

FAIRGAZE MUN 2022

Country: Bangladesh

Committee: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Agenda: Providing Violence Response and Access to Justice for Children and Youth.

Introduction:

The delegate of Bangladesh firmly supports the need to take adequate measures to provide violence response and access to justice for children and youth.

Globally it is estimated that up to 1 billion children aged 2-17 years, have experienced physical, sexual or emotional violence or neglect in the past years. As in all countries, children in Bangladesh experience situations of violence.

The *Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019* reported the proportion of children aged 1-14 years experienced any physical punishment and /or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month is **88.8%** in 2019 which is 6.5% higher compared to 2012-13. *A Save the Children and Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST)* conducted a survey 'Stop Tolerating Violence Against Children' in 2018 revealed that **69.62%** parents and caregivers think that it is either justifiable or strongly justifiable to punish a child when they make any mistake.

Bangladesh's Response:

Bangladesh was also one of the first to ratify the *Convention on the Rights of a Child (CRC)* in 1990. We have adhered to its protocol, binding and optional alike, to prevent violence against children.

The Bangladesh Penal Code recognises the fundamental right to equality before law and provides equal protection from the law. It contains **constitutional provisions** that address violence against children and youth as listed below—

- **Article 14:** Prohibits all sorts of exploitation.
- **Article 17 & 18:** Provides compulsory education and raises the label of nutrition and improvements in health.
- **Article 28:** The state shall not be prevented from making special provisions in favour of children.
- The implementation of *Nari 'O Shishu Nirjaton Doman Act, 2000* is solely aimed for uppression of violence against women and children. This law metes out harsh punishment for those convicted for committing violent crimes like trafficking, rape and abduction. Convicted is subject to death penalty or life imprisonment.

Furthermore, several **Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)** have partnered with the state to extend legal aid to children and also provides meditation, and arbitration and litigation services, observing the situation of victims in jails or safe custody, and rescuing and repatriating victims.

Resolutions to Combat Violence Against Children and Access to Justice for Children and Youth:

The suggestions below are made with hopes to promote our agenda as well as tackle the shortcomings faced by past measures.

- **Revision of Legal Provisions** – The existing laws should be revised to incorporate all forms of violence that are yet to be included in the constitution and further specifications regarding the violences committed against children and youth. The amendments should include prohibition of violence inflicted by people with familial ties such as corporal punishment and also the convict should face penalties for the act of violence (it could be capital punishment, imprisonment or much more severe in the context of the violence committed).
- **Surveys and Studies** – The direct impacts and shortfalls of the past measures should be recorded via surveys and studies. This data will prove to be valuable in the formation of future resolutions. This could be taken every six months or annually, as the country prefers.
- **Need for Awareness** – The society should be educated in the forms of violence, physical and mental alike. This could be undertaken through awareness programmes by the government in schools, colleges, workplaces and other public forums. This would also further provide an apt chance to conduct surveys and studies to gather data on the impact of the measures of the government in responding to violence against children and youth and improve with the aid of the findings.
- **Regular Surveillance** – Rigorous monitoring should be followed to ensure the efficient functioning of measures implemented. This could include maintaining a database of cases filed in courts and such.
- **Availability and Accessibility of Counselling** – Counselling addresses the emotional, social and behavioral needs of the students. Easy and reliable availability of counselors would not only aid in a positive change of the number of violences reported but also assist in the adaptation of a child in the society after traumatic events, juvenile imprisonment and such.

Conclusion:

To sum up, violence against children and youth is a concerning problem in urgent need of response and resolutions. We, as delegates of UNICEF, should contribute towards providing access to justice for children and youth and put an end to the violences inflicted on them.