

A Case Study on

***“Is the World Bank Reaching out of School Children with
Disabilities under ROSC II Project”***

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Access Bangladesh Foundation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Bangladesh has made significant progress in education over the past two decades. With nearly 18 million children enrolled in about 80,000 primary schools in the country. Despite this progress, considerable challenges remain. These were the children who had missed out schooling at the right age or had been forced to drop out, mainly because of poverty. In the context of diverse necessities in primary education, and time needed to put in a single mechanism to cater to all groups of children, the Government of Bangladesh, with IDA support, introduced an innovative ROSC project to achieve the country's Education for All goals. From April 2013, ROSC II has been funding disadvantaged students to continue their education and it has been implementing under the same arrangements as in the first ROSC project to reduce the number of out of school children through equitable access, retention and completion in quality primary education in selected underserved areas.

The major study objectives are to identify the gaps of project documents to ensure inclusion of out-of-school children with disabilities under ROSC II, assess the status of learning centres whether they reach out-of-school children with disabilities and to assess whether the needs of children with disabilities are addressed properly in the project. The methodology of the study consisting of desk review, literature review, development and pre-testing of tools of information collection, sampling, and key Informants Interview.

Through the study major findings were identified that limitation in World Bank Safeguards Policies and project documents, including lack of accessible facilities at Learning Centers, lack of proper learning materials for children with disabilities, teachers are not well trained on disability issues, poor enrolment status of children with disabilities in Learning Centers (LCs), lack of awareness and mobilization activities, not addressing needs of children with disabilities, enrolled students mainly with a mild disability, no specific guidelines and instructions for children with disabilities in project documents.

In light of the findings and observations, some recommendations were made to the World Bank and Government of Bangladesh. The World Bank should focus on needs and rights of children with disabilities very specifically rather than considering "disadvantaged groups", harmonize plans and policies with CRC and CRPD, include education of children with disability issue in Development Project Proposal, consult children with disabilities and their parents across project life cycle, set monitoring and evaluating frameworks in line with children with disability issue, Include an indicator on disability. Recommendations for the Government of Bangladesh were to follow the National Education Policy, Children Policy, Children act, Rights and Protection of Persons with disabilities Act, disability related plans and policies at the time of designing the development projects, implement these act and policies effectively while implementing the projects, strengthen coordination among the relevant implementing agencies involved in the ROSC project, impose quota system to increase enrollment of children with disabilities. in Ananda Schools under ROSC Project etc.