A. M. Md. Sayed, senior district & session’s judge as well as the chairman of district Legal Aid Committee (DLAC) is speaking in the inaugural session of the first batch of mediation training on 21st July 2016.

Community Mediation can contribute a lot to solve the local Problem locally—

Bogra Judge: Community Mediation (Salish) can contribute a lot to solve the local problem locally. If the activity of salish becomes strengthened and developed, people do not need to rush to the court or far away to solve their petty disputes or crimes. Thus court cases of the country will be reduced gradually. In this situation, community salish can contribute to solve the local disputes besides Village Courts and Arbitration Councils of the Union, commented by the chief guest A. M. Md. Sayed, the senior district and sessions judge as well as the chairman of district Legal Aid Committee (DLAC) in the training on “Strengthening Community Mediation” arranged by Light House on July 21, 2016. It is mentioned that till March 31, 2016 a total of 31,09,967 cases were pending in the courts in the country where as 28,97,872 cases were pending at the district level courts.

Light House under its ‘Improved Justice and Legal Aid Services’ (IJLAS) project funded by UKAID through Maxwell Stamp-PLC, organized these training programs under the Community Legal Services (CLS) Program. Under this project, a total of 270 members of the newly formed ward salish committees in the project area will be trained in a total of 10 batches gradually. The purpose of the training is to enable the members of the committees so that they can conduct the mediation properly in their area following the laws of the country. Introducing minimum appropriate documentation in the mediation process is also the objective of the training.

Inauguration of ‘Tiles Fitting’ Training Inside Prison in Bogra District Jail: The skill development training on “Tiles Fitting” for convicted prisoner was inaugurated by Mr. Tareque Kamal, Jailer of Bogra district prison on July 10, 2016. During the inauguration the Jailer welcomed all trainees and said, “This training course is very demanding and well-timed. Further, your trainer is very experienced and well known. So I hope that all trainees of this training will not be lazy and won’t hesitate to clarify their queries. The skilled trainer will train you with care. You can utilize this training skills in your national areas even in aboard.” He wished everyone to attend the training session attentively and to have its successful completion. At last he declared the inauguration of the training by cutting the red ribbon. Deputy Jailor Mr. Tariqul Islam & Mohammad Abu Saddam, Head guard of prison, and others were also present at the inauguration ceremony. On that day 25 convicted prisoners attended the ceremony and had chance to receive the training. The duration of this skill development training was 22 days. However, the orientation to the participants on project’s mission and vision were given by Shamim Ahmed, the Rehabilitation Supervisor, IRSP Project and its inauguration session was conducted by him, too.

A. M. Md. Sayed, the senior district and sessions judge as well as the chairman of district Legal Aid Committee (DLAC) inaugurated the first batch of the training at Light House conference in Bogra. While Monira Sultana, the additional police super, Md. Al-Mahmud, principal of Bogra Law College and Prodyot Vottacharjo Shangkor, news-editor of the Dainik Korotaoa were present as the honorable guests and Md. Harun-Or-Rashid, the chief Executive of Light House presided over the training.

The Chief Executive said that this training was arranged to reinforce the activities of “Community Mediation” in accordance with community policing activity. Therefore, recently we have formed “Ward Salish Committee” with the elected representatives, local Salishker and civil society members of the concern ward in the legal aid project area.

In the opening session of the training, Nicholas Biswas, the team leader of Light House spoke on legal aid services of the project and described how the project has been contributing in the community to motivate and mobilize people to avail legal aid services at their need.

Khorsheed Alam, the additional deputy commissioner (general) and S.A.M Nurunnabi, the deputy director of Local Govt. Division-Bogra were the special facilitators who discussed on the Salish from different angles and why it is important in the present situation of the country. They also emphasized on the necessity of community mediation to solve the local disputes locally.

Through this project, Light House has been working with five CLS modalities that includes Awareness building, Legal advice, Case referral, Mediation and Litigation. In addition, it works with community policing and repatriation. Light House is now working in 11 upazilas of 07 districts in Rajshahi division for ensuring access to justice of the distressed people through bringing them under legal aid coverage whatever and whenever they need.
Hopeless Shanu Turns into an Asset and Family Starts to See a New Hope:

Mr. Shanu (anonym) lives at Town Colony, Sherpur, Bogra. The economic condition of Mr. Shanu was very vulnerable prior to his arrest. Due to drug addiction and bad company he spent money for buying drugs. He did not do any productive activities but wasting his family money. Gradually his neighbors and relatives lost their hope and started to make a safe boundary around him to protect their children.

Shanu could not see any dream about his future. How would he get rid of the bad company and drug addiction and how would he manage a job? These were the questions and issues of his family. The society stopped to invite him in different social occasions. Thus he was totally isolated from his family and society. But still he continued to force his family members to give him money for buying drugs.

In this situation Shaun’s family members were totally disappointed. Even at the end, they did not feel any hesitation to hand over their son to the law forces. The mobile court punished him for six months jail against narcotics act.

After entering the prison Shanu received a motivational session conducted by Rehabilitation Supervisor of Light House for skill development training inside the prison. After being motivated he enlisted his name for ‘Electronics and house wiring’ training course inside the prison. He attended the training course for 44 days and successfully completed it. After getting released he came back to his family with a hope for starting a new life. He showed his certificate to his parents of receiving skill development training inside the prison. Seeing that they were surprised and started to see the bright future of their son. Then the negative attitude of the family members, relatives and neighbors towards him changed gradually and became very positive upon him. The family established an electronics equipment shop for him so that he can earn money and utilize his training skill. Now he earns 6,000 taka per month. His parents quoted that ‘Our son has done only one good work in his life and that is to receive a skill development training certificate. Really, we feel that the jail has showed the light to our son and our family to see the new hope. Now we are happy with him.’

Introducing 24 hours hotline service for FSW DIC:

GF/NFM- FSW intervention introduced 24 hours hotline service in July, 2016. The purpose of the hotline service is to collect suggestions, complaints which ultimately will use for the improvement of the project and to deliver quality services for ensuring client’s satisfaction. As part of communication strategy for the hotline service, the number with hotline information hanged in the all visible parts of the DIC and Sub-DICs, beside this; the outreach team ensuring dissemination of the hotline numbers towards the beneficiaries so that anyone can call and do complaints or provide suggestions if there is any.

Our mailing address is:
Head Office: Jahurulnagar, Bogra-5800, Bangladesh;
Tel: +88 051 66246
Dhaka Office: House-3 (Level-4), Road-17, Block-E, Banani, Dhaka 1213, Bangladesh
email: info@lighthousebd.org, Tel: +88 02 8836323, http://www.lighthousebd.org

Orientation on Grant Risk Assessment and Action Planning Tool (GRAM Tool):

GF/NFM-FSW team along with the Chief Executives/Project Focal person participated a day –long orientation on GRAM Tool which took place on July 24, 2016 at Save the Children Country Office, Dhaka. The tool is broadly aligned with the Global Fund Secretariat’s risk assessment and prevention and mitigation action plan. PR Save the Children is directed to run this assessment with SRs and SSRs and report back to the GF secretariat. The Objective of the orientation and GRAM Tool includes;

• Increase consistency and pro-activeness in risk management activities, including risk identification and assessment, risk prevention & mitigation, reporting and monitoring, and response and corrective action at the SR/SSR level.
• Better prioritization and focus on the most material risks and more effective strategic planning as a result of increased knowledge and understanding of these risks.
• Better support from PR and Partners on dealing with prioritized risk which will have a bearing program impact.
• Increase capacity of SR and SSR in effective grant management and
• Greater openness, transparency and accountability in decision-making.