

Child-led Social Accountability Project, Bangladesh

Background:

- Overall realisation of child rights – including equity and quality in health and education service provision – is hampered by weak implementation of policy and legislation, and serious concerns around governance and accountability.
- Opportunities to hold service providers to account are limited in general. And for children, the space to participate in democratic processes is even more limited. They lack the opportunity to provide feedback on the services they receive.
- At the point of health and education service delivery there is limited access to – and demand for – public information on health and education policies, benchmarks, budgets, expenditures, etc.

Overall Objective:

Contribute to realisation of children's rights to health and education through increased accountability and responsiveness of primary health and education service delivery and resource allocation in Bangladesh.

Geographical Coverage:

- Satkhira district (rural): 5 Union Parishads within Debhata upazila
- Dhaka district (urban) : Mirpur Ward numbers 2,3 & 5

Implementing Partners:

Breaking the Silence (BTS), Social and Economic Enhancement Programme (SEEP)

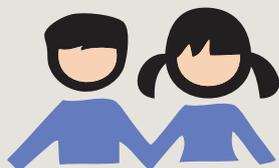
Project Duration:

1st March 2016 to 31st December 2018

Funded by:

Save the Children UK

Target Group:



Children and Youth



Health and Education Service Providers



Local Political Leaders



Union Parishad Chairpersons and Members



Local Government Officials



Ministry of Health



Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, Ministry of Secondary and Higher Education

Targeted Results:

- Result 1 – Effective, equitable and accountable service delivery and allocation of resources by education and health service providers and local authorities at project locations
- Result 2 – Target group children and adolescents empowered as citizens individually and collectively to understand their rights and to engage with local decision makers
- Result 3 – Evidence generated to enable advocacy with the government and other key players to lobby for social sector services to have in-built social accountability mechanisms at the primary service delivery point, and include a strong element of child and youth-led interventions
- Result 4 – Strengthened National level evidence based child-led advocacy on effective, equitable and accountable service delivery and allocation of resources
- Result 5 – A new culture of learning and reflection nurtured among local officials, implementing partners, involved CBOs, NCTF and learning promotes improvement in social accountability framework.

Potential for learning:

The project has been designed as a Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT) to rigorously answer the following questions:

- How does Child-Centered Social Accountability (CCSA) improve access to and quality of essential services for children?
- Does CCSA facilitate service delivery that is more responsive and accountable to children's rights and needs?
- Does it help children become more engaged citizens?
- Does it have an impact on the locus of control of children?
- How does it affect general awareness levels of children regarding their own rights and entitlements, in terms of essential services?
- How can CCSA mechanisms complement existing but ineffective formal accountability and democratic participation mechanisms at local governance level?

Conceivable Challenges:

- Service providers respond in a dismissive/condescending manner to the concerns of children
- Children's participation dwindles over the course of the project, owing to fear of reprisals or existing social hierarchies
- Instabilities arise in the political/security situation

