



Youth Talk

Second Volume | December | 2022

Annual planning workshop 2022

As a part of exercising active citizenship by the adolescents and youths (A&Y), in February 2022, 180 Adolescents and Youth Clubs (AYCs) in various districts organised annual planning workshops. Based on their experiences from the previous year, A&Y created a comprehensive plan that encompasses what they could do and accomplish in the year 2022. The plan has covered a range of issues, for instances, climate change, quality education, sports, child rights, preventing gender-based violence, etc. In addition, they planned actions like planting trees, hosting yearly sports events, constructing a humanity wall, creating a bird sanctuary, installing garbage bin, planning campaigns to prevent child marriage and promote child protection, distributing supplies to disadvantaged children, etc. The idea has been finalised through a participatory debate and groupworks.

Orientation on roles & responsibilities with action plan of YLCBCPC

Youth-led Community-Based Child Protection Committees (YLCBCPCs) hosted 180 orientation sessions in 2022 to help members learn the duties and responsibilities of the committees. The main goals of the sessions were to create the committees' annual plans and have discussion on how these groups might work efficiently all year long. Additionally, since this is a prevention-focused approach, they addressed and explained the current state of child abuse in the targeted communities along with identifying the appropriate measures to be pursued.

Public service orientation for enhancing quality service for A&Y

The purpose of public service orientation with AYC members was to enhance their awareness of government social safety net services as well as other government departments' services. In 2022, through 203 sessions, 3,196 adolescent and youth were informed about public services. Most of the sessions were conducted by the relevant government officials.

Following the orientation, AYC members assisted the local government in identifying appropriate candidates for social safety net programmes and supported community members in obtaining government services. As a result, the access to and quality of services are steadily increasing, and the government's safety programme is becoming more transparent and functional.

Sports coaching for fostering habits and career

Educo considers sports as a tool for manoeuvring wellbeing as well as a means to reduce gender biases and stereotyped behaviours. Moreover, it can explore potentiality, hobby and career for individuals. Additionally, it also works as a tool for deterring drug use. In 2022, Educo in association with the partners, provided 13 Batches of training in a wide range of sports where around 420 A&Y had explored their talent in sports. Enthusiastic AYC members are screened and selected for sports coaching as the process of motivation. Coaches were hired for different sports, for instance, karate, football, volleyball, chess, and cricket for enhancing sport performance as well as mentoring the A&Y for their technical, tactical and physical development. Year round there were many sports tournaments where community participation was overwhelmingly positive and encouraging. Moreover, not only adolescents and youth are gaining organising capacity, but they are also becoming more adaptive youth.



Building confidence through life skills education



One of the key interventions of the Educo Adolescents and Youth Empowerment Programme is life skills education. In 2022, through this programme, it has reached 25,000 A&Y in nine districts of Bangladesh in collaboration with our partner organisations. This year, Educo provided life skills education refresher training where 360 A&Y enjoyed learning through a wide range of activities that fostered confidence in their ability to make wise decisions in their personal and social lives. They discussed with their peers in the AYC's on the training's content once they had gained knowledge and confidence.

The goal of this effort was to generate self-esteem in young people, which they require to make responsible decisions and take control of their own lives. The subjects addressed were core life skills, awareness on sexual and reproductive health rights, and promotion of gender equality.

Vocational and technical training for fostering quality life



Educo believes that creating skilled adolescents and youth is indispensable in this age of science and technology. It helps to improve overall quality of life. Considering this, in 2022, Educo in association with its partner organisations facilitated vocational and technical training and reached approximately 1,300 AYC members. Among them 340 A&Y have engaged in income generating activities.

ToT on importance of sanitary napkin using at tea garden community

ALOY-ALLOW project of Educo organised a Training of Trainers (ToT) on the importance of sanitary napkin use under the leadership of MSEDA (PNGO) on 24 December 2022. Total 32 adolescents and youths from four PNGOs (MSEDA, BTS, Prochesta & IDEA) participated in the training.

Upazilla Youth Development Officer, Ashim Kumar Kar was present as a special guest in the training and assured that he will provide all kinds of cooperation to youth for increasing awareness in the Tea Garden community regarding menstrual hygiene and will play an active role in removing all sorts of superstitions from the community.

Introducing window method approach for child protection in ALOY-ALLOW project

Child sexual abuse is a very carefully unspoken truth of children's lives. Window method makes the children gradually comfortable to speak out even the deepest trauma they endure. It is like opening one after another window of one's mind. Sudden opening of all windows makes one very uncomfortable with huge light which is avoided in this method. It prepares mind in one stage to reach the next.

ALOY-ALLOW project organised training for the A&Y club members on Child Rights and Window Method Approach for Child Protection from 07-09 November 2022. Total 32 youth & adolescent club members and 4 project officers of four partners have participated in the training programme.

The training programme assisted to empower them with life skills, child development, child rights, especially child sexual abuse and enhanced their skills to protect themselves. Moreover, it also helped each youth & adolescent club member to conduct the designed session at community.

Green plantation campaign

'Only One Earth', being in line with this theme, Educo Bangladesh organised tree plantation campaign to mark World Environment Day 2022. The campaign titled 'Green Plantation Campaign' aimed to contribute to the ecological transition and to engage the young generation in climate change adaptation actions through better understanding and addressing climate concerns. With the support of Educo's partner organisations, members of 222 Adolescent and Youth Clubs (AYC) planted 50,550 saplings in 10 districts of Bangladesh. The AYC is ensuring proper growth and maintenance of these saplings with the support of our partner organisations.



Grow green to protect the planet (G2P) project for youth empowerment



Educo, in partnership with SDS, NSS, and Uttaran implemented various environmental protection and adaptation activities in Satkhira, Barguna, and Shariatpur as part of the Grow Green to Protect the Planet (G2P) project.

A group of 30 youths were formed in each project area to lead the project. Under the G2P project, youth group members received orientation and technical training on how to deal with the effects of climate change. After receiving the training, they identified risks, and developed risk reduction action plans with the consultation of the stakeholders.

Additionally, being responsible to protect the environment for the future, the youth groups organized various activities and started

using eco-friendly products. Apart from that, the community people also started to dispose off waste materials in specific points instead of throwing those in a scattered way. Through these efforts, three villages are gradually becoming eco-friendly in three districts of Bangladesh. The A&Y groups are successfully making their families, friends, and the community more aware of the adverse effects of climate change. Besides, they are exchanging ideas with youth from other areas who are working on climate change issues.

For the sustainability of the environment friendly interventions, the A&Y groups have also engaged the local governments in their actions.

National youth day 2022

Adolescent and youth development programmes of Educo and its partners, ESDO, Nari Maitree, SACHETAN SOCIETY, POPI, SDS, and NSS, marked National Youth Day on 1 November 2022, in six districts. Numerous activities were organised to observe the day aligning with the theme of 2022 “Self-employed youth force, foundation of the sustainable development”.

Rallies, discussion sessions, debates and essay competitions, wall painting at the community centre were organised under the leadership of youth groups from Dhaka, Thakurgaon, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Borguna, and Shariatpur. Around 1,500 adolescents and youth participated in the programmes including 14% indigenous A&Y, along with parents, teachers, community members, panchayet committee members, upazila nirbahi officers, upazila vice chairs, and municipal councilors.



Football tournament for creating team building capacity of tea garden youth's

Educo, in collaboration with partner organisations organised the youth football tournament at ALOY-ALLOW project to help each participant develop their football playing to their fullest potential as well as develop high ideals of sporting, fair play, cooperation, self-control, courage, discipline, and respect for authority. In the leadership of partner organisation MSED, adolescent & youth aged 11-24 from 32 youth clubs from MSED, BTS, IDEA & Prochesta participated in the tournament. A total of 480 A&Y from MSED, BTS, IDEA & Prochesta participated in the tournament.

As part of international youth day celebration and awareness campaign in Sreemangal & Komolganj, the football tournament was organised to connect underprivileged A&Y, government and non-government duty-bearers and to share their thoughts and views on the ways to engage and empower the youth.

All AYC football teams demonstrated competitive football tournament that was highly appreciated by the audiences. Around 4,500 community people enjoyed the final match at the playground. Miringa adolescent and youth club of Prochesta won in the final match.





Adolescents and youth club observed 16 days of activism against gender-based violence

Every year, Educo's adolescents and youth clubs observe **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence**, which commences on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and ends on 10 December, International Human Rights Day, signifies that violence against women is the most pervasive form of violence against human rights worldwide.

This year's theme is **UNiTE! Activism to End Violence Against Women and Girls**. As part of the campaign, partners in association with AYC members, supported by Educo, organised a series of activities, including discussion sessions, rallies, street dramas, leaflet distributions, local song (Gomvira) programmes, debate competitions, wall magazines, football tournaments, video shows, human chains etc. to place the demand on the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls. Since we believe that it is a crucial call for action to increase awareness, stimulate evidence-based advocacy efforts, and share knowledge and innovations to end this crime against humanity, we are working with the youth power and placing their voice in bigger platform.

Youth conference offered a platform for opportunities of cross-learning

Seven partners of Educo, ESDO, Nari Maitree, SDS, NSS, Saint Bangladesh, SACHETAN SOCIETY, POPI, organised Youth Conference 2022 in association with Educo Bangladesh during December 2022, which featured wide ranges of exciting programmes including debates, rallies, sports tournaments, dialogues with duty bearers, awareness focused flash mobs, short dramas, wall magazines, activity displays in stalls and cultural shows.

The key objective of these conferences was to provide A&Y a platform to voice their concerns and to initiate local-level advocacy efforts to advance their rights and empowerment. These district-level youth conference were held in seven districts in which around 1,500 adolescents and youth got opportunities for cross-learning.



Campaigns on preventing child marriage & child labour in Rohingya and host communities at Cox's Bazar



Six awareness raising campaigns based on child rights led by- adolescent and youth, on 'preventing child marriage and child labour' were organised at camp 8E, camp 14, camp 17 and host community with the support of Educo Bangladesh in 2022. The campaigns were focused on elimination of child marriage, and worst form of child labour, and focused on raising mass awareness and commemorating the 'Child Rights Week-2022'. A total of 1,200 adolescents and youth, teachers, parents, community people including government representatives took part in the campaigns. They expressed their feelings and thoughts about these issues. The day-long campaigns included hand painting activities, art competitions, street dramas, and an award giving ceremony. The campaigns created a positive vibe to prevent child marriage and child labour in the Refugee camps & host communities of Ukhiya.

Capacity building of adolescent girls & boys for self-resilience

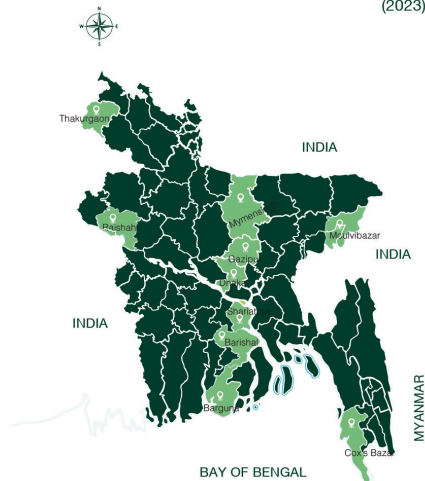
Educo offered capacity building training for teenage boys and girls on child protection issues and concerns as well as gender-based violence prevention. The capacity building training reached a total of 1,100 adolescent girls and boys in camp 8E, 14 & 17 and host community. Through the capacity building training, the girls and boys received knowledge on gender equality, children rights, women & girls' empowerment, and how to report on sexual harassment and gender-based violence. Adolescents discussed their experiences and solutions to difficulties during the course.

Adolescent boys and girls are now more spontaneous in detecting risks and challenges, raising their voice, and reporting their problems to the appropriate persons and organisations after completing the capacity building programme.



Adolescents and Youth Empowerment Programme

OUR INTERVENTION AREAS (2023)



12-24 years
Adolescents and Youth



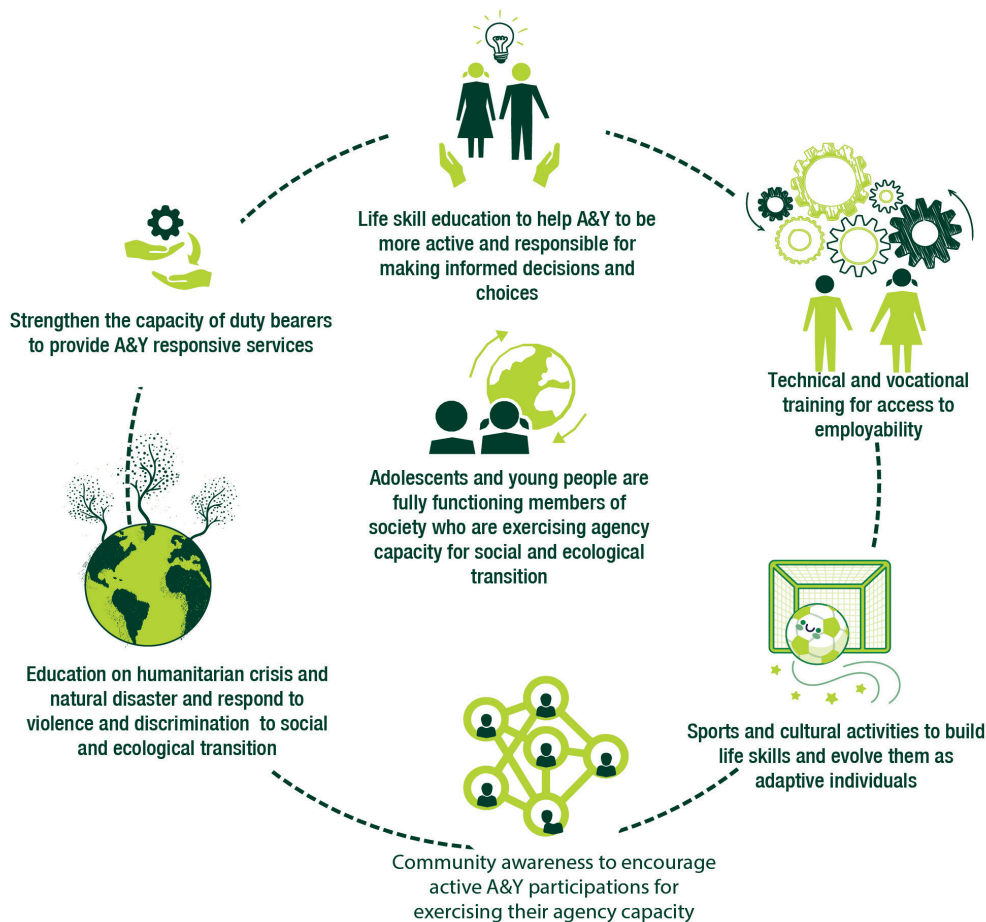
320 Adolescents
and Youth Club



Reached 33,000
adolescents and youth



180 Resource centres



Educo

Bangladesh

Level 03, House # 30, CWN (A)
Road# 42-43, Gulshan -2
Dhaka-1212
Bangladesh
Tel: +880 2 41 080 858- 59

www.educo.org

Adviser: Farzana Khan

Editor and Designer: Sadia Karim

Acknowledgement: Farhana Khan Pushpa
Khadiza Tul Qubra Binte Ahsan

Contributors: Rafeza Akter
Aminul Islam
Tahmina Akter
Md. Kabir Hossen
Sharaban Tahura

Project Implementing Partners:

Breaking the Silence (BTS)
Eco-Social Development Organization (ESDO)
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