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National News

Bangladeshi youths are highly moral, finds a TIB study

In spite of having a highly moralistic concept of integrity, some Bangladeshi youth would still resort to unfair means. A TIB study titled National Youth Integrity Survey 2015 found that 98 percent youth ascertain “lack of integrity” as an enormous problem and detrimental to country’s economic and overall development. Also, some 92 percent think that being honest is more important than being rich, while about 68 percent respondents said honest people have a greater possibility to succeed in life than a dishonest people, whereas 32 percent respondents found positive correlation in between corruption and success. On the other hand, a significant portion of surveyed youth admitted that they would like to participate in corrupt acts for their personal gain. For instance, for getting a good grade in a vital job (around 32%), for collecting official documents, permits, license (around 32%), for getting entrance to a good school or a renowned company (around 42%), and most alarmingly to get a dream job (around 49%) a section of the youth are willing to compromise with the principles of integrity. The finding of the study was released through a press conference at TIB office in the capital on 30 June. TIB programme managers (Research and Policy) Manzoor-E-Khoda and Shammi Laila Islam jointly presented the study findings. TIB Trustee Board Chairperson Sultana Kamal and TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman also spoke on the occasion. TIB conducted this survey among 3,656 respondents of which 58% were from rural and 42% from urban areas of 31 districts in the country. These districts were chosen randomly out of 64 and in the second stage 461 mouzas (the lowest administrative unit having a separate jurisdiction list number in revenue records) were selected through random sampling from these districts, proportionate to population density. From each mouza eight (8) households were selected for interviewing target population. In this survey, the age group of 15

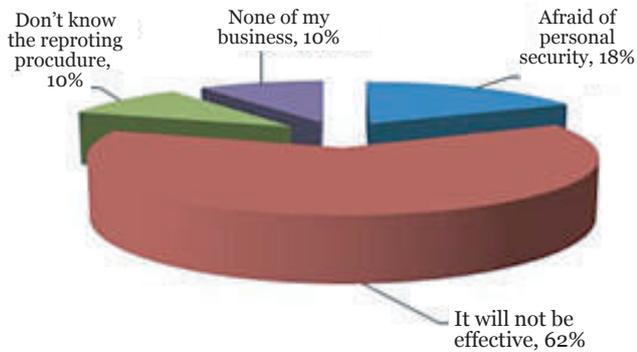
to 30 years was considered as youth to maintain the similarities with other countries where this survey has been conducted. However for the purpose of comparison, the survey also included respondents from above-30 age groups.

As such, about one-thirds of the sample (1,237 or 33.8%) was drawn from the latter category (above-30 age group) and the rest (2,419 or 66.2%) was from 18-30 years age group. A structured questionnaire prepared by Transparency International was applied to collect the information. The survey was conducted between 22 April and 7 May 2015.

Among the youth, 67% respondents are male and 33% are female, with an average age of 22 years. 5% of them are illiterate or can sign only, 8% have formal primary education and the rest 87% of them have secondary education or above. 50% of the youth are students and 5% are jobless. A significant share of youth had experienced corruption in last 12 months while accessing six different regular public services, the study revealed. On an average around 21% of youth experienced corruption in different services. Among them 29% in getting license, permit or clearance, 29% to get rid of police harassments, 25% to get health care from government health facilities, 20% to get a job, 18% to get admission in school or educational institution, and another 17% to get more business experienced different forms of corruption.

The survey also found that that the trust of youth on public service is fairly low. 86% of youth have negative impression about the level of integrity in politics, followed by law enforcing agencies (66%), land administration (65%) and judicial services (57%). In contrast, 86% of youth have positive impression about the level of integrity in private business sector, followed by private education (81%), government education (80%) and private health services (77%).

According to the survey results, 82% of youth believed that they can play an important role in integrity-building and the fight against corruption through advocacy and changing attitudes. Moreover, 80% of youth surveyed would like to blow the whistle on corruption. Around 38% of youth have received an education or followed a specific programme about integrity or anti-corruption. However, around 89% of youth said that they have no or very little information and knowledge of anti-corruption laws and regulations. Survey finding also indicates that family and friends mostly influenced youth in building their views, concept and perception on integrity.



Reasons for not reporting corruption

The study proposed six recommendations, among which included were, developing an effective implementation strategy for promoting integrity among youth and inclusion of the role of youth in establishing integrity and preventing corruption in the National Integrity Strategy. Effective implementation of the existing integrity and anti-corruption related texts in the national curriculum, stopping the culture of impunity, and initiating coordinated programmes and mass awareness campaigns involving all stakeholders to encourage and motivate youth towards integrity were also recommended.

TIB demands transparency, openness and accountability in the upcoming national budget for FY 2015-16

TIB sent a letter to the Finance Minister requesting to ensure transparency, openness and accountability in the national budget for the fiscal year 2015-16. Reminding that good governance and combating corruption have been put as central agenda in the government's Vision 2021, the Sixth Five-Year Plan, the National Integrity Strategy and election pledges, TIB emphasized on optimum use of public money by being economical, efficient and effective in the utilization of budgetary allocation to achieve desired goals of the budget. TIB also underscored that without bringing transparency, accountability and integrity in the budget process, it is not be possible to ensure sustainable economic development.

The dream of becoming a middle-income country bypassing principles such democratic accountability, elimination of discrimination and basic human rights may be possible for the short-term, however, in terms of sustainability such dream may turn out to be a 'day-dream in the long run, TIB observed.

Placing the 11-point budget recommendations through a statement, TIB's Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said it is imperative that the national budget is consistent with the structure of government policies through effective and transparent formulation and implementation of budget.

The recommendation includes release of all budget information specially budget allocation in defence sector, abolishing provision of whitening black money, strengthening of inter-agency collaboration to recover stolen assets from abroad and discourage block allocation in the budget. It also recommended giving priority to allocation in social safety-net programmes and projects, disclosure of wealth statements of prime minister and members of the cabinet, advisers, MPs, justice, high-level government officials and politicians and update those regularly. It also recommended for introducing an integrated online supervision system to monitor the government procurement process, revenue collection and project activities regarding budget.

Cartoon Exhibition, Game Show programme held in East West University

As part of its Youth Engagement and Support (YES) programme of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), East West University YES Group organised Anti-Corruption Cartoon Exhibition, Game Show and open call for YES membership campaign in their campus on 14-15 June, 2015. On the eve of the programme, Vice-Chancellor of East West University Mr. Ahmed Shafi opened the Cartoon exhibition with the presence of YES group moderator of the university Engr. Kamrul Hassan and TIB officials. The two day long cartoon exhibition has over 2500 expatiators and almost 450 took part on the Anti-corruption Game.

The objective of this exhibition and game show is to create greater awareness and motivation among the young generation to SAY NO TO CORRUPTION. It also gives participants an opportunity to communicate their understanding about corruption and raising voice against this menace.

Dhaka YES-1 organized an orientation programme on BIBEC project

On 30 June Dhaka YES-1 organized an orientation programme on BIBEC project. Nadira Sultana, Manager-Training presented a power point presentation in front of the YES members. After her presentation an open discussion was held. YES members discussed their concerns in that session. Through this orientation programme YES members would be able to understand the objective of the project BIBEC and the result oriented tasks of TIB and YES.

Youth wants to monitor climate fund projects in local level

“I was not aware about the climate change and it’s impact in our daily life as well as livelihood. Though we are facing different problem caused by climate change but I could not identify why this is happening. Not only that I don’t have any idea about adaptation and mitigation initiatives taken by the Government of Bangladesh as well as International Community for the climate vulnerable people of Bangladesh.



But now I have come to know about different projects of Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCT) and Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund (BCCRF) and its objectives from the orientation. I have also come to know about the misuse of climate fund in different ways in national and international level. So as a concern citizen of the country, from now I would like to promise to play a watchdog role during the implantation of climate funded projects in our area” Said a YES member during the orientation on Climate Finance Governance at the CCC, Rajshahi.

With a objectives to aware and involve the CCCC members, SWAJAN, YES and YES friends in monitoring the climate fund project implementation activities in local level, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has been organizing a series of orientation program in different CCC areas across the country. Following the activities two orientation programs has been organized at Dinajpur and Rajshahi CCCs on 14 and 16 June 2015 respectively. More than 200 participants were present at the orientation programs where they also shared their opinion and experience on the issue of climate finance governance.

CCC News

Hospital Authority committed to resolve the services related problems

The authority of 250 bed Patuakhali General Hospital has recently assured that they will take necessary initiatives to solve the service related problems of the hospital. The Hospital Supervisor (in-charge) Dr. Md. Ziaul Karim expressed such commitment in an opinion sharing meeting jointly organized by CCC, Patuakhali and the Hospital Authority on 16 June 2015. The hospital authority, doctors and service recipients were participated in the meeting while CCC President Md. Abdur Rob Akon presided over the meeting.

The participants of the meeting were raised different service related issues which includes cleanliness of the hospital; availability of sufficient medicine; drinking water and food for patients; preventing undue payments in emergency department and separate counters for male and female in the outdoor services etc. The hospital authority assured to solve the stated problems mentioning some of their limitations. Pijush Kanti Hari, convener of the sub-committee on health, delivered the welcome speech in the meeting.

The School authority commits to ensure transparency and accountability in primary education

The SMC Presidents and Headmasters of 87 primary schools of Jamalpur district made a commitment to ensure congenial environment for quality education in their institutions in a coordination meeting held on 9 June 2015 at Jamalpur Law College auditorium. District Primary Education Office, Upazilla Education Office of Jamalpur Sadar and CCC, Jamalpur jointly organized the meeting titled ‘Ensuring Transparency and Accountability in primary education and coordination of service delivery mechanism’.

Masuda Akter, Vice President of CCC, presided over the program while District Primary Education Officer Md. Abdul Alim was the chief guest and Upazila Education Officer of Sadar Upazila was the special guest in this program. CCC member Prof. Abdul Hai presented a thematic key note paper and the Convener of Sub-Committee of CCC on education Prof. Ansar Ali delivered welcome speech in this program.

Participants of the meeting were discussed about awareness raising campaign for SMC Presidents and Headmasters; citizen's access to information of the Upazilla Education Office and Govt. Primary schools; initiatives to ensure transparency in stipend distribution process, initiatives for increasing attendance rate of students etc. The meeting also recommended to give more attention for the development of the rural level schools and special initiatives for decreasing dropout rate at primary education.

Habilasdip Union Parishad authority made their budget in public

The Habilasdip Union Parishad authority has declared their budget to the citizens and stated that they will accomplish their incomplete tasks by the Fiscal Year 2015-16. The UP chairman Md. Shafiqul Islam has assured it in a Open Budget Session held on 30 June 2015. In collaboration with CCC, Patiya, the Union Parishad authority organized the session along with a Face the Public program. The Chairman of Patiya Upazilla Parishad Prof. Muzaffar Ahmad Chowdhury was present in the event as a chief guest. The Chief Guest has given a commitment to allocate 11 lakhs taka to the Union Parishad to accomplish its incomplete works.

As a part of the event the Chairman of the Union Parishad answered various service related questions raised by local citizens. Besides, CCC members, UP members and Secretary, TIB representative and local citizens were also taken part in the discussion.

SIDA representatives impressed on CCC activities

The representatives from Swedish International Development Cooperation (SIDA), development partner of TIB, visited the CCC, Rangamati on 16 June 2015 and expressed their satisfaction on CCC activities. In that visit, the SIDA team consisted of two members named Maja Edfast and Mia Helen participated in a meeting with a group of mothers of the students of Jhagrabil Govt. Primary School to assess the progress of CCC's activities. They also met with the members CCC, Swajan, YES and YES Friends Group in a separate meeting in order to learn and assess their activities. They asked different questions regarding the present situation of land administration and the results of CCC's interventions at local level selected institutions on local government, education and health.

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