

## Round-table Discussion Inclusion of Primary Education as Our Right

I fully support the idea that primary education should be recognized as a fundamental right. To do that, we do not need to amend the Constitution. Rather, we should modify the Compulsory Primary Education Act, 1990, in light of clause 17 (b) of the Constitution.  
**Advocate Fazle Rabbi Mia, MP and Honorable Deputy Speaker, Bangladesh**



I want to give my sincere thanks to the organizers of today's programme. Our media should be pro-active in highlighting this issue. It is a team work. We need support from all the stakeholders.  
**Advocate Mostafizur Rahman, MP and Minister- MoPME,**

Education is one of the basic needs of every human being. Bangladesh Constitution recognized this need and enjoins on the State *to adopt effective measures for the purpose of- establishing a uniform, mass oriented and universal system of education and extending free and compulsory education to all children to such stage as may be determined by law; relating education to the needs of society and producing properly trained and motivated citizens to serve those needs; removing illiteracy within such time as may be determined by law. (The Constitution of the people's republic of Bangladesh, Part 2: Fundamental principles of states policy, Clause 17: Free and compulsory education)* As per CRC education is treated as the fundamental right of every child which states *"the right of the child to education, and with a view to achieving this right progressively and on the basis of equal opportunity, they shall, in particular: Make primary education compulsory and available free to all; Take measures to encourage regular attendance of drop-out rates. (CRC Ref: Article 28.)"* The international UNCEDAW, UNCRC, WDEFA, DFA3 re-



and enshrine right. and poverty known to hindrances to participatory development progress. The

Unlike several other countries, the Indian Constitution did not only stop at the inclusion of a provision but also makes the government accountable for ensuring that a child attends school. In Philippines, the amendment to the Constitution declares that the state shall "protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education, of all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all."  
**Talat Mahmud, Sector Director (Education (Interim))**

at schools and the reduction **Child Rights Convention**, instruments such as UDHR, and affirm this illiteracy are cause



and national resolve to achieve

the EFA goals by ensuring quality basic education for all is reinforced by child rights as well as human rights considerations. The World Declaration on Education for All (1990), Dakar Framework for Action (2000), Dhaka declaration (2009), Education Policy (2010) require of a deceleration of education as a **constitutional right** and include the issue in the constitution of Bangladesh as an amendment. This will make Bangladesh to step forward as a signatory to the above and other related international declarations and instruments.



**Save the Children (SC)** has been working in Bangladesh since its independence. SC works for the deprived children and their families in the areas of Education, Health, Food Security, Humanitarian response, Child protection and Child rights governance. Save the Children is one of the largest Non-Government child lensed organization in Bangladesh presently reaching 756,228 children and 280,340 adults (total 1,036,568) through programs in 43 districts, 3 city corporations, and 7 divisions, in partnership with 21 NGOs, Government, private sector and others.





Bangladesh has achieved significant progress in primary education but education is still a fundamental principle of the state not a constitutional right. Besides creating access to the ECCD, quality primary education and youth empowerment, Education Sector of Save the Children has advocacy commitment for policy back up for education. As part of the program, a round table discussion on **'Inclusion of Primary Education as a Right' has been** organized jointly by Parliamentarian Caucus on Child Rights (PCCR) and Save the Children which was held on Monday, 12 January 2016 at 10:00 am in Dhaka.



**Advocate Fazle Rabbi** MP, Honorable Deputy Speaker, Bangladesh National Parliament performed as the Chief Guest. **Mr. Mostafizur Rahman**, MP, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education was present as the Special Guest. Honorable Members of Parliament of PCCR, GoB Officials, UN representatives, INGOs and civil society representatives were present in the discussion. The objectives of the round table were to raise the voices of peoples of all strata in favor of education as a constitutional right for all children and get recommendations leading to prepare policy briefs.

Rasheda K Choudhury acted as the moderator of the event. From Save the Children Timothy Whyte, Deputy Country Director, SCiBD welcomed everyone. Talat Mahmud, Sector Director (Interim)- Education created the plot of the discussion. He recited the reference of neighbor countries which already considered education as their constitutional rights. The discussion was conducted for about 3 hours. On a very concrete discussions some significant recommendations came up with the closing. Among those recommendation it was strongly voiced to include primary education as our right through revision of law.

The RT discussion was telecast and published by electronic and printed medias including BTV. A full page supplementary was published by The Daily Star after the event. Now this is time to follow the momentum and continue the follow up discussion and negotiation to make the dream in real.

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