PURSUIT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK)

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Annual Report 2017

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CONTENTS

Preface 4
Abbreviations 6
Glossary 7
1. ASK- THE DEFENDER OF HUMAN RIGHTS 8
1.1 Legal and Status 8
1.2 Strategies and Operation 8
1.3 Partnership 9
2. HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN BANGLADESH 11
2.1 Abduction and Enforced Disappearances (EDs) Continued 12
2.2 Freedom of Speech Curtailed 13
2.3 Torture and Extra-Judicial Killings (EJKs) Continued 14
2.4 Freedom of Assembly and Association Controlled 14
2.5 Right to Health Ignored 14
2.6 Women's Rights Violated 15
2.7 Domestic Worker Tortured and Acid Crime Occurred 17
2.8 Children Abused and Killed 17
2.9 Workers' Rights Denied 17
2.10 Religious Minorities and Indigenous People Attacked 18
2.11 Killing and Torture at Borders Continued 19
2.12 Different Sexual Orientation Disapproved 19
2.13 Role of ASK 19
3. ASK'S WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS 21
3.1 Awareness raising and strengthening organizational structures 21
3.2 Capacity Building of Human Rights Actors 27
3.3 Legal aid and other support services 28
3.4 Advocacy and Networking 35
3.5 Protection of Children 46
3.6 Institutional Development 53
3.7 Lessons Learnt 55
Annexes I 58
Annexes II 64
Annexes III 68
Annexes IV 69
Annexes V 71
Annexes VI 72

PREFACE

Bangladesh has shown noteworthy progress in economic and social indicators of human rights. Despite achieving international recognition on many developmental indicators and institutional development, the trends of human right violation continued and the situation remained depressing in 2017. Human rights violations in the form of killings, abduction, violence to minority groups, sexual violence towards women, violation of workers' rights, repression and killing of children etc. underlined the serious shortcomings in the law enforcement system, and the evil strength of power and money. The growing control on freedom of expression and assembly continued and even citizen's rights to basic services like health care were denied, thereby the human rights situation was seriously compromised in Bangladesh. The persons whose rights were violated are hesitant to seek justice. Corruption among and inaction by the law enforcement agencies are common.

While the nation welcomed the verdict of the Narayanganj seven murder case, and the case against the murder of the atheist blogger Rajib Haider, who was murdered in February 2013,the society observed with dismay that many other key human right violation cases did not progress at all. The Child Marriage Restraint Act (Amendment) 2017, was initially welcomed but the women rights and civil society organizations were disappointed. They found that despite their advocacy for elimination of a special clause allowing child marriage, the clause remained in the Law. This raised concern and misuse of this clause was apprehended. The much-discussed Article 57 of the "Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act" was not eliminated in the proposed 'Digital Security Act' but was maintained in different form and the media workers kept on advocating for elimination of the provisions.

Abduction, enforced disappearance and border killing continued. Violation of women's human rights became a grave concern as it took the forms of rape, gang rape in transport or public places, violence through social media, sexual harassment, salish, fatwa, torture of domestic workers, child marriage and child abuse. A total of 1,818 cases of violence against women and 818 incidents of rape were reported in 2017. Besides, child repression including killing and rape of girl children also generated a new concern about child safety. A total of 1,055 cases of violence against children were reported. Of these 620 children died. Children were also abused and killed as revenge for animosity with parents. The persons whose rights were violated were hesitant to seek justice as corruption and inaction by the law enforcement agencies is common.

The political culture remained intolerant and oppressive. Deaths and injuries occurred from political violence and prevention of assemblies and rallies of opposition party at times resulting into physical attacks, injury, abduction, and death. Death in custody and cases/arrest for harassment were also common. A total of 60 persons disappeared mysteriously of whom 43 could never be traced. In most cases they were picked up by members of law enforcement agencies or people who faked themselves as law enforcing agency members.

Even though the situation was disappointing to the human rights actors, ASK remained committed and vigilant and kept on supporting the victims. ASK's monitoring of the human rights situation and the advocacy for an independent effective Human Rights Commission were acclaimed.

A group of actors protecting and addressing violation and abuses at the community level were developed through ASK's programmes for raising community awareness against human rights violation and capacity building of community people. ASK's support for awareness raising and orientation through cultural activities also enabled community including students raise their voice demanding justice and supporting the oppressed.

ASK's legal aid, litigation and investigation services have enabled victims to access justice at a low cost and even to access the Government's Legal Aid Fund. The rapid response to the cases of human right violation and the provision of half way home supported victims especially women to rise against injustice. The psycho-social counselling services of ASK enabled many victims overcome traumatic condition and rise against all odds. The education and health support to children opened a new horizon for the disadvantaged children. The support to oppressed migrant workers was also another milestone in support of victims beyond the

boundary of the country. Mediation was one of the important means of accessing justice for the poor, especially women. The clients/survivors were also oriented and made aware of gender analysis and the causes of social discrimination between men and women.

ASK's linkage and engagement with government officials, administration and local government also assisted victims of domestic violence and many of them had received their dower and maintenance from husbands. The trained salishkers are now being invited to attend salish events and assist the victims. ASK's partner organizations are now more effective as the panel lawyers were trained which improved their ability to initiate and continue investigation, monitoring and legal process. Partners are now trained on human rights fact-finding and report writing. ASK has also been engaged in Public Interest Litigation in order to protect the rights of large group of people.

At the international level, ASK continued its advocacy as part of several networks. ASK as the secretariat of stakeholders led the process of submission of the 3rd cycle of Universal Periodic Report (UPR), which focused on Children's Situation in Bangladesh.

A new Programme "Strengthening Democracy by Promoting Human Rights Culture in Bangladesh"started in January 2017 for a period of five years with the aim to improve the HR situation by providing support for the poor. ASK, through this programme and the other programmes has been continuing its services to the community.

Finally, I thank all my colleagues offer their dedication and relentless services to the cause of ASK and supported those who needed services. The cooperation of the honourable Executive Committee and the general members of ASK was invaluable in carrying out our mission. Our partner organizations and community stakeholders have been providing enormous support. The assistance of the donors is also noteworthy for being with us in this journey.

ABBREVIATIONS

ADR	:	Alternative Dispute Resolution
CBHRPG	:	Community Based Human Rights Protection Group
CBHRTG	:	Community Based Human Rights Theater Group
CBO	:	Community Based Organization
CBWG	:	Community Based Women Group
CEDAW	:	Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women
CHT	:	Chittagong Hill Tracts
CRC	:	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRDF	:	Child Rights Defenders Forum
DIC	:	Drop-In Centres
EC	:	Executive Committee
ED	:	Executive Director
FIR	:	First Information Report
GD	:	General Diary
GLAF	:	Government Legal Aid Fund
GSJ	:	Gender and Social Justice
GT	:	Guide Teacher
HR	:	Human Rights
HRA	:	Human Rights Awareness
HRLF	:	Human Rights Lawyers Forum
HRDF	:	Human Rights Defenders' Forum
HRV	:	Human Rights Violation
MIA	:	Media and International Advocacy
MKL	:	Monitoring, Knowledge and Learning
MIS	:	Management Information System
MRR	:	Mediation and Rapid Response
NGO	:	Non-Governmental Organizations
PC	:	Publication and Communication
PIL	:	Public Interest Litigation
PNGO	:	Partner Non-Governmental Organization
PP	:	Programme Proposal
PSC	:	Psycho-Social Counselling
RBA	:	Rights Based Approach
SOL	:	Social Opinion Leader
SS&HH	:	Support Services and Halfway Home
STG	:	School Theatre Group
TA	:	Transaction Analysis
TOT	:	Training of Trainers
UN	:	United Nations
UP	:	Union Parishad
UNO	:	Upazila Nirbahi Officer
VAW	:	Violence Against Women

GLOSSARY

CBHRPG: Community Based Human Rights Protection Groups are voluntary, human rights monitors formed under the Gender and Social Justice Programme at the union and Upazilla levels and include both men and women.

CBHRTG: Community Based Human Rights Theatre Group is a group of local cultural activists who performs issue based drama voluntarily.

CBWG: Community based Women Group was formed in assistance of MSP, where especially women MSP members play a vital role in process of formation.

FATWA: Arabic for opinion of a person knowledgeable in *Shariah*. In Bangladesh villages, it is decreed by people who have no legal authority; they do not clarify an ambiguous legal situation but weigh up evidence which traditionally was never a function of a *fatwa* giver. Increasingly, *fatwas* are being used to bolster the authority of the *Salish* system. Some punitive *fatwas* have been issued against women, who were divorced, for working with NGOs or just working outside the home. Some punishments are inhuman, such as, flogging, buried up to waist and stoned to death, beating with shoe etc.

GOVT. LEGAL AID FUND: "Ain goto Shahayata Prodan Ain, 2000" (Free Legal Aid fund) enacted on 26 January, 2000 to provide financial support (to the extent of taka 300,000 in each district) for legal aid for people who are insolvent, distressed and are unable to bear the expenses on their own. Provides subsidies for lawyer's fees, expenses during trials and additional charges. The District Judge is the President and the Secretary of the Bar Association is the secretary of the Committee, which includes District Magistrate, Police Super, Public Prosecutor, representative of Department of Women and Child Affairs, Department of Social Welfare, local NGOs and others. Lawyers have to submit quarterly reports on their cases to the Committee.

HRLF: Human Rights Lawyer Forum a group of lawyers formed to assist CBOs to get justice as well as initiate HR culture in their profession.

PNGOs: ASK is based in Dhaka. In order to carry out its local activities, e.g. advocacy, training, legal aid etc, it selects like-minded Partner Non-Government Organizations at the community level. ASK provides technical support, while these organizations are responsible for implementing project activities. ASK also provides training on family law, human rights, women's rights etc to these organizations' staff and group members/leaders. ASK works with PNGO with the objective to see these organizations growing up with strong human right concerns.

SALISH: An informal, traditional system of mediation used to settle marital and land disputes outside the court.

SALISHKAR: Mediators who conduct *Salish*. Generally, local elected representative, schoolteachers, NGO workers, religious leaders, etc.

STG: School Theatre Team organized by ASK at district level high school. The teams perform issue-based drama: facilitate competitions in debate, dance, vocal music, speeches & quizzes: produce & display a wall magazine annually.

VILLAGE COURT: A court constituted under the provisions of the Village Court Ordinance, 1976. Any party in a dispute in the prescribed manner and paying the prescribed fee may apply to the village court. Chairman of the Union Parishad is concerned for the constitution of a village court for the trial of a case. Apart from the chairman, two representatives are nominated by each contending party. It has no power to pass a sentence for imprisonment, but may order the accused to compensate the aggrieved, paying him/her an amount not exceeding twenty five thousand taka.

1

ASK- THE DEFENDER OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) was established in 1986 as a national organization in Bangladesh with the aim to uphold human rights (HR) and to provide legal aid to the underprivileged, mainly women and children. ASK has been providing free legal services to the disadvantaged women, working children and workers in Dhaka city, the capital of Bangladesh. ASK has developed itself as an acclaimed advocacy organization for its commendable achievements in upholding human rights of the oppressed and pursuing rights-based approach to development. ASK has developed a comprehensive approach to the promotion and protection of legal and human rights and has expanded its outreach programmes all over the country. ASK operates in a non-partisan neutral approach without any political affiliation.

Nine individuals renowned for their development and philanthropic work (4 women and 5 men- of whom 4are now deceased) established ASK. Now ASK has27 general members (17 women and 10 men) and is guided by a nine- member executive committee (EC), currently comprising of 7 women and 2 men. The general members meet once every year and provide policy guidance and the EC guides the operation.

1.1 Legal and Status

ASK is a registered organization under 3 laws in Bangladesh:

- Societies Registration Act, 1860 since September 20, 1986
- Foreign Donations Regulation Ordinance, 1978 since June 28, 1993
- NGO Affairs Bureau Act, since 1993

ASK has a special consultative status with the United National Economic and Social Council (UNECOSOC) since July 31, 1998.

1.2 Strategies and Operation

ASK's agenda encompasses all dimensions of human rights and ASK's engagement upholds rights-based approach to promote, prevent and protect legal and human rights and rule of law. ASK has put in place a comprehensive strategy with six identified strategic areas for its operation and the operational structure is presented below:

Strategies: ASK works for upholding and enforcing the HR of the disadvantaged and to make sustainable changes in the overall HR situation of Bangladesh. ASKs activities are categorized under six distinct but interdependent areas. The activities are designed under the following six strategic categories:

1. Awareness raising and strengthening organizational structures in the working areas.
2. Capacity building of Human Rights Actors.
3. Legal aid and other support services.
4. Advocacy and networking.
5. Protection of children.
6. Institutional development of ASK.

Operation: The operationalization of the activities of ASK are undertaken under the six strategic areas. Each area works in collaboration with the other areas. To bring sustainable change in HR situation in Bangladesh, ASK provides comprehensive services ensuring access of the disadvantaged to support for development and justice.

The key activities under the six strategic areas are of multiple dimensions. They include a. raising awareness among public on HR entitlements and issues; b. supporting community organizations in developing and strengthening their capabilities to identify, investigate, protest and address violation of HR provisions; c. Monitoring legislative processes, especially those related to HR and the enforcement of such laws; d. networking and liaising with national and international HR and women's rights protection organizations, including with the UN HR promotion system; e. enhancing transparency about the HR situation in Bangladesh; f. publishing books and articles on HR situation, and perspectives on new or emerging issues; and g. undertaking public interest litigation in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh to protect the rights of citizens and foreigners to ensure equality under the laws.

ASK provides legal and mediation services to women and children in cases of violation of their rights and operates rescue and shelter services for victims or survivors of violence. In addition, a number of non-formal education centres are functioning in Dhaka city for the working children and street children.

1.3 Partnership

ASK's programmes interventions and supports to disadvantaged women and children outside Dhaka are delivered through its partners Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), schools, lawyers and other stakeholders' forums. Currently the operation is managed through 14NGOs, and CBOs, 20 schools, and 10 Human Rights Defenders' Forums (HRDF) to deliver programme and provide field level support. In addition, ASK has liaison and partnership with national and international forums for advocacy. The following figure presents a picture of ASK's partnership.

Working meeting between ASK and Partner organizations

2

HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN BANGLADESH

Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in the areas of poverty reduction, prevention of hunger and improvement in nutrition, women empowerment, education and climate change management. These are indicators of Bangladesh's progress towards achieving the United Nations (UN's) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is evident that sustained positive progress has been made in economic, social and cultural rights of the citizens. Economic growth indicators have also shown positive trends. However, progress towards the second indicator of HR on civil and political rights was limited. Some positive initiatives were evident that included the verdict of seven-murder case of Narayanganj, and finalizing the draft of "The Dowry Prohibition Act 2017". An internationally acclaimed action of Bangladesh was providing shelters to more than seven hundred thousand Rohingya refugees from Myanmar who were subject to barbaric torture and forced displacement equivalent to genocide. On the contrary, the trend of "missing people" of different class and profession has emerged as a new dimension to the human rights violations (HRV), besides abduction, disappearance and secret killings by the Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA). Moreover, oppression against religious minorities and rape in public transports was also disquieting in the year 2017.

A brief picture of the HRV recorded by ASK in 2017 is given in the Table below. Information on specific types of HR violation are given in the following pages of this section.

Table: 1 Summary of statistics on HR in 2017

Types of Violence	Number	Remarks
Violence against women	1818	
Violence against child	1055	Killed 620
Political killing	52	
Extra judicial killing	162	
Disappearance	60	Later on death body recovered 2, released after abduction 7, traced but about arrest 8
Arrest under Article 57 RTI Act	54	
Death in jail custody	53	Under trial prisoners 33, Convicted 20
Violence against Hindu community	279	Destroyed and set fire in house 45, Business counter 21, temple and monastery 212, statues dead 1
Journalist harassment	122	Killed 1
Border violence (death, tortured, injured, abduction and returned after abduction)	112	24 killed by Indian border security force (killed 18 by shoot, death in physical torture 6), abduction 40, returned after abduction 13, injured 35
Imposed section 144	43	
Mob beats to death	50	

Source: Documentation Unit, ASK

2.1 Abduction and Enforced Disappearances Continued

Abduction, disappearance, and murder by the members of LEAs continued in 2017 like the previous year. ASK's documentation revealed that 60 people were either abducted, disappeared, or murdered by the members of LEAs. In the subsequent periods, dead-bodies of two persons were revealed, eight were shown arrested by police, and seven returned to their family. A total of 60 persons disappeared mysteriously, of whom seven persons returned, eight were shown arrested by the LEAs, two were found dead and 43 were never traced and presumed to be dead. In most of these cases, family members claimed that the missing persons had been taken away by the people who introduced themselves as members of the LEAs.

On a positive note, the District and Sessions Judge of Narayanganj delivered a verdict against 35 persons on 16 January 2017, against the criminals including senior officials of the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) in a much-discussed Narayanganj seven-murder case. In the verdict, 26 persons including three senior RAB officers and a former Narayanganj City Corporation Councillor Nur Hossain were given death penalty and nine others were sentenced to prison for various terms.

Case Study 1

A Madrasa student named Masum Billah's family claimed that he was taken away on 15 November 2017 by some people in plain clothes introducing themselves as policemen from a house of Harindiya Berepukur Madrasapara area of Kotchadpur, Jhenaidah district. Almost a month before the incident, unknown persons took away Masum's cousin named Maksudur Rahman from the adjacent area of their house on 12 October 2017. Later Masum was shown as arrested in a case at Damurhuda Model Thana, Chuadanga on 05 December 2017, but Maksud is still missing.

Case Study 2

On 18 March 2017, RAB took Hanif Mridha, a businessman to Kurmitola General Hospital, Dhaka in severely injured condition. The on-duty doctor declared him dead. Hanif's family accused to ASK Team that on 27 February 2017, some people dressed as civilian claiming to be plain clothed CID (Criminal Investigation Department) policemen arrested him from Kanchpur area of Narayanganj. On 04 March 2017, Hanif's family filed a general diary (GD) in Siddhirganj police station when Hanif was still missing as his whereabouts were unknown. On 15 March, some persons introducing themselves as RAB personnel came to his house at Rayer Bajar with Hanif and took him away with his two signed cheques of a privately-owned bank. RAB claimed that Hanif was arrested from Ashkona of Dhaka on 17 March as he was a suspect of being involved with terrorist group.

Table: 2 Trend of Enforced Disappearances

Disappearance and Status	2015	2016	2017	Total
Never traced & presumed dead	35	57	43	**135**
Traced but found dead	8	11	2	**21**
Traced but shown under arrest	7	26	8	**41**
Returned to family	5	3	7	**15**
TOTAL	**55**	**97**	**60**	**212**

Source: Documentation Unit, ASK

2.2 Freedom of Speech Curtailed

Cases against media and human rights organizations misusing section 57 of the “Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act” were frequently reported. The much discussed proposed 'Digital Security Act' though was expected to eliminate the Section 57 but it contains the same provisions though not in the same form. The media personnel consider it as threat to freedom of speech. In 2017, according to media reports, cases were filed against 54 journalists and writers under section 57 of the ICT Act in 2017.

In addition, during different social and religious festivals like Pohela Boishakh (Bangla new Year) and Rathayatra (Festival of Hindu Community) terms and conditions were imposed by the LEAs restricting the celebrations of the festivals on the pretext of security.

In April 2017, the High Court Division gave verdict on the case against the murder of the atheist blogger Rajib Haider, who was murdered in February 2013.Thehonourable High Court Division retained the lower court's verdict of death sentence of two criminals and punishment of eight other accused people in the case.

Case Study 3

On June 02, Hefajat-e-Islam, a religion- based party gave an ultimatum to the Government of 24 hours to arrest Sultana Kamal, a prominent human rights activist, Chair of Board of Trustees, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and the former Executive Director of ASK, for her comment in a television talk show regarding the removal of the statue of Lady Justice from the Supreme Court premises. They also threatened to assault her physically.

Harassment of Journalists

ASK documentation found that in 2017, a total of 122 journalists were physically assaulted, attacked, threatened and harassed by the LEAs, powerful people, leaders, criminals, ruling political party members and activists.

Case Studies 4, 5 and 6

- *A reporter named Abdul Hakim Shimul of the Daily Samakal was shot on 02 February 2017 while on duty, collecting news during a conflict between two groups of Awami League at Shahjadpur, Sirajganj. On 03 February, he died while undergoing treatment. A case was filed against this incident. According to the Ballistic report of Crime Investigation Department (CID) of Police, it was proved that the reporter was killed by the bullet shot by the shotgun of Halimul Haq Miru, municipal Mayor of Sahjadpur, Sirajgonj, a follower of the ruling party.*
- *On 26 January 2017, Kazi Ahsan Bin Didar, a reporter, and the cameraman named Abdul Alim of ATN News, were attacked by police while performing their duties on the day of a half-day hartal (shut down) called by 'National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports'. They were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with several injuries.*
- *On 27 June 2017, camera reporter Ashik Ahmed of the Daily Observer was arrested and tortured by police who were accused of demanding one lakh taka as bribes from him.*

2.3 Torture and Extra-Judicial Killings (EJKs) Continued

Torture, and death in custody continued in 2017 following the trend of the previous year. Police, RAB, and other LEAs were accused of killing many people. According to ASK documentation, the LEAs killed 162 persons through crossfire, gunfight, and shootout. Besides, 53 persons were reported to have died in jail custody, among them 33 were prisoners and 20 were convicted prisoners. Many cases of torture by people claiming to be members of LEAs were reported.

Case Study 7

On 18 July, approximately at around 7:30 pm, one Shah Jamal alias Shahjalal (31), was detained by police allegedly to be a mugger and he was taken to Khalishpur police station. Shahjalal claimed, "from the Police station they took me to the Khulna Highway area although, they said that they will take me to the hospital. There, police gouged out my two eyes with something like a screwdriver after binding my hands, legs and mouth."

Table: 3 Extra Judicial Deaths in 2017

Cause Of Death	Custodial	Non Custodial	Total
"Crossfire"	29	97	**126**
"Gunfire"	2	16	**18**
Physical Torture	8	4	**12**
Suicide, Mob attack	1	0	**1**
Other (Ill health, heart attack, mysterious death, Train, unknown causes)	5	0	**5**
Total	45	117	**162**

Source: Documentation Unit, ASK

2.4 Freedom of Assembly and Association Controlled

Though the Constitution of Bangladesh guarantees freedom of assembly and freedom of association as fundamental rights, these rights were restricted. Especially, the opposition political parties were not allowed to arrange any meeting, assembly or demonstration on different occasions during the year. Police continued arrest and harassment of persons in opposition political parties and also those seeking justice through peaceful demonstration.

Case Studies 8, 9, 10, and 11

- *Police created a barricade in a procession arranged by Khagrachori Hill Women's Federation on the occasion of the 21 Anniversary of the abduction of indigenous leader Kalpana Chakma. The participating women were beaten and 21 activists of Hill Women's Federation were arrested from the spot.*

- *20 July 2017- Police created barricade against demonstration of students demanding change of examination schedule of seven colleges of Dhaka under University of Dhaka. Siddiqur Rahman, a student of Titumir College, was seriously injured and his both eyes were damaged as police threw tear gas on the demonstrators.*
- *28 October 2017- The Chairperson of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Begum Khaleda Zia's car, along with others, were attacked while they were going to Cox's Bazar for distributing relief to Rohingya refugees.*
- *18 June 2017- BNP General Secretary Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and his group were attacked at Ichakhali, Rangunia Upazila, Chittagong while they were going to Rangamati to distribute relief to the people affected by landslides. Some BNP leaders were physically harassed. BNP accused the ruling party activists for the attack.*

2.5 Right to Health Ignored

A series of complaints regarding doctors' negligence, wrong treatment, delayed treatment to critical patients leading to death of patients came into public in 2017. Deprivation of basic healthcare, indiscipline and chaos in health sector were among other complains. Several patients and their relatives brought repeated allegations of misbehaviour and attack against the intern doctors of Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital, Bogra. Though, the Health Minister postponed their internship, he had to withdraw the declaration following the movements by these doctors. On the other hand, Bangladesh government finalized a draft of “Sasthyaseba Ain 2017” ('Health Care Act 2017’) to ensure better health care services. Nevertheless, many have raised questions against section 25 of the law where doctors are given an indemnity.

Case Studies 12 and 13

- *Parvin Akter gave birth to a child on the street in front of Azimpur 'Matrisadan o Sishu Shastya Proshikshan Protisthan' on 17 October 2017, as she was denied of basic health care from three government hospitals. The new-born died just after the birth.*
- *A female student of University of Dhaka named Afia Jahan Choity died on 18 May 2017 at Central Hospital in Dhaka for wrong treatment. Though, a case was filed against the accused doctors including the Director of the hospital, it was later withdrawn.*

2.6 Women’s Rights Violated

Despite the remarkable progress of women in socio-economic, cultural, educational, sports and administrative sectors, harassment and violence against women continued. Denial of women’s rights happened in different ways.

Altogether, 239 cases were filed with different police stations for dowry and domestic violence related incidents. It is to be noted that these numbers are only tips of the iceberg as majority of such incidents remain unreported.

Sexual Harassment and Violence

In 2017, the number of sexual harassments increased in different educational institutions and workplaces. ASK found that a total of 170 women were sexually harassed by miscreants of whom 12 women committed suicide. Altogether 13 persons including three women were murdered for protesting sexual harassment.

Table: 4 Summary of incidences on VAW in 2017

Types of violence	Number	Remarks
Domestic violence	442	Killed 304, Suicide-58
Domestic worker violence	43	Suicide1, Killed 5, Unnatural death 19, Rape-2, Rape after death 1
Rape	818	Death 47, Suicide 11
Acid violence	32	Death 1
Sexual harassment (Stalking)	170	Suicide 12
Dowry related violence	303	Killed 145, Suicide 10
Salish & Fatwa	10	Suicide 1

Source: Documentation Unit, ASK

Many of the victims were adolescents. In addition, 168 people were assaulted for protesting sexual abuse.

The parliament passed the "Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017"with age of marriage for girls at 18 and for boys at 21, but keeping "special provision" for marriage under the legal age of marriage. Many women, human rights and development organizations protested and raised voices against this but in vain, the Act was passed with the provisions.

Rape

A total of 818 incidents of rape were reported in 2017, which were higher compared to 724 in 2016. Rape in public transport emerged as a new phenomenon. Among the victims, 47 women were killed after the rape and 11 committed suicide. It was alleged that rich and powerful people, members of law enforcement agencies and transport labourers were involved in these incidents.

Case Studies 14, 15, 16 and 17

- *29 April 2017- Hazrat Ali and his daughter Ayesha Akter committed suicide by jumping out from a running train near Sripur station of Gazipur for not getting justice for an incident of rape.*
- *28 March 2017- Two female university students were invited to a birthday party and were raped at Raintree Hotel at Banani, Dhaka by the son of the owner of Apan Jewellers, Safat Ahmed and his aides.*
- *25 August 2017-A student of Ideal Law College named Rupa Haq was raped by transport labourers in a running bus from Bogra to Mymensingh, and after rape, she was killed.*
- *27 July 2017-The Convener of Awami Sramik League, Tufan Sarkar from Bogra called a student to his house and raped her. On 28 July he and a host of his cadres took the girl away and they beat her mother. Later, they cut off the hairs of the mother and daughter.*

Salish and Fatwa

Punishment to women through Salish and Fatwa still continues despite legal restrictions on these. According to ASK's findings, 10 women became subject to Salish and Fatwa in 2017. Among them, three women were ousted from the village, three became victims of hillah marriage (intervening marriage) and dorrah (beating by whip in public) and four were physically assaulted.

Case Study 18

In December 2017, a Fatwa was issued from Silaidaha-Jam-e mosque of Kumarkhali Upazila, Kushtia that women were not allowed to go to the crop field on the grounds of causing 'harm to crops' and committing 'unsocial activities'.

Dowry and Domestic Violence

Despite the existence of laws and extensive awareness raising programme against dowry, women in many parts of the country still experience severe violence and torture due to the inability of their parental families to meet the demand of dowry by their husband or in-laws. ASK's programme found, a total of 303 women were tortured for dowry, among them 145 were killed and 10 committed suicide. Only 239 cases were filed regarding these incidents as often women cannot or are not supported to take legal recourse. In addition, 442 cases of domestic violence against women were found in 2017. Of them 270 women were killed by husbands and in-laws, 34 women were killed by their own family and 58 women committed suicide after torture.

2.7 Domestic Worker Tortured and Acid Crime Occurred

Torture on domestic workers happen in private and therefore, often go unnoticed. Only a few incidents are reported. In 2017, cases of torture on 43 female domestic workers were exposed. Among them, in 26 cases the workers died in their employers' houses and the others were severely hurt. Due to adverse situations, it was difficult to collect real information about violence against domestic workers. Alarmingly, 32 women became victims of acid throwing and one died among them.

2.8 Children Abused and Killed

Despite having laws and activities upholding child rights by the Government and NGOs, the frustrating trend of child repression and murder continued in this year. The reasons vary from family dispute to murder by employers and fiends due to conflict on minor issues. According to ASK's findings, 1,675 children were killed and became subject to cruel tortures. Among them, 339 were murdered, 117 committed suicide and 37 died mysteriously. Besides, 565 children became victims of sexual harassment, rape and stalking in 2017.

2.9 Workers' Rights Denied

Though the Labour Laws and Rules provide for occupational health and safety and protection from workplace violence, and accidents, the employers still do not comply with the safety standards. According to 'Safety and Rights Society', a total of 321 accidents took place in workplaces during 2017. As a result of these accidents, 426 workers died of fire breakout and building collapse. Usual issues like the lower wage, non-payment of dues, and bonus dissatisfaction continued like in the previous year.

Particularly, unhappy situation in the garment sector was prominent. Moreover, migrant workers continued being subject to torture and deprivation of their rights. Return of migrant workers from Middle Eastern and

other countries continued. Cases of torture, rape and return of female domestic helps from Middle Eastern Countries were many.

Case Study 19, 20, 21

On 03 July 2017, 13 workers died and 50 were injured in Gazipur due to a boiler burst. Complains were made earlier about the defective boiler, but they were forced to continue work using the defective one.

At Char Muktarpur, MunshiganjSadar, fire broke out in Ideal Textile Mill on 20 July 2017. Six people died including 4 workers in that incident.

Lastly, on 12 December, four workers including three women got burnt and died in a gas cylinder burst at FS Cosmetic factory at Kaliarkoir, Gazipur.

2.10 Religious Minorities and Indigenous People Attacked

The year 2017 saw several attacks by communal groups on different inhabitants of minority communities resulting in destruction, arson and loot of their resources in Rangpur, Brahmanbaria, Faridpur, Jessore, Barishal, and Sunamganj. According to the statistical report of ASK, a total of 212 idols of the Hindu community, 45 houses and 21 business organizations were attacked, destroyed and looted in different parts of the country.

Moreover, incidents like destroying temples and idols and launching attacks over Hindu community took place in Brahmanbaria, Faridpur, Jassore, Barishal, Sunamganj and different other districts more than once.

In spite of 20 years of the Peace Accord between Bangladesh Government and Jana Songhoti Somiti of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), the conditions have not yet fulfilled. The indigenous people are severely suffering from violence like - forceful land grabbing and eviction, recurrent attacks, massive destruction, incineration, and harassment. Violence against indigenous people and rape of indigenous women have also been used as weapons for land grabbing.

Case Studies 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26

- *02 November 2017- Accusing people for defaming Islam on Facebook, criminals launched a massive attack and made a huge devastation in Bishnu's shop at Malopara and different houses in Faridpur's Sadarpur Hat Krisnapur Bajar and its adjacent areas.*
- *10 November 2017-Houses of 15 Hindu families were torched and 03 houses were vandalized and destroyed for the same accusation in Rangpur Sadar and Thakurpara of Gangachora Upazila. One person died and 20 police were injured in this incident when police clashed with the attackers.*
- *18 May 2017- In Iswarganj of Mymensingh, a group of miscreants critically injured almam named Mustafijur Rahman of a mosque of Ahmadia community with a sharp knife.*
- *02 January 2017- Miscreants beat and killed Narayan Chandra Das in Hatiya, Noakhali for not fulfilling their demand of illegal subscription.*
- *04 January 2017- At Jamaibajar of Tungipara, Gopalganj, miscreants broke grills of three temples and destroyed 20 idols.*

Case Studies 27 and 28

- *After the dead body of a BangaleeJubo League leader named Nurul Islam Nayan was rescued in Rangamati, on 02 June 2017, around two hundred houses in three indigenous-inhabitant-villages in Longdu, were set on fire. The indigenous people lost their house and belongings in that incident. Gunmala Chakma, an old woman of above seventy died in the fire breakout as she was inside the house during the atrocities.*
- *According to media reports, on 05 April 2017, a college student and leader of Pahari Student Porishad, Naniarchor, Rangamati named Romel Chakma was detained by army personnel. It was alleged that Romel was later critically injured due to tortures and was hospitalized. Later he died while undergoing treatment.*

2.11 Killing and Torture at Borders Continued

Despite having treaty and understanding between Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and, the Border Security Force (BSF) of India, in 2017 BSF killed 24 Bangladeshis. Among them 18 persons were shot and 6 others died due to physical tortures at the Bangladesh-India border and adjacent areas. Despite repeated assurances from the highest authority of India, killing in the border did not end.

2.12 Different Sexual Orientation Disapproved

Upon the allegation of homosexuality, 27young boys were arrested from Keraniganj, Dhaka on 18 May 2017. Later they were shown as arrested in a drug case. Nevertheless, their pictures were shown in different media identifying them as homosexuals.

2.13 Role of ASK

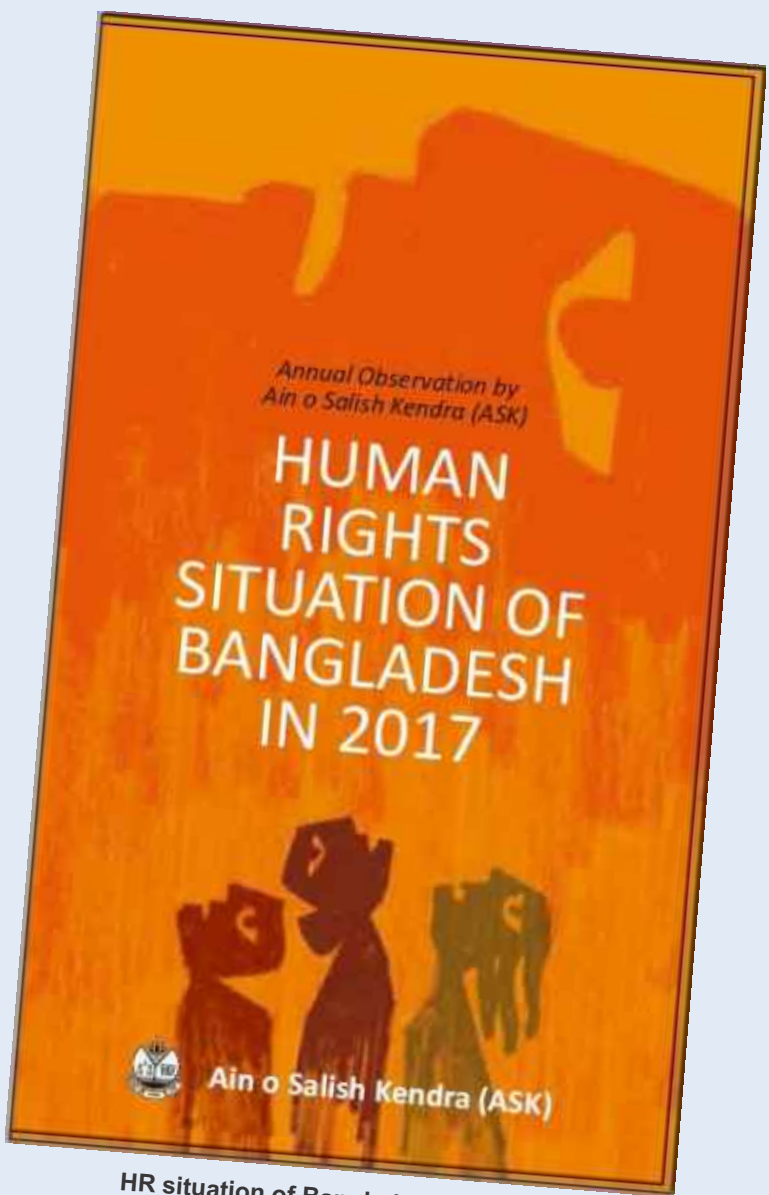
Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) demanded for the establishment of an independent commission to deal with the issues of enforced disappearances, secret killings and all kinds of extra-judicial killings ensuring fair and accountable investigation. As a leading human rights organization, ASK expects that the Government of Bangladesh will undertake the responsibility to ensure an agreeable standard of human rights for all. ASK also expects that the Government will embark on effective measures to keep up with the commitments made at national and international levels in order to protect and preserve human rights.

Human rights situation is (90% events and news specially related to civil and political rights) monitored by ASK and all the reported HRVs are identified and documented for research/ advocacy/litigation or other remedial actions.

In cases of grave HR violations, ASK issued news alerts on such violations and initiated advocacy linking with different international bodies. ASK communicated with different human rights organizations in other countries to ensure rapid response to the victims, particularly migrant workers in countries of destination. It contributed to the systematic check and balance on HR situations in Bangladesh both by local and international HR organizations. It is also helping a number of researchers, academia, lawyers, students, journalists as a source of authentic information. A brief report on HR situation, published in ASK Website, electronic and print media has presented a comprehensive overview of HR situation.

It is necessary that the Government and civil society work together to ensure dignity and equality among the people of different classes and religions to establish the culture of human rights in the country.

Press conference on Human Rights Situation in 2017



HR situation of Bangladesh in 2017

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ASK'S WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS

A new core programme of ASK titled "Strengthening Democracy by Promoting Human Rights Culture in Bangladesh started in January 2017 for a period of five years to improve the HR situation and resolution of conflicts in the formal and informal systems for the poor. It will also enable state institutions to play proactive roles in ensuring HR and gender equality. The programme seeks to provide rapid response and legal assistance to the survivors of HRVs, improve the capabilities of relevant institutions enhancing their capacity to promote HR culture in Bangladesh. This programme is supported by a Consortium participated by the Embassies of Denmark, Switzerland and Sweden in Dhaka.In addition, ASK implements a few other small projects, they are, a. Program for Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (PPPHR) -First and Second phase supported by the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, b. Program for Human Rights (Civil and political rights) supported by the High Commission of Australia, c. Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism, supported by Terre des Hommes Netherlands, d. Monitoring Child Rights Situation in Bangladesh supported by Save the Children in Bangladesh, and e. South Asian Young Women's Leadership and Monitoring Initiative by Global Fund for Women.

This report focuses on the progress of the above-mentioned programmes and projects. This section presents a comprehensive picture of the achievements based on the data compiled from ASK's Dhaka and field-based programmes, cases handled, national and international advocacy, fact findings as well as the findings from the scanning of news on human rights violations from leading national dailies. The activities and achievements are presented under each of the strategic areas.

3.1 Awareness raising and strengthening organizational structures

General lack of awareness among public about the legal rights and human rights and entitlements makes it difficult for them to claim rights or seek justice when violated. Therefore, individuals become vulnerable to exploitation, torture and simply denial of entitlement by state and non-state actors. The costly and cumbersome legal procedures also discourage people from seeking justice.

ASK focuses on the change in the behaviour of the community and HR actors to enable them to be active in awareness raising on human rights and gender issues. ASK facilitates community actions for prevention and seeking redresses in case of HRV. Therefore, ASK is engaged in orientation, mobilization, activism and local level advocacy for the implementation of the existing legal framework.

Increased HR orientation in community: Through the Human Rights Awareness (HRA) programme, ASK oriented participants from grassroots communities to state institutions such as youth, community leaders, cultural activists, journalists, teachers and students on HR and ways to redress in case of any violation. ASK has formed Community Based organizations (CBOs) through the partnership with local NGOs.

ASK organized different community -based groups in five districts, namely Naogaon, Jhenaidah, Kishoreganj, Gaibandha and Kushtia. These include Community Based Human Rights Protection Groups (CBHRPG) and Community Based Women Groups (CBWGs). Tri-monthly union and thana level meetings, legal camps, district level training on Gender Relation Analysis(GRA) and Human Rights (HR) were accomplished by the CBHRPGs in five districts. Right to Information Day and Human Rights Day were observed in these districts where local civil society, community organizations and general mass people participated. They had widespread discussions on the significance of the days. The participation of the community and the duty bearers also provided knowledge about the right to information (RTI) and HR. These have created an enabling environment to access information and taking action against HRV by linking the citizens with the duty bearers. All these activities built valuable social capital for the HR actors to become more strategically active in promoting HR culture.

Twenty union committees and 5 thana committees of community Based Women's Groups (CBWG) were reformed, each committee consisting of 25 members. They are functioning in their respective areas and beyond. A total of 28 CBWG members were members of UP standing Committees, 3 members were

involved in the decision-making process of School Management Committees (SMC). CBHRPG group members conducted 38 salishes. With these, 30 disputes were resolved and rest of them are ongoing. The members are also participating in other decision-making bodies and undertaking activities like organizing human chain to protest against HRVs.

Increased HR awareness through cultural activities: ASK organized Community Based Human Rights Theatre Groups (CBHRTG) and School Theatre Groups (STG), which raise community awareness about their rights through cultural issue-based drama. The 56 (female 37, male 19) CBHRTG members can explain HR and gender issues. ASK trained them to build their capacity through different initiatives. The CBOs, CBHRTGs, STGs and their respective members have improved knowledge and skills about HR issues and on their roles on how to address any HRV. The CBHRTGs performed 150 issue-based dramas and organized theatre festivals. Upazilla based workshops on drama production, Annual HR Theatre Festivals and competitions were organized in five districts where 1,000 males and 1,500 females participated. They observed International Women's Day, Human Rights Day, Mother Language Day, and Victory Day in these 5 districts.

Annual School Theater Group (STG) Conference

A planning workshop for the CBHRTGs was organized where 32 male and 9 female participants represented 13 districts, including Dhaka. They developed a Plan of Action for their campaign, advocacy and relevant activities for accelerating the access of marginalized individuals and groups to local institutions to establish their rights to justice and to promote a society of equality and cohesion, where human rights are not violated.

Two non-residential trainings on HR and Gender were conducted for the STGs. STGs in 20 high schools in 5 districts are functioning and 500 (100%)students are directly involved in cultural activities like drama production, show, debate, and publication of wall magazines, etc. Among them, 10 percent can explain HR issues. These 20 high schools adopted HR education as co-curricular activities.

Community activism for HR: The CBHRTG and STGs are now active in collective activism to promote, protect and uphold human rights of the marginalized powerless individuals and groups in their own locality. They have gained knowledge, capacity and confidence for community mobilization and local level advocacy. Issue based dramas highlighting contemporary HR issues were performed by the CBHRTG and STGs to raise awareness among public.

The CBOs, CBHRPG, CBWG, CBHRTG have started independent action against HR violation, which facilitated them to be established as sustainable community based human rights organizations. A total of 1,250members of CBWG and CBHRPG union and thana committees, CBHRTGs and Human Rights Lawyers Forums (HRLF) are working actively at the local level. They are protesting different types of HRVs like rape, torture on children, VAW, refusal of taking cases by police stations etc. They also organized rally, human chain protesting HRVs and claiming rights. Through their activities, these community-based organizations have achieved recognition within the community as HR watchdog, who instantly stand by the

victims of HR violation. They are more confident and strategic about how to communicate with and influence duty bearers to be proactive to protect the rights of all citizens including the poor. Ultimately, they have become a bridge between the community and the public service providers.

Case 29: CBHRPG Influenced Thana to File Case Against Rapist

From a news in the Daily Samakal of 14 June 2017, the members of Community Based Human Rights Protection Group (CBHRPG) learned that a disable adolescent girl committed suicide after being raped on 13 June, 2017 in village Chechua of Kushtia district. The CBHRPG members visited the spot on 15 June 2017 and found that Anwar Hossain Liton (36), a married neighbour, was the perpetrator. The victim's father informed the CBHRPG that he had filed a case against Lilon at Kustia Sadarthana on 18 June, 2017. Two CBHRPG members visited the local police station with the father of the victim. They were informed that a suspected criminal had been arrested. The CBHRPG members enquired about the case number and section of the case but the thana could not show any document on the case. The CBHRPG members then contacted the Officer-in-charge (OC) of the thana, who instantly ordered the duty officer for proper filing of the case to send the arrestee to the court. The arrestee is in jail and charge sheet against him has been submitted. The CBHRPG members are following-up the case.

Claim of entitlements from different state agencies like District Legal Aid Committee, LEAs, health institutions, RTI etc. and events relating to protest against HRVs has increased at the community level. The increasing complaints and protest events contributed to the improvement of HR situation. The state agencies are being more aware about their responsibilities.

Wall magazine for awareness: Wall magazines were developed and exhibited inside and out-of-school that enriched learners' creative faculty to intellectually deal with human rights issues focusing on child rights and quality education in line with basic human rights. Annual School Theatre Group conference including performance evaluation was held with festivity. The members of STGs got together at the Conference and Wall Magazine Competition at a residential venue. Twenty high schools and organizations participated with 40 wall magazines in the competition. Thus, students and their teachers had in-depth interaction among themselves and with renowned human rights activists.

Debates on HR: Inter school debate competitions on contemporary HR issues were organized. A total of 60 students of 20 schools performed in the debate completions where 600 students attended. Five debate competitions were held in 5 districts. The members are proactive now to spread knowledge on rights among family members and peers.

Executive Director of ASK visited wall magazine competition

The achievements in awareness raising activities of ASK are presented in the table below:

Table: 5 Achievements on Human Rights Awareness Raising Activities in 2017

Activities	Target Event	Achievement			
		Event	Female	Male	Total
Orientation on program for school teachers	10	10	77	114	**191**
Assistance to schools to organize workshop on drama production	20	20	367	160	**527**
Inter school workshop for School Theatre Group (STG) on Drama Production in the district level	5	5	79	47	**126**
Orientation courses on HR and Gender for the students and teachers in the district level (non res.)	2	2	37	19	**56**
Assistance to School Theatre Group to organize day observation events.	5	5	200	200	**400**
Assistance to School Theatre Group for publishing wall magazine	40	40			
Annual School Theatre Group conference and performance evaluation events for School Theatre Team in the district level	5	5	299	217	**516**
School Theatre Group conference in the central level	1	1	47	51	**98**
Inter school debate competitions	5	5	409	191	**600**
Annual planning workshops with CBHRTGs	1	1	9	32	**41**
Assistance to CBHRTGs to organize upazilla based workshop on drama production	5	5	19	81	**100**
Assistance to CBHRTGs for organising yearly HR theatre festivals & competitions in the district level	5	5	1,000	1,500	**2,500**
Day observation events by ASK	7	7	181	160	**341**
Total	**111**	**111**	**2,724**	**2,772**	**5,496**

Day Observation: ASK organized 7 day observation events (21st February, 1st Boishakh, Birthdays of Sufia Kamal and Salma Sobhan, Death Anniversary of Sufia Kamal, Death Anniversary of Salma Sobhan and Martyred Intellectuals Day) to remember the valiant works of the departed souls to establish Bangladesh as a country where HR is uphold and all citizens get equal state treatment as dignified human being irrespective of sex, religion, economic status, political background, age or class.

The Gender and Social Justice programme under this strategic area focused on mobilizing and developing community activism to protect rights and on raising awareness on gender equality and social justice. The programme offers training and undertakes other activities to expand and strengthen ASK's endeavours to establish gender justice at the grassroots level. The programme was implemented in twenty unions of five upazillas in five districts jointly with local partner non-government organizations (PNGOs).

Enhanced gender equality capacity and understanding: Training courses on Human Rights and Gender Relation Analysis were organized for human rights actors, ASK staff and staff of partner organizations to enhance their knowledge about gender perspectives in HR and for ensuring effective HR activism. This has strengthened their capacity to understand and address gender issues at the community level. Training, meetings, and discussions changed social attitude to a great extent to prevent and protest any kind of gender- based violence and domestic violence against women and girls. Women under community organizations can speak up for their human rights and stand up against patriarchal social and individual behaviour that hinder girls and women in general to claim their own right to choice, mobility, justice and dignity.

Orientation courses on HR and Gender for the students and teachers were held at the district level. The 100 HR actors from 5 districts received training on HR and gender equality. Their discussion and participation in their regular meetings, revealed that around 30% of them were practicing and utilizing their learnings in their personal life. They observed International Women's Day, Government Legal Aid Day, Human Rights Day and other days related to Human Rights. These celebrations made community aware and open to receive messages of human rights and women rights. Apart from these, they arranged workshops with local elected bodies on HR and women rights. One non-residential training on HR and Gender was also held for CBHRPG where 15 males and 10 females got refreshed knowledge and strategic skills for working on the issues.

Legal Camp at the community level

ASK organized 100 Tri-monthly CBWG meetings at the union and thana levels where 1,926 women and 187 men participated. Also to develop the capacity of human rights actors, 100 meetings of CBHRPGs were held at thana and union levels where 1,203 male and 914 females participated. Early in the year, 5thana council meetings were held in five districts with festivity where 153 males and 131 females participated. They included PNGOs staff and representatives from other organizations. Now they are aware on HR, Gender, Family laws, Child rights, women's rights, legal aid and VAW. They are able to provide legal assistance and deal with the clients efficiently. Legal advice and technical support for accessing justice were given to 3,028 female and 2,474 male participants through 50 legal camps organized at the community level.

The HRLFs organized by ASK were reformed in five districts. About 30 percent of the HRLFs members can explain HR and gender issues. The HRLFs had tri-monthly meetings to follow-up the cases on behalf of the marginalized victims handled by the HRLF members. They dealt with cases of poor victims of HR violation often without any fees. They revisited their coordination mechanism with the local BAR Associations and Govt. Legal Aid Fund (GLAF) Committees. The lawyers started playing active role in providing assistance voluntarily to the poor to access GLAF, while seeking justice.

Under the intervention to develop capacity of HR lawyers, 20tri-monthly meetings of HRLF were held where 312 male and 58 female lawyers participated. Government legal aid day was observed on 28 April 2017 by the HRLFs. The CBWG and CBHRPG members (710 male and 470 female) including lawyers, NGO workers, district Judges were present in all 5 districts.

The local government institutions and the Department of Women Affairs (DWA) have specific roles to play in preventing and addressing VAW. ASK and its partners involved the DWA officials to discuss the roles and the services provided by the DWA for domestic violence. This also strengthened the link with DWA. To ensure women's participation in salish and decision- making process, CBWGs organized 20 workshops with local Salishkers of the local government. These workshops, training and other activities by ASK enabled the CBWG members to be present in meetings, attend salish, take victims to hospitals and lawyers, celebrate important days and so on. Almost 50 members of CBWGs contested in local government election and 12 were elected.

The knowledge, information and skills of the CBOs increased and they became capable to approach the local government and the service agencies to claim services and rights. They now can initiate immediate actions like referral, seeking services in case of gross HRVs. The CBOs organized 38 salishes, among them 30 were resolved and 8 are ongoing. This has helped in promptly responding to a conflict situation for redressal.

The Taskforces for National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and Right to Information (RTI) are two special groups for fact finding and collecting information on HR situation from different departments and institutions at district level. They participated in meetings to discuss HR situation in their own areas and ASK was consulted in many occasions.

ASK undertook different activities in the area of gender and social justice as presented in the following table.

Table: 6 Key Activities Under Gender and Social Justice Programme in 2017

Activities	Target	Achievement			
	Event	Event	Female	Male	Total
Tri-monthly Community based Women Group (CBWG) union and thana meeting	100	100	1,926	187	**2,113**
Tri-monthly CBHRPG union and thana level meeting	100	100	914	1203	**2,117**
Bi-monthly meeting of NHRC & RT taskforce	60	60	290	529	**819**
Tri-monthly HRLF meeting	20	20	58	312	**370**
Non-residential training for Community based Women's Group (CBWG) on (Social justice, VAW, CEDAW, advocacy, law, GRA, HR)	3	3	75	0	**75**
Regional Residential/ non-residential training, VAW, GLAF, RT, NHRC, UP activities, advocacy, GRA, HR, social justice, law)	1	1	10	15	**25**
Workshops with Salishker/Local government/Standing committees/DWA	5	5	77	55	**132**
Legal camp	50	50	3,028	2,474	**5,502**
Meeting between govt. legal aid committee, panel lawyers					
Observation of Government Legal Aid Day and Human Rights Day by HRLF, celebrate RTI Day and Human Rights Day	10	10	1,195	1,510	**2,705**
Bi-yearly CBHRPG thana council	5	5	131	153	**284**
Total	**354**	**354**	**7,704**	**6,438**	**14,142**

Young Women's Leadership and Mentoring: ASK implemented a project titled South Asia Young Women's Leadership and Mentoring Initiative. It aimed at enhancing awareness and knowledge about rights and in supporting women and girls in realizing the rights. It also aimed at women's greater access to resources and services and in changing social norms and practices to value women and girls as equal human beings. Twenty four young women leaders selected from two working areas of ASK were engaged and trained by ASK. They selected issues from their community that they wanted to address. ASK conducted a workshop with local elected women leaders in Jhenaidah district. Initially it was a challenge to bring young

women leaders in the process and the problem was later overcome though communication and discussions. An Action Plan was developed by them. The selected young women leaders of ASK participated in a training in Nepal. It is felt that one training is not enough for effective transfer of skills and building capacity for leadership.

3.2 Capacity Building of Human Rights Actors

ASK's capacity building activities for HR actors through training and other methods is well appreciated. The training programme conducted training on different types of HR and law related issues and on how to address HRVs. The trainees include ASK staff, community stakeholders, theatre teams, university students, and staff of partner organizations. ASK's capacity building efforts are focused for augmenting the capacities of HR defenders. ASK has also been receiving and responding to request from other like-minded organizations and offered customized courses on a fee- for- service basis.

Staff internalize organizational goal, and development agenda: An orientation course was organized for the newly recruited staff on the core programme and its implementation modalities. The new staff, 20 female and 13 male received orientation from ASK trainers and management staff on ASKs vision, its operational modalities, HR and gender, which enhanced their knowledge on the values, norms, goals, working process and the culture of ASK as well as on ASK's programmes and their implementation.

Study circles on SDG, Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017, writings on Salma Sobhan and Enlightenment of Civilization were organized for ASK staff. These have enhanced staff motivation towards achieving ASK's goal and objectives through programme implementation. They are encouraged in addressing the human rights situation and to contribute towards achieving the country's vision, the SDGs and the national and global legal HR agenda. The staff are informed of HR, gender, family laws, child rights, women rights, process of legal aid and addressing VAW. They can provide legal assistance and effectively deal with the clients.

Training on HR and Gender for ASK Staff

HR training module developed: A training manual on "Human Rights Fact-finding and Report Writing" was developed and published under the capacity building strategy. The training module was tested and practiced in 2 trainings before finalization and was published in English and Bangla. ASK intends to use the manual for future training to impart important theoretical and practical knowledge and skills to the participants.

Capacity building of community- based Groups and clients: Orientation sessions on cultural activities focusing HRs were organized for school teachers who would guide and support the STGs. Workshops on HR theatre performances for the students, and Inter School Workshop for STGs at the district level was

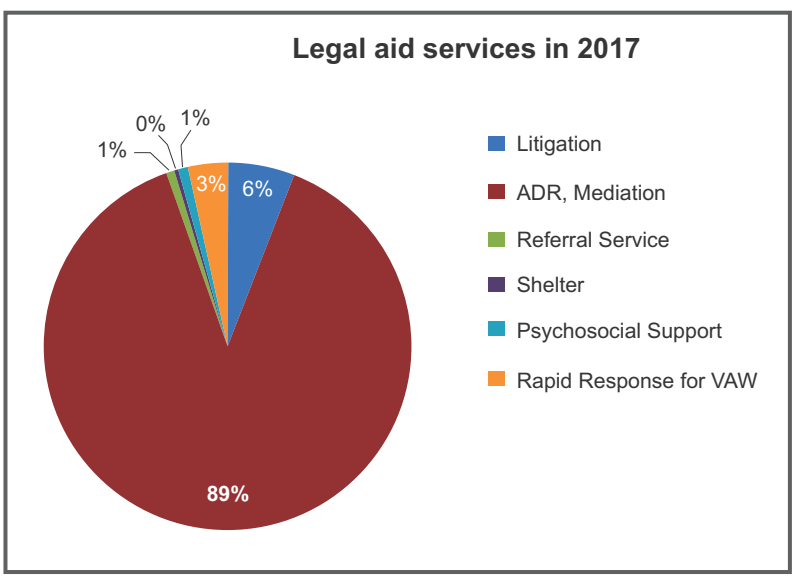
organized. Enthusiastic actors promoted school environment for discussing HR issues as co-curricular activities.

Table: 7 Achievement in Training in 2017

Name of the course	Number of events		Number of participants		
	Target	Achievement	Female	Male	Total
Conduct training on Human Rights and Gender for Human rights actors (3 days Non residential)	1	1	10	15	**25**
Training follow up and supervision (3 days)	2	2	20	30	**50**
Training on concept of HR and Gender for ASK staff (3 days Non residential)	1	1	13	9	**22**
Orientation course on ASK (3 days non residential)	1	1	20	16	**36**
Materials development	1	1	-	-	**0**
Working meeting between ASK & PNGOs	1	1	9	21	**30**
Study circle on Human Rights, Women rights, law, social justice, Advocacy for gender & social justice unit staff	4	4	27	21	**48**
Total	**11**	**11**	**99**	**112**	**233**

Three non-residential training courses were conducted by the Training programme where 75 women participated. Another 5trainingcourses were conducted for 125 participants (Female- 95, Male- 30) from CBHRPG, CBWG and clients of half-way home on human rights, gender and family laws.

3.3 Legal aid and other support services



Despite the constitutional guarantee of equal access to justice, poor and disadvantaged people particularly women face various challenges in accessing justice. In this context, ASK has taken a holistic approach to increase access to justice by providing legal aid services to the disempowered and vulnerable people (especially women, children, garments workers, domestic helper, labor, sex workers, members of minority communities, migrant workers etc.). ASK works with all stakeholders in the justice delivery system and (informal and formal) influence them in taking active role to ensure increased access to justice for the poor, women, religious and ethnic minorities, and people with disabilities. Legal support is given through the conflict resolution system or the formal legal system, as necessary. ASK's legal aid supports include legal counselling, support in the litigation process, mediation, alternative dispute resolution (ADR), rapid response, shelter, psychosocial counselling and other services.

In Bangladesh, VAW has taken different forms and the situation has deteriorated tremendously. Therefore, demands for support are gradually increasing. New dimensions of violence have emerged (e. g rape by father, rape in transport). However, as a trustworthy organization to the community in addressing VAW, ASK

with its limited human and financial resources tried its best to address the situation and supported more clients than estimated. The staff of ASK and the PNGOs are more capable to protect, prevent HRVs and address at any level.

Table: 4 Legal Aid Sought in 2017 by Category of Complain

Types of Offence	Number
Family matters	371
Violence matters	102
Employments matters	001
Property matters	001
Domestic violence	264
Total	**739 (female 705,male 34)**

ASK's Legal aid service has responded to various incidents of VAW and addressed all the complaints received through emergency legal action and undertook prompt measures. A total of 18,959 affected persons (women-18,622 and men-337) received legal assistance from ASK through legal advice, mediation, alternative dispute resolution (ADR), litigation, referral service, Help line service, shelter, psychosocial support and rapid response for VAW. About 94 percent of these cases were addressed through ADR/ mediation, legal advice and litigation.

Legal advice: Legal advice was given for all complaints received. A total of 2,582 individuals (2,250 women and 332 adolescents) sought legal advice, among them 739 underprivileged women and children registered their complaints. Among these, 371 were on family matters, 264 on domestic violence, 102 on violence (rape, missing, polygamy, safe custody, gang rape, trafficking, murder, torture domestic maid, locked at husband home, illegal arrest, force marriage, assault), 1 on property issue and 1 on employment matter. ASK conducted 441 mediation sessions for 253 complaints, of which 122 were settled and 131 are yet to be settled. ASK followed-up with 643 clients whose complaints were settled through mediation. Besides, ASK attended a total of 6,888 cases of ADR that continued from previous years. Litigation cases (147) were resolved by formal justice system.

Legal advice provided by ASK Lawyers

Support through helpline: In 2017, a total of 5,738 survivors received services through ASK's help line. Assistance was given to lodge 71 general diaries with different police stations, and rescue10 lactating children from the father's custody. A total of 18 persons were released from the safe custody of government shelter home at Gazipur and Faridpur. They were helped to return to their home, other organizations or in self-custody. ASK supported 4 missing children to return to their families from different police stations. One domestic helper was rescued and she was helped to return to her family.

Legal cases/litigation: Litigation Programme of ASK has established a good reputation among communities for its services for litigation and legal advice. It serves the community by providing legal aid and counselling services to the poor and distressed whose rights have been violated. Litigation services are usually offered for gross violation of human rights and severe offence, such as rape, murder, torture, acid throwing, dowry, polygamy, detention matters etc. When a favourable verdict is given at the lower court for the victim, often the opponents go for appeal to the higher court against the verdict. ASK's litigation team supports the victims in such cases at the higher court but it takes long time to resolve the cases. Cases related to family matters are accepted for litigation only, if all efforts for negotiation fail.

ASK lawyers support client at court

ASK undertakes advocacy and awareness building and pursues with the concerned authorities to ensure justice for the poor. ASK also gained recognition by the members of Judiciary and sometimes judges also refer clients to ASK.

Case Study 30: Justice for victim

Romana Khanom, age 18, a college student of village Sholok, of Uzirpur thana in Barisal district was frequently being harassed by a boy named Allal Sarder. Romana informed the matter to her family and her father told Allal not to disturb Romana. Allal did not pay hid and started disturbing her whenever possible. After completing her H.S.C, Romana was admitted to Barisal B.M College for her graduate course. One day, while she was returning home in a van, near the Dhamura police station, Allal and his friend pulled her orna trying to take her down from the van. When she and her friends started shouting, the boys started using slung languages. Then they hurt her face with a razor and ran away. Immediately, with the help of local people, her friend took her to a doctor, where she had to take 14 stitches. Later, due to bad condition of the wound, she was admitted to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital. Her mother filed a case with the help of ASK's PNGO named AVAS. ASK is giving legal support and keeping track of the case to ensure justice to her.

Table: 9 Types of Litigation Cases conducted by ASK Lawyers

Types of litigation cases	No. of cases filed in 2017
Dower & maintenance for child & wife (Nari o Shishu Nirjatan Daman)	161
Rape	15
Torture for dowry	23
Search warrant for child custody	9
Abduction	2
Simple injury	7
Judicial separation for Hindu women	5
Dowry case against women (defence side)	3
Divorce	2
Theft case against women (defence side)	2
Cyber act (57) defence & penal code (grievous hurt)	2
Total	**231**

Community level outreach: Due to the cumbersome and costly legal procedures and the lack of general awareness of the legal rights, the poor people often cannot access justice despite all the awareness raising efforts. ASK extends legal aid services to other districts outside Dhaka in partnership with local NGOs. Technical and supervisory support is extended to the partner NGOs to run legal aid clinics for the aggrieved persons. The Partner organizations (PNGOs) in 6 districts run legal clinics through paralegal staff under the supervision of the ASK. In 2017, one working meeting with PNGO's was held in Dhaka. A total of 602 underprivileged women and children received legal assistance by registering their complaints in these6 legal clinics. ASK also provided emergency support to 50 survivors of HRV. The community people, lawyers, civil society, local government and the members of district and upazilla level administration are now more oriented about the human rights and have been playing proactive roles in taking actions in cases of VAW, HRV and ensuring justice.

ASK has staff lawyers' and 77 panel lawyers to deal with the cases in or outside Dhaka. The Panel lawyers are mainly responsible for cases in the High Court Division and Labour Court inside Dhaka. The staff lawyers deal with cases in 6 district courts of Dhaka or other districts. The panel lawyers trained by ASK have developed their skills and at times they provide voluntary services in filing and moving the cases.

The panel lawyers of Dhaka conducted 8 new cases and 101 old cases, of which 35old cases were outside of Dhaka on behalf of 30 women and 5 men. In addition, 64 new cases were filed and dealt under ASK's outreach programme. A total of 35 cases were filed by utilizing GLAF 5 districts. The panel lawyers of the PNGOs disposed of 29 cases during the reporting period.

In 2017, the panel lawyers also organized 18 meetings to discuss various issues such as, progress on court cases, client dealings from human rights perspective, human rights issues and the role of lawyers etc. ASK communicated with the LEAs and other forums regarding actions taken on 302incidents of VAW.

Panel Lawyers meeting in Rajshahi

In 2017, a total of 231 new cases were filed and 119 old cases were disposed (118 in Dhaka and 1 old case in Comilla) off by ASK's staff lawyers. A total of 7 cases were filed in Patuakhali, Narayangonj, Dinajpur, Norail, Khulna, Manikgonj and Madaripur by the panel lawyers, and 30 old cases were conducted in Rajshahi, Manikgonj, Moulovibazar, Madaripur, Potuakhali, Narayangonj, Madaripur, Jhalokhathi, Bogra, Lalmonirhat, Faridpur, Rangamati and Dhaka by the panel lawyers. In addition, ASK staff lawyers and panel lawyers dealt with 876 pending cases (740 old cases in Dhaka).

Justice at a low cost through mediation: The Mediation and Rapid Response Programme of ASK addresses emergency HR violation issues and also supports to negotiate settlements of conflicts through mediation. This supports the poor and disadvantaged people to access justice and other services at allow cost. Mediation exclusively deals with family disputes and disputes arising from the treatment towards women workers such as garment workers and domestic service workers. If mediation fails to solve problems, the cases are referred to file a legal suit to demand justice for the assistance seekers. The formal judicial

system is often time consuming, expensive, corrupt and even at times biased against women's issues. Mediation offers women a low cost, familiar and safer space to seek justice, negotiate their rights and let their voices be raised and heard. Thus, mediation offers effective response especially for family disputes, particularly those concerning desertion, divorce, dower, maintenance and child custody.

Case Study 31: Mediation ensures rights

In April 2017, a staff of a reputed TV Channel of Bangladesh complained to ASK that her husband had been torturing her. She was married in 2012 with an agreed dower amounting Tk. 10,00,000/- (Taka ten lac) during marriage registration. After 2 years, her husband and in-laws started torturing her demanding dowry. In addition, her husband, a media journalist of a news channel was having an extra-marital affair. The wife was being tortured physically at times and she was mentally devastated. She had a son who was about two and half years old. Her husband was not paying maintenance for her or the son. After five years of marriage she decided for a divorce. ASK upon receipt of the complaint served a notice to her husband. The husband being very influential, tried to influence ASK and the mediation process by using different references. ASK tried to settle the matter lawfully. After mediation at ASK, the husband agreed on payment of dower, returning furniture's and accessories given to the husband and also bearing the maintenance cost for the child. Later they had divorce within the agreement. The father is paying for maintenance through ASK and visits the child once in a month at ASK's premises and once at some other place for the security and safety of both parties. Thus, ASK supported solving a family problem and helped a victim to get rid of such vulnerable situation.

Mediations was conducted 441 times to resolve 253 complaints of which 122 were settled and 131 continued.Realization of dower and maintenance for the divorced/destitute women helped the poor and vulnerable women to support their livelihood. The partner NGO's conducted 289 mediation sessions for 226 complaints of which 151 were settled and 75 are continuing.

Table: 10 Types of Complains Addressed Through Mediation in 2017

Types of complain	Number
Assault	2
Child custody	4
Child maintenance	15
Desertion	60
Divorce	14
Dower	8
Dowry	1
Extra marital relation	1
Maintenance of daughter	1
Maintenance of wife	16
Mal adjustment	9
Missing	1
Physical and psychological torture by father	1
Physical and psychological torture by husband	20
Physical torture/ assault/battering	81
Polygamy	8
Psychological torture	7
Torture of domestic maid (child)	1
Others	3
Total	**253**

Prompt services for victims: ASK's "Rapid Response" acts for rescue of victims of violence, illegal confinement, abduction and other forms of emergency needs and services outside Dhaka. Services are provided for confidence building among the help seekers needing immediate response against HR violations. The victims and community both demand rapid response even during the process of investigation. ASK team increases awareness and a sense of responsibilities among the administration and law enforcing agencies to protect the rights of the victims. Rapid response is offered through the ten legal aid clinics in Dhaka and other parts of the country. Aggrieved persons from different parts of the country come to seek legal help and they can also request for assistance by telephone. Rapid responses have been provided using the network in 600incidents of HRV, and by PNGO's in 50 incidents. Responses also included request by phone, fax, or letter to the respective police stations and public officials to take the reported cases into active consideration. As ASK has an established network, the concerned authorities responded positively and took prompt actions. Communications were made with the LEAs and other forums regarding actions on 302 incidences of VAW.

Case study 32: Legal remedy by ASK Comprehensive approach

A 14 years old girl in Tangail was raped by a relative at her own residence resulting in her pregnancy. She came to ASK with her brother for justice through litigation. ASK provided her comprehensive services and arranged shelter at the halfway home for her security. ASK initially addressed her psychological condition and referred her for counselling. Later she was referred to Outreach legal aid service. ASK's PNGO named RPDO in Tangail took her to Tangail, Delduar police station for filing a case with the assistance of RPDO. ASK's panel lawyers in Tangail appeared the case on her behalf. The local police arrested the accused within a few days. ASK is continuing support for psychosocial counselling, medical and other supports. ASK supported for a DNA test and the DNA test report was positive. The panel lawyer is continuing support to the ongoing case and ASK is continuously following up.

Case Study 33: Families receive their earning member back

In February 2009, the severe incident known as BDR mutiny took place in Bangladesh Rifles Head Quarter in Pilkhana, Dhaka. Some soldiers left Pilkhana in panick. The Government declared an order for the soldiers who left to join their job. Three of them were Lenin Chakma, a newly appointed medical assistant, and two others, Badol and Habibur were cooks in BDR. They were accused in BDR Explosive case though their names were not in the FIR. They were arrested and sent to jail. The families fell in miserable situation as they were the only earning member in their respective families. The families were not in a position to appoint lawyer and did not know where to seek help. They somehow learned about ASK and sought legal support. ASK assisted. This case took a long time. ASK attended every hearing and argued for the acquittal of the accused. After four years, the court declared the judgment and acquitted all of them. The State appealed to the High Court against the judgment and ASK again continued its support in the High court. Later the High Court in its judgment upheld the order of the Lower court. Finally, the three accused BDR members were set free and went back to their families. Thus, Ask rescued the families to get rid of precarious situation.

Types of offences against victims: The Mediation and Rapid Response Programme received request and provided essential services and continuous legal remedies against 6,888 different types of problems of the help seekers. The complains included family affairs pertaining to non-payment of dower money and maintenance, child custody, child maintenance, desertion by husband, divorce, mal adjustment between the spouses, impotency, intellectual disability, loss of shelter, captured by father, extra marital relation etc. Assistance was sought on matters related to mental torture, physical assault, physical assault for dowry, polygamy, rape, gang rape, captivity by husband or parents, forced marriage, murder, fatwa, acid throwing, safe custody, torture domestic maid (child, trafficking etc. These cases are transferred to Litigation Unit for action. At times, complainants were compelled to withdraw the divorce application due to the common belief about the necessity of Hilla (intervening marriage) to restore conjugal life with the divorced spouse. Extra marital relation, impotency, denial of marriage etc. were the most common problems in this reporting period.

Table: 11 Legal aid and other support services provided in 2017

Activities/services	MRRU	LITI	Outreach	Total
Mediation & Litigation			-	
- Registration of survivors	739	-		**739**
- Provide legal advise	2149	433	-	**2,582**
- Provide essential services and continuous legal remedies	6,888	-	-	**6,888**
- Help line service to survivors	5,738	-	-	**5,738**
- Client followed-up	643	-	226	**643**
Number of mediations complain	253	-	289	**479**
Number of total sessions	441	-		**730**
Immediate actions to HRV by ASK	650		151	**650**
Number of complaints resolved by Mediation	122	-	142	**273**
- New	102	-	9	**244**
- Old	20	-		**29**
Number of cases registered for litigation				
- Number of new cases filed	-	231	64	**295**
- Old cases pending in court (up to December 31, 2017)	-	871	-	**871**
Total Cases disposed		147	29	**176**
- New	-	11	8	**19**
- Old	-	136	21	**157**
Money recovered (In Taka)				
- Number of survivors	137	34	28	**199**
- Average award client (in Taka) Rapid Action for Survivors	10,659,425/-	2,836,540/-	5,055,000/-	**18,550,965/-**
Workshop & meeting				
- Organize workshops with survivors	10	-	-	**10**
- Meeting with Outreach panel lawyer's forum	-	-	18	**18**

Recovery of dower and maintenance: A total of 18,550,965/-(One core eighty five lac fifty thousand nine hundred sixty five) Taka were recovered in favour of assistant seekers as dower money and cost of maintenance for wives as well as their children.

Half Way Home Service: In 1990, ASK established its half-way home for the survivors of violence to provide protection in emergency for vulnerable women and children who could escape from the violent situation. Initially, they not only need legal aid bur also need food, shelter, medical care, psychological support. Later also they need care during the mediation or legal process. Sometimes there is need for long-term support until the client's rehabilitation. Considering the need of support and confidentiality, ASK refers them to the relevant government and NGO supported shelter services, as necessary and feasible. In 2017, a total of 58 survivors (41 female and 17 children) were provided necessary medical, shelter and counselling support.

Awareness on HR and gender issues at halfway homes: The clients/survivors are provided with awareness and training at the half-way home on gender analysis, to become aware of the causes of social discrimination between men and women. This gender analysis at the halfway home enables the clients to internalize the gender perspectives and the reason of their becoming victims. The clients also learn about the

family laws, basic human rights, and the ways to demand rights. The participatory training helps them understand their own situation and at times they share their emotions and experiences. The counsellors provide emotional support. A refresher course was organized during the year. ASK organized 2 awareness raising trainings on "Gender Relations Analysis and Family Law" for 15 survivors and 1 vocational training on sewing and cutting, where 8 clients attended.

Psycho-social counselling (PSC): ASK is known as a pioneer organization to promote psycho-social counselling (PSC) in Bangladesh. ASK provides emotional support and confidence to the clients for making decisions, and taking responsibilities of their own lives. The PSC programme builds awareness, provides counselling and psychotherapy services. PSC is provided at the individual, family, couple, and group levels and psychotherapy sessions conducted. In 2017, ASK supported 173 (165 female, 8 male) clients for symptomatic relief, emotional equilibrium and assisted them for trauma management which enhanced their decision-making skills. Besides, 135 female clients from previous years also received counselling. Of them 16 clients were referred for medical services. The clients are helped to understand their own issues and problems and identify ways to deal with the problems by themselves and to take their own decisions. Many clients felt that they were not alone in their journey.

Table: 12 Half-Way Home Service and Psycho-social Counselling in 2017

Activities/services	Half-Way Home	Psychosocial Component	Total
Number of survivors received shelter home support (including food, medical treatment, Psychosocial counselling, and recreational outings)	58 (Women 41, Children 17)	-	**58**
Number of clients received counselling	-	173 (Female 165 Male 8)	**173**
Recreation and entertainment programme for half way home clients	1	-	**1**
Provided training			
Awareness raising training with survivors of HWH (with the help of training unit)	2	-	**2**
Networking with other organization			
Networking meeting with other service providing organizations	-	3	**3**
Voluntary committee meeting	-	2	**2**
Referral services			
Refer to other organization for further development	-	4	**4**
Follow up with other referral organization	-	25	**25**
Voluntary Committee Meeting	-	2	**2**

3.4 Advocacy and Networking

Programmes under ASK's advocacy and networking include investigation of cases, documentation, publication of reports and bulletins, media and international advocacy, legal advocacy and policy advocacy for reform. The advocacy and networking are done at several levels. ASK's investigation emphasises on ensuring transparency and accountability in public institutions for upholding human rights. ASK monitors and investigates complex cases of violence and appeals to the government for remedial actions.

Monitoring and reporting of HR violations: ASK's Investigation programme regularly investigates, monitors progress of cases on HRV and disseminates findings. This programme also works for capacitating

the human rights defenders to strengthen their network to respond to HRVs locally and to strengthen HR monitoring. At the local level HRDFs are formed. Human rights situation of Bangladesh is monitored by ASK and by the ASK assisted HRDFs at the local levels.

In 2017 ASK and HRDFs conducted fact finding into 97 cases of HRV (ASK 51 and HRDF 46) including those on violence against women, children, religious persons, ethnic minorities, and indigenous communities. Investigation also included occupational safety and security and violation of migrant workers' rights.

Fact finding conducted by ASK staff

ASK's representatives attended 3 meetings with HRDFs in Cox's Bazar, Narail and Satkhira districts and discussed current HR issues and situation and the role of HRDFs in addressing them. HRDFs organized 5 events to draw attention of local government, administration, media and other stakeholders to uphold the urgency to address any specific matter. HRDFs also organized different programmes on International Women's Day and Human Rights Day in 10 districts. People from different sections of the society spontaneously participated in the events.

The progress of investigation and mobilization by ASK is presented in the following table.

Table: 13 Progress of Investigation and Community Mobilization in 2017

Activities	Target	Achievement
Investigation by ASK	50	51
Investigation by HRDF	40	46
Community mobilization:		
1) Meeting with HRDF	3	3
2) Public discussion meeting	1	1
3) Day observation	20	20
Monitor progress of investigation cases by ASK	20	21
Appeal/refer for legal remedy	130	184
Special observation of systematic violence by state or non-state actors	1	1
Published Annual HR Report by ASK	1	1
Monitor NHRC	1	1
Draw attention of concerned authorities and media	4	5
Provide emergency support to survivors	5	5

ASK's investigation included different types of HRVs and the investigations were conducted by ASK staff and the HRDFs. ASK representatives visited the victim/victim's families to follow up 21 incidents of HRVs that had been previously investigated by ASK's staff. During the follow up visits, the major focus was on the status of the remedial actions taken against the violation, state of accountability and transparency of the authorities.

In 2017, 60 incidents of enforced disappearance, 204 custodial and non-custodial torture and extra-judicial killings were verified and the victims or their family members (men and women) had access to justice/remedies against the state agencies.

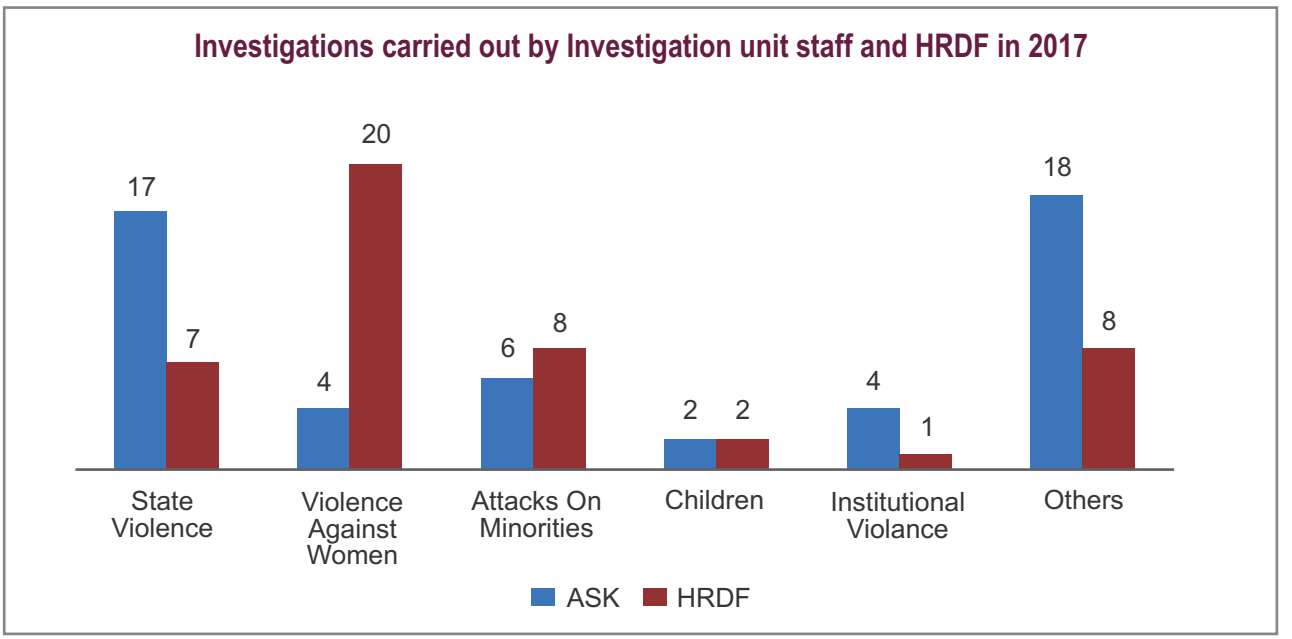
Due to this process of fact finding, follow up actions, public discussions, meetings with state institutions and authorities at the national and local levels, the state agencies have become more oriented on HR issues and more responsive.

The details of the type of offences investigated are presented in the following table.

Table: 14 Investigations carried out by ASK staff and HRDF in 2017

Subject	ASK	HRDF	Total
STATE VIOLENCE			**24**
Death in crossfire (RAB/ POLICE)	6	3	9
Custodial death (Police, DB Police, RAB &in prison)	3	2	5
Tortured by LEAs	2	1	3
Missing/abduction (Gum)	4	1	5
Missing and Killing (Guptohotta)	2	-	2
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN			**24**
Physical torture	2	4	6
Killing	-	4	4
Suicide	-	2	2
Rape	-	6	6
Salish/Fatwa/Hilla marraige	1	-	1
Sexual harrasment	1	2	3
Abduction	-	1	1
Acid throw	-	1	1
ATTACKS ON MINORITIES			**14**
Hindu community	5	7	12
Indigenous (Adibashi) people	1	1	2
CHILDREN			**4**
Torture &death	2	-	2
Torture	-	1	1
Unnatural death	-	1	1
INSTITUTIONAL VIOLENCE			**5**
Garments and other factory Incident	2	1	3
Medical Neglegency	2	-	2
OTHERS			**26**
Rohingya	6	1	7
Human trafficking/migration	4	2	6
Journalist torture	-	1	1
Border conflict	-	1	1
Slum	3	-	3
Miscellaneous	5	3	8
TOTAL	**51**	**46**	**97**

In 2017, ASK conducted a special observation to the grave HRV of Rohingya population who took refuge in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban districts of Chittagong division fleeing from violence amounting to genocide in Myanmar.



HR Fact-Finding Training: To upgrade the skill and knowledge of the local human rights activists for ensuring effective community response against any HRVs, a training module on "Human Rights Fact-finding and Report Writing" was developed and published in English and Bangla. It was tested and practiced in 2 trainings before its finalization.

Certificate Distribution Ceremony

Four (4) trainings on "Human Rights Fact-finding and Report Writing" were conducted in four districts. The first training was held at Bhola in February, 2017 and the last training was held in Cox's Bazaar in April, 2017. A total of one hundred one (101) human rights activists, lawyers, college-teachers, LEA members and social

workers including 33females participated. Participants representing BLAST, BNWLA, SODESH Satkhira, Bangladesh Mohila Parisad, HELP Cox's Bazaar, and many other national and local organizations from 29districts of Bangladesh received training. A certificate distribution ceremony was held on 27th April, 2017 at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Dhaka. Twenty selected participants from 4 training courses received their certificates from the Honourable Ambassador to Bangladesh. ASK's Executive Director and other senior staff attended the programme. The Honourable Ambassador expressed that the Government of Germany had this opportunity to contribute to improve the human rights situation in Bangladesh. He called upon the participants to work in the field of HR with their enhanced knowledge and skills acquired from the training. The training module will help the trained persons in monitoring, fact-finding and reporting. The 101 trained human rights activists/defenders with upgraded knowledge and skills are expected to respond to HRVs and initiating remedial discourse against HRVs in their respective areas.

Networking for Advocacy: ASK is currently serving as the Secretariat of the Human Rights Forum Bangladesh (HRFB). It provides recommendations and also advocates with government and other stakeholders to ensure implementation of different UN mechanisms highlighting the HR situation of the country. In 2017, ASK organized 5 coordination meetings of HRFB. ASK also conducts advocacy for strengthening and bringing public accountability of different bodies including the NHRC'B.

ASK monitors the human rights situation of the country regularly through screening newspapers and by using other information sources. It discusses the identifies issues of HRVs in its daily action meetings and takes decision to respond to the incidents. At times, other organizations including the Government agencies also seek information from ASK.

ASK is promoting the practice of public interest litigation (PIL) so that the interest of large group of people be safeguarded. Writ Petitions are filed both individually and in collaboration with other stakeholders. ASK also intervenes to the Suo Moto rules against issues of HRV. In 2017, ASK facilitated and intervened fling of 4 Writ Petitions and Suo moto rules of the court. Besides, ASK followed-up the 16 pending PIL cases 36 times.

Press Conference for condemning the massive arson attacks in Longadu, Rangamati by HRFB

Table: 15 Performance of Legal Advocacy and Policy Reform in 2017

Key activities	Target	Number
Public Interest Litigation (PIL) a. Access to justice Writ Petition No: 2833 of 2017 b. Right to shelter Writ Petition No: 5608 of 2017 & 3206 of 2017 c. Right to health & life Writ Petition No:Suo-Moto. 17 of 2017	4	4
Follow up pending cases	8	16 pending PIL cases at 36 times
Sharing PIL Judgement/order/direction with lawyers	1	1
Cases won/lost	Actual	Two disposals with Judgments and direction

Writ Petition No. 5608 of 2017

ASK along with three slum dwellers filed a Writ Petition challenging the notice of arbitrary and forcible eviction of the slum dwellers of Shayamoli slum to vacate their houses from Shayamoli Road No. 2, Shayamoli Kazi Office, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka 1207. In response to the petition the High Could Division (HCD) issued a stay order and extended the stay of this slum dwellers further for Six months, which has protected them from the illegal eviction.

Writ Petition No. 3206 of 2017

ASK along with other human rights organizations filed a writ petition for failure of the respondents to prevent conversion of agricultural lands of Shailat, Gazipur and Noapara of Gazipur District. The petition urged for stopping the use of the land disregarding the laws of the country and to enact specific laws for protection of agricultural lands from indiscriminate conversion.

Intervener in Suo-Moto. 17 of 2017

Being informed from different news media that a pregnant woman named Parvin Akhter did not receive treatment even after knocking doors of several government hospitals in Dhaka, the High Court Division issued a Suo Moto rule. Eventually, Parvingave birth to her child on the road in front of the Maternity and Child Health Training Institute, Azimpur, Dhaka. The child died within a few minutes of birth. In the Suo Moto rule, the responsible persons were asked to show cause of their failure to take proper measures to give immediate treatment to Parvin and also to explain why she should not get compensation. The defendants included, the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Secretary of the Ministry of Social Welfare (MOSW), Secretary of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA), the Director of Health Administration, Director of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Superintendent and doctors of Azimpur Maternity and Child Health Training Institute, Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka and Officer in Charge of Lalbagh Police Station. ASK investigated the case and issued letters demanding more active and effectives responses of concerned authorities. Later on, ASK joined as intervener to the Suo-Moto rule.

Intervener in Writ Petition No. 2833 of 2017

A Writ Petition was filed by Jasmin Nahar in the matter of disappearance of her husband Sheikh Moklesur Rahman. The petitioner claimed that her husband had been illegally detained by the police to unknown place. Prior to the petition, ASK conducted fact finding and appealed to National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh (NHRC'B), and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA). Later on, ASK intervened to the Writ Petition.

Advocacy with media: ASK regularly meets with journalists and other media to appraise them on the HR situation and to enhance their roles in advocacy for HR. A total of 38 press statements were issued to different news and electronic media expressing concern and demanding justice at the incidences of HRVs. In addition, 8 press statement were issued by ASK as the secretariat of HRFB. Another 3 Press Conferences- were organized on, a. the concluding observation of ICCPR, b. condemning the attack on indigenous community of Longadu, Rangamati, and c. presenting ASK's observation of HR situation throughout 2017.

Inputs to legal and policy reform advocacy: Based on the investigation conducted, the Legal and Policy Reform Advocacy Programme of ASK proceeded with Writ Petition and PIL in a number of cases of HRVs. These initiatives ensured access to legal action by the victims and in some of the cases their rights were upheld by the Courts. Still most of such cases are under trial.

Publications: ASK's publications are reputed for raising issues of public interest, particularly relating to rule of law, democracy and human rights and in demand amongst development thinkers and HR activists. The publications highlight contemporary incidences, new laws, HR issues and important judgements, issues on governance, non-discrimination and social justice and issues related to violence by state agencies. The publications raise issues of major concern and challenges, the improvement in legal and policy framework or the status of implementation of pertinent laws.

Annual HR Report: The Annual HR situation report of ASK has been acclaimed both at the national and international levels. Based on the overall HR situation throughout the year, the Report of 2017 focused on civil-political and economic, social and cultural rights situation in the year. It provides a comprehensive overview and an analysis of the HR situation in the country. It raises awareness among public, policy makers and activists. It enables activists to initiate required advocacy at different levels.

ASK Bulletins: ASK regularly publishes a quarterly Bulletin .In 2017, ASK published 4 quarterly Bulletins in Bangla and issued of 12 E-Bulletins. ASK also facilitated publishing 21 articles in different newspapers on health, child education, Child Marriage Restraint Act.

Distribution and disseminations: The Documentation programme of ASK collects, disseminates and preserves information. ASK maintains a library of print and audio-visual materials. It collects, compiles and archives news clipping from 9 national dailies, 2 weeklies, and 1 monthly on the situation of human rights, legislative changes and governance issues. Pertinent information are compiled and disseminated to the media, researchers, lawyers, students, ASK staff and members. In addition, books and newspaper articles focusing on human rights, policy reform and gender issues are also published from time to time.

ASK distributed 16,520 copies of its publications (including ASK Quarterly Bulletin) and maintained records during the reporting period. The Documentation programme provided photocopy and other related information to a number of researchers, academia, journalists, lawyers, students.

Table: 16 Books, newspaper articles and other publications in 2017

Activities	Target	Number	Brief Description
Articles written for print & online media	20	21	Health, child education, Child Marriage Restraint Act etc.
Quarterly Bulletin published	4 (16000 copies)	4 (16000 copies)	1. Bulletin March 2017: Rohingya related issue – United Nations Human Rights Report 2. Bulletin June 2017: Custodial Torture, Death and Right to Life 3. Bulletin September 2017 : Genocide of Rohingya and their dispersion – worst kind of humanitarian disaster and refugee crisis 4. Bulletin December 2017: UNESCO's documentary heritage of the world- Historical speech of 7th March 1971 of Bangabandhu
Publish ASK annual report	1	1	64pg.
Meetings with readers of quarterly Bulletin	2	2	F-14, M-30, T-44
Publication and re-print on legal & HR issues	4	4	1. Children of Bangladesh and Child Rights (New) 2. Public Interest litigation (5th Version) 3. One Nation Born: On Sexual Violence and Impunity (Joint Bangla publication: ASK-UPL) (New) 4. ASK Annual Report 2016

Videos and films are shown to the staff of ASK and the PNGOs periodically for their learning and information. Films and videos shown to staff in 2017 included films named Television, Unknown (Oggatonama) and Stop Genocide.

ASK scans and disseminates news, reports, article related to HRV issues from newspapers/magazines on regular basis. In 2017 ASK produced 290 cumulative and statistical charts on HRVs. ASK participated in 2 book fairs including the month long Ekusheyer Boi Mela (book fair during February in Memory of International Mother Language Day).

Acquisition: In 2017 ASK purchased and archived 18 video films, media recording and photographs. In this period, 12 comprehensive bibliographies were prepared of various books bought by the organization and collected from other sources.

Table: 17 Key Achievements in Documentation, 2017

Activities	2012-2016		2017	Trend
	No	Average		
Acquire books & documents	2254	451	155	(296)
Acquire videos, films, photographs	60	12	121	109
Develop & distribute bibliographies	60	12	12	0
Copies sold	10356	2071	2123	52
Proceeds (Taka)	535525	107105	92396	(14709)
Distribute ASK's publications and Bulletin*	127191	25438	16477	(8961)
Participation in book fairs	21	4	4	0
Cumulative and statistical charts	1117	223	324	101
Total Users	**1800**	**360**	**160**	**(200)**

** Bulletin is complementary and distributed amongst donors, PNGOs, HR-oriented NGOs, High Court and Supreme Court, Bar associations, NHRC, Police, Law faculties in public universities etc.*

Legal and Policy Advocacy: ASK conducts advocacy for legal and policy reform to protect fundamental rights of the citizens through out of court advocacy programmes against HRVs with the government and other stakeholders on its own or with other groups and also through PILs. ASK prepares drafts and recommendations for legal reforms, when considered essential to uphold HR and submits the same to the relevant authorities. ASK's programme monitors the application of international instruments and the implementation of positive judgments given in PILs.

Appeal for Justice: ASK sent 184 appeal letters related to various HRVs to the appropriate authorities, such as Advisors, Secretary/Director of concerned ministry/agency, Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh (NHRC'B) Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), IGP, Deputy Commissioner (DC), Superintendent of Police (SP), Officer in Charge (OC) and other govt. officers for initiating proper actions or legal redress against HRVs. ASK received a total of 85 responses from different institutions including NHRC'B, MOHA and MHFW.

Refer HR issues to NHRC'B and other HR organizations: Besides, appeal to the authorities, investigation reports and appeal letters were also sent to the Chairman of NHRC'B for remedial purpose. ASK communicated with other HR organizations at the national and grassroots levels to mobilize and build network for collaborative actions against grave HR violations.

A letter was sent to the chair, NHRC'B to pursue with MoWCA to follow up the draft law on National Commission on the Rights of Children, as there has been no progress. Later, a meeting with the Child Rights Committee of the NHRC'B was held to follow up the progress of the establishing a Child Rights Commission at NHRC'B office.

Partnership with civil society for advocacy: ASK is building a human rights network and strengthening HR activism together with different CSOs and HR organizations through engaging in legal actions and policy advocacy. At least 102 members of civil society organizations in 2 districts participated in two public discussions on "The local initiative for protection and promotion of human rights situation". The participants expressed their frustration and concern against custodial torture, violation against minority rights, enforced disappearance, extra-judicial killings and such other violation of rights. They recommended to establish a common platform of HR defenders/activists in the district to raise their voice and respond together to improve the situation.

Media and International Advocacy: ASK's media and advocacy programme contacts with the national and international media, human rights networks and such mechanisms. ASK maintains close liaison with international human rights organizations and collaborates with them on their Bangladesh related activities. The Programme supports in fact finding, provides necessary information and facilitates their advocacy or consultations in Bangladesh. Thus, ASK plays an important role in advocacy at the national, regional and

international levels for HR as well as for legal and policy reforms. One of the key activites at the national level was strengtheing capacity for the NHRC'B. This programme also prepared reports on HRs situation related to different international treaties and conventions and used them for advocacy at the national and international levelson incidences of HRVs.

Press Conference on the Concluding Observations of UN Human Rights Committee after reviewing Bangladesh's implementation status under ICCPR

ASK is an active member of several regional and international networks, coalitions, forums, of human rights organizations. ASK is an active partner in regional and international networks that concentrate upon strengthening Human Rights Commissions as sovereign entity to protect and promote HR in a state. A significant part of ASK's work involves reporting under different UN mechanisms highlighting upon the HR situation of the country. In 2017, ASK representative participated at the 10th Regional Consultation of Asian NGO Network on National Human Rights Institutions (ANNI) in association with Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA) in Seoul, South Korea. ASK takes part in advocacy and lobbying with ANNI/ICC/APF on assessment reports on NHRC.

Rescue of migrant workers: In 2017, ASK rescued 8 migrant workers from different countries. Being informed about the victim female migrants, ASK communicated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the concerned embassies, consulates and high commission in different countries. In response to ASK's application to rescue the migrant workers in distress, MOFA played very active and supportive role to bring those women back.

Case study 34: Bangladeshi Trafficked Girl Rescued from Malaysia

"I was raped more than 20 times in three days, they even could have killed me. Today I am back to my country alive. I feel like it is my rebirth". Shefali Begum (not real name), a worker in a garment factory near Mirpur was taken to Malaysia promising for better job opportunity in a hospital of Malaysia by Mofizur Rahman Raja. Mofizur along with another person allured her family and promised a good salary for which the family had to pay him 150,000 Taka for the visa. According to his advice Shefali went together to the passport office. In the passport office, Raja identified himself as her husband, saying that it was necessary to get visa. On 18 January 2017 he Shefali with Raja and Topu started for Malaysia. At the immigration in Malaysia, Raja and Shefali identified them as spouses. Then they got accommodated in a hotel as a couple and Raja raped her more than once. On 20 January 2017, a girl named Bristi came to the hotel and took Shefali to her home where Shefali was raped several times byTopu, Raja, Anwar and Apu.. They took her from one place to another where many new people including them raped her. The gang also took money from others for that. Shefali tried to resist but was tortured ruthlessly. On 22 January 2017, when her physical condition deteriorated with heavy bleeding, she was taken to a hospital by Bristi and Apu. They left her in the hospital. After release from the hospital, she met a Bangladeshi and a Pakistani at a nearby garage who rescued her.

Then informed by a Bangladeshi, Mr. Harun, a representative of 'Tanaganita' a human rights organization in Malaysia took Shefali to a shelter home. Later she learned that it was ASK who being informed by her mother and husband about her, requested Mr. Harun to help Shefali. She was in shelter home until 29 January, 2017. They arranged all required medical support and on 30 January she returned to Bangladesh.

She depicted the picture of her miseries which showed the ill intention of the gang. Shefali got a chance to a new life with the help of human rights organizations like ASK and Tanaganita, but, there are more such cases that remain unaddressed due to lack of proper information.

Advocacy for an independent Human Rights Commission: In continuation of the initiatives for collaborative efforts towards a sovereign human rights commission, ASK organized coordination meeting, workshops dialogues, consultations with different stakeholders including Government and the NHRC'B. Accordingly, in December, 2017 ASK organized a civil society dialogue with NHRC'B. At the dialogue ASK presented a position paper evaluating the limitations and challenges that are creating obstacles to effective and independent operation of NHRC'B since its formation in 2009. The position paper incorporated ASK's own observation, insights and recommendations of a coordination meeting from the field and findings at a workshop with HR defenders and local level activists from different districts.

Civil society dialogue with NHRC Bangladesh

Table: 18 Media and International Advocacy Activities in 2017

Key activities	Target	Achievement
Media Advocacy		
No. of press statements issued	40	38
Organized press conferences/Media Briefings	2	3
Public Statement/open letter/op-ed/petition/appeal with regard to strengthening NHRC's public accountability	4	4
Digital Advocacy		
Maintaining ASK website	Cont.	Cont.
Produce and released monthly E-Bulletin	12	12
Uploaded ASK press statements and statistics in the website	Cont.	Cont.
National Advocacy		
Coordination (Human Rights Forum Bangladesh and others- meetings, communication)	2	5
UPR report drafting	1	1
Sharing draft with relevant national institutions (NHRC, Law Commission, Information Commission etc)	1	2

Key activities	Target	Achievement
Sharing draft with other stakeholders	1	1
Facilitate civil society dialogue with NHRC at national level	1	1
Coordination meeting with NHRC	1	1
International Advocacy		
Sending communication to UNSRs	4	2
Communication with International Organisations and Networks (urgent appeal, petitions, update, solidarity, endorsements)	24	9
Advocacy meeting on special procedure mechanism	1	1
Public discussion, meeting on UN treaty bodies	1	2
Workshop on International Human Rights Standards	1	1
Advocacy or lobby meeting at relevant international forum	1	1
Advocacy and lobby at the meetings of ANNI network, APF, ICC abroad	1	1

ASK, as the secretariat of HRFB, coordinated the process of drafting stakeholders' submission of the 3rd Cycle of Universal Periodic Review (UPR). In order to make the report more inclusive there were sharing meetings and consultations with different ministries, rights bodies, CSOs and statutory institutions including NHRC'B. Their recommendations and insights were incorporated in the report and it was submitted in October, 2017.

Sharing draft UPR stakeholders report with Govt. Ministries and National Institutions

In a workshop on International Human Rights Standard, in 2017, ASK shaded light upon the rights and issues of the refugees. Taking the humanitarian crisis created equivalent of genocidal violence against Rohingya community in Rakhine state of Myanmar and the socio-economic, cultural and political impact of the influx of a large number of Rohingya to Bangladesh, ASK organized Workshop on 'International Human Rights Mechanism and Refugee Law Standard'. The workshop was held in Cox's Bazar district with a view to advocating for clear understanding from the ground on issues i.e. refugee management, international refugee law standard, safe, secure and voluntary return of the refugees.

ASK sent 2 communications to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the issues of enforced disappearance and Rohingya refugee crisis. ASK also sent 9 communications in 2017 through urgent appeal, petitions, endorsement and in solidarity with international organizations and networks.

National consultation on alternative reporting under ICESCR

3.5 Protection of Children

ASK's child rights programme emphasises on ensuring services for children for their development, protection of their rights and ultimately to end child labour. ASK provides different services for children's development and also gives legal support and protection, as necessary. The Programme collaborates with the Child Rights Advocacy Coalition in Bangladesh and performs the responsibility of preparation and submission of the alternative report to the UNCRC and UPR every four years. ASK also publishes the child rights monitoring report by using the child rights monitoring information provided by the Coalition members.

Services to working children: Two Drop-in-Centres are operating in Dhaka to provide with basic services (food, education and health), recreational activities, coaching and mentoring support on child rights for the working children. The Programme runs education and skills development activities for working children to facilitate their development without disrupting their existing relationship at home and workplace. Intensive work is done to change the attitudes of parents, adults, employers, members of the community, administration and policy-makers towards ending child labour. A total of 509 (Boys-219, Girls-290) working children (existing and new) are continuing their education. They will receive certificates of completion of non-formal and formal education.

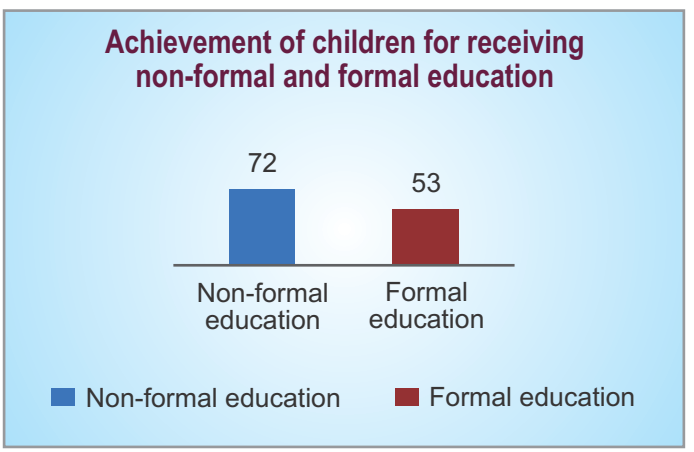
Table: 19 Key activities in 2017under Drop-in-Centres (DIC) program of Child Rights

Activities	Target Event	Achievement				
		Event	Female	Male	Total	%
Provide Basic Service to working children						
Registration & prepare profile of working children	500	509	290	219	509	102%
Provide literacy learning to working children	100	106	52	54	106	106%
Number of mid-day meals provided	14500	16,428	-	-	16,428	113%
Mainstream selected working children to formal schools	140	160	94	66	160	114%
Arrange sponsorship for children	30	30	24	6	30	100%
Arrange meeting/workshop with children	4	10	94	24	118	250%
Provide medicine & first aid to working children	470	509	290	219	509	100%
Provide legal aid to working children	Need based	33	33	0	0	N/A

Activities	Target Event	Achievement				
		Event	Female	Male	Total	%
Provide counselling to working children	12	14	255	32	287	117%
Arrange recreational activities for working children						
Conduct art classes, music class, workshop for art learning & art & essay competition	96	98	1,962	1,501	3,463	102%
Prepare creative production	100	389	0	0	0	389%

Enrollment and sponsorship program for deserving disadvantaged children create opportunity for their education. The children who received such support performed well in their schools. During 2017, 10 children passed the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and 2children passed the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination, 51 children (Boys-14, Girls-37) passed the Primary School Certificate (PSC) examination and 9 children (Boys-2, Girls-7) passed the Junior School Certificate (JSC).

With ASKs educational support, 266 children (Boys-120, Girls-146) learned how to read and write and they can do simple calculation, understands cleanliness and discipline, etc.



A total of 509 (Boys-219, Girls-290) working children received health care services with the assistance of Dhaka Community Hospital, which includes first aid, routine check-up, medical treatment and referrals to relevant hospital and psychosocial assistance. On every working day, ASK provided lunch for these children (509 working children got lunch 16,428 times). In 2017, these children got special health support (ear and tumor operation). These children have come out of exploitative working condition and are now living in child friendly environment (like safe working place, limited working hour, child friendly behavior, and having free time for education and recreation).

Counselling workshop for children

Psychosocial assistance: Psychosocial help is a crucial need for working children. Often, they go through various stressful experiences, which at times reduce their self-esteem causing undesirable behavior. Through ASK's services 287 (Boys- 32, Girls-255) were healed of negative emotion and they gradually became eligible for their personal growth.

HR knowledge among children: A total of 296 (Boys-126, Girls-170) children are aware about their rights and can now describe child rights, different life skills, safety and basic services. They are aware about reproductive health rights, good touch and bad touch, effective communication and child rights. These children also learned how to claim their rights. They can effectively communicate with others, express their emotion positively, and negotiate fruitfully with others. They have started sharing their experience (good or bad), their emotions, stress, and their feelings etc. with their family members. They are aware of their responsibilities during situations like violence, abuse, and exploitation and they learned how to protect themselves from becoming victims of abuse and exploitation.

Table: 20 Incidents of Violence Against Children in 2017

Types of Incidents of Violence Against Children	Age Year			Age not mentioned	Total
	0-6	7-12	13-18		
SUICIDE					
Suicide after sexual harassment		6	9	3	18
Suicide after assault by teacher		2			
Subtotal	**0**	**8**	**9**	**3**	**18**
MURDERED					
Death of domestic worker after rape by member of employer's household		1			
Murdered after physical assault by family member(s)	69	18	14	2	103
Murdered after physical assault by non-family member(s)	16	29	74	12	131
Murdered after rape	5	8	17		30
Murdered after abduction	3	9	1	6	19
Murdered after sexual harassment		1	2	3	6
Founded dead body after missing	3	11	13	2	24
Body recovered (no explanation of circumstances or cause of death	41	15	32	10	98
Mysterious death of child domestic worker		6	10		16
Subtotal	**137**	**98**	**163**	**35**	**427**
PHYSICAL ASSAULT & CORPOREAL PUNISHMENT					
Physical assault by outsider	12	34	34	54	134
Physical assault by household/family member	4	6	4	5	19
Corporeal punishment by teacher	2	17	31	55	105
Assault on child domestic worker		5	2	2	9
Subtotal	**18**	**62**	**71**	**116**	**267**
RAPE & SEXUAL HARASSMENT					
Rape of girl child & attempted to rape	60	144	173	93	470
Rape of boy child	3	3	2	12	20
Attempted to rape	14	19	13	24	70
Sexual harassment (Stalked)	0	2	25	48	75
Subtotal	**77**	**168**	**213**	**177**	**635**
TRAFFICKING					
Attempted trafficking	0	2	0	0	2
Subtotal	**0**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**2**
MISSING AND ABDUCTED					
Abduction	2	3	6	11	22
Missing	4	19	18	3	44
Subtotal	**6**	**22**	**24**	**14**	**66**
EXPLOSIVES (INJURY FROM)					
Injury from explosives. Includes injury from explosives carried by others as well as the child victim recovered bomb	0	0	5	0	5
Subtotal	0	0	5	0	5
Total	**244**	**360**	**485**	**345**	**1434**

Source: Documentation Unit, ASK

Community aware about child labour: People of the community including parents, employers, and teachers have become more responsive regarding the issue of working children. Some schools have provided free and half free studentship for a few brilliant students. Parents took the financial responsibility to provide educational support and sent their children to hospital for treatment etc.

Child Rights Defenders Forums (CRDF) have been working for community mobilization through different awareness raising programmes. Two Community Watch Groups (CWG), one Youth Group and two theatre groups have been formed in Dhaka, Rajshahi and Cox's Bazar. The members of CRDF were trained on Child Safeguarding Policy in Rajshahi. A total of 27 CRDFs are monitoring child rights situation in their working areas and communicating with LEAs and local administration, as necessary.

Community Watch Groups (CWG),are monitoring child rights situation at the community level and are engaged in lobbying with local government institutions (LGI). They have successfully placed the issue in three meetings of the Union Parishads in Satkhira and Rajshahi in presence of local important persons like-imam, teachers, leaders, parents and others. The LGI representatives acknowledged that they have more to do on this issue. The CWGs also arranged two courtyard meetings in Satkhira and ensured participation of the representatives of LGIs to hear experiences of the people directly.

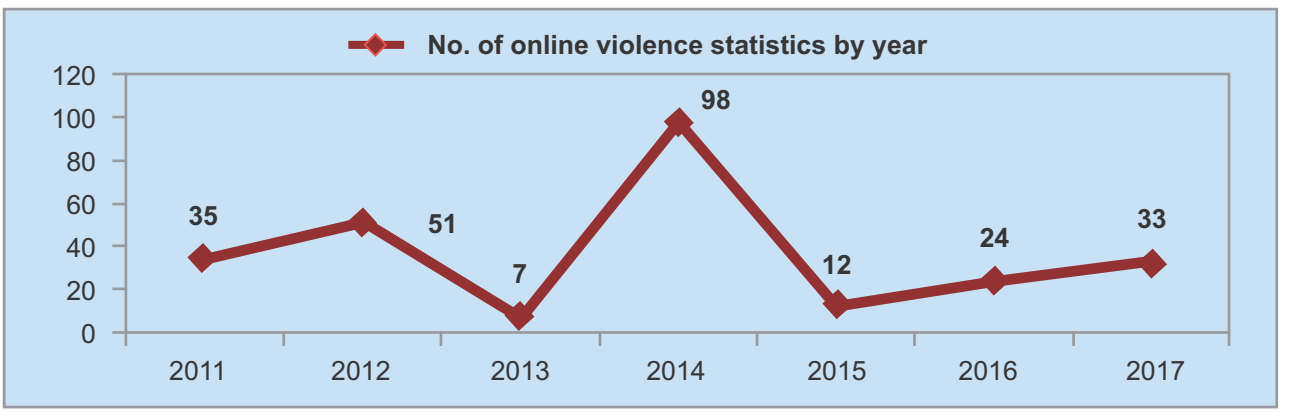
Table: 21 Child Abuse in 2017

Vulnerability of Child Workers to Violence	Age (Years)				
	0-6	7-12	13-18	Age not mentioned	Total
Physical assault by traditional sources of discipline					
Household/family member	4	6	4	5	19
Corporal punishment by teacher	2	17	31	55	105
TOTAL	**6**	**23**	**35**	**60**	**124**

Source: Documentation Unit, ASK

Addressing cyber violence: ASK implemented the TDH funded project on sexual exploitation of children online and in travel and tourism through a consortium partnered by ASK, Agragoti, Mukti Cox's Bazar and Association of Community Development (ACD).

The Consortium organized a civil society dialogue on "What Should We Do to Stop Violence against Children' in Cox's Bazar in December. Stakeholders from different levels i.e. government officials, journalists, teachers, members of CRDFs, UP member and members of Cyber Research Analysis Foundation (CRAF) joined. ASK presented a draft of situation analysis report based on the monitoring from the working areas of ASK. Upazila woman Vice Chairman was present in the dialogue and suggested to share the real scenario of online sexual exploitation with the people from all sectors of the society. She also encouraged the project activities in the district and emphasized on sensitizing the mass people on gender-based violence. A training course was organized with 25 participants of CRDF on child rights and to share the findings of the situation analysis.



Source: CRU unit, ASK

Article in local newspapers: Articles on Child rights issues are published in local news papers as well. Two articles were published in Daily Cox's Bazaar and in daily Alokito Bangladesh titled `MUKTI Cox's Bazar has been working the protection of sexual violence of Children" on 31 December 2017. Two articles were published in Rajshahiinwww.banglanews24.com on 12 December 2017, titled 'The Adolescents and Youths are working to protect the distorting ways of internet'[1].'The Awareness can protect the misusing of internet and sexual exploitation of Children' in the Daily Nutun Probhat on 25 December 2017. Another article was published in Satkhira titled "Not to stop internet use of children; want strong family bonding' in the daily newspaper Patradut on 29 November 2017. A leaflet on Cyber crime especially online sexual violence and exploitation was published for sensitizing the mass people. (http://www.askbd.org/ask/2018/01/07/leaflet-online-sexual-harassment-exploitation-children).

Work on Safe Internet Use: A handbook was developed for children on how to protect themselves from online violence and crime. Briefing meetings were organized with 12SMCs and 20 meetings were organized with parents on the handbook. A total of 30 workshops were held with young and adolescents. About 500 copies of the handbook were distributed among these schools. On 19 March 2017, Kishan Mozdur United Academy High School in Sathkhira district organized a debate competition and a quiz competition among the school children to make them aware of Online Sexual Exploitation. About 100 children participated in the Quiz competition and 10 children participated in the debate competition. The outcomes were taken up for advocacy with the government for incorporating the issue in the education curriculum. The CWGs including 3 schools of Mohammadpur area of Dhaka organized a rally and human chain on the issue of using safe internet where 120 persons participated.

A total of 50 (29 boys and 21 girls) adolescents/youth understood that young people having access to technology can become victims of online sexual exploitation by their known persons who can photograph or videotape them. Children and young people who experience online sexual exploitation can suffer physical, mental and emotional trauma such as depression, low self-esteem and lack of confidence.

Towards a code of conduct: ASK organized 3 consultations and 4 meetings with private sector for developing a code of conduct for Internet Service Providers (ISP) and Cyber Café owners. For this purpose, ASK reviewed and analyzed existing laws and policies. ASK will do advocacy with the government and other relevant stakeholders to accept and implement the Code of Conduct. Cyber Cafe Owner's Association of Bangladesh (CCOAB) and the Internet Service Providing Organization (ISP) shared their best practices and showed their positive interest to work jointly with ASK for adolescent and youth as part of their social responsibility. Besides, the Consortium continued communication with different stakeholders at the national and local levels to collect relevant information as well as to create public demand for the code of conduct.

In 2017, 2 meetings were conducted with Chowfuldondi Union Parishad in Cox's Bazar and Charghat in Rajshahi to stop rural urban unsafe migration. The Panel Chairman along with other respective ward members took a decision to create a child and adolescent friendly centre in Chowfuldondi union. The Panel Chairman and ward members in Yusufpur Union of Rajshahi also decided to create a child and adolescent friendly centre and to organize an awareness raising campaign. A meeting was also conducted at Cox's Bazar pourashava to stop unsafe rural urban migration.

The Consortium maintained communication with local government and administration. Government officials were involved in the Consortium's advocacy initiatives. Upazilla Nirbahi Officer (UNO) KaligonjUpazilla, Satkhira was present as a chief guest in one meeting with media personnel to discuss about online sexual exploitation. He observed that this type of initiatives were essential to protect the children from online violence and abuse. He discouraged providing personal mobile phones to the children below certain age for their safety. He also suggested use of desktop computer in an open place at home to watch and monitor its use by children. He advised both schools and families to remain alert about the safety of their children.

Advocacy on child marriage prevention: One meeting was held to review the Coalition's progress on advocacy on child marriage and child participation. A press conference was held to repeal of Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017. A Memorandum from the Coalition was submitted to the chair of the Parliamentary Standing Committee for the MOWCA. A mass gathering also was organized at Sahid Minar to protest against the special clause of the Act. Case studies were collected from the coalition members to analyze the child marriage situation.

1 http://www.banglanews24.com/national/news/bd/623729.details#.WjASbtvIk9c.facebook

Media for children: A meeting with local journalists was held in Rajshahi to provide information on child rights issue and also to discuss the roles journalists can play to strengthen ASK's mission. Six meetings with media personnel were held in ASK's working areas and consequently 11 articles on online child sexual violence and exploitation were published in local newspapers. The Journalists agreed to publish news on child abuse issues to sensitize local people and draw attention of the authorities.

Child Focussed UPR Report: ASK on behalf of the Coalition led the process of submission of the 3rd cycle of UPR on Children's Situation in Bangladesh. The process started in 2015 through a mid-term assessment by ASK. In 2016,ASK conducted a 3rd year assessment and shared the findings with the Government to follow up the progress. For development of child focused UPR report, workshops were held with the Coalition members for collection of information. A detail work plan was developed for sharing the draft report at different levels with stakeholders including children.

The first draft of UPR report 2017 was shared with Coalition members and a meeting was held to receive feedback. Two sharing meetings were held on the draft UPR report with different stakeholders and children in Rajshahi division for their feedback. Children raised their voice and shared their experience. They expressed concern about quality of education and recommended to ensure quality education and expand awareness activities to prevent child marriage. The Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Rajshahi observed that investment in children was very important for betters returns to the nation and urged the government and all others to take responsibility to ensure children's rights.

Dialogue on draft child focused UPR report

The national level sharing meeting was held with the representatives of the NHRC'B, government ministries, civil society and children to receive their feedback on the draft report 2017, where representative from the MoWCA was present. Participants raised their concerns regarding Rohingya children, and children with disability. The report emphasized on the online sexual violence and exploitation situation. An advocacy plan was also developed on the UPR report 2017.

After incorporating all the feedback, the report was submitted to the Human Rights Council of UN. The report was published into two languages, Bangla for the stakeholders and in English to disseminate the report among the diplomats, foreign missions and at the international level.

Towards ratification of the Optional Protocol 3: ASK has been continuing its advocacy with the government to ratify the Optional protocol 3 on the Child Rights Convention since 2015.In 2017, ASK conducted two divisional level sharing with different stakeholders including children and government officials to create mass awareness and public demand for signing the Protocol. Two divisional sharing meetings were

organized in Barisal division and Hobiganj district on the optional protocol 3 and a Commission on the Rights of the Child. Government officials, different stakeholders, children from National Children Task Force (NCTF) participated in the sessions. National Children Task Force is a network which is funded by Save the Children and Plan International Bangladesh. Children coordinate the overall program of this network. They organize workshops, consultations with the fellow children to discuss their needs and raise their demands at the local authorities as well as at national level before the national budget is passed by the Parliament. The participants recommended to strengthen the efforts to ensure implementation of the existing laws and policies rather than introducing new systems for children. Many participants hoped that the Optional Protocol 3 might help the children to access justice and to improve the existing protection mechanism. Some participants argued that as the government already signed protocol 1 and 2, the 3rd protocol also should be considered. In Barisal division, the Member of Parliament was present as the Chief Guest and assured to raise their voice in favor of ratification of the protocol in the next ParliamentaryS1ession on behalf of the Parliamentarian Caucus of Child Rights (PCCR). The Caucus as part of parliamentary structure, raise their voice to ensure the rights of the children in local level as well as national level. ASK published a flyer based on the divisional level recommendations and planned to disseminate it to the wider community.

A consultation was heldin April'17 with different groups ofchildren in Dhaka on the ratification of Optional Protocol3 and children from Bangladesh Girls Guide, Shorno Kishori, Jaago Foundation, NCTF, Ghashful, Khelaghor and Educo participated. Rohingya children, children with disabilities and political engagement of children were their issues of most concern. The children prepared future work plan to share within their own organizations and with others children to create awareness and undertaking joint advocacy.

ASK also conducted a national level dialogue with the NHRC'B based on the findings from 6 divisional level sharing. Representatives from MoWCA and MoFA were present and they suggested to take further advocacy initiatives. Government officials suggested to submit the recommendations to the MoWCA so that they can initiate discussions within the ministries.ASK, on behalf of theCoalitionis to submit the recommendations on the ratification of Optional Protocol 3 along with NHRC in early 2018.

Partnership for monitoring: ASK, as the secretariat of child rights monitoring continues its activities and provides technical supports to other members.Child rights situation in Bangladesh was monitored with the assistance of the Coalition members until 2015. In 2016, ASK on behalf of the Coalition found 10 more networks, forums and CSO's who were willing to contribute in the reporting process. An orientation meeting was held with 10 CSOs on "Child rights monitoring mechanism and the framework" on 17th August 2017to build partnership and network with the new CSOs for expanding the monitoring framework. The participants were interested to work within this monitoring framework and urged to develop a plan to duly recognize them.

In 2017, ASK organized a monitoring visit to Cox's Bazar with the assistance of Mukti, an NGO in Cox's Bazar. Two focus group discussions (FGD) were conducted with parents and children on child marriage situation of the area. The Coalition organized rallies and discussions at union level of 19 districts to get recommendations from mass peoples to protect children from all kind of violence. A discussion meeting was held at National Press Club jointly with the NHRC'B to share the recommendations with civil society and media and to finalize the recommendations for submission to the MoWCA for action.

ASK, on behalf of the Coalition identified "Child Participation "as one of the most under addressed area in Bangladesh and decided to make a stronger joint advocacy for ensuring the rights for the children. A concept note was prepared to analyse the context and to find ways for advocacy for ensuring child participation in Bangladesh. A daylong workshop on "Child Participation" was held with different groups of children and their organizations to share the "Annual Plan on Child Participation" of the Coalition and to get their feedback. Children from Bangladesh Girls' Guide, Shorno Kishori, Jaago Foundation, NCTF, Ghashful, Khelaghor and Educo participated in the workshop. Based on their opinion ASK continues the advocacy in 2018 to institutionalize children's participation in Bangladesh.

ASK prepared and published second annual state of children report 2016,'Commitmentstowards Children in 2016' by using the information collected by the Coalition and the new members. This report assessed the situation of children, enforcement of government commitments, and identified the gaps to advocate with government for ensuring children's rights in Bangladesh.

ASK and the Coalition conducted advocacy for ensuring children's rights and best interests in legislation, policy and government practice. It has also helped building capacity of the Coalition to influence government policy formulation, decision-making, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. In 2017 ASK conducted two training sessions for the Coalition and other members to capacitate the civil society on policy advocacy.

3.6 Institutional Development

A major focus of ASK's activities is to build ASK as a strong and capable organization and to support other organizations and community to protect human rights. Institution building, capacity development and result oriented operation were prioritized. Four strategically important sections manage ASK's institutional development activities. They are Administration (Admin); Accounts& Finance (A&F); Monitoring, Knowledge & Learning (MKL) and Internal Audit (IA). They ensure smooth functioning of the organization.

The Administration (ADMIN) provides logistical and infrastructural support to run the organization smoothly and meets all legal and other requirements of the Government and ASK'S EC. Personnel management is a major responsibility of this Unit.

The Accounts and Finance (A&F) manages ASK's finances and accounts. It manages pay roll, funds for implementation of programmes, procurement of services, equipment, supplies and insurance. It is also responsible to prepare budget, conduct financial monitoring to PNGOs, report to donors, EC and management of ASK, GoB and others relating to accounts and finance.

The Monitoring, Knowledge and Learning (MKL) section is responsible for planning, reporting, monitoring, evaluation, knowledge management and liaising with donors. Therefore, this section works with both the programme people (including PNGOs, and other stakeholders) and ASK's management team. It prepares project proposals, annual operation plans, and reports for the EC, management, government and donors. It also regularly monitors the implementation of ASK's programme, and provides support to evaluation exercises. It is also responsible for the development and administration of tools and instruments for monitoring, supervision, maintaining the Management Information System (MIS) and setting up/implement Result Based Monitoring (RBM) System.

The Internal Audit (IA) section has been functioning independently since December 2015 and is reportable to the Audit Committee formed by the EC. It supports examining, evaluating, and reporting to the management of the adequacy and effectiveness of the financial management, accounting and internal control system. It performs two key roles in managing organizational risks, i.e. ensuring that the organization's risk management system operates effectively, and the strategies implemented are effective in respect of managing operational risks.

The major actions taken under the institutional development area are:

- Recruitment of the Executive Director and all other required staff of ASK.
- Orientation of the newly appointed staff of ASK for the new phase and PNGOs on new programme operation, financial procedure, gender and HR.
- Organizing all required internal meetings and annual donor consortium meetings in due time. A total of 6 Executive Committee Meetings, 6 Director's Meetings, 12 Coordinator's Meeting 7Administrative Meetings, 1 Staff Retreat, 1 Staff Meeting and 1 Support Staff Meeting were organized.
- Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held and the Annual Report 2016, the Operational Plan, the Annual Budget of 2018, and the Audit Report of 2016 were presented and approved at the AGM.
- Election of the Chairperson and the Members of the EC was held, and a new EC was formed.
- Received approval of budget of 2018 from ASK's Executive Committee and obtained approval of budget of 2017 from NGOAB along with FD-2 and FD-6.
- Financial management, including managing all expenses, staff salary and benefits, keeping records of all expenditures and receipts/income, subscription, monitoring of expenditure by each programme, preparing financial statements, bank reconciliation, preparing monthly and half yearly accounts, and ensuring audit of accounts.
- Financial reports were presented to the EC, donors, NGOAB, the DC of Dhaka district and the Bangladesh Bank.
- Correspondence and regular liaison were maintained with donors, partners, government, NGOAB and other stakeholders.
- ASK's Finance team attended several seminars, workshops and meetings.
- Staff of Finance unit visited 3 working areas of ASK and prepared report for the management.

Orientation on new Programme Proposal (2017-21) for ASK Staff

- Assessment of 11 PNGOs were conducted by 3 groups headed by the Directors/Sr. Deputy Directors in December 2017 and reports submitted.
- Baseline survey of the core programme was completed.
- All required reports were prepared;12 reports for DC office of Dhaka district, 4 reports for NGOAB, 6 activities report for EC of ASK, Bi-annual report 2017 and annual reports 2016 and another annual report 2016 for NETZ- Germany for donors and the yearly plan of operation prepared and submitted.
- Information technology supported RBM system development started in December 2017.
- Monitored the progress of Gender and Social Justice and Human Rights Awareness programmes in Kushtia, Jhenaidah, Naogoan and Gaibandha (twice) and the outreach legal aid programme in Chittagong, Tangail and Rajshahi and accordingly prepared reports.
- Internal Audit of 14 PNGOs under Gender and Social Justice, Outreach programme and TDH project was completed and reports sent to the audited NGOs. Concerned management personnel of ASK analysed the Audit reports for necessary decisions. Also, internal audits of ASK for first, second and third Quarter of 2017 were completed. Besides, the Internal Auditor visited the legal clinics and Drop in Centres in Dhaka.
- Several sessions were conducted in working meeting with PNGOs on “Monitoring observations and Internal Audit observations”.
- The ED of ASK participated in various national and international programs; met with foreign delegates and delegates of different embassies; attended meetings of CSOs, donor agencies, ministries, NHRC’B, and UN delegates etc.; attended talk shows on HR situation, women’s rights, child labour, Child Marriage Restraint Act, gender, disappearance, extra judicial killing etc.; and visited ASK programmes outside Dhaka. The international programmes included among others the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA), Sharing Session on Analysis of Laws on Child Marriage in South Asian countries, 3rd Asia Pacific Feminist Forum, APWLD, Asian Leadership Colloquium on Legal Empowerment and Access to Justice held in Thailand, Citizen Platform for SDGs, and SDC's meeting on GEN Gove platform. She also attended in a number of meetings and dialogues in the country with Government, civil society, development partners and the UN that included among others the UN Electoral Needs Assessment Mission (NAM), British High Commission, Head of National Crime Agency, UK, Final Feminist Development Justice Partners Meeting, Press Conference on Rohingya issues Organized by HRFB, EU Delegation, UPR Draft Sharing with Government officials and NHRC’B, Optional Protocol 3, the Delegation of European Union to Bangladesh,

UNDP, UNFPA, UNWOMEN, NHRC'B, International Conference on Promoting Equal Justice and Human Dignity, and Workshop on International Human Right Standards.

3.7 Lessons Learnt

Several useful lessons were learned related to programmes and operation.

- Continuous linkage with the CBOs and the opportunity of the community to use the reputation, legal and strategic strength of ASK and partners, as well as long term activism have developed the CBOs as active and independent human rights actors in the community with wider acceptance. This also made the duty bearers including the local government more aware and responsive.
- Women's activism and empowerment can be promoted and sustained though continuous facilitation supports that can help promoting new generation leadership.
- School theatre programme is effective in building young leadership in growing wider human rights movement. The involvement of parents, teachers and SMC is necessary to overcome the challenges of diverse attitude of the community stakeholders.
- Sensitization/sharing meetings with different justice and service providing officials are essential to ensure gender responsive legal proceedings, and to address further victimisation and stigmatisation of women seeking legal support.
- Community sensitization and mobilisation by engaging with PNGOs are necessary to increase the awareness level about legal rights and issues. Engagement of the community watch group members facilitates work for prevention of exploitation.
- Counselling helps women substantially to stand strong.
- Economic independence of women and supportive social environment is very much essential for the survivors of violence.
- It is evident that assistance and cooperation of LGIs and the local government officials and leaders are helpful to resolve the disputes. Thus, ASK tries to inform and involve the locally elected representatives so that they can influence the opponents to attend the mediation sessions and paying the dower money or maintenance, etc.
- The volume and nature of activities require ASK to intensify actions to influence in making the institutions increasingly responsive and respectful to HR. This requires human and financial resources. Shrinking of human and material resources may limit scope of carrying out the activities.
- Lack of systematic mechanism to preserve information and administrative complicacy of the Government hampers the child rights monitoring data collection and reporting process.
- Advocacy is a long-term process, it needs long-term resources/funding sustainability. Joint efforts could make a sustainable change in the advocacy initiatives.
- A strong civil society movement is needed for ensuring the rights of people especially, rights of women and children.
- Externally, the overall HR situation, responses of state actors and the election related violence foreseen in 2018 are supposed to have an adverse impact on HR situation and ASK's programme activities, which will require more strategic planning. For example:
  - Multidimensional advocacy is needed to bring behavioural change among the state institutions specifically the law enforcing agencies. In cases of HRVs where law enforcement agencies' (LEA) members are involved often treat victims roughly.
  - Continued intervention is required to ensure information flow from both the state and non-state institutions;
  - Advocacy with visual media need to be strengthened; and
  - Considering the overall imposition of restriction on freedom of speech and expression, selection of issues for ASK bulletin requires more caution.
- The influx of large number of Rohingya's people in Cox's Bazar district has already shown increase the crisis on GBV and sexual exploitation, which might further aggravate in future. This might call for additional support.

Executive Director, ASK visited Rohingya people who have taken shelter in Bangladesh

Staff Retreat 2017

ANNEXURE

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

A. QASEM & CO.
Chartered Accountants Since 1953

Gulshan Pink City
Suites # 01-03, Level : 7, Plot # 15, Road # 103
Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka - 1212, Bangladesh

Phone: 880-2-8881824-6
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E-mail : aqasem@aqcbd.com

Independent Auditors' Report

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying Financial Statements of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at December 31, 2017 and the Statement of Income & Expenditure and The Statements of Receipts and Payments for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of these Financial Statements in accordance with Bangladesh Financial Reporting Standards (BFRS) and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of Financial Statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these Financial Statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Bangladesh Standards on Auditing (BSA). Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Financial Statements are free from material misstatement. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the Financial Statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of the material misstatement of the Financial Statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the Financial Statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the presentation of the Financial Statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the projects as at December 31, 2017 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with Bangladesh Financial Reporting Standards (BFRS) and comply with the requirements of other applicable laws and regulations.

Purpose of this report

This report is intended solely for the General Members of Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) and for no other purpose. We do not assume responsibility to any other person for the content of this report.

Dated: Dhaka
Nov 20, 2018

A. Qasem & Co.
Chartered Accountants

A member firm of Ernst & Young Global Limited
EY refers to the global organization, and/or one or more of the independent member firms of Ernst & Young Global Limited

EY Building a better working world

Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK)
Statement of Financial Position
As at 31 December 2017

Particulars	Notes	Strengthening Democracy by Promoting Human Rights Culture in Bangladesh	Sexual Exploitation of Children Online in Travel & Tourism	Monitoring Child Rights Situation in Bangladesh	Improvement of Rights by enhancement of Institutional and Community response against human rights violation through investigation, follow-up and remedial actions	National Monitoring and Review of the Sustainable Development Goals and Development Justice	Strengthening Activism Towards Human Rights Culture in Bangladesh Project	General Fund	2017	2016
Assets										
Non-current assets		574,654	-	-	-	-	6,948,090	30,826,128	38,348,873	41,875,905
Property plant & equipment	5	574,654	-	-	-	-	6,948,090	30,826,128	38,348,873	41,875,905
Current assets		10,424,251	2,080,870	173,358	612,684	7,065	12,390	43,363,995	56,674,613	49,900,933
Advance & security deposit	4	23,769	-	-	-	-	-	550,000	573,769	400,000
Membership subscription		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,600
Fund receivable from ASK		-	-	-	25,000	-	-	-	25,000	-
Loan/advance		-	-	-	-	-	-	100,000	100,000	4,000
Cash & cash equivalents	6	10,400,482	2,080,870	173,358	587,684	7,065	12,390	42,713,995	55,975,844	49,494,332
Total assets		10,998,905	2,080,870	173,358	612,684	7,065	6,960,480	74,190,124	95,023,486	91,776,838
Equity & liabilities		8,573,273	2,080,870	173,358	587,684	(135,400)	6,905,088	73,937,624	92,122,497	91,399,687
Capital fund	7	8,573,273	2,080,870	173,358	587,684	(135,400)	6,905,088	73,937,624	92,122,497	88,027,001
Project fund		-	-	-	-	-		-	-	3,372,686
Current liabilities		2,425,632	-	-	25,000	142,465	55,392	253,000	2,901,489	377,151
Provision	9	2,425,632		-	25,000	42,465	55,392	253,000	2,801,489	374,351
Loan from ASK General Fund		-	-	-	-	100,000	-	-	100,000	-
Advance membership subscription	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,800
Total fund & liabilities		10,998,905	2,080,870	173,358	612,684	7,065	6,960,480	74,190,624	95,023,986	91,776,838

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

Executive Director

Director -Finance and Adminstration

Signed as per our annexed report of same date.

Dated: Dhaka
Nov 20, 2018

A.Qasem & Co.
Chartered Accountants

Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK)
Statement of Financial Position
As at 31 December 2017

Particulars	Notes	Strengthening Democracy by Promoting Human Rights Culture in Bangladesh	Sexual Exploitation of Children Online in Travel & Tourism	Monitoring Child Rights Situation in Bangladesh	Improvement of Rights by enhancement of Institutional and Community response against human rights violation through investigation, follow-up and remedial actions	National Monitoring and Review of the Sustainable Development Goals and Development Justice	Strengthening Activism Towards Human Rights Culture in Bangladesh Project	General Fund	2017	2016
Assets										
Non-current assets		574,654	-	-	-	-	6,948,090	30,826,128	38,348,873	41,875,905
Property plant & equipment	3	574,654	-	-	-	-	6,948,090	30,826,128	38,348,873	41,875,905
Current assets		10,424,251	2,080,870	173,358	612,684	7,065	12,390	43,363,995	56,674,613	49,900,933
Advance & security deposit	4	23,769	-	-	-	-	-	550,000	573,769	400,000
Membership subscription		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,600
Fund receivable from ASK		-	-	-	25,000	-	-	-	25,000	-
Loan/advance		-	-	-	-	-	-	100,000	100,000	4,000
Cash & cash equivalents	6	10,400,482	2,080,870	173,358	587,684	7,065	12,390	42,713,995	55,975,844	49,494,332
Total assets		10,998,905	2,080,870	173,358	612,684	7,065	6,960,480	74,190,124	95,023,486	91,776,838
Equity & liabilities		8,573,273	2,080,870	173,358	587,684	(135,400)	6,905,088	73,937,624	92,122,497	91,399,687
Capital fund	7	8,573,273	2,080,870	173,358	587,684	(135,400)	6,905,088	73,937,624	92,122,497	88,027,001
Project fund		-	-	-	-	-		-	-	3,372,686
Current liabilities		2,425,632	-	-	25,000	142,465	55,392	253,000	2,901,489	377,151
Provision	9	2,425,632		-	25,000	42,465	55,392	253,000	2,801,489	374,351
Loan from ASK General Fund		-	-	-	-	100,000	-	-	100,000	-
Advance membership subscription	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,800
Total fund & liabilities		10,998,905	2,080,870	173,358	612,684	7,065	6,960,480	74,190,624	95,023,986	91,776,838

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

Executive Director

Director -Finance and Administration

Signed as per our annexed report of same date.

Dated: Dhaka
Nov 20, 2018

A.Qasem & Co.
Chartered Accountants

Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK)
Statement Receipts & Payments
For the year ended 31 December 2017

Particulars	Notes	Strengthening Democracy by Promoting Human Rights Culture in Bangladesh	Sexual Exploitation of Children Online in Travel & Tourism	Monitoring Child Rights Situation in Bangladesh	Improvement of Rights by enhancement of Institutional and Community response against human rights violation through investigation, follow-up and remedial actions	National Monitoring and Review of the Sustainable Development Goals and Development Justice	Strengthening Activism Towards Human Rights Culture in Bangladesh Project	General Fund	2017	2016
Opening balance		-	1,639,720	-		-	397,545	48,960,166	50,997,431	158,587,325
Cash in hand		-	9,605	-	-	-	-	52,923	62,528	97,730
Cash at bank		-	1,630,115	-	-	-	397,545	47,237,106	49,264,766	158,489,595
Last year unadjusted interest income		-	-	-	-	-	-	1,670,137	1,670,137	-
Receipts		64,781,455	10,732,271	2,004,819	2,340,000	739,600	-	2,866,227	83,464,372	216,583,553
Foreign grants		64,781,455	10,720,017	1,995,830	1,800,000	639,600	-	-	79,936,902	180,040,132
ASK contribution		-	-	-	540,000	-	-		540,000	-
Donations		-	-	-	-	-	-	410,435	410,435	3,914,273
Training fees		-		-	-	-	-	75,040	75,040	1,172,700
Membership subscription		-	-	-	-	-	-	4,500	4,500	800
Bank interest		-	8,254	8,989	-	-	-	991,953	1,009,196	22,116
Registration fees					-		-	3,515	3,515	-
Gratuity fund		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	301,603
Sale of publication					-		-	89,412	89,412	-
Loan from ASK		-	-	-	-	100,000	-	-	100,000	-
Loan refund from projects		-		-	-	-	-	-	-	29,391,705
Sale of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-	-	1,147,304	1,147,304	12,200
Reimbursement/expenses refunded/received from project unspent amount		-	-	-	-	-	-	9,484	9,484	-
Advance/ office rent & security adjusted		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300,000
Withholding tax		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,500
Withholding VAT		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,197
Advance member subscription received		-			-		-	-	-	1,200
Others receipts		-	4,000	-		-		134,584	138,584	1,423,126
Total fund available		64,781,455	12,371,991	2,004,819	2,340,000	739,600	397,545	51,826,394	134,461,804	375,170,878

Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK)
Statement Receipts & Payments
For the year ended 31 December 2017

Particulars	Notes	Strengthening Democracy by Promoting Human Rights Culture in Bangladesh	Sexual Exploitation of Children Online in Travel & Tourism	Monitoring Child Rights Situation in Bangladesh	Improvement of Rights by enhancement of Institutional and Community response against human rights violation through investigation, follow-up and remedial actions	National Monitoring and Review of the Sustainable Development Goals and Development Justice	Strengthening Activism Towards Human Rights Culture in Bangladesh Project	General Fund	2017	2016
Payments									-	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets										
Camera and accessories		29,050	-	-		-	-	-	29,050	5,200
Equipments		564,279	-	-		-	-	-	564,279	37,800
		593,329	-	-		-		-	**593,329**	**43,000**
Salaries & allowances		27,933,291	1,528,332	689,566	822,000	267,857	-	2,159,883	33,400,929	94,689,997
Office rent		2,807,997	417,900	80,676	60,000	-	-	1,149,658	4,516,231	10,832,119
Travelling & transportation		2,102,888	66,260	28,907	-	-	-	-	2,198,055	4,910,736
Seminars/workshops/meetings		5,271,591	8,009,259	16,146	-	-	-	21,010	13,318,006	12,577,517
Utilities		321,959	67,967	13,860	-	15,000	-	-	418,786	1,346,165
Communication		235,252	37,995	7,464	161	5,000	-	-	285,872	441,812
Printing & stationeries		652,673	101,297	13,200	60,000	4,000	-	-	831,170	1,718,343
Repair & maintenance		1,144,744	-	13,200	-	15,000	-	448,016	1,620,960	653,071
Bank charges		18,925	8,474	1,915	4,145	-	15,863	69,878	119,200	86,389
Legal aid		7,638,754	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,638,754	4,674,020
Audit fees		-	-	35,000	-	-	-	-	35,000	53,750
Publication cost		1,386,728	-	211,350	-	-	-	-	1,598,078	1,870,354
Medical support for staff		94,552	-	-	-	-	-	450,000	544,552	821,922
Education support for working children		1,053,639	-	-	-	-	-	518,668	1,572,307	3,188,954
Training expenses		404,194	-	49,805	-	-	-	-	453,999	3,189,396
Advertisement		32,850	-	-	-	-	-	12,420	45,270	160,394
Program /office rent (advance & security)		23,769	-	-	-	-	-	550,000	573,769	4,000
Tax payment		-	-	-	-	-	135,300	177,796	313,096	591,455
Newspaper & periodicals		37,321	-	-	-	-	-	-	37,321	364,363
Entertainment/refreshment		-	3,645	-	-	-	-	22,871	26,516	1,032,426
Consultancy payments		1,382,497	-	-	-	-	-	76,666	1,459,163	-
Staff training & development		721,647	-	-	-	-	-	-	721,647	
Teaching materials		8,495	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,495	

Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK)
Statement Receipts & Payments
For the year ended 31 December 2017

Particulars	Notes	Strengthening Democracy by Promoting Human Rights Culture in Bangladesh	Sexual Exploitation of Children Online in Travel & Tourism	Monitoring Child Rights Situation in Bangladesh	Improvement of Rights by enhancement of Institutional and Community response against human rights violation through investigation, follow-up and remedial actions	National Monitoring and Review of the Sustainable Development Goals and Development Justice	Strengthening Activism Towards Human Rights Culture in Bangladesh Project	General Fund	2017	2016
Membership subscription payments		1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	
Staff health insurance coverage payments		494,643	-	-	-	-	-	-	494,643	
Audio-video materials		18,235	-	-	-	-	-	-	18,235	
Loan refund to ASK		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28,550,412
Loan payment		-	9,992	-	-	-	-	100,000	109,992	-
Office general expenses		-	-	-	-	-	-	12,660	12,660	-
Fund transfer to project account		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90,459,248
Others payments		-	-	670,372	806,010	425,678	-	3,338,405	5,240,465	58,250,348
Awareness/motivational/sensitization		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,017,781
Research/survey expenses		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	163,261
Refund from Sexual Exploitation of Children Online in Travel & Tourism project		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31,008
Provision paid		-	40,000	-	-	-	233,992	3,967	277,959	1,985,312
		53,787,644	10,291,121	1,831,461	1,752,316	732,535	385,155	9,111,898	77,892,130	325,664,553
Total payments		54,380,973	10,291,121	1,831,461	1,752,316	732,535	385,155	9,111,898	78,485,459	325,707,553
Closing balance		10,400,482	2,080,870	173,358	587,684	7,065	12,390	42,714,495	55,976,344	49,463,324
Represented by										
Cash in hand		97,137	1,153	-	-	-	-	2,950	101,240	62,528
Cash at bank		10,303,345	2,079,717	173,358	587,684	7,065	12,390	42,711,045	55,874,604	49,400,796
		10,400,482	2,080,870	173,358	587,684	7,065	12,390	42,713,995	55,975,844	49,463,324

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

Executive Director

Director -Finance and Administration

A. Qasem & Co.
Chartered Accountants

Dated: Dhaka
Nov 20, 2018

6

ANNEX II

ASK'S SUPPORT SYSTEM

Programme	Number of Prog.-Supported CBOs and Lawyers Groups	Working Areas
HRA	• School Theater Team (STG): 20 • Community based HR Theater Group (CBHRTG): 25	5 Districts (Kishoreganj, Kushtia, Jhenaidah, Naogaon and Gaibandha)
GSJ	• Community based HR Protection Group (CBHRPG): 25 • Community based Women's Group (CBWG): 25 • Human Rights Lawyer Forum: 5	5 Districts (Kishoreganj, Kushtia, Jhenaidah, Naogaon and Gaibandha)
Outreach Legal Aid	• Lawyers Forum: 6	6 Districts (Barishal, Chattogram, Habiganj, Rajshahi, Satkhira, Tangail)
Investigation	• Human Rights Defenders Forum: 10	10 Districts (Bagerhat, Satkhira, Narail, Meherpur, Dinajpur, Kurigram, Panchagarh, Cox's Bazar, Pirojpur and Jhenaidah. ASK Investigators also conducts investigations in all districts)

Location of STGs: Schools & Districts

Gaibandha: Sadhinotar Rojot Joyonti Girl's High School, Rebeka Habib Girl's High School, Tulshighat Kashinath High School, N.H Modern High School.

Jhenaidah: Jheinaidah S.P. Secondary School, Shisukunja School & College, Shaheed Smrity Bidyapith, Wazir Ali High School & College.

Kishoreganj: ArjotAtorjan High School, Ajimuddin High School, Kishoreganj Girl's High School, Zilla Shoroni Girl's High School.

Kushtia: Kolokakoli Secondary School, Mohini Mohon Biddyapith, Milpara Secondary School, Jogoti High School.

Naogaon: Central Girl's High School, P.M. Girl's High School, Morchula Girl's High School, Jonokollan Model High School.

Partner NGOs: 14

Barisal: Association of Voluntary Action for Society (AVAS).

Chattogram: Organisation for Women's Development in Bangladesh (OWDEB).

Cox's Bazar: MUKTI Cox's Bazar

Gaibandha: Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK).

Habiganj: Habiganj Unnayan Sangsta (HUS).

Jhenaidah: Welfare Efforts (WE.)

Kushtia: Mukti Nari o Shishu Unnayan Shangstha.

Kishoreganj: Peoples Oriented Program Implementation (POPI).

Naogaon: Ancholic Palli Unnayan Sangstha (APUS).

Rajshahi: Barendra Unnayan Prochesta (BUP), Association for Community Development (ACD).

Satkhira: Society for Development and Education of Small Household (SoDESH), Agrogoti Sangstha (AS).

Tangail: Rural Poor Development Organization (RPDO).

Donor Partners: 8

Donor Consortium

- The Swedish Embassy, Dhaka
- The Danish Embassy
- The Embassy of Switzerland

Individual Donor

- Save the Children in Bangladesh
- Terre des Hommes Netherlands
- Embassy of Federal Republic of Germany
- Embassy of Australia
- Global Fund for Women

Legal Aid Clinics in Dhaka: 5

- Berri Bandh at Mohammadpur, Dhaka
- Johnson Road at Sadarghat, Dhaka
- Goran at Sipahibag, Dhaka
- Department of Women Affairs (DWA) at Gazipur, Dhaka
- Victim Support Centre (VSC) at Tejgaon, Dhaka

Centres for Providing Support to Children

Type of Centre	In Dhaka	Outside Dhaka (Run by PNGOs)
Drop in Centres	2	-
Socialization Centre	1	3

National Networks

Bangladesh Shishu Odhikar Forum (BSAF)

170 member organizations to campaign for the implementation of the Child Rights Convention.

Beijing plus Five for Women's Rights

A coalition of women's organizations to implement the Beijing Platform for Action, adopted by the Government of Bangladesh.

Coalition for the Urban Poor (CUP)

Coordinates campaigns for the right to shelter of slum dwellers and mobilizes them to demand their rights.

Citizen's Initiative on CEDAW

A network of 38 organizations formed in 2007 to prepare reports for the UN CEDAW Committee and to campaign for implementation of CEDAW.

Citizen's Initiatives to Address Domestic Violence (CIDV)

A network of 40 organizations formed in 2007 for advocacy on legislation for Domestic Violence.

Child Rights Governance Assembly (CRGA)

A civil society advocacy network of 22 organizations including children and youth organizations.

Human Rights Forum, Bangladesh (HRFB)

A national platform of 19 non-governmental organizations working to protect and promote human rights in Bangladesh. Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) having UNECOSOC consultative status took the initiative to form this forum and has been working as the Secretariat of the Forum since inception.

Sramik Nirapotta Forum (SNF)

A network of 14 organizations concerned with safety at the workplace and workers' health. Formed after the collapse of the Spectrum Sweater Industries building in Savar it has campaigned for workers' safety through the media, and filed PILs to establish corporate responsibility for workers' deaths and injuries.

SamajikProtirodh Committee

A network of 52 women's groups formed to resist violence against women by both state and non-state actors, to campaign for participation of women in public decision-making and to resist the rise of religious extremism. The Secretariat is located in the Bangladesh Mahila Porishod.

Child Rights Advocacy Coalition in Bangladesh

A civil society network which is working to promote child rights.

International Networks

Asia Pacific Forum for Women, Law and Development (APWLD)

Formed after the Nairobi Conference. Based in Chiang Mai, Thailand, APWLD networks with legal and women's rights organisations across Asia and the Pacific to campaign for women's rights, to create awareness of rights and to draft recommendations for legal reform.

Asian NGO Network on National Human Rights Institutions (ANNI)

A network of human rights organisations as well as defenders engaged with National Human Rights Institutions in Asia, to ensure the accountability of these bodies for the promotion and protection of human rights. It was formed on December 2006 to strengthen domestic human rights protection mechanisms in accordance with international human rights standards.

End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT International)

Works against commercial sexual exploitation of children. Member NGOs in 70 countries and the secretariat is in Bangkok.

FORUM-ASIA (FA)

A membership-based human rights organisation "committed to the promotion and protection of all human rights including the right to development" which has 46 member organizations from 17 countries across Asia.

International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAW)

The only regional/international NGO working with the CEDAW Convention as a main tool for change in the Asia Pacific as well as in filling gap between the promise of women's rights and their actual realisation.

Migrants' Forum in Asia (MFA)

Raises awareness about migrant workers' rights and fair working conditions and creates structures of support. Secretariat located in Manila.

South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR)

A democratic regional network with a large membership base of people committed to addressing human rights issues at both national and regional levels. SAHR's basic policy is to identify the gaps in regional initiatives and to undertake activities which do not duplicate the work carried out by other regional or national NGOs.

South Asia Forum for Human Rights (SAFHR)

A regional public forum for the promotion of respect for universal values of human rights, the independence of rights and the invisibility of rights based in Kathmandu.

We Can End Violence against Women

An international campaign against domestic violence. Holds meetings, seminars, workshops and publishes materials on violence against women and personal and collective measures to prevent gender based violence. ASK is currently Chair of the national committee.

Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML)

An international solidarity network that engages with problems faced by women under Islamic laws.

British Association of Counselling and Psycho-therapy (BACP)

It is a professional body, membership organization that sets standards for therapeutic practice and provides information for therapist, clients of therapy.

ANNEX III

ASK MEMBERS

Founder Members

Late Mr. Aminul Haq
Late Barrister Salma Sobhan
Late Justice K. M. Subhan
Late Advocate Abdul Khaleque
Sir Fazle Hasan Abed
Dr. Hameeda Hossain
Ms. Khursheed Erfan Ahmed
Ms. Taherunnessa Abdullah
Barrister Amirul Islam

Executive Committee Members

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed (Chairperson)
Taherunnesa Abdullah
Advocate Z. I. Khan Panna
Barrister Nihad Kabir
Tahmina Rahman (Treasurer)
Advocate Md. Asaduzzaman
Ms. Rokshana Khondokar
Ms. Fatema Rashid Hasan
Md. Nur Khan
Sheepa Hafiza, (Ex-Officio from 1 April, 2017)

General Members

Dr. Hameeda Hossain
Ms. Khursheed Erfan Ahmed
Sir Fazle Hasan Abed
Barrister Amirul Islam
Ms. Taherunnessa Abdullah
Advocate Afsana Wahab
Khurshid Alam
DilrubaShahana
Tahmina Rahman
Advocate Roushan Jahan Parvin
Roushan Jahan
Fatema Rashid Hasan
Rokhsana Khondokar
Barrister Sara Hossain
Tanzina Huq Tiru
Zaved Hasan Mahmud
Dr. Faustina Pereira
Barrister Nihad Kabir
Md. Nur Khan
Advocate Md. Asaduzzaman
Advocate Syed Mahabubar Rahman
Advocate Z.I. Khan Panna
Shameem Aktar
Dr. Meghna Guha Thakurta
Isaac Robinson
Neela Matin
Advocate Karunamoy Chakma

ASK TEAM

Executive Director

Sheepa Hafiza, (From 1 April, 2017).

Executive Director (Acting)

Md. Nur Khan, (Up to March 2017).

Strategy 1: Awareness Raising and Strengthening Organizational Structures

Jahedul Alam (Sr. Coordinator) up to June 2017, Md. Nurunnabi (Sr. Coordinator), Amanatullah (Sr. Program Organizer) up to May 2017, Md. Ashik Ahmed (Sr. Program Organizer), Apurba Kumar Das (Sr. Program Organizer), Shilpi Sharma (Theatre Activist), Salil Mozumder (Theatre Activist).

Strategy 2: Capacity Building of Human Rights Actors

Momy Monzury Chowdhury (Asst. Coordinator),Tasnim Akter Dina (Assistant Coordinator), Bilkis Sultana (Trainer).

Strategy 3: Legal Aid and Other Support Services

Nina Goswami (Sr. Deputy Director), Dilip Kumar Paul (Sr. Coordinator), Selina Akhter (Sr. Staff Lawyer), Asma Khanam Ruba (Sr. Staff Lawyer), Shilpi Saha (Sr. Staff Lawyer), Abdur Rashid (Sr. Staff Lawyer), Mizanur Rahman (Sr. Staff Lawyer), Romana Farha (Jr. Staff Lawyer), Chowdhury Faria (Jr. Staff Lawyer), Amrita Sarkar (Jr. Staff Lawyer,) Shithi Rani Das (Paralegal cum MIS),Nasima Akter (Sr. Counsellor), Shirina Akhter (Counseller cum Staff Lawyer), Morzina Akhter Beauty (Superintendent, Half-Way Home), Tapon Kumar Sarker (Court Clerk), Rokeya Begum (Cook, Half-Way Home), Maleka Begum (Aya cum Cleaner, Half-Way Home), Shamsunnahar (Field Worker), Mahmuda Khatun Maya (Field Worker).

Strategy 4: Advocacy and Networking

Roushan Jahan (Sr. Deputy Director), Shaheen Akhtar (Sr. Editor), Abu Ahmed Faijul Kabir (Coordinator), Nargis Akter (Documentalist), Fatema Zannati (Documentalist), Jharna Khanam (Documentalist), Anirban Saha (Sr. Investigator), Md. Mahbub Alam (Investigator), Hasibur Rahman (Investigator), Kaniz Khadija Shuravi (Publication Organizer), Shagufta Tabassum Ahmed(Staff Lawyer), Shanta Islam (Program Organizer), Nurul Islam (Court Clerk-High court).

Programme for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (PPPHR) Project

John Asit Das (Coordinator), Fahmida Zaman (Documentalist), Tapote Bhattacharjee (Trainer).

Strategy 5: Protection of Children

Core Programme

Md. Moqsud Malaque (Team Leader), Rita Parven (Sr. Educator Cum Liaison Officer), Mina Sanyal (Sr. Educator Cum Liaison Officer), Rahana Parvin (Community Liaison Officer), Ali AkramTarafder (Artist), Nabila Ikram (Artist).

Monitoring Child Rights Situation in Bangladesh Project

Rasheda Akter (Coordinator).

Sexual Exploitation of Children Online and in Travel and Tourism Project

Ambica Roy (Coordinator), Asadujjman (Coordinator), Tamanna Hoq Riti (Asst. Coordinator), Sadika Jinat Banu (Accountant).

ANNEX IV

Strategy 6: Institutional Development

Administration Section

Mahmuda Sultana (Sr. Manager - Admin & HR), Khalilur Rahman (Executive Assistant, Md. Rakibul Hasan (Sr. Admin Assistant), Md. Mustafizur Rahman (Sr. Admin Assistant), Anil Chandra Mandal (IT Assistant), Md. Mohsin Ali (Computer Operator), Mintu Barua (Receptionist), Md. Abu Musa (Unit Assistant), Md. Haider Ali (Maintenance Assistant), Md. Nur- e-Alam (Store Keeper), Md. Farukur Rahman (Driver), Md. Monir Hossain (Driver), Laila Begum (Aya cum cleaner), Morium Begum (Aya cum cleaner), Anjali Barai (Cleaner).

Accounts & Finance Section

Md. Mustafizur Rahman (Director- Finance and Admin), Mohammad Nazrul Islam (Finance Manager), Ishtiak Ahmed (Asst. Manager), Tamanna Nasrin (Asst. Manager), Paymelia Saha (Asst. Manager), Shamim Hossain (Unit Assistant).

Monitoring, Knowledge and Learning (MKL) Section

Fatema Mahmuda (Sr. Deputy Director), Suhel Ahmed (Manager-MKL), Humaira Khanum (Monitoring Organizer).

Internal Audit Section

Nikolas Biswas (Manager Internal Audit).

SPONSORS OF WORKING CHILDREN: 2017

Children Name	Name of Sponsor
Rubel Hossain	Momota Ahmad
Sabina Akter Dolly	Patrizia Heidegger
Shahanaz Parveen Shilpi	Patrizia Heidegger
Sajeda Akhter	Patrizia Heidegger
Jakir Hossain	Patrizia Heidegger
Shanta	Patrizia Heidegger
Bipasha Rani Gosh	Mr.Tariq Ali
Priyanka Rani Gosh	Mr.Tariq Ali
Ruma Rani Gosh	Mr.Tariq Ali
Suma Rani Gosh	Mr.Tariq Ali
Al-Amin	Zahirul Islam
Rehana	Zahirul Islam
Shathi	Zahirul Islam
Soniya	Asrafun Hossain
Mahmuda Akter	Fahmida Zaman
Brishti Akter	Dr. Sanjana Sanam
Amir Hossain	*ASK General Fund
Akhlima Akhter,	ASK General Fund
Shathi Chowdhury	ASK General Fund
Nasrin Sultana	ASK General Fund
Khadijz Akhter	ASK General Fund
Shorif Hossain	ASK General Fund
Tania Akhter	ASK General Fund
Farzana Akhter	ASK General Fund
Md. Yousuf	ASK General Fund
Mahmuda Akher	ASK General Fund
Moni Akhter	ASK General Fund
Pervin Akhter	ASK General Fund
Tamanna Akhter	ASK General Fund

** Due to unavailability of individual sponsor for children in 2017, ASK spent the money from the general fund to continue children's education.*

ANNEX VI

ASK PUBLICATION IN 2017

Quarterly bulletin in 2017

1. Bulletin March 2017: Rohingya related issue – United Nations Human Rights Report
2. Bulletin June 2017: Custodial Torture, Death and Right to Life
3. Bulletin September 2017: Genocide of Rohingya and their dispersion–worst kind of humanitarian disaster and refugee crisis
4. Bulletin December 2017: UNESCO's documentary heritage of the world- Historical speech of 7th March 1971 of Bangabandhu

Books published by ASK in 2017

1. Children of Bangladesh and Child Rights (New)
2. Public Interest litigation (5th Version)
3. Of the Nation Born: On Sexual Violence and Impunity (Joint Bangla publication: ASK-UPL)(New)
4. ASK Annual Report 2016
5. Human Rights in Bangladesh 2016 (Bangla)
6. UPR stakeholders report: Situation of child rights in Bangladesh
7. Violence against children in Bangladesh in working areas: analysis of case studies, overall situation and opinion of child rights defender forum member (Bangla).

Articles published in various National Newspapers of Bangladesh

1. Enactment of medical service act a necessity to protect the good health of nation (Daily Sangbad : 31 January 2017)
2. Dowry prohibition draft law-2017and related few issues (Daily Sangbad : 26 February 2017)
3. Children to be educated only through positive disciplining (Daily Amrito Bazar : 10 March 2017)
4. Child marriage restraint act 2017 and our fear (Daily Sangbad : 30 March 2017)
5. Child marriage restraint bill 2017 (Daily Sangbad: 23 April 2017)
6. Review of road transport act (draft) 2017 (Daily Sangbad : 25 May 2017)
7. Legal status of a Bangladeshi women witness (Daily Ittefaq: 5 June 2017)
8. Accused not to be presented before the court wearing danda berri (Daily Sangbad : 05 July 2017)
9. Managing of mobile court by executive magistrate is unconstitutional: High Court (Daily Sangbad : 07 March 2017)
10. Sixteenth amendment of Bangladesh illegal: appellate division judgment (Daily Sangbad : 10 July 2017)
11. No way to live (Dhaka Tribune: 25 July 2017)
12. Maximum punishment for juvenile criminals: Oishee context (Daily Sangbad: 27 July 2017)
13. Economic value of women's household work decided by Madras High Court (Daily Ittefaq: 28 August 2017)
14. Migrant worker and human trafficking (Daily Sangbad : 08 September 2017)
15. Protection of rights of domestic workers (Konnasishu : 13 October 2017)
16. Decision on the case of violence against domestic worker Aduri and the present reality (Daily Sangbad : 14 October 2017)
17. Hilsha gets recognition of geographical indication product of Bangladesh (Daily Sangbad: 19 October 2017)
18. Establishment of children's court in every district to protect rights of children (Daily Sangbad: 29 October 2017)
19. Listen to the voice of Santal peoples (Daily Samokal : 06 November 2017)
20. Indian supreme court declares divorce through 'Triple Talaak' Unconstitutional: (Daily Sangbad: 18 November 2017)
21. Progress of Bangladesh in achieving gender equity and related few thoughts (Daily Sangbad: 23 December 2017)

ASK's vision is to create:

A society established based on the principles of human rights, gender equality, equity, secularism, rule of law, social justice and democracy.