
Senior children	33.6	8.6	22.0					22.0	22.0	17.4	17.1	17.2
Siblings	5.4	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.2	5.3						
Employer	3.1	1.6	2.4	3.5	1.7	2.6						
Adult colleague	4.3	3.7	4.0	44.1	16.2	30.4		4.9	4.9	10.9	5.6	8.0
Shop keeper	3.2	3.7	3.4	2.9	3.3	3.1		18.6	18.6	10.1	11.6	10.9
Classmates				.4	.9	.7		3.3	3.3	7.1	1.8	4.2
Husband		.3	.1		.5	.3						
Friends	4.9	2.1	3.6	3.4	2.1	2.8		2.9	2.9	7.2	4.1	5.5
Members of the law enforcing agencies	3.0	1.1	2.1	3.3	1.3	2.3		3.5	3.5	1.3	0.8	1.0
House owner								.4	.4			
Stepfather								.1	.1			
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>		<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

More than three quarters (75.2 percent) of their children had been subjected to emotional violence at the community level by parents and guardians. Apart from that, slightly less than one-third (33.7 percent) of children were inflicted by emotional violence by neighbours, slightly less than one-third (30.4 percent) by adult colleagues, slightly less than one-fifth (19.2 percent) by teachers, slightly more than one-tenth (15.2 percent) by close relatives, and 13.5 percent by unknown individuals. It is worth noting that boys experienced emotional violence at the hands of adult colleagues (44.1 percent), neighbours (34.2 percent), and unknown people (16.3 percent), compared to girls (16.1 percent, 33.3 percent and 10.6 percent). In comparison to

boys, girls are more likely to face emotional violence from parents and guardians (75.3 percent), teachers (24.3 percent), and shopkeepers (3.3 percent) compared to the boys (75.1 percent, 14.2 percent and 2.9 percent respectively). Other than that, 3.3 percent boys and 1.3 percent girls reported that they faced emotional violence by members of law enforcing agencies.

Over half (53.1 percent) of girls reported being subjected to **eve-teasing** at the community level by an unknown person, slightly less than half (42.5 percent) by a neighbour, more than a fifth (22.0 percent) by senior children, and 18.6 percent by shopkeepers. Other than that, 3.5 percent girls reported that were member of law enforcing agencies as perpetrators of eve-teasing.

Over a third (40.3 percent) of children were informed that they had been subjected **to sexual violence** at the community level by unknown individuals, neighbours (37.7 percent), close relatives (28.0 percent), and teachers (25.4 percent). Apart from that, less than one-fifth (17.2 percent) of children were informed about senior children shopkeepers, slightly more than one-tenth (10.9 percent) by adult colleagues. It is worth noting that boys had a significantly higher likelihood of being subjected to sexual violence by an unknown person (47.6 percent) than female children (34.4 percent). Boys are also more likely than girls to face sexual violence from adult colleagues (10.9 percent), friends (7.2 percent), and members of law enforcement agencies (1.3 percent) compared to girl children (5.6 percent, 4.1 percent and 0.8 percent). In comparison to boys, girls were more likely to face sexual violence from neighbours (38.7 percent), close relatives (36.5 percent), and teachers (32.5 percent) compared to girls (38.7 percent, 36.5 percent and 32.5 percent).

**The perpetrator of Violence at Workplace:** According to the survey (Table 4.2.4.a), more than half (58.0 percent) of children had been informed that they faced physical violence at the hands of coworkers and employers (49.0 percent). Besides that, nearly one-fifth of children (17.2 percent) reported workplace violence perpetrated by family members of employers, security guards (15.6 percent), and supervisors (15.3 percent).

	Physical violence			Emotional violence			Sexual victimization		
	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total
Employer	52.2	43.9	49.0	52.8	42.4	48.2	19.4	33.6	26.0
Wife of Employer	13.6	14.6	14.0	15.8	12.5	14.4			
Husband of Employer	7.0	3.5	5.6	4.3	2.0	3.3		9.5	4.5
Other family members of employer	15.8	19.3	17.2	13.4	16.1	14.6	20.0	13.1	16.8
Colleague	60.7	53.8	58.0	61.8	46.3	54.9	38.7	57.7	47.6
Supervisor	16.5	13.5	15.3	15.8	13.7	14.9	26.5	6.6	17.1
Security guard in workplace	15.4	15.8	15.6	18.3	21.2	19.6	2.6	33.6	17.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

It was discovered that more than half (60.7 percent) of the boys had been subjected to **physical violence** by coworkers, employers (52.2 percent), and supervisors (16.5 percent). In comparison to boys, girls were more likely to face physical violence from other family members (19.3 percent) and employer's wives (14.6 percent) than boys (15.8 percent and 13.6 percent, respectively).

Over half (54.9 percent) of the children had been informed by colleagues that they faced **emotional violence** on the job. Apart from that, children reported their employer (48.2 percent), security guards (19.6 percent), supervisors (14.9 percent), employer's family members (14.6 percent), and employer's wife (14.6 percent) (14.4 percent). Boys were found

to be more likely to face emotional violence from colleagues (61.8 percent), employers (52.8 percent), supervisors and employers' wives (15.8 percent respectively), and employers' husbands (4.3 percent), compared to girls (46.3 percent, 42.8 percent, 13.7 percent, 12.5 percent and 2.0 percent respectively). In comparison to boys, girls were more likely to face emotional violence from security guards (21.2 percent) and family members of employers (16.1 percent) than boys (18.3 percent and 13.4 percent, respectively).

When children were questioned about workplace **sexual violence**, less than half (47.6 percent) of them stated that they had been subjected to sexual violence by coworkers, more than a quarter (26.0 percent), the employer, the supervisor and security guard (17.1 percent), and family members of employers (16.8 percent). In comparison to girls, boys are more likely to face sexual violence from a colleague (26.5 percent) and family members of employers (20 percent) than girls (6.6 percent and 13.1 percent, respectively). When compared to boys, girls were more likely to face sexual violence from colleagues (57.7 percent), employers, and security guards (33.6 percent) than boys (38.7 percent, 19.4 and 2.6 percent, respectively).

**The perpetrator of Violence at NGO Managed program where children stay and take service:** According to the survey (Table 4.2.4.a), nearly two-thirds (65.6 percent) of children reported experiencing **physical violence** at the Institutions where they reside, with more than half (56.3 percent) of them reported by elder children and more than a third (37.5 percent) reported by institution staff members. It is worth noting that girls were more likely to face physical violence from children their age (66.7 percent) than boys (50.0 percent).

<b>Table 4.2.4.a: Perpetrators of Violence at NGO Managed program where children stay and take services</b>									
	<b>Physical violence</b>			<b>Emotional violence</b>			<b>Sexual Violence</b>		
	<b>Boy</b>	<b>Girl</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Boy</b>	<b>Girl</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Boy</b>	<b>Girl</b>	<b>Total</b>
Head of the institution					3.0	2.6			
Service-providing officers/ employees of the institution		40.0	37.5	60.0	48.5	50.0		25.0	25.0
Guests coming to the institution	100.0		6.3	20.0	6.1	7.9			
Children of the same age staying in the institution	50.0	66.7	65.6	60.0	54.5	55.3		75.0	75.0
Older children staying in the institution		60.0	56.3		63.6	55.3		75.0	75.0
Security guards		6.7	6.3		6.1	5.3		12.5	12.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>		<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Over half (55.3 percent) of the children had been informed that they were subjected to **emotional violence** by peers and elder children. Apart from that, half (50.0 percent) of them had experienced emotional violence at the hands of institution staff members. It has been discovered that boys are more likely to face emotional violence from children their age (60.0 percent) than girls (54.5 percent). Boys also face a disproportionately higher rate of emotional violence from institution staff (60.0 percent) and guests (20.0 percent), compared to girls (48.5 percent and 6.3 percent, respectively).

Girls have exclusively report about **sexual violence** in the institution level where they take service and stay. Girls reported they endured sexual violence from the same age and older children (75.0 percent). Apart from that, one-fourth (25.0 percent) of the girls reported experiencing sexual violence at the hands of staff members and security guards (12.5 percent) of the institutions.

**The perpetrator of Violence at Street Level:** When children living on the street were questioned about the perpetrator of **physical violence** (Table 4.2.5.a), less than three-quarters (71.8 percent) stated that they had been subjected to physical violence by an unknown person, more than half (58.1 percent) stated that they had been subjected to physical violence by senior children, nearly one-fifth (19.5 percent) stated that they had been subjected to physical violence by an employer or colleague, and nearly one-tenth (8.1 percent) stated that they had been subjected to physical violence by shopkeepers and close relative respectively 7.4 percent neighbours and 2.7 percent members of the law enforcement agency. Here is to note that 0.7 percent of the children mentioned teacher and 0.3 percent of the children mentioned siblings and husbands respectively as the perpetrator of physical violence. It is worth noting that girls (14.7 percent) are more likely than boys to face physical violence from shopkeepers on the street (3.0 percent). Additionally, girls were more likely to face physical violence from neighbours (12.4 percent), and close relatives (9.3 percent) than boys (3.6 percent, and 7.1 percent respectively). Boys were more likely to be subjected to physical violence by an unknown person (76.3 percent) than girls (65.9 percent). Boys were also more likely to face physical violence from senior children (71.6 percent), members of law enforcing agencies (32.0 percent) and their employer or coworkers (23.1 percent) than girls (40.3 percent 14.7 percent, and 11.6 percent respectively).

Table 4.2.5.a: Perpetrators of Violence of Street children									
	Physical violence			Emotional violence			Sexual Violence		
	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total
Members of law enforcement agencies	32.0	11.6	23.2	19.4	11.5	15.9	1.9	4.4	3.2
Neighbor	3.6	12.4	7.4	3.6	14.6	8.5	7.5	15.8	11.8
Teacher	1.2		.7	.6	1.5	1.0			
Relative	7.1	9.3	8.1	2.4	8.5	5.1	26.2	17.5	21.7
Unknown person	76.3	65.9	71.8	69.7	57.7	64.4	37.4	65.8	52.0
Senior children	71.6	40.3	58.1				38.3	32.5	35.3
Siblings		.8	.3		2.3	1.0			
Employer/colleague	23.1	14.7	19.5	92.1	69.2	82.0	37.4	9.6	23.1
Shop keeper	3.0	14.7	8.1	11.5	15.4	13.2	16.8	22.8	19.9
Husband		.8	.3		.8	.3			
Friends	7.1	7.0	7.0	2.4	6.2	4.1	4.7	.9	2.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

However, more than three quarters (82.0 percent) of street children had been informed that they faced **emotional violence** at the hands of their employer or coworkers. Apart from that, nearly two-thirds (64.4 percent) of children living on the street reported being subjected to emotional violence by an unknown person, less than one-fifth (15.9 percent) mentioned members of law enforcement agencies, more than one-tenth (13.2 percent) of them mentioned the shopkeeper, nearly one-tenth (8.5 percent) mentioned the neighbour, 5.1 percent mentioned close relatives, and 4.1 percent mentioned friends. It is worth noting that 1.0 percent of children named their teacher and siblings perpetrators of emotional violence, respectively, while 0.3 percent of children named their husbands the perpetrators of emotional violence. In comparison to boys, girls were more likely to face emotional violence from shopkeepers (15.4 percent) and neighbours (14.6 percent) compared to boys (11.5 percent, and 3.6 percent, respectively). Additionally, girls were more likely to face emotional violence from close relatives (8.5 percent) and friends (6.2 percent). Boys were more likely to face emotional violence from their employer or coworkers (92.1 percent) than girls (69.2 percent). Boys also had a higher likelihood of being subjected to emotional violence by an unknown person (69.7 percent) than girls (57.7 percent).

Among street children, more than half (52.0 percent) reported being subjected to **sexual violence** by an unknown person, more than a third (35.3 percent) reported being subjected to sexual violence by senior children, nearly a quarter (23.1 percent) reported being subjected to sexual violence by their employer/colleagues, more than a fifth (21.7 percent) reported being subjected to sexual violence by a close relative, and nearly one-fifth (19.9 percent) reported being subjected to sexual violence by shop keepers. Children also mentioned 11.8 percent neighbours and 3.2 percent as members of law enforcement agencies as perpetrators of sexual violence. Additionally, while 2.7 percent identified friend as the perpetrator. In comparison to boys, girls were more likely to face sexual violence from unknown persons (65.8 percent) and shopkeepers (22.8 percent) compared to boys (37.4 percent and 16.8 percent, respectively). Additionally, girls are more likely to face sexual violence from neighbours (15.8 percent) than boys 7.5 percent). In comparison to girls, boys are more likely to face sexual violence from senior children (38.3 percent) and relatives (26.2 percent) than girls (32.5 percent and 17.5 percent, respectively).

### 4.3. EXPOSURE AND EXPERIENCES OF CHILDREN REGARDING PORNOGRAPHY

A study that interrelated pornography and sexual victimization of women shows that their abusers had used pornography as the mode of grooming them into sexual abuse.<sup>1</sup> From that point of view, this study also raise a concern for the children’s exposure to pornography. It is found (Table 4.3.1.a) that more than one-third of the children (34.0 percent) of children has watched pornography. It is also alarming to note that more than three quarter of children with mobile phone with internet connection have watched pornography. The study marked that children had their first exposure to pornography with friends, relatives, and non-relatives. It is alarming to note that more than a quarter (26.0 percent) of girls reported watching pornography with relatives, while more than a tenth (14.4 percent) reported watching pornography with non-relatives. This fact and figure raise serious concerns about the increased risk of sexual abuse for this group of children who have watched and continue to watch pornography with adult accomplices.

#### 4.3.1. Experience with Pornography, Place and Accompanier

Table 4.4.1a table reveals that more than one-third of the children (34.0 percent) had reported having experience watching pornography. Among these children, it is observed that more boys (36.3 percent) had watched pornography than girls (31.6 percent).

According to Table 4.3.1.b, about three quarters (75.1 percent) of children who have mobile phones with Internet access reported watching pornography. It is observed that more boys (77.8 percent) with a mobile phone with the Internet viewed pornography than girls (72.1 percent).

Exposure and experiences of children regarding pornography						
	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Table 4.3.1.a.</b> Children who have watched Pornography	922	36.3	808	31.6	1730	34.0
<b>Table 4.3.1.b.</b> Children watched Pornography with mobile phone and Internet	748	77.8	609	72.1	1357	75.1
<b>Table 4.3.1c: First Experience with Pornography (Accompanier) (H06)</b>						
Friends	603	65.4	429	53.1	1032	59.7
Relatives	247	26.8	210	26.0	457	26.4
Non-relatives	32	3.5	116	14.4	148	8.6
Alone	40	4.3	38	4.7	78	4.5
Husband			11	1.4	11	0.6
Client			4	0.5	4	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>808</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1730</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Table 4.3.1.d: First Experience with Pornography (Place) (H03)</b>						
Own house	277	30.0	281	34.8	558	32.3
Hotel/client's place			24	3.0	24	1.4
Friend's/Neighbor's/relative's house	462	50.1	392	48.5	854	49.4
Cyber café	87	9.4	10	1.2	97	5.6
Shelter home	9	1.0	28	3.5	37	2.1
At roadside	72	7.8	40	5.0	112	6.5
Workplace	2	0.2	4	0.5	6	0.3
Classroom	1	0.1	2	0.2	3	0.2
Cinema hall			2	0.2	2	0.1
Private corner	12	1.3	25	3.1	37	2.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>808</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1730</b>	<b>100</b>

<sup>1</sup> Exploring the Connection Between Pornography and Sexual Violence, Raquel Kennedy Bergen; Kathleen A. Bogle, *Violence and Victims*, Volume: 15 Issue: 3 Dated: Fall 2000

It is also found that more than half (59.7 percent) of the children had reported that they first experienced pornography with friends. In some cases, children had their first experience with pornography with relatives (27.4 percent) and non-relatives (8.6 percent). Only 4.5 percent of children had watched pornography alone. More boys (65.4 percent) had watched pornography with friends than girls (53.1 percent). It is alarming to note that more than a quarter (26.0 percent) of girls had watched pornography with relatives and 14.4 percent with non-relatives.

When enquired about the place where they first watched pornography (Table 4.3.1.d), around half (49.4 percent) of the children had watched pornography at their friend's/neighbor's/relative's house. Other noticeable places of watching pornography were own home (32.3 percent), at the roadside (6.5 percent), cyber cafe (5.6 percent) and quiet corners of the areas (2.1 percent). Girls who were involved in sex work (1.4 percent) also viewed pornography at residential hotels. It is also found that more girls (34.8 percent) had watched pornography in their home than the boys (30.0 percent), but more boys (50.1 percent) had watched it in friend's/neighbor's/relative's house than the girls (48.5 percent). Girls (3.1 percent) had watched pornography in quiet corners of the areas than the boys (1.3 percent).

#### 4.3.2: Initiator of Viewing Pornography

When children were asked regarding the initiator of watching pornography (Table 4.3.2), it was found that in more than half (59.2 percent) cases, friends were the first initiator of watching pornography. Other initiators were relatives (27.6 percent), non-relatives (8.4 percent) and own self (3.9 percent). It is to be noted that a negligible number of girl children (0.6 percent) only mentioned husband and client (0.2 percent) as the initiators of watching pornography. It was also found that more boys (64.8 percent) had mentioned friends as the initiator of watching pornography than girls (53.0 percent). It is noted that nearly same numbers of both boys (27.7 percent) and girls (27.5 percent) had mentioned relatives, and girls mentioned nonrelatives (14.2 percent) more than boys (3.3 percent).

Exposure and experiences of children regarding pornography						
	Boy		Girl		Total	
	0.3N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Table 4.3.2: Initiator of Viewing Pornography (H05)</b>						
Friends	597	64.8	428	53.0	1025	59.2
Relatives	255	27.7	222	27.5	477	27.6
Non-relatives	30	3.3	115	14.2	145	8.4
Own self	40	4.3	28	3.5	68	3.9
Husband			11	1.4	11	0.6
Client			4	0.5	4	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>808</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1730</b>	<b>100</b>

#### 4.3.3. Mode of Acquiring Pornography

Table 4.3.3.a depict that more than half of the children (59.4 percent) mentioned that they only see pornography through the help of others. Less than one-third (29.9 percent) of the children had acquired pornography by downloading into the mobile phone from the internet. Children also acquired pornography by buying from the servicing centres via mobile memory card (3.4 percent), by downloading it into the computer (2.7 percent), borrow from friends or known people (2.6 percent) and buy from CD shops or other shops (2.1 percent). More boys (41.3 percent) had acquired pornography by downloading into a mobile phone than girls (17.0 percent), and more boys (4.1 percent) were found to be downloading pornography into the computer than girls (1.0 percent). On the other hand, more than three quarter (76.5 percent) of girls had collected pornography with the help of others as well as they (3.3 percent) borrowed it from others.

Exposure and experiences of children regarding pornography						
	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Table 4.3.3.a: Mode of Acquiring Pornography (H07)</b>						
Seen through the help of others	409	44.4	618	76.5	1027	59.4
Downloaded into mobile from internet	381	41.3	137	17.0	518	29.9
Downloaded into computer from internet	38	4.1	8	1.0	46	2.7
Buy from CD shops or other shops	30	3.3	6	0.7	36	2.1
From the store via mobile memory card	46	5.0	12	1.5	58	3.4
Borrow from friends or known people	18	2.0	27	3.3	45	2.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>808</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1730</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Table 4.3.3.b: Children acquire pornography with the help of others (H08)</b>						
	58	11.3	86	45.3	144	20.5
<b>Table 4.3.3.c: Person who help children to acquire pornography (H09)</b>						
Friends	39	67.2	60	69.8	99	68.8
Relatives	21	36.2	22	25.6	43	29.9
Non-relatives	3	5.2	16	18.6	19	13.2
Broker			1	1.2	1	0.7
Clients			2	2.3	2	1.4
Husband			6	7.0	6	4.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 4.3.3.b shows that about one-fifth of the children (20.5 percent) had acquired pornography with the help of others. More girl children (45.3 percent) had acquired pornography with the help of others than boy children (11.3 percent), and the rest of them did it by themselves.

Table 4.3.3.c depict, in most cases (68.8 percent), friends had helped to acquire pornography. Other than that, children acquired pornography with the help of relatives (29.9 percent), non-relatives (13.2 percent), husbands (4.2 percent), clients (1.4 percent), brokers (0.7 percent). More girls (69.8 percent) had acquired pornography with the help of their friends and non-relatives (18.6 percent) than the boys (67.2percent 5.2 percent respectively). It is also noted that more boys (36.2 percent) had collected pornography with the help of relatives than girls (25.6 percent).

#### 4.3.4. Risks involved in Collect Pornography

Even collecting pornography by the children could entice more significant risks of getting into an abusive relationship with adults. It is seen in the study that most of the children had faced various obstacles while collecting pornography, like got caught by others and then being handed over to the family members, getting caught by family members and relatives while collecting pornography and then admonished by them and harassed by shopkeepers. These finding points out that children caught during the collecting process were in a trajectory to walk into a trap of being sexually abused by an adult or even by a minor. In many cases, it has been seen that people who caught children while collecting pornography could play the role of a blackmailer and force the children to get involved in a sexual relationship.

More than two-third (69.1 percent) of the children had informed that (Table 4.3.4.a), they faced difficulties in collecting pornography. More boys (74.5 percent) had experienced trouble while collecting pornography than the girl children (54.7 percent).

Exposure and experiences of children regarding pornography						
	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Table 4.3.4.a:</b> Children face difficulties in collecting pornography (H10)	382	74.5	104	54.7	486	69.1
<b>Table 4.3.4.b: Type of difficulties that children face in collecting pornography (H11)</b>						
Family members see and rebuke	128	33.5	84	80.8	212	43.6
Caught by adults or children and they complain to the family members	309	80.9	73	70.2	382	78.6
Shopkeepers do not want to sell to the children	178	46.6	7	6.7	185	38.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>100.0</b>

When asked about the difficulties children encountered while collecting pornography (Table 4.3.4.b), more than three-quarters (78.6 percent) stated they were caught and then handed over to family members. Other difficulties were admonished by family members (43.6 percent), and shopkeepers created difficulties (35.5 percent). In comparison to boy children, more female children (80.8 percent) reported being admonished by family members for collecting pornography (33.5 percent).

#### 4.3.5. Use of Smartphone and Usage

We should be very cautious about increasing children's digital footprint in the digital world for the sake of their missing opportunities and the digital divide. Anthony Lake, Executive Director, UNICEF, had commented on the risks and opportunities as such, “beyond the harm to individual children that digital technology can enable or abet is its capacity to incite violence on a massive scale that affects the lives and futures of hundreds of thousands of children”.<sup>2</sup> While creating access to smartphones and linking the children to the digital world through the internet unmonitored and unsupervised, we are brewing the recipes of that great disaster. In three ways, children are facing risks in the digital world i.e., through content, contacts and conduct. In the real world, the traditional protections system that parents and guardians usually place around children to protect them from exposing them to unacceptable content, unacceptable behaviour and potentially dangerous contacts do not work in the online world.<sup>3</sup>

Among the surveyed children (Table 4.3.5a), more than two-fifth (41.2 percent) of the children use a mobile phone. More boys (45.4 percent) reported using a mobile phone than girls (36.9 percent). Table 4.4.5b shows that more than three-quarters (86.1 percent) of the children with the mobile phone had internet access. More girls (89.5 percent) were informed that they have internet access on mobile phones than the boys (83.3 percent). Nearly half (41.3 percent) of the boys and more than one-tenth (17.0 percent) of girls who watched pornography had reported they downloaded pornography into their smartphones via the internet. The children also reported an alarming fact that their intimate moments with children of the opposite gender had been captured in still and video format by others using a smartphone. Only 2.5 percent of children reported that (Table 4.3.5.d) their pictures containing intimate moments with children of the opposite gender were captured by others. More girls (4.0 percent) had reported that their pictures containing intimate moments with children of the opposite gender were captured by other than the boys (0.9 percent). Only 0.7 percent of children had reported that (Table 4.3.5.f) someone else had captured a video containing intimate moments with children’s friends of the opposite gender. More girls (1.0 percent) had reported that someone else had captured video containing an intimate moment with children’s friends of the opposite gender than the boy children (0.4 percent).

<sup>2</sup> THE STATE OF THE WORLD’S CHILDREN 2017: Children in a Digital World, UNICEF, 2017

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

Exposure and experiences of children regarding Mobile Phone and Internet						
	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Table 4.3.5.a:</b> Children or his/her friend use mobile phone (H12)	1153	45.4	944	36.9	2097	41.2
<b>Table 4.3.5.b:</b> Children or his/her friend have internet on mobile phone (H13)	961	83.3	845	89.5	1806	86.1
<b>Table 4.3.5.c:</b> Anyone else captured pictures containing intimate moments with children's friends of the opposite gender (H15)	24	0.9	101	4.0	125	2.5
<b>Table 4.3.5.f:</b> Anyone else captured video containing an intimate moment with children's friend of the opposite sex (H17)	10	0.4	26	1.0	36	0.7

While the number of children reporting these incidents may be small, it demonstrates a more serious type of threat to which children are exposed in the digital world. These photographs and videos taken by others have frequently gone viral on various social media platforms and streaming sites or have been used as a form of blackmail to obtain sexual favours from the victims. They are exposed as "contents of interests" to very selective groups of sex abusers, i.e., pedophiles.

#### 4.4. NEGLIGENCE OF THE PARENTS

This subsection has used the term "negligent parenting" to describe the type of parenting observed among the study participant. Coercion, as well as bullying, are widely used in the neglectful style of parenting. These negligent parents were emotionally distant from their children and unconcerned in their everyday lives. Negligence of parents and guardians in the family environment and other settings creates a distance among the parents and makes the children isolated, depressed, and distressed, which accelerates the possibility of children being the victim of various types of violence, abuse, and exploitation.

##### 4.4.1. Negligence at Household level

When children were questioned about their relationship with their parents (Table.4.4.1.A), only somewhat more than a quarter (25.7 percent) of the children said they had a friendly relationship with their parents. More boys (29.5 percent) than girls (29.5 percent) admitted experiencing close ties with their parents (21.9 percent). Less than a third of children (31.3 percent) said they had a normal relationship with their parents. In this case, more girls (45.5 percent) than boys (17.0 percent) reported experiencing normal relationships. Almost half of the children (43.1 percent) said their relationship with their parents was conflicted and repressive. It has been shown that more boys (53.5 percent) than girls were reported about conflicted relationships with parents (32,4 percent). Only 0.1 percent of girls said their parents had a repressive relationship with them.

Table.4.4.1.A. Relationship of Children with Parents?						
	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Friendly	732	29.5	542	21.9	1274	25.7
Normal	423	17.0	1127	45.5	1550	31.3
Not good/conflicting	1330	53.5	801	32.4	2131	43.0
Repressive			5	.2	5	.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2485</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2475</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4960</b>	<b>100.0</b>

When their parents were not at home (Table 4.4.1.), over half of the children (45.0 percent) reported that no one looked after them. More boy children (51.8 percent) said being left alone when their parents were not at home (38.3 percent) compared to girl children. When their parents went to work, other people such as relatives, non-relatives, neighbours, and siblings

looked after them. In comparison to boy children, more girl children (45.7 percent) said that their relatives/neighbours cared for them while their parents were away (25.3 percent). It is needless to explain the risks of multiple types of violence that these children could face if they were left alone in the house when their parents were not present. Risks are always there for girl children who were left under the supervision of their neighbours and relatives. The study findings revealed that girls had designated their neighbours and kin as disposer of physical violence as a form of punishments (20.2 percent and 11.9 percent, respectively). Emotional (Neighbor 33.3 percent and close relative 15.6 percent) and sexual violence (Neighbor 38.7 percent and close relative 36.5 percent) by neighbours and family toward girls were similarly prevalent.

	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Nobody	1079	51.8	802	38.3	1881	45.0
Elder siblings	508	24.4	388	18.5	896	21.5
Relatives/Neighbors	528	25.3	956	45.7	1484	35.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>2085</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2092</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4177</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Furthermore, this study revealed that parents' and guardians' assessments of neighbours and relatives were flawed; according to the parents' list of physical punishment bearers, neighbours and relatives were not included, but they were on the children's list. Neighbours and relatives have been accused of inflicting various forms of violence on children. It also highlights parents' shortsightedness when it comes to their children's safety, as well as their limited involvement in their child's wellbeing.

**The practice of Advising Children by Parents:** Table 4.4.1.a highlights the parent's practice of advising their children. One of the cornerstones of healthy parenting is face-to-face communication. A two-way communication process is initiated by face-to-face interaction, allowing both children and parents to comprehend each other's needs, wishes, ideas, feelings, motivations, and goals. Face-to-face communication has the advantage of creating a discursive environment where everyone may express their opinions and ideas clearly. At the same time, the information is processed among them to arrive at a synthesis. According to the findings of this research (Table 4.5.1.a), most parents (91.4 percent) said they talked to their children regularly and gave them advice on various subjects.

	Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Have advice related talks between parents and Children	49	92.5	47	90.4	96	91.4
	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	2127	86.0	2166	87.2	4293	86.6
No	347	14.0	318	12.8	665	13.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2474</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2484</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4958</b>	<b>100.0</b>

When enquired to surveyed children and parents (Table 4.4.1.a), less than the parents (91.4 percent) but more than three-quarters (86.6 percent) of the children had reported that they took advice from their parents and guardians. It is revealed that more than three quarter (87.2 percent) of girl children and nearer to the same number of boys (86.0 percent) had taken advice from their parents/guardians.

Table 4.4.1.b. Issues of Advice Given by Parents to Children (F02)						
	Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Children's education	45	91.8	38	80.9	83	86.5
Children's future	42	85.7	33	70.2	75	78.1
Children's behaviour parents and adults in the family	22	44.9	12	25.5	34	35.4
Children's behaviour with young children			2	4.3	2	2.1
Children's behaviour with neighbours			1	2.1	1	1.0
About religious practices	17	34.7	6	12.8	23	24.0
Children's socialization with friends	7	14.3	6	12.8	13	13.5
Children's participation in household activities			8	17.0	8	8.3
Children's participation in various social events, including sports	1	2.0			1	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100.0</b>

When enquired about the areas of advice that parents give to their children (Table 4.4.1.b), more than three quarter (86.5percent) of the parents had reported that they advised their children regarding their education, more than three-quarters of them (78.1 percent) advised on their future, more than one-third of them (35.4 percent) advised their behaviour with parents and adults in the family and nearer to a quarter (24.0 percent) of them advised on religious affairs. More male parents (91.8percent) advised their children's education than female parents (80.9 percent). More male parents (85.7 percent) also reported that they advised their children's future than female parents (70.2 percent).

**Parenting Style and Practices:** When parents were asked about their parenting style (Table 4.4.1.c), it was discovered that a large percentage of them were more control-oriented, meaning they were more concerned with their knowledge of their children's movement, school performance, and whom their children were hanging out with. When it came to advising or collaboratively planning their children's futures, the majority of parents found themselves distant. A small percentage of parents admitted that their children discussed critical decisions with them before making them. Only a tiny percentage of parents were found to be child-centric, praising their children when they did something correctly (16.2 percent) and wanting to know why they made mistakes (16.2 percent).

Table 4.4.1.c. Type of parenting practices of the parents (F10)						
	Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
I know who the child is with even if they are not at home	31	58.5	42	80.8	73	69.5
Ask the child about school, work and friends	30	56.6	24	46.2	54	51.4
The children take our advice in making the critical decision	17	32.1	10	19.2	27	25.7
Discuss with the child his future	25	47.2	15	28.8	40	38.1
Praise the children when they do something right	9	17.0	8	15.4	17	16.2
Want to know the reason behind the mistake	5	9.4	12	23.1	17	16.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Leisure time spending with children:** Table 4.4.1.d. depict that less than one-third (32.4 percent) of the parents had informed that they tell stories or read storybooks while spending leisure time with their children, more than one-fourth of them spend leisure time with their children by teaching moral values and go outing (32.4 percent and 28.6 percent respectively). More than a quarter (25.7 percent) of the parents reported not having any leisure time with their children. More female parents (32.7 percent) reported not having leisure time with their children than male parents (18.9 percent).

	Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Playing games	11	20.8	5	9.6	16	15.2
Tell stories or read story books to children	23	43.4	11	21.2	34	32.4
Sing songs, recite or read rhymes or poems	2	3.8	3	5.8	5	4.8
Tutoring	12	22.6	16	30.8	28	26.7
Teaching moral values	18	34.0	12	23.1	30	28.6
Go to outing	22	41.5	12	23.1	34	32.4
Gossiping	7	13.2	4	7.7	11	10.5
Don't have any time	10	18.9	17	32.7	27	25.7
By watching TV	1	1.9	2	3.8	3	2.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Children's Experiences having a regular discussion with their parents/guardians:** Discussion and guidance are value-added terms and sometimes designate one-way communication. When asked about the topics of discussion and advice that parents give to their children, it was found in the study that the most common topics of discussion and advice were education, plans for the future, behaviour with parents and other family members, and matters of religion. Moreover, the areas of regular guidance were more objective than subjective. While guidance and advice are focused primarily on education, future, behaviour, and religious matters, other critical issues such as self and personality development, which includes socialisation with friends, life skill-related difficulties such as communication skills, and participation in various social events, including sports, receive less attention. When children were asked regarding having a regular discussion with their parents and guardians (Table 4.4.1.e), more than half (62.7 percent) of the children had reported having a regular discussion with father, more than three quarter (81.5 percent) with mother and only 12.3percent of the children informed that they have regular discussion with guardian. In all three cases, boys have more regular discussions with their parents and guardians than girls. It is noted that comparatively, girls have more regular discussions with their mother (78.5 percent) but less discussion with their father (51.1 percent) and guardians (7.1 percent).

	Discussion between Father and Child			Discussion between Mother and Child			Discussion between Guardian and Child		
	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total
<b>Table 4.4.1.e</b> Children have got any advice from parents and guardian	72.2	53.2	62.7	83.8	79.1	81.5	16.5	8.2	12.3
<b>Table 4.4.1.f. Issues of discussion</b>									
Children's education	90.8	88.7	89.9	79.2	73.9	76.6	78.6	42.2	66.4
Children's future	66.1	54.7	61.2	57.6	56.5	57.1	72.5	32.4	59.1
Children's behavior with parents and adults in the family	45.7	37.8	42.4	45.9	37.4	41.8	52.6	32.4	45.8
Children's behavior with young children	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.6	.4	0.2	1.5	0.7
Children's behavior with neighbors	1.7	1.0	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.7	2.5	2.0
About religious practices	12.2	12.7	12.4	17.8	17.4	17.6	20.4	27.5	22.7
Children's socialization with friends	19.6	14.8	17.5	21.9	20.3	21.1	32.2	19.1	27.8
Children's participation in household activities	1.1	5.1	2.8	1.3	19.7	10.3	0.7	20.6	7.4
Children's participation in various social events including sports	0.2	3.1	1.4	0.6	6.3	3.4	0.2	7.8	2.8
Advised for not going far away from home	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.2		0.5	0.2
Advised for not committing detrimental activities	0.2		0.1	0.2		0.1			
Advised for not staying outside at night	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1			
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

When children were inquired about the topic of regular discussion (Table 4.4.1.f), more than three-quarters (88.9 percent) of the children had informed they discussed their education,

more than half (61.2 percent) informed that they talk about their future, and more than two-fifth (42.4 percent) of the children informed that they had discussed behaviour/attitude/manners with their father. When children were enquired about their topic of regular discussion (Table 4.5.1.f) with their mother, Other than education, future, and behaviour, children had reported that they discussed regarding their socialization with friends (17,6 percent), about religious practices (17,6 percent) and their participation in household activities (10.3 percent). It is found that their father had discussed more with the girls about religious practices (12.7 percent), their participation in household activities (5.1 percent) and participation in various social events, including sports (3.1 percent) more than the boys (12.2 percent, 1.1 percent and 0.2 percent respectively). It was found that mothers had also discussed household activities with the girls (19.7 percent) more than the boys (1.3 percent).

When children were enquired about the topic of regular discussion with their guardians (Table 4.5.1.f), more than two-thirds of the children (66.4 percent) had informed that they talked about their education, less than two-thirds of them (59.1 percent) about their future and more than half (45.8 percent) of them had informed that their guardians talked with them regarding behaviour/attitude/manner. Discrimination against girls is found to be ingrained in their parenting style, which perpetuates gender inequality and subjugation. As illustrated in Table 4.5.1.j, it's worth noting that, while both parents discuss family chores, religious matters, and their daughters' involvement in social, cultural, and sports activities with their daughters, both mother and father discuss every other subject with their sons except what they discussed with their daughter.

#### **4.4.2. Parents and Guardians' Negligence at the Community level**

Another concerning issue is that many children had reported being subjected to violence by known and unknown individuals in the community and elsewhere. Following discussion and statistics in this subsection reveals the parents' lack of monitoring and supervision for their children. As we saw in the previous discussion, due to their detachment from their children, many parents were not communicating with their children daily about their well-being or advising them on proper life skills and self-protection strategies for avoiding harm in places where children frequently congregate. According to the study's findings, children were less observed and controlled by parents outside educational institutes by their parents and guardians. It could be because parents see education as a way for their children to break through the socioeconomic barrier, they are currently locked in.

At the community level, the important areas of parents' and guardians' follow-up and monitoring of children is shown in Table 4.4.2.b. According to the parents, more than a third (31.4 percent) of them admitted that no one follows up and observes their children's whereabouts and whom they meet at the community level, more than two-fifths (40.0 percent) of them admitted that no one follows up and observes their children's what their children do at the community level, and two-fifths (36.2 percent) of them admitted that no one helps their children when they have difficulties/trouble when roaming around alone, and two-fifths (40.0 percent) admitted that no one supports them when their children have a confrontation with adults in the community.

Observation and supervision of Parents within the Community				
Parents-F05 Children-G27	Follow-up and observe their children's whereabouts and whom their children meet at the community level	follow-up and observe what the children are doing at the community level	Assist their children while their children face difficulties/trouble while children roaming around	when children have a conflict with adults within the community
	Parents	Parents	Parents	Parents
Table 4.4.2.b. Who Follow-up and supervise				
Nobody	31.4	40.0	36.2	40.0

#### 4.4.3. Parents and Guardians' Negligence at the Educational Institution Level

Table 4.4.3.b indicates the focus area of parents and guardians' follow-up and monitoring of children in educational institutions. According to the parents, less than one-tenth (5.7 percent) of them admitted that no one followed up and monitored their children's academic progress in school, less than one-fifth (17.1 percent) of them admitted that no one followed up with teachers about their children's school performance, and more than one-quarter (23.8 percent) of them admitted that no one aided or assisted their children's education.

4.5.3. Observation and Monitoring Regarding Children's Education				
Parents-F03 Children-E06	Follow-up and monitor Study	Follow-up with teachers regarding child's performance at school	Aide or Assistance to child's education	Aide or provide support to resolving conflict between child and classmates and others
	Parents	Parents	Parents	Parents
Table 4.4.3.b. Who Follow-up and supervise				
Nobody	5.7	17.1	23.8	24.8

#### 4.4.4. Parents and Guardians' Negligence at Workplace Level

Table 4.4.4.b illustrates how parents and guardians monitor and follow up on their children's jobs and working conditions. According to the parents, less than a third (28.6 percent) admitted that no one followed up and monitored the types of work and whereabouts of their children's workplaces, less than half (47.6 percent) admitted that no one received the owner's complaint about the children's work and behaviour, less than half (49.5 percent) admitted that no one aided and supported the children when problems arose in the workplace. More than half (51.4 percent) admitted that no one helped or supported resolving conflict between child and co-worker.

Follow-up and Monitoring Regarding Children's Working Conditions					
Parents-F04 Children-I11	Types of work and where about of the workplace	Visit the Children's Workplace to Check the Nature of the work	Whom Owner complain about Children's work and Behaviour	Who Comes to Aide and to Provide Support if Problem Arise in the Workplace	Aide or to provide support to resolve the conflict between child and colleagues
	Parents	Parents	Parents	Parents	Parents
Table 4.4.4b: Who Follow-up and supervise					
Nobody	28.6	47.6	47.6	49.5	51.4

#### 4.5. REPORTING OF VIOLENCE

The primary reasons for non-reporting violent incidents are shame, apprehension, a lack of understanding of violence, and safe reporting places and trustworthy persons. Fear and shame account for 61.7 percent of sexual violence non-reporting, while physical and emotional violence accounts for 51.1 percent and 43.0 percent, respectively.

The girls had found to be reported less in every type of violence than the boys. It was found that more than half (62.8 percent) of the boys had reported sexual violence to someone than the girl (36.1 percent). In the case of physical and emotional violence, girls had kept incidents of physical (30.4 percent) and emotional violence (33.8 percent) hidden inside them than the boys (5.4 percent and 7.1 percent, respectively). In the case of the boys regarding sexual violence, due to shame they had less reported the incidents to their parents and guardians (37.4 percent) than to the family members of the abuser (48.6 percent). For the physical and emotional violence, the main reasons remain the same, i.e., fear and shame. When enquired about physical violence, more than half (51.1 percent) of the children had specified that they did not report physical violence because of fear and shame to complain to their parents or guardians. Their other reasons were no idea about where to complain outside the family (39.3 percent), fear of being further bullied (12.1 percent), threat (10.2 percent) and abusers were influential. The reason apart from fear and shame, regarding sexual violence, are at that time they did not understand that it was abuse (52.7 percent), threat (30.1 percent), abuser did it under the pretext of affection/love (16.2 percent) and did not know where to complain outside the family (15.6 percent). In many cases, boys had reported to local leaders, religious leaders, LEB members, which indicates that due to their mobility, they have access to local power structure from which girls are still comparatively excluded.

#### **4.5.1. To Whom Children Report**

Table 4.6.A. illustrates the reporting practices of children regarding the violence they endure in their daily lives. One of the interesting findings of this study is that regarding sexual violence, a small number of children had seen to report (only 48.1 percent) when compared to physical and emotional violence (82.0 percent and 79.5 percent, respectively). Table 4.5.1.a depict that more than three quarter (82.0 percent) of the children had notified that they had reported physical violence and more than three quarter (79.5 percent) about emotional violence against them to someone. In both cases, almost all the boys had reported to someone about physical and emotional violence (94.6 percent and 92.9 percent respectively) than the girls (69.6 percent and 66.2 percent, respectively).

Parents and guardians are the key persons to whom children report the violence they endure. Other sources include people in their immediate surroundings whom they believe can address the incidents and protect children from future occurrences. Additionally, the study discovered that the rate of reporting to parents and guardians is highly dependent on the type of violence experienced by children. Most of the children (93.1 percent) had informed that (Table 4.5.1b), they reported to their parents or guardian about physical violence. Other than that, they also had reported to relatives (26.9 percent), friends or neighbours (21.6 percent) and senior children (12.0 percent). For the girls, parents or guardians (87.0 percent), relatives (22.3 percent), friends and neighbours (11.9 percent) are the usual persons whom they had reported incidents of physical abuse. Other than the parents or guardians (97.7 percent). Boys had reported more to friends or neighbours (28.8 percent) and senior children (19.3 percent) when compared to girl children (11.9 percent and 2.2 percent, respectively).

More than three-quarters of the children (76.7 percent) had been informed that they reported the incidents to parents or guardians regarding emotional abuse. Other than that, they also had reported to relatives (34.2 percent), friends or neighbours (15.7 percent), senior children (11.9 percent) and local elites (9.0 percent). More boy children had reported to parents or guardians (82.5 percent), relatives (41.0 percent), senior children (17.6 percent) and friends and neighbours (16.9 percent) than the girl children (68.7 percent, 24.7 percent, 3.9 percent and 13.9 percent respectively). It is also marked that more boy children (12.8 percent) report

to the local elite about emotional violence against themselves than the girl children (3.7 percent).

When enquired about their practice regarding reporting sexual violence (Table 4.5.1.c), it was found that more than half (62.8 percent) of the boys had reported the sexual violence to someone than the girl (36.1 percent). About half (50.4 percent) of the children (Table 4.6.1.d) had informed that they reported incidents of sexual violence to their parents or guardians. Other than that, children seek refuge from siblings (36.1 percent), family members of the abuser (30.9 percent), relatives and friends (22.4 percent), management of the institute (14.8 percent) and teacher (13.2 percent). Boys most commonly had shared the incident with siblings (49.6 percent), family members of the abusers (48.6 percent), parents/guardians (37.4 percent), management of the institutes (23.4 percent) and teachers (17.1 percent). For the girls, it is found that they had suited their complaints regarding sexual violence with their parents and guardians (68.9 percent), relatives and friends (34.7 percent), siblings (16.8 percent), members of the elected bodies (6.1 percent) and local elites (2.2 percent). It is interesting to observe that more boys (48.6 percent) had reported to the family members of the abuser about the sexual violence against themselves than the girls (5.8 percent).

<b>Table 4.5.A. Reporting Practices of Children Regarding Violence Against Children</b>						
<b>Table 4.5.1. To Whom Children Report (Physical and Emotional Violence)</b>						
	<b>Physical Violence</b>			<b>Emotional Violence</b>		
	<b>Boy</b>	<b>Girl</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Boy</b>	<b>Girl</b>	<b>Total</b>
Table 4.5.1.a. Children reported about violence against themselves to anybody	94.6	69.6	82.0	92.9	66.2	79.5
<b>Table 4.5.1b: Persons To Whom Children Report (Physical and Emotional Violence)</b>						
Parents/guardian	97.7	87.0	93.1	82.5	68.7	76.7
Relatives	30.4	22.3	26.9	41.0	24.7	34.2
Friends/Neighbors	28.8	11.9	21.6	16.9	13.9	15.7
Local elites	5.2	1.5	3.6	12.8	3.7	9.0
Senior children	19.3	2.2	12.0	17.6	3.9	11.9
Law enforcing agencies	2.0	0.8	1.5	4.5	2.4	3.6
Local government representatives	3.2	0.4	2.0	7.8	0.7	4.8
Local peoples representatives	1.0	0.2	0.6	1.9	0.5	1.3
General people	1.4	1.2	1.3	2.0	1.2	1.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Table 4.5.1.c. To Whom Children Reported about Sexual Violence</b>						
	<b>Boy</b>		<b>Girl</b>		<b>Total</b>	
	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>
Table 4.6.1.c. Children reported to anybody about sexual violence against themselves	516	62.8	363	36.1	879	48.1
<b>Table 4.5.1.d Persons To Whom Children Report about Sexual Violence</b>						
Parents/guardian	193	37.4	250	68.9	443	50.4
Siblings	256	49.6	61	16.8	317	36.1
Relatives and friends	71	13.8	126	34.7	197	22.4
Staff of the institute	121	23.4	9	2.5	130	14.8
Family members of the abuser	251	48.6	21	5.8	272	30.9
Member of the Local Elected Body	30	5.8	22	6.1	52	5.9
Local elites	6	1.2	8	2.2	14	1.6
Teacher	88	17.1	28	7.7	116	13.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>879</b>	<b>100.0</b>

#### 4.5.2. Reasons for Non-Reporting

Shame, apprehension, a lack of understanding of violence, and a lack of trustworthy persons and secure spaces to report are the leading causes for the non-reporting of violent incidents. Table 4.5.B. illustrates the reasons behind the non-reporting of incidents of violence by children that they must endure in their daily lives. The study finding shows that not all incidents of violence against children are being reported. Table 4.5.2.a and Table 4.5.2.c show that non-reporting of sexual abuse cases is far higher (51.9 percent) than the non-reporting cases of physical (18.0 percent) and emotional violence (20.5 percent). It is seen in Table 4.5.2.a that; girls had kept incidents of physical (30.4 percent) and emotional violence (33.8 percent) more into themselves than the boys (5.4 percent and 7.1 percent respectively).

When enquired about the reasons for not reporting to anyone about physical violence (Table 4.5.2.b), more than half (51.1 percent) of the children had specified that they did not report physical violence against because of fear and shame to complain to parents or guardians. Their other reasons for not reporting include no idea about where to complain outside the family (39.3 percent), fear of being further bullied (12.1 percent), threatening (10.2 percent), and abusers were influential (7.4 percent). More boy children (62.3 percent) did not report Physical violence because of fear and shame to complain to parents and guardians than the girl children (49.2 percent). The main reasons for both boys and girls were shame (62.3 and 49.2 percent) and no knowledge of where to complain outside family (33.3 and 40.4 percent). Other vital reasons girls did not report are threats (11.6 percent) and the influence of the abusers (8.4 percent).

Table 4.5.B. Reasons for Non-Reporting (Physical and Emotional Violence)						
	Physical Violence			Emotional Violence		
	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total
Table 4.5.2.a. Children don't reported violence against themselves	5.4	30.4	18.0	7.1	33.8	20.5
Table 4.6.2.b. Reasons for Non-Reporting violence against children (Physical and Emotional Violence)						
Fear and shame to complain to parents/guardian	62.3	49.2	51.1	48.0	41.9	43.0
I do not know where to complain outside the family	33.3	40.4	39.3	26.8	32.2	31.3
Fear of being humiliated to society	3.6	13.6	12.1	.6	14.2	11.9
Abuser were very influential	2.2	8.4	7.4	1.1	9.5	8.1
Due to the threaten of the abuser	2.2	11.6	10.2	2.2	8.9	7.8
Did not find anyone to share the incident	0.7	0.6	0.7	7.8	3.8	4.5
I don't think it necessary	5.8	0.1	1.0	17.3	6.5	8.3
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Reasons for Non-Reporting (Sexual Abuse)						
	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Table 4.5.2.c. Children don't report sexual violence against themselves	306	37.2	642	63.9	948	51.9
Table 4.5.2.d. Reasons for Non-Reporting violence against children Sexual Violence						
	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
I did not understand that it was any abuse	118	38.6	382	59.5	500	52.7
I was afraid and ashamed to inform the parents/guardians	162	52.9	423	65.9	585	61.7
Did not know where to complain outside the family	58	19.0	90	14.0	148	15.6
Threat	99	32.4	186	29.0	285	30.1
The abuser mentally deceived	48	15.7	106	16.5	154	16.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Again, when enquired about the reasons for not reporting to anyone about emotional violence, more than two-fifths (43.0 percent) of the children stated that they did not report emotional violence because of fear and shame to complain to their parents or guardians. Other reasons for not reporting include did not know where to complain outside the family (31.3 percent), fear of being further humiliated in society (11.9 percent), influence of the abuser (8.1 percent) and threat (7.8 percent).

Regarding emotional violence, the main reasons for both boys and girls (48.0 and 41.9 percent, respectively) were shame and did not know where to complain outside the family (26.8 and 32.2 percent, respectively). More boys (48.0 percent) did not report than the girls due to fear and shame to complain to parents or guardians (41.9 percent). Important reasons for girls not to report were fear of being humiliated by society (14.2 percent), the abuser was very influential (9.5 percent) and the threatening of the abuser (8.9 percent).

Regarding reporting of sexual violence (Table 4.5.2c), it is found that more girls (63.9 percent) did not report sexual abuse than boys (37.2 percent). When enquired about the reasons for not reporting to anyone about sexual violence (Table 4.5.2d), less than two-thirds (61.7 percent) of the children stated that they did not report because of shame and were afraid to inform the parents or guardians. Other reasons for not reporting were at that time they did not understand that it was abuse (52.7 percent), threat (30.1 percent), abuser did it under the pretext of affection/love (16.2 percent) and did not know where to complain outside the family (15.6 percent). More girl children (65.9 percent) did not report sexual violence because of shame and were afraid to inform the parents or guardians, at that time, they did not understand that it was abuse (59.5 percent) and were mentally deceived by the abuser (16.5 percent) than the boy children (52.9 percent, 38.6 percent and 15.7 percent).

#### 4.6. FACTORS INFLUENCING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

No statistical model was established and tested against the field data to establish correlations between variables and risk factors behind violence against children. Instead, the primary factors that influence child protection are taken as a framework to analyse the field survey findings to identify the factors of violence against children. These primary factors of child protection include (a) special features or characteristics of the child, (b) social acceptance of physical punishment of children, (c) the levels of personal stress and social or family-related pressures that caregivers experience, (d) the practices of child marriage, and (e) social acceptance of child labour.

##### 4.6.1. Special Features or Characteristics of Child

- **Age and Gender**

According to the survey findings, age and gender play a role in a child's experience of violence. The field findings indicate that as children's ages increase, reporting of violence doubles (45.8 percent), implying that the occurrence of violence multiplies from the age range of 5 – 11 years to the age range of 12 – 14 years (21.4 percent). According to Table 4.6.1.a, the highest level of occurrence of violence occurs among children of both genders at the age of 13.

	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
5 - 11 Years	521	21.7	516	21.1	1037	21.4
12 - 14 Years	1114	46.5	1101	45.1	2215	45.8
15 - 17 Years	762	31.8	823	33.7	1585	32.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>2397</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2440</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4837</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Average age (Year)</b>	<b>13</b>		<b>13</b>		<b>13</b>	
<b>Experience of Violence</b>	<b>49.5 percent</b>		<b>50.4 percent</b>			

We can safely conclude that as girls' ages increase, so does violence in their lives. Boys reported more violent incidents than girls between the age range of 12 - 14 years, but this trend reversed between the ages of 15 - 17 years when girls reported significantly more violent incidents than boys.

- **Disability**

The survey data shows that disability affects a child's exposure to violence. It was noted (Table 4.6.1.b) that more than three-quarters (86.3 percent) of children with disabilities had reported experiencing violence. Girls (88.1 percent) with disabilities were more likely to report incidents of violence than boys (82.1 percent).

4.6.1.b. Experience of Violence by Disable Children									
	Boy			Girl			Total		
	N	%		N	%		N	%	
Yes	23	82.1		59	88.1		82	86.3	
No	5	17.9		8	11.9		13	13.7	
Total	28	100.0		67	100.0		95	100.0	
	Family environment			Community Level			Institutions		
	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total
<b>Table 4.6.1.c:</b> Children faced any torture due to the disability	100	100	100	100	100	100	45.5	43.2	44.1

All differently abled children, both boys and girls, who have experienced any form of violence had reported that (Table 4.6.1.c), they had all experienced violence at the household and community level due to their disability.

- **Parental Loss of Separation**

According to the survey data, more girls (27.0 percent) living without family reported losing both parents. This gender-segregated data indicates that girls from broken families who had lost their parents are particularly vulnerable to abuse and violence due to their lack of access to the family safety net.

Additionally, it is found that girls from broken families and who had lost their parents had been exposed to more violence than boys in the same category. In every case except for the father lives alone category, girls were subjected to more violence from boys, as shown in Table 4.6.1.d.

Table 4.6.1.d. Children have faced Violence (Parental Loss)						
	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Divorced/Mother and father are separated	97	42.3	132	57.6	229	100.0
Mother got married again	17	37.0	29	63.0	46	100.0
Father got married again	41	46.0	48	54.0	89	100.0
Mother lives alone	15	38.4	24	61.6	39	100.0
Father lives alone	6	60.0	4	40.0	10	100.0
Either father or mother has died	71	40.1	106	59.9	177	100.0
Father and mother both are died	44	36.6	76	63.4	120	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>100.0</b>

#### 4.6.2. Social Acceptance of Physical Punishment of Children

**The survey data shows a higher degree of acceptance of physical punishment among adults and children.** Table 4.6.2.a shows more than three quarter (75.2) of the parents consider beating an acceptable discipline strategy.

Child-Beating As A Discipline Strategy						
	Children			Parents		
	Boy	Girl	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>Table 4.6.2.a. Do you think it is right to discipline children by hitting with a cane or hand?</b>						
Yes (always)				1.9	11.5	6.6
Yes (sometimes)				67.9	69.2	68.6
No				30.2	19.2	24.8
<b>Total</b>				<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	Children			Parents		
	Boy	Girl	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>Table 4.2.2.b. Who could discipline children Emotionally or physically?</b>						
Parents/guardian	98.5	93.0	95.8			
Neighbor	8.1	11.7	9.9			
Teacher	35.4	21.1	28.2			
Close relative	4.3	6.2	5.3			
Elder Sibling	20.1	10.7	15.4			
Siblings	6.0	6.8	6.4			
Employer/Colleague	0.3	0.7	0.5			
Nobody	0.1	0.1	0.1			
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>			

Again, according to Table 4.6.2.b, children deemed individuals from family, community and workplace who they believed hold the legitimate authority to discipline them by physical punishment. The table further shows that almost all (95.8 percent) of the children had considered parents and guardians as the sole authority to discipline them by physical punishment. Other than that, they had named teacher (28.2 percent), elder sibling (15.4 percent) and even neighbours (9.9 percent) to hold the authority to inflict physical punishments.

#### 4.6.3. The levels of Personal Stress and Social or Family-Related Pressures that Caregivers Experience

- **Poverty**

It may imply that the economic vulnerability of the family of girl children further acts as a triggering factor to leave home or migrate, especially for livelihood. Table 4.6.3.a further shows that the average family income of the girls living without a family (Tk. 5,949) is comparatively lower than the average family income of the boys (Tk. 7,333). It is also seen that more girls (62.4 percent) who were living without parental care had reported violence than boys (54.1 percent) were within the family income range of TK. <= 5,000 - 10,000.

Children Living Without Family						
	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Table 4.6.3.a: Monthly Family Income Children without Parental Care</b>						
TK. <= 5,000	84	38.2	111	49.1	195	43.7
TK. 5,001 - 10,000	35	15.9	30	13.3	65	14.6
TK. 10,001 - 25,000	52	23.6	30	13.3	82	18.4
TK. 25,001 - 50,000			2	.9	2	.4
Don't know/can't say	49	22.3	53	23.5	102	22.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Average monthly family income (BDT)</b>	<b>7,333</b>		<b>5,949</b>		<b>6,637</b>	

- **Parental Negligence**

This subsection has used the term "negligent parenting" to describe the type of parenting observed among the study participant. Coercion, as well as bullies, are widely used in the neglectful style of parenting. These negligent parents were emotionally distant from their children and unconcerned in their everyday lives. Negligence of parents and guardians in the family environment and other settings creates a distance among the parents and makes the children isolated, depressed, and distressed, which accelerates the possibility of children being the victim of different types of violence, abuse, and exploitation.

**For livelihood pressure, both the parents leave the children either alone or left under the supervision of elder children, relatives, or neighbours.** According to survey data, it is found that (Table 4.6.3.b) when both parents are outside of the household, almost half (46.3 percent) of the children who experienced violence were left alone. In the absence of the parents or guardians, children were also left under the supervision of older siblings (21.1 percent) and relatives/neighbours (34.4 percent). It is found in the field survey when further enquired about the perpetrator of the sexual abuse, two fifths (40.0 percent) of the sexually exploited children had reported that they were relatives and neighbours (5.0 percent) who sexually abused them before they migrated elsewhere.

Children Who have faced Violence						
	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Table 4.6.3.b. Children are looked after when their parents are not at home (C05)</b>						
No one	1059	53.3	784	39.4	1843	46.3
Elder brothers-sisters	475	23.9	366	18.4	841	21.1
Relatives/Neighbors	479	24.1	890	44.7	1369	34.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1987</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3978</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Furthermore, this study revealed that parents' and guardians' assessments of neighbours and relatives were flawed; according to the parents' list of physical punishment disposers, neighbours and relatives were not included, but they were on the children's list. Neighbours and relatives have been accused of inflicting various forms of violence on children. It also highlights parents' shortsightedness when it comes to their children's safety, as well as their limited involvement in their child's daily life.

#### 4.6.4. Harmful Traditional Practices

- **Early Marriage**

**The survey reiterates that early marriage still exists, and its acceptance among parents perpetuates this harmful practice.** According to the Table 4.6.4.a, it is found that 1.4 percent of children were victims of early marriage among the total surveyed children. It may seem minuscule in number, but it signifies the presence of harmful practices within our society. It is also interesting to see that (Table 4.2.4.b) near one-fifth (19.0 percent) of the parents would allow early marriage of the girl children.

	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Table 4.6.4.a: Marital Status of the Children</b>						
Unmarried	2537	100.0	2485	97.2	5022	98.6
Married			66	2.6	66	1.3
Abandoned			5	.2	5	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2537</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2556</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5093</b>	<b>100</b>
	Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Table 4.6.4.b: Parents allow early marriage for girl child (Parents)</b>	9	17.0	11	21.2	20	19.0

- **The myth about Girls' Safe Age for Work and Migration**

The survey data reveals that girl children hold the false sense of security attached with the perceived age of seeking a job outside their home and village. The data shows (Table 4.6.4.c) that in both cases, girls believe that it is safer for them to leave the family at the age of 14, and they could travel outside the village safely at the age of 16 years for work purposes.

	Response of Boys	Response of Girls	Average Age
Age of a Girl Child could leave the family for work	17	14	16
Age of a Girl Child could be allowed to work outside of the village	18	16	17

#### 4.6.5. Social Acceptance of Child Labour

Child labour alienates children from their social safety net and expose them to a harsh, abusive and exploitative environment, Table 4.6.5.a shows the existence of child labour in society and signifies it as a coping strategy for poor and ultra-poor families.

Existence of Child Labour	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	424	16.7	377	14.7	801	15.7

Table 4.2.5.b depict that; among child labour, nearly one-third (32.5 percent) of the children are engaged in the hazardous sector, and more than two-thirds of the children (67.5 percent) are involved with the non-hazardous sector. It has also been noted that more boys (44.8 percent) are involved with hazardous sectors than girls (18.6 percent).

	Boy		Girl		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Hazardous Sector	190	44.8	70	18.6	260	32.5
Non-hazardous Sector	234	55.2	307	81.4	541	67.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The survey data further reveals that:

- More than one fifth (20.4 percent) of the girls were labourers in hotels or shops secluded from broader social safety-nets and exposed to a male charged environment during their working hours. Due to the nature of the job and the workplace, these girls are at risk of physical, mental, and sexual abuse.
- Nearly one fifth (18.6 percent) of the girl children were involved in household labour; due to the nature of the job, the girls lack agency and control over their lives which made them vulnerable in terms of being the victim of sexual violence domestic violence and trafficking.
- More than one-tenth (11.1 percent) of girls are involved as factory labourers who are also at higher risk of becoming the victim of sexual abuse due to their tender age, which to some extent, is a pawn for the employers, supervisors and senior colleagues to blackmail them for extra favour in exchange of their tenure in the factory. Other than that, they are also at extreme risk of physical injury due to a hazardous work environment.

#### 4.7. UNDERSTANDING AND PERCEPTIONS ABOUT CHILD PROTECTION OF COMMUNITY PEOPLE

The team investigated the community's perceptions and knowledge of child protection (CP) as part of the study. Child protection is a complex construct in and of itself, but it entails an extremely "extendable" scope and flexibility, which leaves room for interpretation. This could be viewed as a strength to some extent because it allows anyone to associate CP with

broader areas of child rights violation and to use it to identify and highlight gaps in the actualization of these rights. However, this one-dimensional understanding of the CP may detract from the concept's authentic aura by only listing the harms that affect the child's life and enabling an environment conducive to child development. In essence, CP is a multifaceted process that entails a collection of measures and structures to prevent and respond to specific aspects of a child's life, such as abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence.

Moreover, we should exercise extreme caution in not equating child protection with protecting all children's rights. CP extends beyond the UNCRC; consequently, the goal of child protection is not to promote, protect, and fulfil children's rights but to safeguard them against abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence, as defined in other human rights conventions and treaties, such as humanitarian and refugee treaties and conventions, as well as in national laws and policies.

When children and caregivers were prompted to describe their understanding of CP, it was found that they all defined or described it

subjectively or attempted to describe specific elements of the process of delivering safety from harm. The majority of children defined CP as protective measures designed to ensure their overall well-being and to protect them from various forms of abuse and exploitation, such as

##### *Overviews on Child Protection by Children and Parents*

- Safeguarding children from all sorts of violence, abuse and exploitation.
- Ensuring non-discriminatory environment for the children.
- Protecting children from physical harm.
- Commitment to fulfill the rights of children.
- Protect children from evil company
- Ensure that children will not be affected by the drug addicts
- Protective measures to safeguard children from local/communal conflict
- Ensure Best interests of the child.
- Protective measures to ensure that all the children have access

##### *Overviews on Child Protection by Members of LEBs, and GoB Representative*

- Ensuring protective legislation for the children as well as its proper enforcement.
- Ensuring the participation of children in all spheres to voice their demands
- Coordinated activities within the community to ensure all sorts of support for the children.
- Safeguarding children from all sorts of violence, abuse and exploitation
- Ensuring the participation of children in all spheres to voice their demands.
- Taking proper action against the perpetrator
- Protecting children from psychosocial disorder/distress
- Proper implementation of set of laws, policies, regulations and services needed across all social sectors to protect children from abuse, violence and exploitation
- Ensure coordinating activities within the community to ensure all sorts of support for the children.
- Proper implementation of set of laws, policies, regulations and services needed across all social sectors to protect children from abuse, violence and exploitation
- Organizing different services for ensuring recovery and reintegration of survivor children.

"protecting children from physical harm," "ensuring a non-discriminatory environment for girls," and "commitment to ensuring children's rights." The parents or caregivers attempted to connect CP to other goals such as "protecting children from all forms of violence, abuse, and exploitation," and "protective measures to protect children from local and communal conflicts," and also as procedures such as "ensuring that all children have access to education, nutritious food, and the ability to enjoy life."

Discussions with members of the Local Elected Body (LEB) and representatives from the government organisations (GOs) revealed that they have a comparatively better understanding of child protection. They went beyond the description of CP's objectives, outcomes, and measures but could not connect CP as a holistic approach involving the state apparatus, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the community, and children. They have primarily associated CP with "protective legislation for children and its proper enforcement," "activities within the community to ensure various forms of support for children," "ensuring children's participation in all spheres to voice their demands," and "taking appropriate action against the perpetrator while also ensuring need-based support for survivor children."

Nonetheless, activists, practitioners, policymakers, and bureaucrats must have a thorough understanding of child protection from the ground up in order to ensure the proper design, strategy, and implementation of child protection policies.

## Chapter 5

# Status of Child Protection Interventions

### 5.1. STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

#### 5.1.1. Overview of the Stakeholders at the Study Areas

The stakeholder mapping is mainly based on the analytical triangulation of quantitative and qualitative findings of the field research. However, the primary emphasis was given to the FGD and consultation process led by the field researchers. This process helped immensely to visualise the situation in which children live and the influential actors and institutions whose roles and responsibilities that children consider essential for them to or can influence their lives. The study has identified many influential and vital stakeholders from the family level to the state level. These stakeholders have been divided into three broad groups for our discussion:

**Primary Stakeholder:** In the present scoping study, children are recognised as the primary stakeholder since the study has focused on mapping child protection at the community level.

**Secondary Stakeholder:** Excluding the children, the rest of the stakeholders identified in the study are considered secondary stakeholders. This category includes caregivers as well as relevant local level duty bearers. It is essential to mention that all of the secondary stakeholders considered by children are somehow known to them and frequently interact with them, or they consider they can interact as they either live or work within their known social space.

**Tertiary Stakeholder:** INGOs, networks, media, etc., who are helping to uphold child rights in different ways can be considered tertiary stakeholders. This group of stakeholders are directly or indirectly play a supportive role to the primary and secondary stakeholders for realising their demand or mandate. The supportive role can offer first-hand support for changing any policy, programs in line with child protection or solidarate with social mobilisations with other stakeholders from their professional and social responsibilities. Other than that, different types of networks play an active role in child protection at the local, national, and regional levels. These networks also fall into the tertiary stakeholder category.

**The name of some renowned networks are mentioned below:**

- South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC)
- Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF)
- National Action Coordination Group (NACG)
- Action against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children (ATSEC) Bangladesh
- NACSAC
- Coalition to ban PHP
- Engaging Men and Boys Network
- Child Rights Advocacy Coalition in Bangladesh
- Child Rights Governance Assembly (CRGA) Bangladesh

- WE CAN Campaign
- Consortium for Street Children
- Other child focus Networks (with MJF membership)

### A Brief Summary of the Major Stakeholders for Child Protection in the Study Areas

Stakeholders	Type of the Stakeholder	Category of Stakeholder	Overview of the Stakeholder
<b>Primary Stakeholder</b>	<b>Children</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indigenous Children</li> <li>• Children of untouchable</li> <li>• Children who are the victims of sexual abuse, exploitation, trafficking and other forms of violence</li> <li>• Children at risk of becoming victims of violence</li> <li>• Children with disabilities,</li> <li>• children from disadvantaged families</li> <li>• working children</li> <li>• Sexually exploited children</li> <li>• Student</li> <li>• Girls (Children who are victims of gender-based violence)</li> </ul>	Children of a specific area who are under critical analysis or planning are recognised as the primary stakeholder. In this study, most of them are denied many of the rights provided to children by our constitution or the UNCRC. Victims of CSA, SE, CSE, GBV and trafficking living with or without family who are disabled or involved in hazardous work and living in the street or institutions are acknowledged as the primary stakeholders.
<b>Secondary Stakeholder</b>	<b>Community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community members/ Civil Society</li> <li>• Community &amp; religious leader</li> <li>• Youth</li> <li>• Parents/legal guardians</li> <li>• Peers and friends,</li> <li>• Employers of the children</li> <li>• Members of the Local Elected Bodies</li> </ul>	The vicinity where children are living. The cluster of individuals who are opposing and supporting the daily lives of children.
	<b>Institutional Service Providers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Care service providers, employers &amp; institutions (public and private)</li> <li>• Teachers</li> <li>• Special education teacher</li> </ul>	They are the front line workers and door keepers for those children who ensure their entry to safety-nets and services.
	<b>Doctor and Medical Assistants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doctors of GoB Hospital/Clinic</li> <li>• Doctors of NGO, Private and Charitable Hospital/Clinic</li> <li>• Nurses</li> </ul>	They ensure quality health services for children.
	<b>Psychosocial Rehabilitative Care Providers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Psychosocial Counsellor</li> <li>• Psychologist</li> <li>• Social workers</li> <li>• Case Manager</li> </ul>	They ensure quality psychosocial rehabilitative care services for the children.
	<b>Education and Research Institutes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academia and different research institute</li> </ul>	They ensure accurate data bank as well as efficient human resource for national planning.
	<b>Government</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government Ministries and Directorates</li> <li>• Local Administration</li> <li>• Law enforcing agencies</li> </ul>	They are the custodian of rights of children. With its structure and machinery rights are ensured and delivered.
	<b>Special Professional Group</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Journalist</li> <li>• Lawyers</li> </ul>	They are the watch dog to monitor rights violation and pressuring government to value rights of children.

## A Brief Summary of the Major Stakeholders for Child Protection in the Study Areas

Stakeholders	Type of the Stakeholder	Category of Stakeholder	Overview of the Stakeholder
<b>Tertiary Stakeholder</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• INGO/ NGO/Donor/UN Agencies</li> <li>• Human Rights Organisations</li> <li>• Association, Forum &amp; Network</li> <li>• Child club and forums</li> <li>• Media</li> <li>• National and International charitable organisations</li> <li>• The Corporate Sector</li> </ul>	They are the change-makers. National to grass-root level pressure groups who steer the community towards creating safety-nets for the children.

### 5.1.2. Mapping the Primary Stakeholder

The analyses of the children concerning the violation of their rights and vulnerability and lack of protection are not solely based on the poverty situation. Poverty may be the source of danger for both street children and children from slum households. A child may be cut off from social safety nets or be disempowered as a result of poverty. However, when discussing children who live with their families and school-aged children, it is clear that they are also vulnerable to violence, other forms of abuse, neglect, and restriction of rights. Regarding children's vulnerability, the range of triggering factors that lead to violence among the major stakeholders is relatively broad.

### Relationship between the Vulnerable Primary Stakeholders: Reason and Types of vulnerability

Category of Primary Stakeholder	Reasons of Vulnerability	Types of Vulnerability
<b>Children who are the victims of sexual abuse, exploitation, trafficking and other forms of violence.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family problems or trouble in family relationship, negligence of parents/guardians</li> <li>• Non-existence of primary caregivers/parents.</li> <li>• Children from single-parent families</li> <li>• Parent's inability to work due to disability or sickness.</li> <li>• Lost contact with family/ misplaced children</li> <li>• Economic and livelihood pressure</li> <li>• Living in extreme poverty</li> <li>• Financial support to the family</li> <li>• Unsafe migration</li> <li>• Child marriage and Dowry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victims of physical and psychological abuse by police, miscreant, drug addict, and other older people of the locality.</li> <li>• Deprived of food, cloth and shelter, etc.</li> <li>• Violence faced by the employers.</li> <li>• Police arrest and torture.</li> <li>• Facing verbal abuse and admonishment by using slang language</li> <li>• The stereotypical idea of people, i.e., people consider street children as a thief.</li> <li>• Forced sex/sex without any payment. (children who are involved in prostitution)</li> <li>• Children are often forced to massage adults' bodies, which is sometimes the pretext to sexual violence.</li> <li>• Children are deprived of their rest (in the case of street children, law enforcement agencies do not let them sleep on the street.</li> <li>• Face intense physical and mental violence to indoctrinate them into the sex profession.</li> <li>• Sell them into the brothel</li> <li>• Children's private body parts are violated intentionally within and outside the family.</li> <li>• Susceptible to be forced into drugs</li> <li>• Clients do not want to use a condom. (Children who involve in prostitution)</li> </ul>

Category of Primary Stakeholder	Reasons of Vulnerability	Types of Vulnerability
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kidnapped and raped.</li> <li>• Stigmatization and victim-blaming (Everyone blames them for being the victim of sexual abuse and exploitation.)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Children are at risk of becoming victims of violence and victims of sexual abuse.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The behavioural practice of the Caregivers</li> <li>• Irresponsible Attitude of Father</li> <li>• Lack of awareness of sexual abuse and exploitation of the parents</li> <li>• Negligence of parents/guardians</li> <li>• Non-existence of primary caregivers/parents</li> <li>• Children from single-parent families</li> <li>• Economic and livelihood pressure</li> <li>• Dreams and aspirations</li> <li>• Socio-cultural norms of caregiving</li> <li>• Compelled to provide financial support to the family</li> <li>• Unsafe living arrangements with their family members</li> <li>• Unsafe migration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Without guardian have to live in street or employers house or workplace.</li> <li>• Children are the victim of physical and psychological abuse</li> <li>• People show motivated adult gestures to the children.</li> <li>• Touch their body intentionally</li> <li>• Allure them for giving money, work and try to have sex with them</li> <li>• Perpetrators expose their genitals</li> <li>• Rape them</li> <li>• Police harassment is common</li> <li>• Police arrest them for sending the government Juvenile Correction Centre or Vagabond Centers</li> <li>• People scold them by using slang words</li> <li>• Do not get food, cloth, shelter, etc.</li> <li>• Employers scold and beat working children.</li> <li>• Snatch their earning</li> </ul>
<p><b>Children with disabilities.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The parental practice of the Caregivers.</li> <li>• Lack of awareness of sexual abuse and exploitation of the parents/guardians.</li> <li>• Family problems or trouble in family relationship</li> <li>• Discriminatory behaviours towards disabled children.</li> <li>• Lack of awareness of the parents to deal with disabled children</li> <li>• Negligence of the parents/guardians</li> <li>• Non-existence of primary caregivers/parents</li> <li>• Socio-cultural norms of caregiving</li> <li>• Status of the caregivers</li> <li>• Lack of protection for disabled children within the household.</li> <li>• Living in extreme poverty</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children are the victim of physical and psychological, and sexual abuse.</li> <li>• Children's private body parts are violated intentionally within and outside the family while providing the care.</li> <li>• Stigmatise and discriminated in community.</li> </ul>

Category of Primary Stakeholder	Reasons of Vulnerability	Types of Vulnerability
<p align="center"><b>Children with parents/guardians &amp; school students</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parental practices of the caregivers.</li> <li>• Lack of awareness of sexual abuse and exploitation of the parents/guardians.</li> <li>• Predatory and Irresponsible attitude of teacher and SMCs</li> <li>• Negligence of parents/guardians</li> <li>• Non-existence of primary caregivers/parents</li> <li>• Deception of teachers through creating fake dreams and expectations</li> <li>• Socio-cultural norms are instilled in the psyche of the children by the parents, guardians and caregivers</li> <li>• Lack of safety education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brutal / Rude behaviour</li> <li>• Children are often forced to touch adults, which sometimes proves to be the pretext to sexual violence.</li> <li>• Children's private body parts are violated intentionally under the pretext of close interaction.</li> <li>• Physical and Humiliating Punishment.</li> <li>• Bullying in community spaces and schools</li> <li>• Forcing children to do unethical works</li> <li>• Bullying in front of classmates/classroom</li> <li>• Making nasty comments by the teacher regarding changes the children go during the adolescent period</li> <li>• Sexual abuse by the teacher</li> <li>• Exposed to indecent exposure within and outside the school.</li> <li>• Allure them of giving good marks and thus force students to start a relationship with a sexual undertone.</li> </ul>
<p align="center"><b>Girls (Children who are victims of gender-based violence)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discriminated in family and community.</li> <li>• Disempowered and subordinated by gender stereotyping.</li> <li>• Cultural norms that delink girls from complaint mechanism.</li> <li>• Mute their voice with the veil of shame.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public humiliation</li> <li>• Deprived of recreational and active participation in socio-cultural events.</li> <li>• Discrimination among boys and girls on food and cloth, education, treatment and other basic needs and rights appropriations.</li> <li>• Victim of verbal abuse by using slang and nasty words.</li> <li>• Victim of indecent exposure.</li> <li>• Sexual abuse/rape,</li> <li>• Children's private body parts are violated intentionally within and outside the family environment.</li> <li>• Force to see bad films and force to be part of pornographic images.</li> <li>• Brutal punishment for the little mistake</li> <li>• Sometimes police take the street girl into custody without any reason</li> </ul>
<p align="center"><b>Indigenous Children</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poverty/scarcity of resources related pressure pushes them to scavenge in the locality far from their home.</li> <li>• Bengalis bully them because of their different cultural practices.</li> <li>• Lack of security outside of their community.</li> <li>• Dominating Bengali culture destroying their community-based norms and controls.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beaten by sticks, dusters, books &amp; pens</li> <li>• Scolding/</li> <li>• can't move freely anywhere</li> <li>• Eve-teasing/ use slang by using nasty words/use awful gesture</li> <li>• wrinkle</li> <li>• Trying to touch the body</li> <li>• Humiliation in public space</li> <li>• Discrimination between Bengali and indigenous people</li> <li>• Sexual abuse/rape</li> </ul>

In the study, it has been marked that:

- Often, children from poverty-stricken households, either forced by parents to do work or willingly decide to work to provide economic support to their family, magnifying their risk of facing violence and sexual abuse or exploitation.
- Migrated children especially see themselves as very helpless due to the separation of their parents/family.
- Many children from rural backgrounds have to leave their houses without appropriate life skills to survive in the city. Many children have become alienated from their families due to being members of a broken family where the mother is their sole source of survival.

Category of the Vulnerable Primary stakeholders at study areas
Children from chronic poverty-stricken family: 11.6% (Household income TK. <= 5,000)
Children from broken family (All children): 12.4%
Children from broken family (Living within the household): 8.8%
Children from broken family (living without family/without parental care): 48.9%
Children whose father have second-wife or remarried: 1.8%
Children whose mother have second-husband or remarried: 1.0%
Children who have irresponsible father: 37.3%
Parentless children: 2.6%
Migrated children of total population: 37.3%
Migrated children who are without parental care/living without family: 91.9%
Children from Large Family: 7.7% (6+ HH members)
Married girl children: 2.8%
Girls: 50.2%
Children with disability: 1.9%
Family with disability/disable family members: 3.5%
Children from ethnic minority: 2.0%
Children involved in street-based/floating prostitution: 0.6%
Child survivors of sexual abuse: 48.1%
Child survivors of trafficking: 0.3%
Children at risk in family: 46.0%
Children at risk in institutions: 0.8%
Children at risk (sexually) in institutions: 0.16%

### 5.1.3. Mapping of Duty Bearer

The government of Bangladesh (GoB), as a signatory of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), is obliged to fulfil and realise the children's rights. The responsibility of the state as duty bearer is either recognised or perceived by all of the stakeholders. However, most of them expressed a sense of inconspicuousness or obscurity about the government's role or practice as a duty bearer of the children. As the primary duty bearer, the government is obliged to ensure that children are not being tortured or neglected. However, the government is not doing the practical program.

In the FGDs, both children and parents opined that the government should develop an effective monitoring system for the police so that police are bound to respond when children face violence. However, both children and adults opined that GO officials/relevant government officials from MoHA, MoWCA and MoSW are not monitoring or visiting the locality to monitor the appropriate employment of laws and policies. The policies and laws

remain only on paper to give an impression of any law on the particular issues. Apart from that, the discriminatory attitude and practices of the duty bear towards the poor coupled with bribes and corruption make poor parents and guardians sceptics about the legal and administrative arena.

### List of the Major Duty Bearers for Child Protection in the Study Areas

Duty Bearers	Types of Duty Bearers	Category of Duty Bearers
<b>Primary Duty Bearer</b>	<b>NGO</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bilateral Donors</li> <li>• Donors/INGOs</li> <li>• National NGOs</li> <li>• Local NGOs</li> <li>• Networks</li> </ul>
	<b>Government of Bangladesh (GoB)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA)</li> <li>• Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA)</li> <li>• Ministry of Social Welfare (MoSW)</li> <li>• Ministry of Education (MoE)</li> <li>• Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME)</li> <li>• Ministry of Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs (MoL&amp;PA)</li> <li>• Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development &amp; Cooperatives (&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;)</li> <li>• Ministry of CHT Affairs (MoCHT)</li> <li>• Local Government Directorate (LGD)</li> <li>• Law Enforcing Authorities</li> <li>• National Curriculum for Textbook Board (NCTB)</li> </ul>
	<b>Local Elected Body (LEB)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elected Members of City Corporations</li> <li>• Elected Members of Upazila Parishad</li> <li>• Karbari and Headmen</li> <li>• Elected Members of CHT Regional Council and Bandarban Hill District Council</li> <li>• Elected Members of Union Council</li> <li>• Members of VAW Committee and</li> <li>• Members of CTC Committee</li> </ul>
	<b>Community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CBOs/CSOs</li> <li>• Community Leaders</li> <li>• Religious Leaders</li> <li>• Community People</li> </ul>

The study found that the lack of GO-NGO initiatives to raise awareness at the community level has resulted in the decline and sustenance of the community's awareness level, particularly about CRC and Child Protection (CP). In the KII, all the stakeholders recognised gaps in government policies and actions. Lack of government initiatives, negligence of law enforcing agencies, unaccountability of related government authorities, and ignorance and insensitivity of the Members of LEBs and MPs towards familiar people have made the community, specifically children, prone to malpractices and violence.

The study's qualitative and quantitative findings reveal the rampant practice of harmful traditional practice (HTP) stemmed from weak implementation and consciously set loopholes of the marriage-related laws and policies to expose the girl children early marriage and post-marriage abuse and violence.

As primary duty bearer, i.e. The government is obliged to ensure that children are not tortured or neglected. Due to the absence of an effective formal child protection structure at the ward level, the government has failed to create an effective community-based monitoring and reporting mechanism to prevent child marriage. The participants of FGD recommended that government should develop effective linkage between community-based child protection groups and formal child protection structure and law enforcing agencies vis-à-vis.

**The Existing Capacity of Community  
Members in Protecting Children from All Sorts of Violence**

Stakeholder	Role & Responsibilities for protection of children	Constraints and Needs	Strength & Opportunity
<b>Community Members</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To create a safe environment for children</li> <li>- To ensure social safety and security</li> <li>- To promote the socialisation process</li> <li>- Moral education/social responsibility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of Information and awareness</li> <li>- Social taboos, misconception and misinterpretation on child protection issues</li> <li>- Power relation between adults and children</li> <li>- Political/religious influence</li> <li>- Lack of knowledge on child rights, gender and children with disabilities</li> <li>- Low engagement of men and boys to address the gender-based violence</li> <li>- Lack of local resource mobilisation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CBO</li> <li>- Community norms and values</li> <li>- Spaces, infrastructure and institution</li> <li>- Participation in LG standing committees</li> <li>- Local/indigenous knowledge</li> </ul>

The elected members of Union Parishad and City Corporation can play a vital role to prevent child sexual abuse, exploitation, unsafe migration and trafficking. Based on analysis of roles and responsibilities of local government, it has been found that the elected representative of Dhaka City Corporation has no specific role and responsibilities to protect children from violence. In Dhaka City Corporation, almost all the men ward commissioners are responsible for stopping corruption and smuggling, registering birth and death, issuing succession certificates, nationality and character certificates, providing streetlight, and keeping the environment pollution free (100 percent). Followed by infrastructure development (96 percent), maintaining proper drainage and sewerage system (92 percent), encouraging people to pay tax (79 percent), provision of public toilet and water supply system (75 percent) and participating in the tree plantation program (70 percent). Almost all women commissioners are involved in resolving women and child issues, local welfare, motivating people during natural disasters, and issuing birth, nationality, and character certificates, followed by encouraging people to engage in income-generating activities (95.83 percent), motivating people to engage in family planning and health care (95.83 percent), and involving poor women in development (95.83 percent) (91.66 percent)<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> The Nature of Political Empowerment and Gender in Local Governance: A Comparative Study of Dhaka City Corporation and Narayanganj Municipality

It is encouraging that recently, many development programs of different ministries implemented at the local level have started co-opting LEBs as members of the implementation committee but without any active role in decision-making. But there are very few programs of any ministries to protect children at the local level. Apart from that, the duties of LEBs within the administrative system have yet to be aligned with the specialised needs of the children. As a result, the roles and responsibilities of the LEBs are not defined yet in line with child rights. But it is seen that the women members of different committees in rural and urban areas are playing a vital role informally to protect children from child sexual abuse, exploitation, unsafe migration and trafficking.

Local duty bearers	Responsibilities of duty bearer
Ward Commissioner/UP Chairman (Member of Local Elected body)	Commissioner provided support Process of resolving dispute when anyone was beaten suspected as a thief.
	Commissioner resolute conflict If quarrel with neighbours.
	The commissioner helps If any problem arises with water.
	The commissioner helps If the problem is with the electricity supply.
	Commissioner Problems with toilets or sanitation.
	Facilitates redress process regarding a local dispute in a civil manner.

#### 5.1.4. Mapping the Care Giver

The present study concluded that primary and secondary caregivers' role, attitude, and practice often significantly influence a child's vulnerability.

##### 5.1.4.1. Mapping the Primary Care Giver

**Parents/Guardians:** Parents and guardians both have essential socio-economic functions and provide basic emotional, financial and economic support necessary for the growth and development of children. Hostile behaviour of the parents and guardians in almost every case makes children vulnerable towards all sorts of violence within or outside the family.

**Matrix of Vulnerability of the Children Due to the Primary Care Giver**

PRIMARY CAREGIVERS	KEY TYPES FOR VULNERABILITY
Stepparents Irresponsible father	Abusive Behavior and practice of the caregivers Survival pressure Disempowerment
Single father Differently able or sick Parent Single mother	Survival pressure, livelihood pressure, aspiration for a better life. Housekeeping and sibling were caring. Financial assistance/support to a poverty-stricken family
Poverty-stricken and marginalised or hardcore poor parents	Financial assistance/support to poverty-stricken family Disempowerment, Survival pressure. Aspirations for a better life
Relative of Children with Absentee parents	Disconnectedness with family, Disempowerment, Survival pressure, livelihood pressure, aspiration for a better life. Uncertain future
PRIMARY CAREGIVERS	KEY TYPES FOR VULNERABILITY
Care Intentions and Service Providers	Absence of Child Protection Policy. No effective complaints and response mechanisms in place. Absence of healthcare facilities, unavailability of emergency medicine The apathetic attitude of responsible authorities and staffs Deprived of food/ cloth and other needs Behavioural discrimination Mental torture Deprivation from rest and leisure

### 5.1.4.2. Mapping the Secondary Care Giver

The present study found the following secondary caregivers in the study areas, whose role, attitude, and practice frequently contribute to children's vulnerability.

**Community:** The family and the community both have essential socio-economic functions and provide basic emotional, financial and economic support necessary for the growth and development of children. The violation of child rights within the community is most prevalent among households with Broken Family status. As a secondary stakeholder, community people play both the caregiving role to support children's better development and at the same time act as violators of child rights. Most community people look at the marginalised children with much disgust and ignore the children's rights.

Stakeholder	Role & Responsibilities for protection of children	Constraints and Needs	Strength & Opportunity
<b>Community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mobilisation</li> <li>- Awareness-raising</li> <li>- Intervention</li> <li>- Local Resource Mobilisation</li> <li>- Arbitration &amp; mediation</li> <li>- Watchdog Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gaps in knowledge and capacity regarding child protection</li> <li>- Political Involvement</li> <li>- Religious and traditional prejudices</li> <li>- No formal authority</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Influential Actor</li> <li>- Local informal authority</li> <li>- Arbitration and mediation role</li> <li>- Local knowledge and practices</li> <li>- Political influence</li> </ul>
<b>Children &amp; Youth networks/ groups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Child to Child interaction</li> <li>- PEER Education</li> <li>- Youths facilitate children in the decision-making process</li> <li>- Youth &amp; children play a vital role in campaigning</li> <li>- Referral linkage</li> <li>- Risk Assessment</li> <li>- Awareness Raising</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Children &amp; youth organisations are losing identity through adaptation towards adult organisations</li> <li>- Not consistently recognised by the adults</li> <li>- Limited access to information</li> <li>- Negatively impacted by IT &amp; media</li> <li>- Limited scope for recreation</li> <li>- Limited knowledge about their rights and responsibilities</li> <li>- Less organised</li> <li>- No legal status as a child organisation</li> <li>- Limited resources</li> <li>- Dependency on caregivers and guardians in decision-making processes</li> <li>- Discrimination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Peer approach</li> <li>- Local knowledge</li> <li>- Child &amp; Youth clubs &amp; CO, networks</li> <li>- Linkage to schools and communities</li> <li>- Special protective status through legal frameworks</li> <li>- Quick adaptation to new technologies and approaches</li> <li>- Capacity in emergency response</li> <li>- Expertise in children's issues</li> </ul>

**Employers:** One of the most critical partners in the protection of child labourers is employers. Working children have recognised that their employer plays a critical role in ensuring their safety.

**Teachers of formal and non-formal schools:** Teachers of government and NGO running schools are directly involved with children's education and spend considerable time with the children. Teachers of children with disabilities can provide education to children by using different special and inclusive education techniques. The teachers are the vehicle of a violence-free child-friendly school environment. Teachers can be trained and encouraged to

provide knowledge on safety education and positive discipline to ensure PhP free classroom. They influenced the children and their families as well as the community on the rights of the child. But in reality, most government schoolteachers do not have sufficient information and knowledge on safety education, issues on CSA, positive parenting, and skill of joyful learning. Whereas NGO managed schools provide NFE education, they also provide awareness on child rights, hygiene practice, violence against children and women, child marriage, child sexual abuse, etc., to the marginalised children who are deprived of access to mainstream education.

**NGO:** NGOs are providing soulful effort for ensuring a violence-free environment for the children across their surroundings. Different interventions like installing community-based child protection mechanisms, knowledge transfer to parents and guardians on positive parenting training, fatherhood, and facilitating complaint mechanisms with the community and children have provided protection (on a micro-level) to children from all sorts of violence and abuse, exploitation and negligence. Apart from that, different awareness-raising interventions like courtyard meetings, sensitisation sessions involving local level key actors, and campaign programmes were initiated to create a safety net for the children within their surroundings. NGO Schools cater for children with particular circumstances which are not dealt with in other mainstream schools. Most of the children of NGO Schools are street children and child labour coming from marginalized families. Most of the children opined that they get most of the treatment and medicine free of cost from NGO health set-ups.

Stakeholder	Role & Responsibilities for protection of children	Constraints and Needs	Strength & Opportunity
<b>NGO CSO/ Human Rights Organisations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Watchdog</li> <li>- Civil Society representatives</li> <li>- Change catalyst</li> <li>- Service providers</li> <li>- Mobilisation/ Networking</li> <li>- Awareness-raising &amp; Advocacy at local and national level</li> <li>- Study and Research</li> <li>- Capacity building</li> <li>- Documentation &amp; Material (BCC/IEC)Development and</li> <li>- Dissemination</li> <li>- Monitoring &amp; Supervision, Reporting</li> <li>- Best practice development/pilots</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Limited Resources (Monetary &amp; HR)</li> <li>- NGO regulations</li> <li>- Focus on Project Period (short-midterm)</li> <li>- Donor dependency</li> <li>- Staff turnover</li> <li>- Organisational and Programming Capacity</li> <li>- Principles are often not applied in practice – e.g. limited space provided for children to participate</li> <li>- Limited knowledge of child rights, protection and CRP</li> <li>- Lack of networking</li> <li>- Absence of phase-out strategies</li> <li>- Weak knowledge management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Knowledge of the local context</li> <li>- Pressure Group &amp; Advocacy</li> <li>- Network</li> <li>- Community acceptance</li> <li>- Variety of expertise</li> <li>- Representation at the local, national and regional level</li> <li>- Recognition by the government</li> <li>- Good practice models and documentation</li> <li>- Access to Donors</li> <li>- Policy as frame</li> </ul>

**Civil Society:** The majority of stakeholders consider that civil society members can greatly influence responsible duty bearers who may be brought together for the welfare of children on both a local and national level. These influential individuals may provide a possibility for MPs, local civil and police administrations, and local elected officials to take action to reduce child rights violations and secure child protection.

Stakeholder	Role & Responsibilities for protection of children	Constraints and Needs	Strength & Opportunity
<b>Civil Society</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mobilisation, Awareness raising and information sharing</li> <li>- Civil Society representatives</li> <li>- Advocacy &amp; Networking</li> <li>- Create access to community stakeholders</li> <li>- Reporting and referring to service providers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Knowledge gaps on cp issues</li> <li>- Lack of resources</li> <li>- Political/religiously influenced</li> <li>- Social preconceptions towards children</li> <li>- Inadequate infrastructure</li> <li>- Lack of facilities and time (meetings and actions)</li> <li>- Limited scope for communication</li> <li>- Lack of knowledge on child rights, gender, leadership</li> <li>- Limited ownership and participation in development interventions</li> <li>- Lack of knowledge about perpetrator's practice &amp; perspective</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local knowledge</li> <li>- Pressure Group</li> <li>- Collective and organised</li> <li>- Community ownership</li> <li>- Acceptance by local government</li> <li>- Access to community</li> </ul>

**School Management Committee (SMC):** School management committee (SMC) generally attends meetings of the School Committee and keep an eye on teachers and students activities. Besides, they used to manage the problems or needs of the school. Moreover, the SMC is vested with the power to enact and revise policies, extend the curriculum and include new extra-curricular activities for the student. If SMCs are motivated and encouraged, they can play a vital role in transforming school compounds free of violence by introducing Child Safeguarding Policy, safety education, and ensuring joyful education methods. The committees also can take action against teaching and administrative staff for their misconduct and malpractices. The SMCs should take no tolerance position when deciding about complaints regarding any sort of violence towards children.

### 5.1.4.3. Mapping the Tertiary Care Giver

The detailed mapping of the tertiary caregivers is discussed below:

Stakeholder	Role & Responsibilities for protection of children	Constraints and Needs	Strength & Opportunity
<b>Media</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Awareness-raising</li> <li>- Information Dissemination</li> <li>- Watchdog</li> <li>- Opinion sharing</li> <li>- Documentation</li> <li>- Media advocacy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Accuracy of information</li> <li>- Limited gender &amp; children sensitiveness</li> <li>- Populist journalism</li> <li>- One way communication</li> <li>- Violation of media ethics</li> <li>- Politically Influenced</li> <li>- Insufficient follow up on reports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coverage</li> <li>- Hold different stakeholders Accountable</li> <li>- Influential</li> <li>- Bring the issue to mass attention</li> <li>- Media Policy</li> <li>- RTI</li> <li>- Independency</li> <li>- Promotion of best practice</li> </ul>
<b>Association, Forum and Network</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide Service</li> <li>- Advocacy &amp; policy lobbying</li> <li>- Acting as a pressure group</li> <li>- Networking and Coordination</li> <li>- Information dissemination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Capacity and knowledge on CP</li> <li>- Resources</li> <li>- Time-bound</li> <li>- Leadership conflicts</li> <li>- Political involvement</li> <li>- Lack of coordination</li> <li>- Lack of transparency &amp; accountability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mandate</li> <li>- Common Platform</li> <li>- Reach &amp; Influence</li> <li>- Lobby</li> <li>- Expertise</li> </ul>
<b>Human Rights Bodies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Watchdog</li> <li>- Change catalyst</li> <li>- Capacity Builder</li> <li>- Mobilisation</li> <li>- Awareness-raising</li> <li>- Advocacy local and national level</li> <li>- Networking &amp; Coordination</li> <li>- Study and Research</li> <li>- Material (BCC/IEC) Development and Dissemination</li> <li>- Monitoring &amp; Supervision, Reporting</li> <li>- Investigation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Resource (Monetary &amp; HR)</li> <li>- Politically influenced</li> <li>- Lack of coordination between GO and civil society</li> <li>- Government dependency</li> <li>- Capacity support</li> <li>- Limited transparency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advocacy</li> <li>- Pressure Group</li> <li>- Special Mandate</li> <li>- Government is accountable to them</li> <li>- International recognition</li> <li>- Independent body</li> </ul>
<b>Donor/UN Agencies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cooperation with government and civil society</li> <li>- Advocacy at the national and international level</li> <li>- Study and Research</li> <li>- Capacity building</li> <li>- Documentation &amp; Material (BCC/IEC) Development</li> <li>- Replication</li> <li>- Monitoring, Evaluation &amp; Reporting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Top-down Approach</li> <li>- Funding overlapping actions</li> <li>- Limited local knowledge</li> <li>- Limited participatory approach</li> <li>- Bound to their own national rules and regulation</li> <li>- Influenced by business interests of their states</li> <li>- Following global and popular trends</li> <li>- Exit strategies</li> <li>- Non-transparent processes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pressure Group</li> <li>- Resource</li> <li>- Mandate</li> <li>- Strategy</li> <li>- Acceptance by the national government</li> <li>- Influence at the policy level</li> <li>- Advocacy &amp; Networking</li> <li>- Access to International Support Group</li> </ul>

Stakeholder	Role & Responsibilities for protection of children	Constraints and Needs	Strength & Opportunity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Funding &amp; Financing</li> <li>- Strengthening of government structures</li> <li>- Strategy &amp; Framework Development</li> <li>- Emergency response</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of harmonised reporting structures</li> <li>- Lack of recognition of local organisations</li> <li>- Focus on Project Period (short-midterm)</li> <li>- Staff turnover</li> <li>- GO-NGO coordination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- International framework</li> </ul>
<b>Corporate / Private Sector</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Create employment and livelihood opportunities,</li> <li>- Vocational Training</li> <li>- Corporate Social Responsibility</li> <li>- Contribute to economic growth</li> <li>- Ensure the safety of employees at the workplace</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Limited reflection of their social responsibility</li> <li>- Limited sensitisation for child protection issues within the organisation</li> <li>- Profit maximising focus dominates</li> <li>- Short term perspective</li> <li>- Lack of control on supply chain between formal and informal sector</li> <li>- Limited compliance standards and CoCs at the formal and informal sector</li> <li>- Lack of solid CSR networks</li> <li>- Lack of social entrepreneurship supporting children affected by violence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Resource</li> <li>- Technical expertise on livelihood option</li> <li>- Flexibility</li> <li>- Job opportunities for youth</li> <li>- CSR approaches (COC)</li> <li>- CSR network</li> <li>- Compliance Policies, Standards and laws</li> <li>- Business Forums and Association</li> <li>- Importance for government</li> </ul>

### 5.1.5. Interrelationships among Different Stakeholders

Many stakeholders recognised the importance of collective effort among parents, guardians, employers, and children to inform and motivate other stakeholders about protecting children at home, community, workplace, and institutions. The joint efforts can also thrive on creating community-based protection mechanisms for children.

#### Category of the Stakeholders for the Realisation of Different Rights of the Children

Child Rights Issues	Name of the Stakeholder	Category of the Stakeholder
<b>Protection from Torture</b>	Civil society	External Stakeholder
	Police	Local Duty Bearer
	Employer	Key Secondary Stakeholder
<b>Protection from Violations of Child Rights (General rights violation context)</b>	Family	Primary Care Giver
	Government	Duty Bearer
	Neighbours	Secondary Stakeholder
	Community	Secondary Stakeholder
	Relatives	Secondary Stakeholder
	NGO club	Secondary Stakeholder
	Employer	Secondary Stakeholder
	Police	Local Duty Bearer
Local bad people	Secondary Stakeholder	

Child Rights Issues	Name of the Stakeholder	Category of the Stakeholder
Workplace safety & security	Police	Local Duty Bearer
	Employer	Secondary Stakeholder
	Colleague	Secondary Stakeholder
	Neighbour	Secondary Stakeholder
	Family	Secondary Stakeholder
	Social elites	Secondary Stakeholder
	Neighbour	Secondary Stakeholder
	Nightguard	External Stakeholder

Many stakeholders recognised the importance of working together as a parent, guardian, secondary, and tertiary stakeholders to enable the primary duty bearer to ensure the protection of children in the home, community, workplace, and institutions. It is also critical to mobilising all stakeholders to establish community-based protection mechanisms to guarantee that children have a social safety net.

## 5.2. OVERVIEW OF INTERVENTIONS

### 5.2.1. Existing Services and Provisions Regarding Protection Issues

#### 5.2.1.1. policy within the institutional level

GoB and NGOs should adopt internal policies to protect children from all sorts of harm when they step within the organisational sphere. These policies are vital for child protection at the institutional level. Generally, a child safeguarding/protection policy should be within the institutional level to safeguard children from all sorts of violence, exploitation, abuse, and negligence. But due to the absence of safeguarding/protection policy set within the institutions, many children fall victim to abuse, exploitation, and neglect.

- **Child Safeguarding Policy/Child Protection Policy**

Child Safeguarding/Protection Policy refers to the strategy which protects children from the harm done by the staff, volunteers working, and children using the project space or resources. An organisation must establish a safe environment for the children within the organisation. Good child protection practice protects children from all sorts of harm and encourages the staff and volunteers to become more responsible in protecting Children from all sorts of violence. For all child focus organisations, it is a must for the organisation to protect the children from all sorts of harms that come into contact with the programs activities and persons. This policy refers to procedures and practices which outline the organisation's commitment to protecting children from any harm. All program staff, volunteers or consultants associated with the organisation must follow this policy. This policy applies to all persons working for the organisation or on behalf of the organisation at any level.

Following steps are associated with smooth implementation of Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy

- Install complaint mechanism within the organisation.
- Display materials on CP
- Arrange training and orientations on CP
- Assign CP Focal person
- Facilitate the CP Focal person in collect complain and take immediate action
- Reporting

Here is to note that any child abuse allegations against staff/associates must be reported to the focal person within the shortest time or as soon as practically possible.

Essential responsibilities of Child Safeguarding Focal Person includes:

- Reporting of child abuse allegations
- Taking immediate action against reported cases
- Provide orientation of Child Protection Policy & Code of Conduct to all new staff, volunteers, consultants, service providers and others
- Participate in different training related to Child Protection, Child rights training as per the requirement
- Prepare an incident report on the investigation of complaints
- Collect record of allegations of Child abuse as well as take prompt action
- Ensure that staff/volunteers would work in an open environment avoiding private or unobserved situations.
- Ensure that staff/volunteers would not spend excess time with any children.
- Ensure confidentiality regarding the information of Children
- Take disciplinary in case of allegations of Child abuse
- Encourage the staffs in becoming a role model in terms of dealing with Children

### **5.2.2. Centre Based Approaches**

Centre-based intervention includes various services like Night Shelter for the children living on the street, a Drop-in centre for the underprivileged children, a safe home service for the children and adolescents who have been sexually and physically abused, a shelter home for the survivor of trafficking, a shelter home for disabled children, shelter home for children living on the street.

GoB operates specialized shelter homes for orphans, destitute children, children in conflict with the law. These centres are mainly known as Child Development Centers, Day Care Centers for the Children, District Children Complex, Children welfare centre, specialized centres for children with a mental disorder, Sishu Paribar, Choto Moni Nibash and children rehabilitation centre etc.

- **Safe Night Shelter for the Children living on the street**

The ultimate goal of this initiative is to improve the life standard of Children living on the street by ensuring a safe night for them. Apart from counselling support for minimising stress, trauma and conflict resolution, the safe night shelter provides food and health care services. This intervention also empowers the children living on the street are through life skill education, peer accompanies, and responsible adult guidance.

Safe Night Shelter caters following needs of the children:

- Ensure a safe night for the children.
- Ensure primary health care for the Children.
- Facilitate the process of maintaining health and hygiene
- Ensuring Food and Health care facilities (through referral)
- Ensuring Individual Bed
- Ensuring safety for children's belongings
- Provide Life skill Training
- Provide Non-formal Education and formal education through referral linkage

- Ensuring Recreational activities
- Provide Skill Training for alternative livelihood
- Introducing Case Management process for children.
- Counselling for minimising stress, trauma and conflict regulation
- Provide Legal aid

- **Drop-in Centre for Children living on the street and in Urban Slums**

Children living in urban slums and on the streets are experiencing violence as a part of their daily life. Physical and humiliating Punishment (PHP) is commonly practised in slum and street settings and is considered an effective method to discipline children. These children are deprived of nutritious food, health facilities, and education, which badly affects their physical and mental growth. Considering this scenario, creating a safe space for children is a helpful approach in reducing the vulnerability of those categories of children. The ultimate goal of this process is to increase child participation, access to pre-schooling, primary health support and psychosocial support.

Drop-in Centres for the children living in slums and streets ensure:

- Adult accompaniment for the children of working parents.
- Sports, Recreation and Cultural activities for creative development of children.
- Pre-schooling support into the centre
- After school education support
- Primary health care for the Children
- Birth Registration
- Access the children to avail various services like mainstream education, specialised health services, recreation services, and legal aid services through referral by maintaining networking with other organisations.
- Non-formal Education support
- The Case Management process for children.
- Parents participation with the centre

- **A safe home for the Children and Adolescents who are Victim of Sexual Abuse, Exploitation and Trafficking**

Children living in urban slums and on the street are exposed to violence, especially sexual abuse and exploitation. The victim of sexual abuse, exploitation and internal and external trafficking are stigmatised and separated from society. These children easily fall victim to criminal rackets and get involved with substance abuse, prostitution, and other illicit activities. Considering this reality, by following the *Children Act-2013*, GoB and NGOs deliver rescue services and much needed safe home services to those children and adolescents. Aside from providing safe shelter, this intervention also provides legal support to survivors to defend their rights and bring the perpetrator into the legal system.

Following services are offered to the survivors through the Safe Home Approaches:

- Rescue and Rehabilitation
- Shelter
- Psychosocial counselling
- Food and Health care facilities
- Non-formal Education support

- The Case Management process for children.
- Family reintegration
- Life skill training
- Alternative livelihood options through skill development training
- Legal assistance

#### **5.2.2.1. Special Services within the centre-based approach**

GoB and NGOs provide different services for ensuring overall wellbeing for the children in all settings. These services include legal aid services, psychosocial counselling, case management, mainstream education support, Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting (PDEP), a life skill training program, and a positive fatherhood approach.

- **Legal Aid Services**

The children are at risk of being victims of criminals and exploiters. The criminals sometimes use the children as their aid. The children, specifically street children and slum-dwelling children, are at high risk of sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking, and engaging in various exploitative and hazardous professions. As a result, the rights of the children, as proclaimed under UNCRC, are violated. Providing legal aid services to the Children living on the street is critical in enabling a safe environment for them in all aspects. This process consists of two components:

- Awareness-raising training,
- Ensuring legal aid and Protection of UNCRC.

- **Psychosocial Counselling Service**

The children exposed to violence, sexual abuse, and exploitation suffer from acute psychological maladjustment and trauma. Providing counselling services is an immensely effective method in minimising the stress, trauma of the Children. Mentally traumatised and distressed children received counselling services from the counsellor. Usually, this service has two crucial sets of activities:

- **Case Management Process**

The case management procedure is essential to identify individual children and families requiring particular assistance, adequately provide that assistance, and inform, through monitoring, how effective this assistance is in enabling vulnerable children and families to address their concerns. Case Management refers to the process of assisting an individual child through direct support and referral to other needed services and the activities that caseworkers, social workers or other project staff carry out in working with children and families in addressing their specific concerns. Case management is a method for coordinating and keeping track of services in which a worker assesses a Child regarding what services are needed and monitors the delivery of those services. Case management involves direct and indirect services. Direct service means that the caseworker directly meets a family's or child's needs through very regular support visits, dialogue, etc. An indirect service means that the caseworker has referred the Children to another institutions organisation for providing the appropriate support.

Following steps are followed during Case Management Procedure:

- Screening
- Assessing
- Planning
- Implementation
- Monitoring
- Review and Analysis
- Conclusion

- **Mainstream Education**

Access to mainstream education facilities is one of the options for social integration for the marginalized children. This procedure creates scopes for the marginalised Children to get admitted into formal educational institutes and facilitate them to continue their educational endeavours with educational inputs.

- **Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting (PDEP)**

Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting (PDEP) is designed to help parents rear their children effectively while respecting their rights. The objective of PDEP Training is to develop the parents and caregivers' capacity to discipline their children without applying corporal punishment. After attaining the training sessions, parents learned about the basic principle of Child Rights, negative consequences of physical and humiliating punishment, concepts and techniques of positive discipline, brain function at different mental stress and stages of child development. Alongside this, the training helped the parents to identify their long term goals for their children.

The following steps are associated with enrolling the Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting (PDEP) approach:

Conduct training on Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting (PDEP) with the parents, caregivers

- Formation of PDEP parents' group
- Arrange follow-up sessions with PDEP trainees, children, community people and recognition of most positive parents.
- Arrange sharing meeting with parents group who received PDEP training
- Arrange annual reflection meeting with PDEP parents

PDEP tools and techniques helped the parents give their children love, care, and accurate information and understand instead of applying punishment. It is revealed that parents who received PDEP training are now much aware of the harmful impact of practising corporal punishment at the family level. They now become friends with their children, trying to spend some quality time with them and make them understand rather than applying punitive measures. Here is to note that the rate of family conflict is also reduced among these families.

- **Enrolling Positive Fatherhood Model**

The Positive Fatherhood approach aims to strengthen foundational knowledge, understanding, and frameworks on engaging fathers in positive fatherhood and to reduce violence against children. This approach is fundamental to developing the fathers' capacity in identifying the proper role of fathers in child-rearing and child development so that they can play an important role in reducing violence against children across their community. This

intervention also develops the capacity of the fathers regarding the basic principle of Child Rights, the role of fathers in child development, the impact of practising positive fatherhood on family and social context, characteristics of a good father, good practices of positive fatherhood in different countries, the role of fathers in reducing SGBV etc. As community-based group members, the fathers also take part in both addresses and take appropriate steps against SGBV incidents within their locality. Most importantly, they share their knowledge with the other father within the community, enabling the environment of reducing SGBV across their surroundings.

The following steps are associated with enrolling Positive Fatherhood model at the community level:

- Conduct training on Positive Fatherhood with the Fathers
- Arrange awareness sessions with Father group on fatherhood
- Tea-stall meeting with the community people on the role of fathers in child Rearing
- Arrange reflection workshop with the fathers received training on positive fatherhood along with their spouses

- **Life Skill Training Program**

Life Skill Training is a critical approach to enhance the resilience of vulnerable Children against any violence. Under this approach, vulnerable children's capacity has been developed by gathering knowledge on different core components of life skills like stress management, Anger Management, Crisis coping mechanism, rational decision-making process, Techniques of Avoiding and Handling Physical and Sexual Abuse, Self-protection mechanisms from abuse and exploitation etc. This process helps vulnerable Children to understand themselves and their surroundings. Life skill training also enhances the capacity of the children to identify the risks of violence and increase knowledge of how to protect themselves and others.

### **5.2.3. School-Based Intervention**

School-based interventions include the smooth functioning of the complaint or suggestion box and functioning child cabinet, which are immensely important in enabling a violence-free environment for the Children at the school compound.

- **Complaint or Suggestion Box**

Establishing a Complaint or suggestion box is one of the significant interventions in ensuring violent free school compound. Complaint or suggestion box helps in collecting information regarding any violence against Children. It is easily accessible for the children, and through this platform, they can share any sort of problem. School Management Committee (SMC) members are responsible for taking proper action against reported cases reported through the Complaint/suggestion box.

The following steps are associated with the smooth operation of the complaint or suggestion box:

- Install Complaint/suggestions within the schools
- Consultation with Children, parents, community people regarding the complaint and response mechanism
- Identify the complaints reported through the Complaint/suggestion box
- Facilitate the process of taking necessary action against reported complains

- **Child Cabinet**

Formation of Child cabinets into schools through following the **National Education Policy 2010** facilitated the Children to express their opinions on different issues that impacted them. Child cabinet could be an exceptionally effective platform for the children to raise their voices on different concerns and offer the appropriate solution to solving their problems. Formation and smooth functioning of Child Cabinet empower children and increase their understanding of their rights, shape their personality, and encourage. This initiative is helping the Children develop their capacity in the decision-making process on different issues, including protection-related issues, and explore solutions to problems.

#### **5.2.4. Workplace-Based Intervention**

Workplace-based interventions are the services such as involving employers group in protecting children's rights, implementing a code of conduct at the workplace etc. These services play a vital role in ensuring a decent and non-violent environment for the children at the workplace.

- **Employers Group**

Employers group can play an immense role in eliminating hazardous Child labour from their workplaces and ensuring a violence-free environment for child labourers. Employers and employers' groups can collect violence complaints against children and take adequate steps to redress the complaints.

Employers group ensure the wellbeing of the children involved in hazardous work by:

- Monitoring workplace to identify violence against children.
- End the practice of hiring children
- Eliminate children from hazardous work at floor level.
- Reduce the working hours for the Children
- Support child labours' education by allocating time for attending school within the working hours.
- Carry out a workplace risk assessment
- Introduce workplace safety measures

- **Code of Conduct**

Due to the enactment of various laws regarding child labour and regular factory visits, child labour has decreased in the formal sector. But the large numbers of working children who work in the informal sector are totally outside the ambit of existing laws and policies. It is essential to bring these children under the protective umbrella through policy reform and policy enactment to improve the situation. But it is a very lengthy and time-consuming process. To extend the commitment to eradicate child labourers from the informal sector urgently, one of the effective strategies is to introduce a code of conduct for employers. This CoC helps the child labours in their struggle to actualise their rights, and CoC also acts as a safeguard to ensure a better job environment and compliance from employers.

Generally, the following modalities and issues are included in the code of conduct for the employers:

- Have to sign the contract between employer and children.
- Suitable work hours for child labourers.
- Ensuring a violence-free work environment
- Allocated time to attend school.

- Provision for weekly and annual leave.
- Provision of treatment for children for work-related sickness or accidents.
- Provision of recreational facilities
- Employers can't torture children
- Provision of Eid bonus
- Provision of safety equipment for fire hazards.

#### **5.2.5. Awareness Activities**

Apart from that, different awareness-raising interventions like courtyard meetings, sensitisation sessions involving local level key actors, and campaign programs could be initiated to create a safe hub for the children within their surroundings.

- **Courtyard Meeting**

Organising courtyard meeting is an effective tool to raise awareness of the community people on different protection related issues. Usually, a courtyard meeting is organised at any suitable place identified by the community people. In these courtyard meetings, different issues like gender-based and domestic violence, PHP, Rights of the Children, sexual abuse and detection of sexual abuse, gender equality and paralegal support, adolescent reproductive health etc. are discussed, which in turn contributed to developing a pathway to take protective measures for protecting Children from all sort of violence.

- **Sensitisation session through involving local level key actors**

Involving the local level key actors into the sensitisation process is a vital tool to strengthen protection mechanisms. In our society, the role and opinion of a religious leader are highly regarded. They can discuss PHP, SGBV & child sexual abuse from the religious point of view and be aware of other people more efficiently as they have comparatively better acceptance within the community. Similarly, community leaders also play the role of the local informal authority. They understand the cause and effect of every incident within their community and have a community-level understanding of social context. It is more fruitful and effective when the community leaders take initiatives to develop social awareness regarding PHP, SGBV, sexual abuse, harassment and other forms of rights violation of children.

- **Campaign programs**

Campaign programs put pressure on the duty bearers and other stakeholders using different Advocacy tools for improving accountability and prompt response to social malpractices. The campaign generates increased supply and access to information on PHP, SGBV, sexual abuse, and harassment at the grassroots level. It helps the caregiver, duty bearer, and other stakeholders understand the negativity of various harmful traditional values and practices at the individual and community level and become more committed to preventing violence against children.

### 5.3. COMMUNITY BASED PROTECTION INITIATIVES

#### 5.3.1. Practices of Existing Community Based Monitoring System concerning Child Protection in Local and National Level by the Civil Society Facilitated by the NGO

The community-based child protection initiatives operate and address child protection issues from different dimensions, at rural to urban set-ups with mono to multi-layers of committees having either or both adults and children in the lead.

**Complaint and response mechanism** Any community-based child protection program must have a complaint and response mechanism. It's also a helpful tool for gathering information about violence against children locally. It is easily accessible to children and their families, and it provides a forum for them to communicate any difficulties they may have with adults. Adult members of the group take appropriate action in response to cases reported through the complaint and response method.

Following steps are associated with the smooth operation of complaint and response mechanism:

- Install complaint and response mechanism within community-level, i.e. set-up surveillance groups, complaint box and most importantly, a platform where reported complaints are evaluated, and responses are generated,
- Consultation with children, parents, and others of the community to produce a response to the complaint.
- Identify the reported cases with legal implications and link them with formal government structure for further action.
- Facilitate the process of taking necessary action against reported cases

Members of local elected bodies, local leaders, parents, schoolteachers, local business leaders, religious leaders, social workers, journalists, members of house owners' associations, members of bazaar and market committees, employers of children, government officials at the thana/ward level, retired government officials, and NGO personnel make up the urban community-based committees. These urban-based committees focus a greater emphasis on the places where children are vulnerable while selecting their members. In contrast to urban-based community committees, some rural-based committees have both adults and children representing them. Women and men elected representatives, social leaders, religious leaders, teachers, CBOs, government officials at the Upazila/union level, and retired government officials are the community-based committees.

**Women and Girl Child Violence Protection Committee** consists of women elected representatives, male elected representatives, social leaders, religious leaders, teachers, and children in the community. The main goal of these committees is to protect women and girls from domestic violence and early marriage, to collect records of child abuse allegations and to take prompt action, to educate parents through meetings and sensitisation sessions so that they can take adequate measures to reduce various forms of violence against children at the community level. These committees contribute to the creation of local strategies to eliminate PHP and SGBV.

**Community-Based Child Protection Committee** consists of women elected representative, male elected representative, Social Leader, Religious leaders, teacher and government officials in thana/ward/Upazilla/union level, retired government officials children in the

community. The main objective of these committees is to safeguard both boys and girls from all sorts of violence that may happen in family, community, and workplace or within the institution level. These committees play a role in enhancing the accessibility of the children in getting necessary services (education support, legal assistance, shelter support, counselling support etc.) from different service providing institutions through referral. As an important organ of community-based protection mechanism, this group plays a significant role in smooth functioning of complaint and response mechanism across community level and taking prompt against reported cases related to domestic violence, SGBV, child marriage, sexual assault, etc. These committees also bridge between institutes and community in knowledge transfer and capacity development on child protection, life skill, gender and masculinity, gender relation and development, reproductive health and rights and human rights, national, international laws and policies relating to GBV. Some of these committees also play a vital role in organising skill development training to enable children to ensure alternative livelihood, he and

**Child Groups** are comprised of children who are derived from the intervention's target group/beneficiaries. The children's groups are made up of boys and girls from various ethnic, work, geographical, or educational backgrounds who have similar economic backgrounds. These committees' goals are to gather violence-related data from the community level and link it to complaint and response processes, organise child-led mobilisation, peer-to-peer awareness-raising, and organise various levels of cultural action for awareness-raising and day celebration.

**Watchdog Groups** consist of either adults or both adults and children. The main objective of these watchdog groups is to monitor and report back to appropriate GoB counterparts on child rights violations in general and in specific child marriage, child sexual abuse, exploitation and women and child trafficking.

**The parent's group** comprises a father, mother, and caregivers of all ages, sexes, religions, castes, and economic backgrounds. These groups attend and arrange courtyard meetings, awareness sessions, and training focused on various protection-related issues as a critical component of a community-based protection approach. The parent group's goal was to urge other people in the community to use positive parenting techniques to discipline their children at home. Another key goal of the parent group is to minimise sexual and gender-based violence in the community. They do this by educating other community members about various safety issues, such as the terrible impact of SGBV, PHP, the harmful consequence of child marriage, domestic violence, UNCRC etc.

### **5.3.2. Existing Capacity of Community Groups and Linkages with Formal Structure (e.g. UP) to Prevent Violence and Child Protection in the Community.**

The community-based child protection committees operate at the grassroots levels, act as watchdogs, and look at various child protection issues. As discussed in detail in this chapter, the informal child protection mechanism is CBCPC, committees initiated by local community people and NGOs to protect children from all sorts of violence, trafficking, and child marriages. The relationship between the informal and formal CP structure is mostly referral in nature.

### 5.3.2.1. Existing Child Protection Structure of GoB

GoB is providing poignant efforts for protecting children from all sorts of violence, abuse, exploitation, negligence in all settings. Children Act-2013, National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and Children (2018-2030), Children Policy 2011, Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017, Prevention of Women and Child Repression Act 2000 (Amended in 2003), Bangladesh Labor Act 2006 (Amended in 2013) are among the policies and acts adopted and implemented by the Government of Bangladesh to strengthen protection mechanisms for children in all setting.

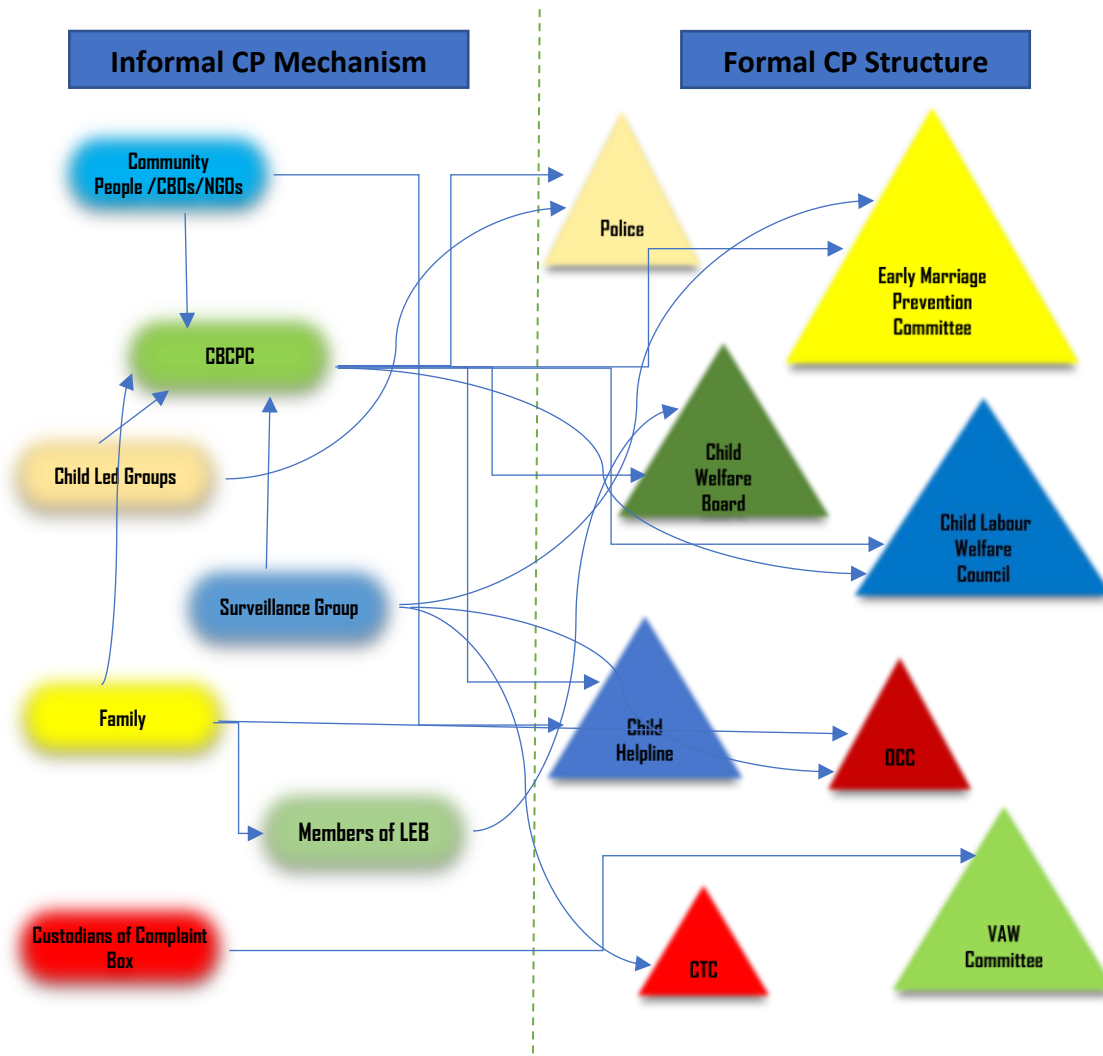
- **At the national level**, Under the leadership of the ministries of Social Welfare, Women and Children Affairs, and Labor and Employment, the National Child Welfare Board, National Children's Task Force (NCTF), and National Child Labor Welfare Council are mainly responsible for protecting children from all sorts of harms. At the same time, the Early Marriage Prevention Committee works to prevent child marriage.
- **Under the Ministry of Social Welfare, the GoB runs the District Child Welfare Board at the district level**. The Ministry of Labor and Employment and the Ministry of Home Affairs operate the district Child Labour Welfare Council and the district Level Counter-Trafficking Committee (CTC). In addition, under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs guidance, the GoB provides help to survivors of violence through the One-Stop Crisis Center (OCC) and the Early Marriage Prevention Committee at the district level.
- **At the Upazila level**, GoB is operating Upazila Child Welfare Board under the Ministry of Social Welfare to ensure overall wellbeing for the children. GoB is also operating Upazila Child Labour Welfare Council and Upazila Level Counter-Trafficking Committee (CTC) under the Ministry of Labor and Employment and Home Affairs, respectively. Also, the Early Marriage Prevention Committee is working at the Upazila level under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs leadership.
- **At Union Level**, GoB operates the Counter-Trafficking Committee (CTC) under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Violence Against Women Committee, and Early Marriage Prevention Committee to protect children under the Ministry of Women Children Affairs leadership.

Existing Structure of Child Protection Bangladesh				
Responsible National body	Ministry of Social Welfare	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs	Ministry of Labor and Employment	Ministry of Home Affairs
Major Operating Guidelines	Children Act-2013	National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and Children (2018-2030) Children Policy 2011 Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017 Prevention of Women and Child Repression Act 2000 (Amended in 2003)	Bangladesh Labor Act 2006 (Amended in 2013) National Child Labor Elimination Policy (2005-2010)	National Plan of Action for Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking (2018-2022)
Formal Entities for Child Protection				
National Level	National Child Welfare Board  National Children's Task Force (NCTF)	South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC)  National Helpline Centre for Violence against Women and Children  Child protection Helpline Early Marriage Prevention Committee	National Child labour Welfare Council	
District Level	District Child Welfare Board	One-Stop Crisis Center (OCC) Early Marriage Prevention Committee	District Child labour Welfare Council	District Level Counter-Trafficking Committee (CTC)
Upazila Level	Upazila Child Welfare Board	VAW Committee Early Marriage Prevention Committee	Upazila Child labour Welfare Council	Upazila Level Counter-Trafficking Committee (CTC)
Union Level		VAW Committee Early Marriage Prevention Committee		Union Level Counter-Trafficking Committee (CTC)

### 5.3.2.2. Interphase Between Formal Child Protection Structure and Informal Child Protection Mechanisms in Local Level

With the presence of community-based child protection committees in the area, cases of violence against children and women, child abuse, child trafficking, and child marriage are intervened in, reported, and stopped. The informal child protection mechanism also put pressure on local authorities to refer cases with criminal merits to the police and follow up with family, community leaders, and members to ensure that the cases are dealt with due process.

## Interphase Between Informal and Formal CP Structure



At the grassroots level, people usually handle minor issues related to violence against children through family and local elites, respected citizens, older people, and members of local elected bodies. Sometimes, for serious crimes like rape, sexual molestation, severe physical punishment, torture, and elope, people still seek support from traditional community structures like mediation committees, various committees of religious institutions, union councils, and local social organisations. Often, some issues go beyond their jurisdiction, but these community-based entities are still handling such issues relating to child protection. Moreover, there are no policy directives, ToRs, or MoUs to formalise the reporting, information sharing, and referral services between these two entities. So, creating accountability between these two entities is a challenge. Ironically, the reporting from informal CP structures is not yet incorporated in the national CP database, so a comprehensive case management system is yet to be achieved.

## Chapter 6

# STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS, NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES AND WAY FORWARD

### 6.1. UPR RECOMMENDATIONS AND STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION<sup>1</sup>

#### 6.1.1. Background

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is the most widely ratified legal framework for protecting every child and fulfilling their rights. The UNCRC consists of 54 articles<sup>2</sup> that cover all perspectives of Children and indicate the pathway regarding the roles and responsibilities of different actors in fulfilling the children's rights. UNCRC has outlined the rights of children to be protected from all sorts of discrimination; abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation, which reflects in article 19 (protection from violence, abuse and neglect), article 34 (sexual exploitation), article 35 (abduction, sale and trafficking), article 36 (other forms of exploitation) and article 39 (recovery from trauma and reintegration). The Government of Bangladesh ratified the United Nations Convention on the Child's Rights (UNCRC) in 1990 with a reservation to article 14, paragraph 1 and Article 21. Later UNCRC was strengthened by adopting optional protocols on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, involvement of children in armed conflict, communications procedure.<sup>3</sup> UNCRC has stimulated the government to change existing laws and policies to fulfil the rights of the Children and strengthen protection mechanisms for them.

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) introduced the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2006, a new mechanism for periodically assessing every UN member state's human rights situation. It is important to note that, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA) of the Government of Bangladesh provides reports on ending violence against children to global accountability processes, including UPR on CRC. This section addresses Child Rights focused UPR recommendations for Bangladesh, the government's response, and implementation status. Though Bangladesh has a strong commitment, some gaps exist in implementing the accepted Child Rights focused UPR recommendations. This section also highlights the impetuses behind the lags in implementation. The reasons for non-

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<sup>1</sup> 30th Session of the Universal Periodic Review, Blooming Children: Prosperous Bangladesh-Child Focused Budget, Ministry of Finance, 2018-2019, Justice for Children in Bangladesh-The Children Act 2013 – Brief Commentary, Hon Justice M Imman Ali, List of issues in relation to the fifth periodic report of Bangladesh, Human rights in Bangladesh: a mid-term assessment of implementation during the UPR 3rd cycle, 2020, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, 2018, Universal Periodic Review of Bangladesh 30th Session, May 2018, UPR stakeholders' submission on the Children's Rights Situation in Bangladesh, 3rd 3 Cycle of UN Universal, Periodic Review (UPR), 2017, A summary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: UNICEF, The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Legislative history of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, UN. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Raddabarnen (Society : Sweden),2007, <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/children/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/content/dam/gb/reports/humanitarian/uncrc19-summary2.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/>

implementation are lack of inter-ministerial coordination, poor implementation, and lack of accountability and transparency. The section also concluded that the government should pay the highest degree of attention to this plethora of invaluable recommendations and observations and take necessary initiatives to address the shortcomings and ensure smooth and effective implementation of Child Rights focused UPR recommendations for ensuring the rights of all children.

### **6.1.2. UPR Observations on Optional Protocol**

129.1. (Slovakia) Sign and ratify the new Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure.

129.1. (Maldives) Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Child's Rights on a communications procedure at the earliest opportunity.

Bangladesh has accepted the two UPR observations regarding Optional Protocol. In response to the observations, Bangladesh has taken few measures to fulfil the drawbacks. Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) initiated inter-ministerial consultation to discuss the OP3. Furthermore, divisional level consultations were initiated by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) to create awareness and collect opinions of the general people, civil society, government officials, and children. One of the major recommendations of the Civil Society Organizations was that "government should also take actions to strengthen national child protection mechanism. A national complaint response system should also be established."<sup>4</sup> In response to that, the government has already established the National Children helpline.

#### **6.1.2.1 UPR Observations on harmonisation with international instruments**

129.4. (Nicaragua) Continue efforts to harmonise its normative framework with international human rights norms to which the country has acceded, particularly those concerning the rights of the child.

129.40. (Jordan) Continue its policies on improving the rights of the child.

Bangladesh has taken several measures to fulfil the commitment to achieving Children's rights by the UNCRC and other international instruments and protocols. Bangladesh has already established separate Children's Wing in the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. Bangladesh has also formed Child Welfare Boards in all districts and Upazilas. Bangladesh has established a Child Affairs Desk at police stations and assigned a Child Affairs police officer due to the Child Act of 2013. To enhance children's intellectual and cultural capacities, Child Development Centers were built; Day Care Centers were established to assure children's safety, and a District Children Complex was established. Six divisional cities had Support Centers; a Safe Home for women, children, and adolescents had been formed; and children's courts had been established. Following the UNCRC, the ministry of finance published the ministry wise allocation of Child-Focused Budget in 2018.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Progress on Implementation of Child Focused UPR Recommendations (September 2013 - October 2015), Child Rights Advocacy Coalition in Bangladesh, 2015.

<sup>5</sup> Blooming Children: Prosperous Bangladesh, Child Focused Budget, 2018-19, Ministry of Finance, June 2018

### **6.1.3. UPR Observations on Ombudsman**

129.28. (Algeria) Actively consider appointing a Child Ombudsman as per CRC recommendations.

Although Bangladesh has accepted this observation but has not taken any initiative to establish a "Children Ombudsman" to vanguard and ensure the Children's rights' fulfilment, appointing an Ombudsman is incorporated in the National Children's Policy 2011. However still, the proper initiative has not been ensured for implementing this provision.

### **6.1.4. UPR Observations on Violence Against Children (VAC)**

129.8. (Republic of Moldova) Further, criminalise violence against women and girls, prosecute perpetrators and adopt legislation on sexual harassment.

129.10. (Uruguay) Ensure that all acts of violence against women and girls are criminalised, that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished, and that victims of violence have access to immediate protection measures, reparations and social reintegration.

129.69. (Republic of Korea) Take all possible measures to address violence against women and girls

129.70. (Finland) Ensure that all forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence and all forms of sexual abuse, are criminalised.

129.71. (Pakistan) Continue efforts to prevent violence against children.

129.88. (Senegal) Reinforce efforts in the fight to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women and children.

130.19. (Portugal) Explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in all settings, including the home

130.24. (Slovakia) Develop and implement appropriate, efficient measures to protect indigenous women and children from all kinds of violence and discrimination.

Bangladesh has enacted and implemented several laws and policies to combat violence against children like Children Act-2013, The Prevention of Women & Children Repression Act 2000, Bangladesh Penal Code, Pornography Control Act 2012 etc. Bangladesh has formulated and implemented the National Plan of Action to Prevent Violence against Women and Children, 2013-2025. Under the National Children Policy 2011, Bangladesh has formed Child Welfare Board from the national to Upazilla level. Under the Children Act-2013, Bangladesh has established the National Children helpline, set up Child's Affairs Desk at the police stations and established Safe Home for women, children and adolescents. With the circular of the Ministry of Education, corporal punishment in school settings has been prohibited. After the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord, the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs was established, and through this ministry, particular programmes are being taken for fulfilling the rights of ethnic Children of Hill Tracts. Bangladesh constitution and the National Children Policy 2011 safeguard the rights of the Children of ethnic minorities. Small Ethnic Communities Cultural Institutions Act, 2010 ensures the protection of ethnic, cultural heritage among the Children. GoB has established nine (9) One-Stop Crisis Centers, sixty (60) One-Stop Crisis Cell, National Trauma Counseling Center, National Forensic DNA Profiling Laboratory to assist women and children victims of violence.

#### **6.1.5. UPR Observations on Early Marriage**

129.31. (Switzerland) Implement its National Women Development Policy of 2011 and take adequate measures to tackle the issue of early marriages

129.90. (Canada) Take active steps to effectively reduce the incidence of early forced marriage, including through the thorough implementation of existing laws such as the Child Marriage Restraint Act, the Dowry Prohibition Act and the Prevention of Women and Children Repression Act

To protect girl Children from early marriage, Bangladesh has formulated many laws, acts and policies. The government of Bangladesh enacted the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2017 and implementing the National Plan of Action to Eliminate Child Marriage (2018-2030). The government of Bangladesh also formed a Child marriage restraint/ prevention committee in each local administrative tier and taken initiatives to expand the coverage of various social safety net programs for securing girls from Child marriage. Apart from these efforts, GOB is organising courtyard meetings, workshops, seminars for preventing child marriage, child trafficking and sexual harassment. In addition, Adolescent Club has been set up to end child marriage, ensuring adolescents' right to health care.

#### **6.1.6. UPR Observations on Child Labour**

129.108. (Mexico) Strengthen the labour inspections' mechanisms and step up the efforts to prevent child labour

130.12. (Germany) Take concrete legislative measures to grant for the minimum age of admission to employment as laid out by ILO Convention No. 138, in a comprehensive manner

Bangladesh has accepted the recommendations of UPR regarding Child labour. The government of Bangladesh has undertaken programs for withdrawing children from hazardous work, ensured coordination among concerned stakeholders and different bodies for the welfare of child workers, and building awareness mainly among parents, guardians, and employers to eliminate child labour. As part of these initiatives, the Government of Bangladesh has established National Child Labor Welfare Council (NCLWC) to coordinate and monitor district and the Upazilla committees regarding child labour. To implement all rules and policies regarding eliminating child labour from the country, the Ministry of Labour and Employment has established a Child labour unit. MoLE implements the 4th phase of "Elimination of Hazardous Child Labor in Bangladesh to withdraw 100,000 working children from hazardous working conditions. Regularly, MoLE is updating the list of hazardous work prohibited for working Children. The issue of Child Labourers is also being addressed under the National Occupational Safety and Health Policy, 2012.

#### **6.1.7. UPR Observations on Juvenile Justice**

129.94. (Austria) Raise the age of criminal responsibility for juvenile offenders to at least 12 years, in line with the CRC's general comment

131.1 (Uruguay) Amend legislation in force to prevent the imposition of the death penalty and life imprisonment for offences committed by minors under the age of 18 years, to abolish the death penalty

Regarding the issue of Juvenile Justice, Bangladesh appears to be remaining in the same position. Bangladesh has accepted recommendations no 129.94 but has not been taken any

significant steps to harmonise with this Article. Despite recommendations from both CRC and UPR, the Government of Bangladesh has not raised the age of criminal responsibility for juvenile offenders to 12 years. Bangladesh has partially accepted recommendation no 131.1 but does not abolish the death penalty in its jurisprudence.

#### **6.1.8. UPR Observations on Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking**

129.18. (Kyrgyzstan) Combat the sale and trafficking in children and strengthen partnerships with all stakeholders to provide child victims with recovery and social reintegration services and programmes

129.19. (Republic of Moldova) Combat the sale and trafficking in children more effectively and strengthen partnerships with all stakeholders to provide child victims with recovery and social reintegration services and programmes

129.37. (Venezuela and the Bolivarian Republic of) Continue with its successful policies to prevent trafficking in persons, especially women and girls

129.52. (Belarus) Continue to enhance its efforts to counter trafficking in persons, including to consider the possibility of inviting the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children

Bangladesh has accepted the recommendations regarding sexual exploitation and trafficking by enacting and amending laws and policies and ratifying regional and international Optional Protocols. The government of Bangladesh is implementing the Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012 and the National Plan of Action for Combating Human Trafficking 2018-22. Under the NPA, GoB facilitates awareness-raising activities against trafficking, establishes and facilitates Counter-Trafficking Committees, and strengthens communities' capacity to identify trafficking victims and take proper action. Under the Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012, GoB has established a digital surveillance system along the borders and regular monitoring at remote bordering areas to prevent human and child trafficking. This Act has linked the trafficked victims with appropriate services and facilitates effective and well-coordinated partnerships among stakeholders to combat trafficking.

#### **6.1.9. UPR Observations on General Recommendations on Child Rights**

130.23. (Holy See) Continue improving the conditions of children, women, Dalits, indigenous people, refugees and migrants, taking into account the special situation and difficulties that those groups have to overcome

129.41. (Cambodia) Continue to give particular attention to the empowerment of women, children, and other vulnerable groups of the populations in the ongoing and future agenda of the government

129.60. (Nepal) Continue efforts for the empowerment of women, children and the underprivileged sections of the society

129.61. (Sudan) Continue with the necessary attention to the empowerment of women and children and other vulnerable groups of the population

129.63. (Djibouti) Continue to promote and protect the rights of children and women

129.64. (Morocco) Continue its efforts to promote and protect the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities, and pay particular attention to the population in rural areas

129.65. (Afghanistan) Take further steps to promote and protect the rights of children and women

129.66. (Bolivia, Romania and State of Palestine) Continue its work in defense of the rights of women by promoting action to empower women; Take further measures aiming at women's empowerment; Continue in giving particular attention to the empowerment of women and children

129.117. (Vietnam) Provide more resources for the enjoyment of social and economic rights of vulnerable groups like women, children, persons with disabilities and minorities

Bangladesh has accepted these recommendations and enhanced different Social Protection Programs for vulnerable children and their families through National Social Security Strategy (NSSS). Through this comprehensive Strategy, GoB is:

- Allocating budget for the socioeconomic development of children
- Enhancing the coverage of different Social Protection Programs for vulnerable children and their families (like allowance scheme, stipend for the students, cash transfer, free food distribution, etc.)
- Providing allowance of Tk. 2000/- through ECR (Enabling Environment for Child Right) project
- Providing pre-primary education to poor children
- Celebrating World Autism Awareness Day
- Providing study materials and conduct health awareness programs for underprivileged children
- Enhancing health care, build health awareness among 'Harijan' women and children and ensure education for members of this community
- Providing counselling to women and children under the 'Multi-sector Wide Program' for prevention of violence against women
- Constructed 150-bed hospital for women and children

## **6.2. STATUS OF NATIONAL LAWS AND POLICIES COVERING CHILD PROTECTION**

### **6.2.1. Introduction**

Bangladesh has achieved impressive success in many developmental indicators in the last two decades. Bangladesh has already achieved the status of a lower middle-income country and set the ambitious goal of reaching the upper-middle-income status by 2030. Progress was underpinned by steady growth in GDP, which averaged 6.5 percent in the last decade. Life expectancy, literacy rates and per capita food production have increased significantly. Despite these achievements, still, around 26 million children in Bangladesh live below the national poverty line, and nearly 58 percent of children are severely deprived of any one of the six deprivation indicators: shelter, sanitation, water, information, education and health.<sup>6</sup>Laws and policies are two instruments of the State which have their foundation on the constitution and are formulated to ensure and safeguard the broad-based commitments materialised. GoB has enacted, ratified, and reformed various laws and policies that directly affect children's lives and development. In this section, some of those laws and policies are critically reviewed.

## 6.2.2 Background

Bangladesh has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Children's Rights (UNCRC) and committed to fulfilling the Bangladeshi children's rights. The Government of Bangladesh has enacted and ratified major laws concerning children to uphold the commitment made towards UNCRC and gradually fulfil the UPR observations and recommendations (which are acknowledged by Bangladesh). This section of the chapter addresses the current scenario of existing laws and policies to realise and safeguard the Rights of the children and create an enabling environment for their healthy physical and mental growth.

Intending to uphold the issues of ensuring the rights of children in all aspects, Bangladesh, more than the last one decade, has formulated a wide range of laws and policies:<sup>7</sup>

### Recent National Policies and Legislations for Children in Bangladesh<sup>8</sup>

Policies, Acts, and Laws	Year of approval/development
National Child Labour Elimination Policy	2010
National Child Policy	2011
Children Act 2013 (amended in 2018)	2013
Comprehensive Early Childhood Care and Development Policy	2013
Breast milk Substitute Act	2013
National Domestic Labour Policy	2015
Child Marriage Restraint Act	2017
Child Marriage Restraint Rules	2018
National Plan of Action to End Child Marriage	2018
National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and Children (2018-2030)	2018

## 6.2.3 Gaps in Existing Laws and Policies to Protect Children from Violence

This section highlights the gaps and disparities among recent laws and policies (please consult the above table), which require both immediate and long-term attention to fine-tune for ensuring the fulfilment of the purpose of their stated enactment, i.e. protect children from violence.

### 6.2.3.1. National Child Labour Elimination Policy

Narrowing the view on the relevant international conventions, it appears that Bangladesh has made significant progress over the last decades in the fight against child labour.<sup>9</sup> National Child Labor Elimination Policy (NCLEP) was approved in 2010 and addresses the safety and security of child labourers at the workplace and the Code of Conduct for employers of child laborers regarding working hours, wages, and age of the children. There are a couple of inter-ministerial committees that deal with important child rights issues. An inter-ministerial committee has been established under the chairmanship of the principal secretary to the prime minister to protect children who come in conflict with the law and improve the administration of juvenile justice. The government recognises the need to

<sup>7</sup> Policy Brief: The situation of children in Bangladesh. UNICEF, 2020

<sup>8</sup> Ibid

<sup>9</sup> Child Labour in Bangladesh – An Analysis of Gaps and Weaknesses of the Existing Legal Framework, Johannes Norpoth, Lukas Groß, and Rahima Aktar, IEE Working Papers, Volume-14, Ruhr-University Bochum.

harmonise national laws on juvenile justice in line with the UNCRC. Recently Draft of the National Plan of Action in Elimination of child labour (2020-2025) was submitted to the ministry.

#### **6.2.3.1.1. Gaps in National Child Labour Elimination Policy**

The gap persists between existing laws and their enforcement. The desk with the responsibilities with monitoring and enforcing Bangladesh's labour regulations are lagging behind the ever-increasing complaints due to lack of human resources, thus failing to "secure the application of the rules on child labour throughout the country. Such neglect of the rule of law leaves victims of child labour without effective remedies".<sup>10</sup>

- Most formal sectors do not follow the conditions of the employment and working environment clauses of the policy set out in sections 10 (b) and 10(c), respectively. This does not address the long working hours and the workplace environment, which are not child friendly. The working environment of working children under Section 10 of the Child Labour Elimination Policy contradicts what happened in the Factory in Rupgonj earlier this month, where most of the workers were children.<sup>11</sup>
- The Labour Act (Amended) 2013 and the National Child Labour Elimination Policy 2010 have no linkage and thus kept domestic workers under the informal sector. So, this sector remains outside all government regulations and monitoring mechanisms.
- Child Labour Elimination Policy does not include detailed measures to tackle sexual harassment of child labourers neither has a linkage with 2009 High Court guidelines against sexual harassment in the workplace.
- The relevant laws do not forbid work that is harmful to a child's mental or physical health or their social development.

#### **6.2.3.1.2. Recommendations for Proper Implementation National of Child Labour Elimination Policy.**

The government should strengthen the monitoring and enforcement mechanisms for proper implementation of the National Child Labour Elimination Policy by increasing trained human resources and creating alternative monitoring mechanisms involving civil society. The policy should extend its scope by taking into account the scattered informal sector through an effective and innovative National Plan of Action (NPA).

- The policy should broaden its purview, including children working in the informal sector, and bring child domestic workers under government regulation.
- Monitoring mechanisms should be enhanced. Proper monitoring by appropriate authorities should be written down for clarity with detailed scope and jurisdictions.
- To tackle sexual harassment and abuse of the Child Labour Elimination Policy should also include 2009 High Court guidelines against sexual harassment in the workplace.
- The law should be aligned with and complement other law/policies, specifically Domestic worker protection and welfare policy-2015 of the land, ensuring Child Rights and Child Protection.
- Provision for the poorest and most vulnerable populations with children to be prioritised and included in social security measures to safeguard children and their families from further hardship.

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<sup>10</sup>Ibid

<sup>11</sup>Advocate Salma Ali, Chairperson, BNWLA

### **6.2.3.2. National Child Policy**

The National Child Policy was drafted by MOWCA and submitted to the Cabinet for approval and finally approved in 2010. The policy has defined individuals under 18 years as children, irrespective of their castes, religions and social status. The major highlights of the policy are that children below 14 years cannot be employed as full-time workers, playgrounds must be provided in all schools, daycare centres are provided in all prisons, child-friendly health services provided in all hospitals, education in mother languages provided for ethnic minority children in schools. According to the policy, the GoB to appoint an ombudsman for children to ensure the implementation of the UNCRC.

#### **6.2.3.2.1. Gaps in National Child Policy**

Like any other policy instrument enacted by GoB, National Child Policy also does not impose any specific obligations on any of the bodies formed under them. As a consequence, "a legitimate question would arise as to whether the public money spent on formulating these policies could have been better spent on policies with concrete obligations imposed on public bodies".<sup>12</sup>

- This policy does not contain any particular article for preventing Child Marriage;
- Successive governments have not adopted any concrete measures to create clarity among the duty-bearers, so ambiguity exists regarding various clauses and their interpretation, and there is no specific structure regarding how it would be put into practice.
- There is no specific provision for properly specific groups of vulnerable children like children living on the street.
- Article 5 of the Policy articulates the participation of the children and accepting their views into consideration within the policy framework and decision-making process regarding protection and other issues that govern every aspect of their lives. But in reality, "there is hardly any statistics found that children's views were taken into consideration as per the Article".<sup>13</sup>
- Article 6.12 and 6.12.1 specifies Child Protection during and after a disaster, rehabilitation, protection, and safety and security measures on a priority basis. Nevertheless, during the COVID-19 pandemic, there was no action to support the children and their families due to a lack of accountability mechanisms within the policy.<sup>14</sup>
- There is no regular monitoring and evaluation system of the NCP. There hasn't been any regular reporting to Parliament or the public on this policy's implementation status.

#### **6.2.3.2.2. Recommendations for Proper Implementation of National Child Policy**

The National Children Policy 2011 has created the legal provision to appoint an Ombudsman for children to have an overarching contribution to safeguarding children's rights. Although the law was drafted in 2006, reviewed and agreed by the Cabinet but not yet implemented. Manusher Jonno Foundation, in collaboration with its partner NGOs, furnished an

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<sup>12</sup>**Study Report on Regulating the Unregulated Domestic Works by Children**, Submitted to National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh, Dr. Md. Rizwanul Islam School of Law, BRAC University, June 2014.

<sup>13</sup> Advocate Salma Ali, Chairperson, BNWLA

<sup>14</sup> Ibid

alternative report on UNCRC in 2014, where it strongly reiterated the demand of civil society to establish the office of a Children's Commissioner (Ombudsman).<sup>15</sup>

- National Child Policy is a commitment set out for the child's best interest by the State and can act as a binding upon the State. Therefore, the policy should be taken into account with utmost urgency as a steppingstone for advocacy.
- The policy should include specific provisions consisting of an effective plan to identify the needs and rights of a specific group of children and have clear cut direction about the implementation plan of delivering the required deliverable to the specific group of children, i.e. street children, child labour, and urban and rural children etc.
- The National Child Policy should be considered as a living document across the child rights governance landscape. The latest National Child Policy is a good entry point to assess the child rights governance capacity of the institutions responsible for implementing the policy.
- Explore the possibility of recommending that MOWCA and other Ministries be the joint implementers of the NPA so that the problems emanating could be solved.
- A critical appraisal of the National Child Policy needs to be carried out to ascertain the extent to which the policy has incorporated the UNCRC rights, principles, and standards.
- Proper training should be in place with the duty bearers to be more responsive and commiserative for effective implementation of the policy from top to bottom level.

### **6.2.3.3. Children Act 2013 (amended in 2018)**

In 2013 Bangladesh enacted new legislation by repealing the Children Act, 1974. The preamble to the Children Act, 2013, officially known as the "Shishu Ain, 2013", states that it has been enacted to implement the United Nations Convention on the Child's Rights (UNCRC), 1990. The Act was made effective on 21st August 2013. The Act reflects some of the provisions of the UNCRC. It also contains provisions that appear to have been added in reaction to Supreme Court directives and the obligations of other international treaties, such as the Beijing Rules.<sup>16</sup> At the outset, it is to be noted that this is a special law with overriding effect.

Notwithstanding anything contained in any other existing law, the provisions of this Act shall prevail (Section 3). The law defines a child as anyone up to the age of 18 years (Section 4). It focuses on the relationship between caregiver and child, placing a duty of care that forbids an act of abuse, sex abuse, neglect and abandonment towards children in their care. Children's Act prohibits child servitude or the sale of children, protects children when they carry or transport illegal or banned items, and further extends protection from trafficking. Bangladesh established Child Affairs Desks at police stations under the Children Act of 2013.

#### **6.2.3.3.1. Gaps in Children Act 2013**

In one of his deliberations in a workshop organised for the amendment of the Children Act 2013, Justice Imman Ali pointed out that the "act was not in place properly due to ambiguity of some provisions in the act".<sup>17</sup> The outcomes of the structure and institutional setup of the Act are entirely dependent on the worldview and sense of responsibilities of concerned

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<sup>15</sup>Bangladesh's Alternative UNCRC Report 2014, Manusher Jonno Foundation, 2014.

<sup>16</sup>Justice for Children in Bangladesh: A Brief Commentary on the Children Act 2013, Justice M Imman Ali, BLAST, 2013.

<sup>17</sup><https://bangladesh.savethechildren.net/news/workshop-amendment-children-act-2013>

authorities toward such a section of people we define as "children having conflict with laws". In one of the papers on ethics and justice for children, the author, while giving her commentary on Children Act, 2013 wrote: "In practice, most of the children are deprived of their fair justice in different phases, i.e. police arrest, prosecution, court hearing, and correctional treatment as there is a lack of professional ethics of concerned personnel."<sup>18</sup>

- Section 45 of the Act provides that the police officer who arrests a child shall inform the child's parents or, in their absence, their foster care, legal guardian or member of the extended family, but in everyday practice, even the parents do not get the information that the child is being taken into custody.
- There is hardly any implementation of Section 14 where the Ministry of Home Affairs is given the responsibility for the establishment of a "Child Affairs Desk" headed by a "Child Affairs Police Officer" (CAPO), not below the rank of Sub-Inspector.
- Due to procedural ambiguity, Section 38 of the 2013 Act is not applicable, introducing restorative justice for the child from receiving compensation for a victim of crime.
- Sections 7, 8 and 9 that specifies the creation and functioning of the Children Welfare Board but due to lack of a definitive line and lengthy procedure of coordination, it is challenging to coordinate among the many departments and even organise a meeting.
- According to Section 32, the Children's Court must complete the trial within 360 days from the day of the child's first appearance before the bench, but in most cases, the time frame is not being followed.
- Section 63 specifies the minimum standard of care at child development centres but is completely ignored due to a lack of structural facilities. There is no proper arrangement for psychosocial counselling and life-skill training.
- The 2013 Act incorporates a provision under Section 84 for alternative care for the benefit of disadvantaged children and children in contact with the law, but this provision is entirely unutilised due to the absence of directives and protocol.
- It doesn't address the Act for corporal punishment on children. Though Chapter IX of the Children Act-2013 highlighted on Penalty for exploiting a child, the law does not have any special provision in identifying and taking actions against violence children face in family settings.
- According to chapter IX, necessary steps be taken in case of violence against children. However, there is no clear direction regarding the implementation of necessary actions or clarity about necessary steps.
- There is no such provision prohibiting corporal punishment in educational settings, and also the law excludes acts of violence against children performed by individuals without a duty of care.
- Bangladesh has not yet mandated reporting of professionals working with children on sexual abuse, exploitation, torture and other GBV cases identified by them. Also, there is no protocol to follow to report these incidents.

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<sup>18</sup>Justice for Children in Bangladesh: Legal and Ethical Issues, Nahid Ferdousi, Bangladesh Journal of Bioethics 2020;

- The government has not established referral mechanisms and protocols to involve and work with other specialists to manage cases and respond to the specific needs of Individual children.
- Bangladesh has not set up child-friendly reporting mechanisms outside police stations and inside spaces where the children normally have access alike: community centres, schools, health clinics, and alternative care institutions.
- The laws do not fully protect children from participation in legally punishable criminal acts;
- The law attaches no specific definition of "child trafficking" following the Palermo Protocol.
- The lack of centralised data systems or national databases house data on children who have been victims of various forms of violence, abuse, and neglect.

#### **6.2.3.3.2. Recommendations for Proper Implementation of Children Act 2013**

The Act needs to include a provision to ban physical and humiliating punishment (PHP) within the premise.<sup>19</sup> In the Act, the district or sub-district child welfare board has given the authority to review the child's information and make recommendations for the overall wellbeing of the child. But there is no specific guideline to determine alternative interventions. The children are exposed to brutality in the correction facilities.

- There should be a widespread circulation of the Act that encompasses almost every aspect of the protection and safety of children.
- Representatives from Civil society and CSOs should be part of the monitoring mechanism and complaint and response mechanism for the Child Development Centre.
- We need to ensure a child-friendly environment at every stage of the procedure. The framing of the Act should be more categorical to put children first by making it easy to use by including mechanisms for child-friendly reporting, recording of evidence, investigation and speedy trial of offences through designated juvenile court.
- The time limit of 24 hours for detaining a child must be strictly enforced. Also should enforce the practice that the probation officer should inform the child's parents or, in their absence, their foster career, legal guardian or member of the extended family regarding the child's arrest.
- Protocol and regulations should be developed that require legal advisors and the mandatory presence of a parent/guardian/legal representative during the interrogation of a child at a police station.
- Special protocols are needed to be in place for natural advocates to protect children from violence, including health workers and educators.
- Adequate budgetary allocations should be made to create specialized child police units and the appointment of trained police officers, including women.
- Legislation should explicitly require the separation of children and adults and older and younger children at all points of detention or deprivation of liberty.
- A draft Guidelines on the Minimum Standard of Care for Service Providers should be finalised and adopted in the protocol.

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<sup>19</sup><https://bangladesh.savethechildren.net/news/workshop-amendment-children-act-2013>

- Professionals need guidelines and training to understand their roles and coordinate with other key actors. The guideline should also include what steps to be taken and what resources are available to help the victim.
- Community-based complaint mechanisms should be in place, and children, communities and professionals should be encouraged to report violence by ensuring accessibility and confidentiality.
- Reporting mechanisms should be established in schools, health clinics, community centres, alternative care institutions, and places where children living without families are found.
- Centralised information systems or national databases should maintain the children's socioeconomic information and from violence, abuse, and neglect.
- The government should track violence cases against children and fortify policy decisions with data on the prevalence of issues and the impact of services.

#### **6.2.3.4. Comprehensive Early Childhood Care and Development Policy (2013)**

A child's first eight years is a critical formative stage of his future known as early childhood. This is when the groundwork for lifelong learning is established. Basic needs for safety, food, shelter and health ensure physical growth and development. However, opportunities for interaction, attachment, stimulation, learning through exploration and discovery are equally crucial for a Child in cognitive, social, language and emotional development. In recent years Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in meeting children's survival and protection by providing health care, nutrition, immunisation and education. The government of Bangladesh feels a solid need to converge and integrate all these services into a common platform, and as a continuation of the process, the Comprehensive Policy for Early Childhood Care and Development has been approved with the leading of Ministry of Women's and Children's Affairs (MoWCA). The Comprehensive Policy for Early Childhood Care and Development applies to all Bangladesh children from conception to age eight. This policy aims to nurture and raise all children with care, security, dignity, affection and love and establish a strong foundation for their development, irrespective of ethnicity, geographical location, gender, religion, special needs and socioeconomic conditions.

##### **6.2.3.4.1. Gaps in Early Childhood Care and Development Policy (2013)**

The policy has ignored the concept of nurturing and thus left parental neglect and early childhood development unaddressed.

Absence of special provision in securing the rights of Children Living on the street.

- No legal implication on child neglect.
- No provision for securing a familial environment for abandoned children.

##### **6.2.3.4.2. Recommendations for Proper Implementation of Early Childhood Care and Development Policy (2013).**

Early childhood development has a strong psychosocial dimension. Physical development should match cognitive development also. There is a need for psychological assessment of children to determine balanced physical and psychological development.

- Special provisions should be incorporated regarding children living on the street.
- Special protocol: should be in place to identify child neglect and direction to rollout appropriate measures.

#### **6.2.3.5. Domestic worker protection and welfare policy (2015)**

Cabinet approved the draft' domestic workers protection and welfare policy 2015 was approved on 21st December 2015. The policy suggests that children under the age of 14 years shall not be employed in domestic work. Children below the age of 12 should not be allowed to engage in domestic work. The policy also contains many beneficial provisions, including having a contract with the employer and the parents and guardians of the child domestic workers, the wages, working hours, rest and recreation time, arrangement for education, type of work, board and lodging etc. There is also a suggestion to provide employment identity card containing details of the child, his parents, and address and details of the employer, including his age, date of employment, type of work, etc. There is also the suggestion to have a registration authority that record details of the domestic workers within the local government setup. It also suggests for complaint procedure for their grievance.

##### **6.2.3.5.1. Gaps in Domestic worker protection and welfare policy (2015)**

According to the minimum policy age of domestic workers is fixed to be 14 years for doing light works. Under "special circumstances", if an employer could negotiate with parents/guardians child who is 12 years old could be employed in such household work.<sup>20</sup>This provides a window of opportunity to drag children into the informal labour market.

- The Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy, 2015 policy has set 12 years as a minimum age for domestic help, but it should be increased to 14 years because the amended Labour Act 2013 has fixed the minimum age to engage in work at 14 years.
- The policy specified that no children under 12 years of age could be employed as domestic workers at any household, nor child domestic workers can be engaged in heavy and dangerous work. However, in reality, none of these provisions is implemented.
- Evidential laws need to expand to provide special testimony protocols to handle vulnerable witnesses in sexual abuse and violence cases.
- Lack of specific provision in maintaining database/centralised information of the domestic workers.
- There is no specific provision containing the declaration of minimum wage for domestic workers.
- The issue of the association of domestic workers was not incorporated/highlighted into the policy.

##### **6.2.3.5.2. Recommendations for Proper Implementation of Domestic worker protection and welfare policy (2015)**

There is a need for regular monitoring by a government official at the household level to identify and ensure child domestic workers are safe from physical, mental and sexual abuse. The policy needs to be linked with other child-focused laws and acts to ensure protection and other provisions for their healthy physical, mental, and emotional development. It is imperative to create provisions for child domestic workers to stay at government or NGO-run dormitories, hostels, or communal houses after prescribed work hours to break the abuse cycle.

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<sup>20</sup><https://idwfed.org/en/updates/bangladesh-cabinet-clears-draft-policy-to-protect-domestic-workers-rights>

- Domestic workers must be registered, and the government fixes their wages following the Domestic worker protection and welfare policy.
- Employing underage children in households should be made illegal by monitoring, maintaining the domestic workers' government database, and mandatory registration.
- The minimum age for starting domestic work should be increased to 14 years—currently, it is 12 years. Although the Labour Act 2013 (amended) has fixed the minimum age for admission to work at 14 years (and in case of hazardous work, the age for work is 18), sadly, it does not apply to domestic workers. In this respect, Bangladesh should ratify the ILO convention 138, which has specific directions to determine the minimum age for work.
- The Child Labour Elimination Policy should be linked with this policy so that the child domestic workers could be gradually phased out in time.
- Special protocols are required for victims of sexual abuse and violence to safeguard their psychosocial wellbeing and protect them from being re-traumatised while prosecuting the crimes against them.
- Law enforcing agencies needs to be more vibrant, active and visible in protecting the rights of domestic workers

#### **6.2.3.6. Child Marriage Restraint Act (2017)**

Bangladesh has set 18 as the minimum age of marriage for women and 21 for men with a special provision. The special provision proposes that underage females may be married off under "special contexts" as long as it is conducted with the permission of her parents or guardians in conjunction with a magistrate. Such a marriage will no longer be considered an offence.<sup>21</sup>

##### **6.2.3.6.1. Gaps in Child Marriage Restraint Act (2017)**

The "special circumstances" provision would permit minors' marriage before reaching the minimum marriageable age for their "best interest". The Act does not explicitly define "special circumstances" and "the best interest". This obscurity and ambiguity create loopholes to aid child marriage, specifically in rural areas where child marriage is acceptable for ages.

- One of the major criticisms against this provision was that almost anything could come within the purview of the vast domain of 'special circumstances. It could bring the marriage of a child who happens to be a rape survivor with the rapist within its purview.
- Instead of banning child marriage, this Act explains how child marriage can be performed by applying to court. It eventually non-criminalisation of marital rape
- The "special circumstances" provision of the new Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017 technically makes child marriages legal.
- Section 19 of the Act creates a legal pathway to allow for child marriage—the exception to the minimum age that allows families to invoke special circumstances to override the law. A court decides whether special circumstances exist (weighing the interests of the girl).

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<sup>21</sup>Preventing Child, Early, and Forced Marriage in Bangladesh: Understanding Socio-Economic Drivers and Legislative Gaps, Creating Space, August 2019

#### **6.2.3.6.2. Recommendations for Proper Implementation of Child Marriage Restraint Act (2017)**

The special circumstance provision aims to address exceptional situation might overweight the benefit and in the long run, might pose a deterrent to execute other laws and policies to deter child marriage.

- It is highly recommended that the 'special circumstances' clause be withdrawn immediately due to the potential for misinterpretation and misuse.
- The Act should create a pathway to create a partnership with media to raise awareness about the negative impacts of child marriage and explained the Act in detail widely, emphasising punishment.
- The role of civil societies should be strongly acknowledged so that they can act as watchdogs, reporting cases of non-compliance to exert pressure on law enforcement agencies and the government to act according to the legislation.
- Provision for establishing an independent fund for rescue, rehabilitation, legal aid, medical treatment, psychosocial counselling, etc., of the victims of child marriage.
- Provision should be in place for addressing marital rape as a criminal offence.
- According to the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, a suitable online marriage registration system should be introduced.

#### **6.2.3.7. Child Marriage Restraint Rules (2018)**

In October 2018 Government of Bangladesh published the "Child Marriage Restraint Rule", which provides further explanation and implementation mechanism of the "Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017". The rule also explains the formation of committees at national and local levels to restrain child marriage and the roles and responsibilities of the committees.

##### **6.2.3.7.1. Gaps in Child Marriage Restraint Rules (2018)**

- Still, the "Special Provision" allowing marriage below 18 years
- A considerable amount of Penalty is not imposed for getting involved in the marriage

##### **6.2.3.7.2. Recommendations for Proper Implementation of Child Marriage Restraint Rules (2018)**

- Provision should be included for restraining marriage below 18 years.
- Provision of more significant penalty/massive amount of fine should be included for aid and abide Child marriage.

#### **6.2.3.8. National Plan of Action to Eliminate Child Marriage (2018-2030), 2018**

National Plan of Action to Eliminate Child Marriage (2018-2030) was launched in 2018 under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs leadership. The goal of the NAP is to end the marriage of girls below 15 years of age, reduce by one third the rate of marriage for girls below 18 years by 2021, and eliminate child marriage by 2041. This NPA consists of five implementation strategies which are as follows:

Take action to implement sector-specific policies as per demand and necessity of children and adolescents,

- Ensure amendment and implementation of laws, proper formulation of policies and accountability, Develop positive social values and norms through influencing,

- supporting and engaging families, communities and policymakers for preventing child marriage, Ensure empowerment of adolescent girls and boys as an agent of social change and
- Promote the digitalisation of education, legal, reproductive health facilities of adolescents, and the social protection system of children and ensure appropriate incentives for adolescent girls.

#### **6.2.3.8.1. Gaps in National Plan of Action to Eliminate Child Marriage (2018-2030)**

- Absence of comprehensive to stand against harmful social culture, norms were accelerating Child marriage, especially in remote areas.
- Offending dispensation of not considering marital rape as a criminal activity.

#### **6.2.3.8.2. Recommendations for Proper Implementation of National Plan of Action to Eliminate Child Marriage (2018-2030)**

- A comprehensive approach should be in place to break the cycle of harmful norms/practices that accelerating Child marriage.
- Provision should be in place for addressing marital rape as a criminal offence.

#### **6.2.3.9. National Plan of Action to Prevent Violence against Women and Children (2013-2025)**

National Plan of Action to Prevent Violence against Women and Children focused on legal protections, social awareness, protection services, rehabilitation services, inter-sectoral cooperation, and community involvement to prevent all sorts of violence against Women and Children. The plan focuses on seven main areas: (i) legal arrangements, (ii) social awareness and mental transformation, (iii) advancement of women's socioeconomic status, (iv) protective services, (v) curative and rehabilitation services, (vi) inter-sectoral cooperation and (vii) community involvement. This NPA includes several necessary measures and interventions, including the creation of nine One-Stop Crisis Centers in major hospitals, connecting victims with services, and monitoring and following up on cases; a 24-hour national helpline for violence against women and children; and a database compiling data from all of the above institutions. The plan also envisions the establishment of more Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunals. It also highlights the need to ensure that these tribunals are made disability friendly. It mentions the long-term intention of establishing at least one Children's Court in every district, alongside special legal support cells at the Upazila (administrative division) level. It further envisages the preparation of a training manual on gender and disability sensitivity for lawyers in district bar councils and the planned legal support cells.

#### **6.2.3.9.1. Gaps in National Plan of Action to Prevent Violence against Women and Children (2013-2025)**

- No budgetary allocation has not yet been made for the implementation of the NPA.
- Lack of coordination among the concerned ministries and participation of NGOs, CSOs and civil society is yet to be decided.

#### **6.2.3.9.2. Recommendations for Proper Implementation of National Plan of Action to Prevent Violence against Women and Children (2018-2025)**

- An adequate budget should be allocated for implementing the national plan of action.
- Standard monitoring and evaluation plans should be in place for ensuring accountability and transparency of funding and allocation.

#### **6.2.3.10. The Prevention of Women and Children Repression Act of 2000 (and 2003, as amended)**

It protects girls 18 and younger from sexual abuse and violence. The law protects girls 13 and under from statutory rape (Bangladesh Penal Code, S 375). This Act was formulated to protect women and children from heinous crimes such as rape, dowry and grievous injury. The Act makes provision for the punishment of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. On 13th October 2020, the central law dealing with violence against women, i.e. Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2000, was amended for the second time. Firstly, it reintroduces the death penalty as the maximum punishment for single perpetrator rape. Secondly, the amendment also introduces the death penalty as the maximum punishment for even an attempt to cause death or hurt after committing rape under section 9(4)(a) of the 2000 Act. Previously the only punishment for this offence, like single perpetrator rape, was life imprisonment.<sup>22</sup>

##### **6.2.3.10.1. Gaps in The Prevention of Women and Children Repression Act of 2000 (and 2003, as amended)**

- Section 31 of the Act provides for safe or protective custody of a woman or child in the trial. But much concern has been raised about the lack of enabling support services, such as the availability of shelters once the trial process is complete. In the absence of adequate shelter and security arrangements, victims are often reluctant to file a case or lodge a complaint which frustrates the deterrent purpose of this legislation. The protection of the victim and witness is very pertinent in Bangladesh, which has not been incorporated in WCRPA 2000 amended 2003, 2020.
- Section 4 of the Act, which provides for punishment of offences relating to crimes committed with combustible and other like substances, cannot be effectively applied in practice. The Act does not recognise pouring hot oil and water or throwing hot utensils as an endemic crime with domestic workers, primarily young girls.
- Due to a lack of reliable monitoring, accountability, transparency, coordination among other agencies and experts, medico-legal activities and investigations, including DNA tests, are not done in time.
- Section 12 specifies punishment for mutilations of the children for begging, etc., but there has been hardly or no implementation of this section.
- Discrepancies exist between the Penal Code and the Prevention of Women and Children Repression Act that create confusion about whether the law attaches criminal liability for this same Act if a married girl is 14 or above. In other words, it is questionable whether the law forbids sex abuse and violence in cases of married girls over the age of 13.
- Loopholes exclude sexual abuse and violence against girls who are already married.

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<sup>22</sup><https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/justice-practice/news/what-changes-does-the-recent-ordinance-make-our-law-violence-against-women-1990993>

- It has left child prostitution and child pornography online and offline legally undefined.
- Due to malpractice creates a considerable number of false cases, the judges became reluctant and sceptical about the cases filed under this Act. Most of the judgments were set aside by the higher court, and the accused was acquitted.

#### **6.2.3.10.2. Recommendations for Proper Implementation of the Prevention of Women and Children Repression Act of 2000 (and 2003, as amended)**

- Establish a state-run compensation fund to enable rape victims/ survivors to apply for right on proof of rape, irrespective of the perpetrator being identified and prosecuted for the offence.
- Limited government and NGO-run shelters, One-Stop Crisis Centre (OCC) and Cells for women provide medical, psychosocial and legal assistance. However, the overall quality of services provided in the shelters is considered very poor and. The number of such facilities and better service should be increased by following minimum standard of care guidelines drafted for The Children's Act or a separate draft of a suitable minimum standard of care guideline for the Act.
- Incorporate victim and witness protection protocols at the Prevention of Women and Children Repression Act.
- Section 20(6) of the law shall be made compulsory to use camera trials where necessary.
- The attitude of the duty bearers and law enforcement agency towards women and children need to be more responsive and commiserative.
- Investigation of offences should be proper and just that there should never be any chance of false case.
- The attitude of the duty bearers and law enforcement agency towards women and children need to be more responsive and commiserative.

#### **6.2.3.11. ICT Act 2006, amended in 2013:**

The free flow of information nowadays depends heavily on information and communication technology (ICT). According to the need of time, in 2006, the Government of Bangladesh enacted the ICT act but initially, that Act was proved not enough because the law was proved as only law for digital signature and authentication of e-communication not to regulate the Internet activities and crimes. Internet was proliferating in our country during that period, and crime related to the internet and computer (Pornography, hacking, virus introduction, etc.) was accelerating at the same pace. So, the need has been felt to enact appropriate ICT laws, which are indispensable to legalise and regulate the Internet in Bangladesh.

##### **6.2.3.11.1. Gaps in ICT Act 2006**

- There is an ambiguity in the ICT Act 2006 in identifying online sexual harassment, Child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children.
- There is no such provision for clearly identifying cyber harassment, cyber bullying and cyber stalking
- This policy does not contain any special provision for camera trial for a child victim
- Though ICT Act 2006 assured about taking punishing measures against the perpetrator who are using children in blue film/adult video but unfortunately, there is no such provision in the law for identifying the issue of child pornography

- Exclusion of uses of updated technology like digital forensic lab creates obstacles to prove the offence within a short period.
- The government, as well as NGOs, have introduced dedicated national hotline and online complaint systems to safeguard children from sexual abuse, exploitation both online and offline and but they are not coordinated with each other

#### **6.2.3.11.2. Recommendations for Proper Implementation of ICT Act 2006**

- The definition of online sexual harassment, Child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children should be drafted and incorporated in the ICT Act, 2006.
- The definition of cyber harassment, cyberbullying and cyberstalking should be incorporated into the Act, and examples should be taken following the Luxemburg guideline<sup>23</sup>
- Proper steps should be in place to incorporate the definition of child pornography into the ICT Act, 2006
- Provision should be inserted into the law in incorporating camera trials where necessary.
- Attitude of the duty bearers and law enforcement agency towards children need to be more responsive and commiserative.
- Coordination and collaboration among different Governmental bodies and private service providers should be more responsive

#### **6.2.3.12. Pornography Control Act 2012**

To control the spread of pornography across the country, the Government of Bangladesh approved Pornography Act-2012 on 8th March 2012. According to this Act, talking, gesture, acting, nude or half-nude dance, video or still picture, magazine, book, statue, cartoon, leaflet, which increase sexual desire and have no use in education and arts, will be considered pornography. This Act bans the making or selling of any pornographic material. This Act also enacts provisions to punish people who deal with porn videos as well as their distribution. According to the Pornography Control Act 2012, punishment of a maximum of 8 years along with a fine of up to TK 200,000 is applicable for capturing Pornographic images or video. According to Section 8(3) of this Act, the user may face up to 5 years in prison and a fine of TK 200,000 for disseminating such material via the internet and mobile phone. Making pornographic videos with minors is a severe violation under Section 8(6), which carries a penalty of ten years in prison and a fine of five lakh taka. As part of the intervention, the High Court Division in 2019 instructed the relevant authorities and five mobile operators to prohibit all websites with pornographic or profane content.

##### **6.2.3.12.1. Gaps in Pornography Control Act 2012**

- There is no such provision in the Pornography Control Act to keep the identity of child victims confidential.
- There is no such provision for clearly identifying solicitation, Application software (Apps), Banner advertising, child sex tourism, Darknet, Deep web etc.
- This policy does not contain any special provision for camera trial for a child victim

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<sup>23</sup>*Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse*, at <http://luxembourgguidelines.org/>, last visited on November 27, 2018.

- Definition of Digital Evidence and digital footprint is not incorporated into the Pornography Control Act, 2012
- Lack of coordination among different ministries and law enforcement agencies to safeguard children who are the victim of both online and offline abuse and exploitation

#### **6.2.3.12.2. Recommendations for Proper Implementation of Pornography Control Act 2012**

- The definition of solicitation, Application software (Apps), Banner advertising, child sex tourism, Darknet, Deep web should be incorporated into the Act.
- A coordinated effort among different ministries and law enforcement agencies should be in place for ensuring quick response in case of any sort of harassment/violence faced by the children
- The proper step should be in place in keeping the identity of child victims confidential.
- Provision should be inserted into the law in incorporating camera trials where necessary.
- The definition of Digital Evidence and digital footprint can be inserted into the Act in line with the European Commission's science and knowledge service<sup>24</sup>

#### **6.2.3.13. The National Education Policy 2010**

The National Parliament adopts the National Education Policy 2010 at the end of 2010. Following the fourth Sustainable Development Goal of the United Nations, this policy aimed to ensure quality education at each level. Besides primary and pre-primary education, this policy introduced technical and vocational education at all secondary level institutions. This policy also focused on restructuring madrasah education through including information technology and vocational training. Another necessary provision of the policy was to maintain 1:30 teacher students in primary level education. The most laudable initiative under the policy was introducing a stipend for a large number of students at the primary level. Moreover, the policy also emphasized ensuring education for different marginalised children in Bangladesh, like ethnic children, to provide education on their language and kept special provision for street children to access government primary school.

##### **6.2.3.13.1. Gaps in the National Education Policy 2010.**

- The directions regarding banning PhP and Corporal Punishment in the education institution and sexual harassment to students by the teachers, members, SMCs and staff of the education institutes are absent in the policy.
- National education policy 2010 emphasised more on quantitative measures rather than ensuring the quality of education.
- Absence of provision to provide attention to disable students, especially in the rural area
- Discrimination between different educational media such as Bangla, English, and Madrasha.

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<sup>24</sup>*Digital footprint*, Dictionary.com, at <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/digital-footprint>, last visited on November 27, 2018. See also, *Digital Footprints: Online identity management and search in the age of transparency* (2007), pp. 3-4 Pew Internet, at [http://www.pewinternet.org/files/old-media/Files/Reports/2007/PIP\\_Digital\\_Footprints.pdf](http://www.pewinternet.org/files/old-media/Files/Reports/2007/PIP_Digital_Footprints.pdf), last visited on September 9 2018.

- There is no such provision for incorporating moral education into the curriculum.
- There are no defined guidelines or processes for ensuring high-quality vocational education at the elementary school level.

**6.2.3.13.2. Recommendations for Proper Implementation of the National Education Policy 2010.**

- The policy should include provisions to ban PhP, corporal punishment in the educational institution, and sexual harassment to students by the teachers, members SMCs and staff of the educational institutes, which are absent.
- More emphasis should be provided on ensuring the quality of education in all aspects.
- A provision incorporating child friendly as well as disabled student friendly school compounds should be in place.
- Proper steps need to be ensured in eliminating discrimination among different mediums of teaching.
- Provision for incorporating moral education should be in place.

## Chapter 7

### Recommendations

Based on the study findings, the recommendations are made to improve the child protection situation and strengthen services that ensure the children's effective survival and development. Proposed recommendations are intended to develop a systematic approach to ensure the protection and survival of the children at risk and living in a vulnerable situation. The recommendations are designed to enhance the resiliency of the children, the capacity of the care providers and different stakeholders to provide support and appropriate care to the children as well as to organise the community, civil societies, CSOs/NGOs, academicians, and activists to concentrate on advocacy initiative at local and national level on child protection and violence against children. As duty bearers, the government should be more sensitized to take necessary measures to improve child rights and make law enforcement agencies accountable to take effective action to stop violence against children and young people in the community. The following recommendations hope to guide the practitioners, donors, and government to develop strategies and policies for ensuring the rights of the children at risk or vulnerable situations:

**Challenge the culture of silence:** A safe environment should be ensured within the family supports children to report the incidents of violence, and a complaint and response system should be installed within the community to break the culture of silence regarding violence against children, especially all sorts of sexual violence and GBV. Children need more care and encouragement and a non-hostile environment to share their experiences with their adult family and community member. It is required to have more training for children and community members about violence, exploitation, abuse, and the legal instruments to safeguard children against those.

- Parents/guardians/community people should be trained and aware of violence against children, especially sexual abuse, PHP, and GBV and their impact on children.
- Parents/guardians could be provided awareness sessions, meetings, workshops on child sexual abuse, PHP, SGBV and training on Positive Parenting to be more receptive and astute about child's safety.
- Communication skills should be given priority in all sorts of life-skill training. Children should be encouraged to speak freely to their parents about all sorts of complications; incidents and accidents happened in family, community, workspace, street, and school. As well as, the active listening skill of parents based on empathy could create a safety zone for children within the family sphere to share sexual abuse and GBV related incidents with their parents and guardians.
- Parents, guardians, and caregivers should also be informed about formal and community-based child protection initiatives so that they can reach out to those resources for help in times of need.
- Child complaint box and response mechanism should be installed in places like Union Parishad, schools or institutions, workplaces and places where children congregated so that anyone can locate the box and lodge their complaint anonymously.

**Community-based awareness-building programmes should be strengthened:** Parents, guardians, and community people should be aware of child abuse and child protection measures. The community people, Government, non-government and corporate sectors can play a vital role through different awareness-raising programs.

- Steps should be taken to enhance the capacity of Local Elected Bodies and officials of local governments to be proactive in protecting children from physical and psychological maltreatment and all forms of violence within all setups.
- Institutes like mosques, temples, and other holy places can share responsibilities and play a vital role in protecting children from all sorts of harm. Religious leaders can channel information regarding sexual abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and GBV into the community utilizing these religious institutions.
- Courtyard meetings and consultation with the community people and children should be arranged in the presence of members of LEBs and officials of appropriate GoB offices regularly to understand and document the existing child rights and child protection situation. The findings may lead to a coordinated effort at the local level to create safety-nets and a protective environment for children within and outside the family.
- Cultural actions like drama, rallies, cultural events, and mobilization should be organised in partnership with the children community, civil society organizations, appropriate government offices, UPs, and these initiatives could be sponsored by the private sector for preventing violence against children.
- Different programs and public announcements related to child sexual abuse should be telecast on mainstream TV, radio, digital, and social media, which can significantly create mass awareness against all sorts of violence against children.
- Aware children, parents, and community people about Government helpline numbers so that they can seek help in case of any emergency.
- Local elites (who can bridge local efforts with different layers of political and administrative structure) should be co-opted into community-based groups to initiate coordinated action by channelling information to all administrative levels of violence against children at the community level.

**The community-based support system should be increased:** Community-based support systems should be increased to provide support and care for the survivors.

- Facilitate the Community people with skills and knowledge in providing encouragement, esteem, affection, and protection to violence survivors. The psychosocial rehabilitative care structure should be strengthened at the community level where NGOs can play a vital role in developing the community people's capacity to provide immediate psychosocial support to the survivors.
- The existing program approaches for child protection should incorporate mass level capacity development program within the community on Positive Discipline Technique in Every day Parenting (PDEP) approach, Positive Fatherhood model, Physical and Humiliating Punishment (PHP), Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), the harmful impact of early marriage, online sexual abuse and exploitation and conflict management.
- Self-protection and life skills-based education and training could be provided to the children to ensure their safety and adequately assess the threat.

- Facilitate the process of developing the capacity of the members of Local Elected Bodies (LEB) in addressing child protection issues through training on UNCRC and child protection, violence, and GBV related topics.
- Strengthening the community monitoring mechanism to protect children from different sorts of violence, abuse, exploitation
- Assure proper legislative endorsement and administrative support for strengthening the community-based protection mechanism.

**Develop the capacity of the students and teachers in strengthening protection mechanisms:** Teachers of primary and secondary schools may play a vital role in preventing and protecting the children in the community.

- The capacity of the teachers and students should be developed through training, workshop, and awareness sessions on identifying sexual advancement and attempts of abuse and escape strategies to protect oneself from abuses and violence. It is also recommended to be aware the children about their safe space/boundaries.
- Develop the capacity of the teachers for caring for the children with special needs based on the standard set by UNCRC. Teachers should be trained on special education, special care, and psychosocial support to the specialized needs of these section children.
- Teachers from formal and non-formal schools should be trained to identify the victims of sexual abuse and violence among the students. The teacher should be equipped with information to link the victims with psychosocial protection, support, and care facilities to refer the victims.
- Students need to be taught to establish and maintain boundaries to protect themselves from abuse and other forms of violence from the perpetrators.
- The student may play an active role in developing the children's capacity in the community and peers.
- Adequate training for the teacher should be in place to strengthen their capacity to discipline children without taking coercive measures or bullying and stop the harassing children in the classroom.
- A complaint and suggesting box must be placed at every educational institution. The necessary steps must be taken to address the complaints following guidelines and procedures set by the complaint and response mechanism.
- Strengthen the capacity of field level offices of the department of education to monitor the implementation of Supreme Court judgment (2011) prohibiting corporal punishment in educational institutions into the different formal and non-formal education institutes/programmes.
- Organize workshops with the teachers, students, parents, SMC, NGO representatives, and Government officials to eliminate PHP at the school compound.
- Activate student council to ensure student's participation and opinion in school affairs and activities, give opportunities for student experience in leadership, and encourage student/faculty/community relations.

**Strengthening community-based psychosocial support and care:** GOs and NGOs should develop and strengthen community-based psychosocial support structures to deliver care for the survivors and their family members. Survivors and their families need immediate psychosocial counselling to handle traumas and stress. For this, community-based para-

counsellors could be developed to provide immediate support to the survivors and their families.

**Skill training or vocational education should be strengthened:** The children could be involved in skill-based education.

- Vocational education or training could be arranged for the survivors of sexual abuse, exploitation, and trafficking.
- Furthermore, skill development training should be provided to the children living on the street to ensure their better livelihood and make them self-dependent and enable them to move out of the street.
- For selecting skill-based training, few trades could be selected with higher consumer demand so children could strike their skill with market demand.
- Marketing strategy and channels could be established to link the products and services with the market and provide the financial support required to create individual entrepreneurship.

**Increased psychosocial rehabilitative care for children with disabilities should be in place:**

The special or mentally or physically challenged children have less access to shelter home/institutional care. In many cases, children living far away from these institutions cannot avail themselves of special facilities like rehabilitative care and psychosocial counselling. It is now well established that children with disabilities living in the home or care facilities are exposed to abuse and violence. Organizations working with the children at the community level could be motivated to include this section of children to provide them with immediate psychosocial rehabilitative care with a proper case management system.

**Develop community-based child protection and monitoring system:** To protect children from all forms of violence in the community, all the stakeholders should be interlinked with defined roles and responsibilities and organised under a child-sensitive community-based protection mechanism.

- Child protection mechanisms should have a proper complaint collection mechanism with a good redress process. The mechanism should be susceptible to the victim's identity and strongly focus on the children's best interest while addressing any violence against children at the community level. Child participation in the decision-making process should be the guiding principle of this mechanism.
- Local and national level networks could be strengthened (by increasing the members with child focus organizations from the grass-root) to transfer knowledge and skills to protect children from all forms of abuse, violence, exploitation, and neglect.
- A community-based watch group could be strengthened by involving UP chairman/members, local elites, political leaders, members of local elected bodies (LEBs).
- Regular field level surveillance in the locality and regular monitoring meetings could be arranged with the local administration to share the outcomes of their actions.
- Community-based child protection groups could be facilitated to disseminate information and sensitize people in taking a proactive role to protect children from GBV, exploitations, trafficking, child marriage, torture, neglect, and other forms of child rights violation.

- Training, consultation, and sharing sessions could be organized regularly at the field level with child protection entities (both formal and informal) to create a partnership among them to reach greater audiences for ensuring gender-sensitive and violent free family and community.

**Prevent unsafe migration of the family with their children:** Many families migrate from rural to urban areas with children for a better life. Some children come to urban areas with their families and alone with the dream of a job or lucrative services. These migrated children are the most vulnerable to sexual abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and other violence by the perpetrators, pimps or traffickers. So it is necessary to prevent unsafe migration of families with their children and be aware of both parents and children about risks involved with migration.

- The mass campaign could be undertaken at the community level to stop the unsafe migration of children.
- Strengthening the capacity of Local government, CBOs, and NGOs by enhancing knowledge and capacity to address the root causes of unsafe migration could play a vital role in preventing and protecting vulnerable families from unsafe migration and trafficking at the community level.
- The local CBOs, NGOs, and child protection entities at field level could act as pressure groups to include ultra-poor families with children under the coverage of social safety net programmes to prevent unsafe migration.
- By involving UP members and NGO workers in addressing the consequences of unsafe migration and trafficking of children and women at the household level could create greater awareness on unsafe migration.
- Children and women cell of local government could be strengthened by facilitating them to engage with local and national initiatives in preventing unsafe migration and trafficking in the society.
- Trade union leaders and owners of the transport sector could be organized with local child protection entities to curb unsafe migration effectively. They can play a watchdog role in identifying runaway children and potential victims of unsafe migration and linking them with GO-NGO rehabilitative services.

**Remedial measures for the Person with exploitative power:** The people who exploit children physically, mentally, and sexually should be taken under psychological remedial measures to change their attitude toward the children. For this, effective programs for the person with exploitative power should be implemented at the community level.

- It is highly recommended to ensure legal action and effective measures against the perpetrator of the children by Law enforcing agency. There could be mobile courts in every administrative level so that the law enforcement agency can take rapid action.
- The person with exploitative power could be provided with counselling, psychotherapy, and other psychological supports to change their predatory attitude.
- Regular field-level meetings, consultations, and workshops could be arranged with the person with exploitative power to sensitize them to change their attitudes and behaviour toward the children. On the one hand, it would enhance the monitoring of those persons and help create a support group to help manage abortive behaviour when surfaced.

- Awareness of the perpetrators regarding the horrific impact of child abuse and exploitation should be increased by involving print and electronic media in telecasting different segments on protection-related issues in TV and social media and regularly publishing articles in the newspapers.

**Child participation should increase in all spheres: Children should have the right to be part of the decision-making process in their daily lives.** Parents and caregivers should create the opportunity to the active participation of the children in family matters and the different programs of the organisations and while designing activities by the child focus organizations and by creating forums to express their opinion in the decision-making process.

**Child protections demand need to be increased within the community by collaboration among the stakeholders:** CBOs, NGOs, and child-led organisations (CLOs) could involve GO representatives, elites, religious leaders, local political leaders to pay greater attention to child protection in the community.

- Child protection apex could be formed in different administrative layers incorporating child and adult representatives of the community-based protection committees, GOB and NGO representatives, members of LEBs, and civil society to coordinate joint efforts and take remedial steps.
- Child protection-related training, workshop, consultations, and discussion could be organized regularly at the community level so the children and community members could share the child rights violation situation and opinions with LEBs and civil society members, GOB officials, and NGO representatives.
- In addition, the corporate sector could be tapped with these efforts as campaign/resource partners under corporate social responsibilities.

**Child-friendly legal measures and the judicial system should be in place: Law enforcement agencies and legal functionaries** should provide support within the minimum time after the offence happened to the children.

- Assist the organisations and community to support the law enforcement agency by providing appropriate information about the offence and the offender. The CSOs and Child Rights organisations should play an active role in the follow-up record of the offence.
- Legal measures could be delivered as per government procedures rather than locally solved through Shalish.
- The judicial system should be child friendly.
- The children having conflict with the law should be ensured quality services under the case management system, leading to proper rehabilitation in mainstream society.
- The proper mechanism should be in place to ensure children a friendly judicial system for children with disabilities. Judicial systems could be equipped with supportive devices and resource persons to aid children with disabilities.

**Institutional care and support need to be strengthened:** The sexually exploited children and street children should be provided with institutional care and quality support following minimum standard of care and case management. Care-providing GO-NGO service-providing organisation should consider safe and secured physical infrastructure, adequate toilet and bathing facilities, safe drinking water, food and nutrition, education, mental health support, skill training and life skill-based education etc., rather than the number of the facilities.

- It is highly recommended to ensure the quality of services for the development and survival of the children at risk or living in adverse situations following a minimum standard of care.
- Provide the best possible services through an effective case management system for the children's mental, physical, and emotional recovery and development.
- Enhance the resilience of the children so that they can protect themselves from different sorts of violence, abuse, exploitation
- Sensitising the caregivers regarding their attitude and behaviour in responding to the children.
- GO-NGO service-providing organisations should maintain a child protection policy and organizational code of conduct to protect children from any harm in the organizations.
- Separate shelter facilities for children with disabilities should be ensured, and the existing facilities should be evaluated to transform them better access to the children with disabilities.
- GOs, NGOs, and private sector service providers should be open and welcoming and their specialized services free of cost suited for the recovery of sexually exploited and street children.
- More budget should be allocated at the Governmental level to ensure different services (food, health support, legal assistance and counselling support, etc.) for the children living in institutions.

**Early marriage should be stopped:** Poor families are not yet fully aware of the consequence of child marriage in rural areas. A considerable portion of the parents are worried about their girl child's safety and consider child marriage to mitigate the risk of sexual violence to their girl children. They have the tendency to give marriage of their children, especially girl children, for removing the burden of their family. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of poor households increased significantly, and early marriage became an option for parents and families to protect their girls from GBV and reduce the economic pressure of the family.

- Amend Child Marriage Restraint Act by removing Section 19, which creates a legal pathway to allow early marriage.
- Facilitating the intervention of assuring strict implementation of Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017 involving lawmakers and other relevant stakeholders.
- Sensitize community people through the meeting, sensitizing session, campaign, BCC material Arrange to raise voice against child marriage.
- It is highly recommended to create strong coordination among community-based monitoring groups and GoB committees to be more effective in preventing Child Marriage.

- Involving community leaders, religious leaders into the intervention of stopping child marriage through using their potentiality of influencing people

**Increase awareness on safe sex, pregnancy management, and reproductive health:**

Unwanted pregnancies among the children in the street are increasing day by day. It is very alarming that different STDs and STIs, including HIV/AIDS, gonorrhoea, uterus infection etc., are inflicted upon the street children by the perpetrators.

- Enhance the accessibility of institutional support and care for the child mother and their children.
- Incorporate various topics covering pregnancy management into the manual of life skill training.
- Sensitize the child sex workers and their customers to follow safe sex measures to avoid pregnancy and STDs and STI, including HIV/AIDS, gonorrhoea, uterus infection, etc.

**Educational support and linkage should be increased for the vulnerable children living in urban areas:**

There is a lack of education support for vulnerable children in urban areas. Special enrolment benefits should be introduced to the working parents so that the children should not be unattended in their homes. As complementary to that, NGOs could offer after-school programs to the children of the working parents, so the children remain under adult supervision.

- Necessary Teaching Learning Materials (TLM), recreational facilities, food, stipend should be provided to the vulnerable children.
- Proper steps should be taken in enhancing institution-based education support for the children of working parents.
- Develop linkage with the local mainstream or formal educational setting in which the street children and child labourers have easy access to enrolment in the school and participate in the examinations.

**Every child should have a proper birth registration procedure:** Many children are deprived of birth registration. Birth registration of the children is vital for their identity and receiving governmental supports. MoWC and MoSW, with the assistance of LEB and NGOs, could provide fees for the birth registration of the marginalized children, especially street children and children living without families.

**Ensure a safe night for the children:** Many children live in the street and face danger due to unsafe nights. They need sleeping, bathing facilities, safe space, food, education, and skill training to survive and develop. At night, they are exposed to sexual abuse, exploitation, and different types of harassment.

- Safe night shelters or shelters are urgently needed for the street or homeless children and children without parental care.
- Priority should be given to establishing shelter homes for commercially exploited street girl children.
- Crisis Management Centres should be established for street children and sexually exploited girl children who conflict with the law.

**Children should not be involved in hazardous work and create decent job opportunities:**

Many children are involved in hazardous work like garbage picker, vendor, welding

repairing, sewerage etc. These types of works are very unhealthy and risky for children. These may lead them to different types of diseases. In this regard, opportunities for alternative livelihood options should be created for the children. Alongside, skill development programmes and vocational training should be provided to the children to develop their skills which help them earn a decent livelihood.

**Strengthening psychosocial support for the children:** Many children from an ethnic minority, school-going children, CSE children, children with disabilities, children at risk of sexual abuse and trafficking suffer from depression, anxiety, frustration, and other psychosocial disorders. Remedial and curative measures should be strengthened within the organization for the children of such criteria. Psychosocial supports like effective counselling, psychotherapy, or psychoeducation are essential for the children to overcome their psychological difficulties or disorders.

**Stop engaging and accessing the children in pornographic activities:** Many children are exposed to pornographic activities, especially vulnerable children. Pornographic pictures and videos are spread out among the children by using a mobile phone, CD/DVD, internet etc., in the context of our country, access to pornographic materials is easy. As a result, the children are easily misled and trapped by the abuser. So, it needed to concern the parents, teachers, and law enforcement agencies regarding the children's access to pornography and their risks to be part of it.

**GoB policy and law reform/Child law/child protection policy:** GO, NGO, and law enforcement agencies should work together to enforce child protection policy, and they should make a strict policy for child education and child welfare. In addition, necessary measures should be in place in ensuring strict implementation of existing laws for protecting children from violence, abuse, exploitation

**Advocacy initiatives:** Provision of subsidy cards should be in place for the SGBV survivor to get privilege in every sphere. Alongside at the community level, campaign interventions should be strengthened to prevent child rights violations.

**Restructuring the programs under CSR:** Alongside GO-NGO interventions, corporate groups should be involved in the interventions to protect children from all sorts of violence, abuse, and exploitation by restructuring their CSR fund, which right now heavily supports mainstream education institutes.