

A Case Study on

***“Assessing Disability Inclusiveness of Skills and Training
Enhancement Project implementing in Bangladesh”***

May 2015

Access Bangladesh Foundation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Bangladesh is one of the most densely populated countries of the world, with about 150 million people. Despite various efforts in poverty reduction, over 31% of Bangladeshi households still live below the national poverty line of US \$ 2 per day. It is estimated that 15% of the world’s population lives with a disability. The government of Bangladesh has undertaken a series of reform programs in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector. As part of the reform, the Ministry of Education has been implementing a six-year long “Skills and Training Enhancement Project (STEP)” with the support of the World Bank. Despite different national and international plans, policies, acts regarding TVET, these are not being enacted properly in Bangladesh. So access of persons with disabilities in the TVET system is very far from the expected level.

In view of the above, a study was conducted for assessing disability inclusiveness of skills and training enhancement project implementing in Bangladesh. The methodology of the study consisting of desk review, literature review, development and pre-testing of tools of information collection, sampling, focus group discussion and key Informants Interview.

Through the study major findings were identified that limitation in World Bank Safeguards Policies and project documents, including lack of effective implementation of national and international policies relating to TVET, lack of participation of persons with disabilities in the STEP, very negligible enrollment rate of students with disabilities in the training institutions, lack of initiative of training institutions to enrol students with disabilities, and inaccessible training facilities.

In light of the findings and observations, some recommendations were made to the World Bank and Government of Bangladesh. The World Bank should incorporate specific references to disability in the safeguards set up a disability desk at the World Bank local office Bangladesh, effective participation of persons with disabilities throughout the project lifestyle, implement national policies and acts relating to TVET effectively, make officials aware of implementing agencies, ensure structural and informational accessibility in vocational training institutions and conduct a comprehensive study to review the World Banks projects, operation in Bangladesh on how persons with disabilities have been mainstreamed.