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Social movement against corruption

Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCC) Youth Engagement & Support (YES)



Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB)
MIDAS Centre (Level 4 & 5)

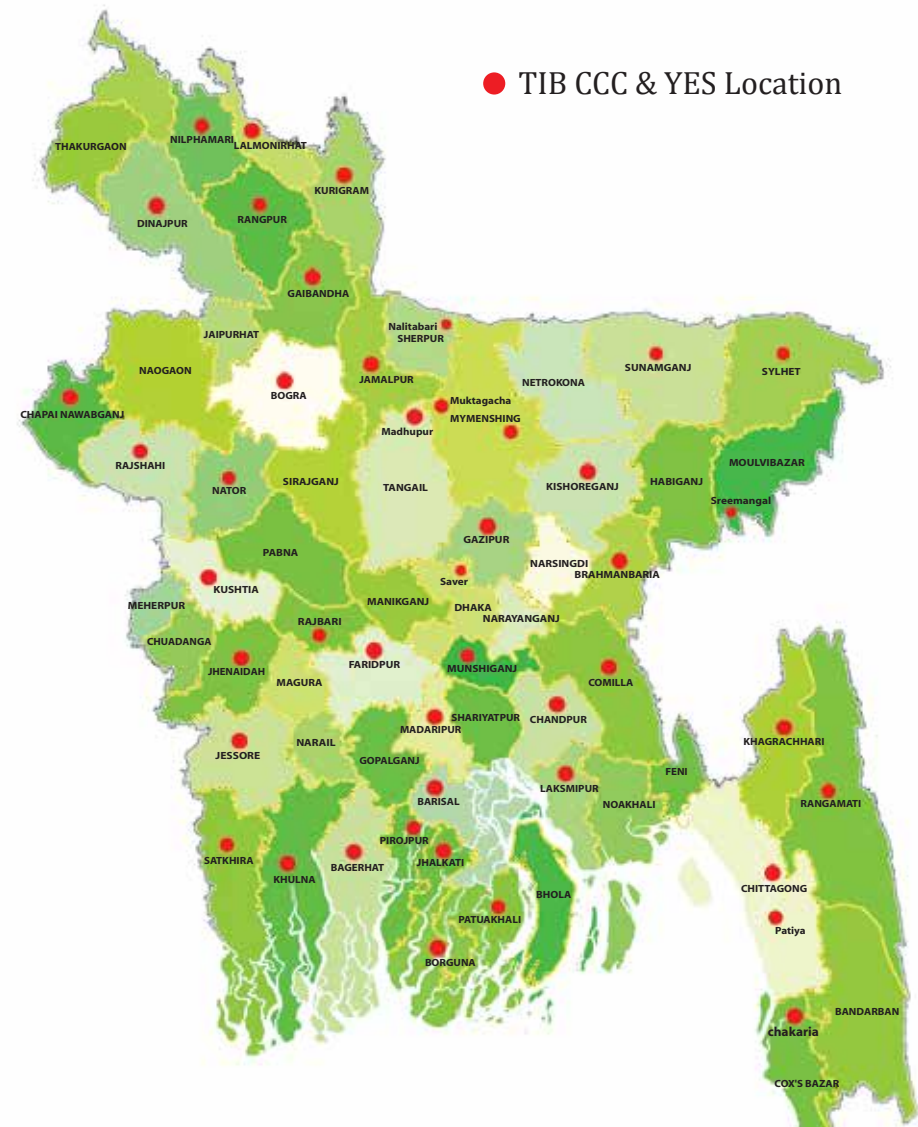
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Anti-corruption activists representing the Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCCs) and the Youth Engagement and Support (YES) are the key pillars and prime movers respectively of the social movement against corruption spearheaded by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB).



● TIB CCC & YES Location

Growth | 2001-04: 6 pilot groups of CCC
 2004-09: 36 groups of CCC-YES
 2009-15: 45 CCCs, 59 YES groups

Supplementary Stakeholders | Swajan, YES Friends, YPAC, TIB Members

Total number of the directly engaged | 5998 (October 2015)

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) is the accredited national chapter in Bangladesh of the Berlin-based Transparency International, a global civil society organisation leading the fight against corruption. TIB began its activities in 1996 with a vision of Bangladesh in which government, politics, business, civil society and the daily lives of the citizens shall be free from corruption.

Unique in the TI family of hundred-plus chapters all over the world, TIB has created a strong footing of the anti-corruption constituency of public engagement through the Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCC) and Youth Engagement and Support (YES).

The key focus of the movement is on contributing to strengthening of institutions, laws and practices and establishing an efficient and transparent system of governance, politics and business. TIB's research, dissemination, campaign, advocacy initiatives are geared to policy and institutional changes for controlling corruption, and thereby contribute towards reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development.

WORKING NATIONALLY AND LOCALLY

TIB's activities are implemented at two levels - national and local - through processes of civic engagement, research and advocacy. At the national level its work is designed to bring the issue of corruption into sharper focus of public discourse and contribute to the strengthening the pillars of democracy and National Integrity System.



Participants of Mother's Gathering

At the local level, TIB has established a network of 45 CCCs at district and upazila levels in seven divisions. The total number of YES groups is 59 (45 CCC-based groups and 14 institution-centric groups created in and around the capital). The YES movement consists of young people – mainly college and university students.

Each CCC consists of 9-21 members while each YES group consists of 15-51 young members. By October 2015 the total number of these anti-corruption activists engaged with TIB on a fully voluntary basis including the CCC members, YES members, YES Friends, Swajan (Citizens for Transparency), YPAC members and members of Advisory Committee of CCCs has reached 5170. This is a social movement driven by volunteers who challenge the notion that corruption could be a way of life.

CATALYZING CHANGE

TIB's activities have had significant direct and indirect impacts of two main types –institutional, legal and policy reforms to promote integrity and good governance, and improvement in the content and quality of key public services at the service delivery level, especially in education, health, local government, land and climate finance. Later, the CCC-YES have played the most crucial role at the local level.

TIB is now identified as being synonymous with tackling corruption in Bangladesh and through its work, anti-corruption is now part of the public discourse and central to the public policy agenda. Primarily due to TIB and the active participation of CCC-YES, control of corruption has become one of the key demands by the people of Bangladesh who have raised their voice loud and clear in the form of a national consensus in the context of the election to the Tenth Parliament.

TIB has catalyzed or has been involved in key institutional and policy changes, the most notable of which are: setting up and reform of the Anti-Corruption Commission and since 2009, it has relentlessly campaigning for effective implementation of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act and ensuring the independence of the ACC; Bangladesh's ratification of the UN Convention against

Corruption; reform of the Public Service Commission, Bangladesh Passport and Immigration Office, and Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA); reform of the electoral rules and the Election Commission; advocacy for making Parliament effective; and adoption of the Right to Information Act and Whistleblower Protection Act. It also contributed in catalyzing improvements in the functioning of Chittagong Port and automation of the Chittagong Customs House; actions taken by National Board of Revenue (NBR) to free the Custom House from the middlemen known as 'Faltu' or 'Badi Alam' and ensure its efficiency; inclusion of anti-corruption education in secondary and higher secondary text books; integrity in the public procurement system; campaign



Mother's Gathering creates an opportunity to ensure transparency & accountability of SMCs

for transparency, integrity and accountability in the education, health and local government services, empowerment of the local government; integrity in the water sector; strengthening of the Information Commission and National Human Rights Commission. TIB also actively contributed to the drafting of the national integrity strategy and draft a private Member's Bill on Code of Conduct of Members of the Parliament. Through project tracking under Climate Finance Governance Project, TIB also unearthed real stories of mal-adaptations such as construction of Bangladesh

Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF) funded cyclone resilient housing without surrounding walls and sanitation facilities. It also revealed that ecological damages were ignored in the construction of embankments with BCCTF. Much of these policy changes have been made possible due to collective voice raised through various campaigns and advocacy work of engagement with stakeholders and champions with and outside the Government and emboldened by public support generated by orchestrated campaigns at the CCC-YES level.

ENGAGING CITIZENS FOR VOICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

As a part of social movement, TIB applies tools and processes through which citizens can raise their opposition to corruption. In addition to various public awareness initiatives and a tool for participatory accountability at the level of service delivery known as Integrity Pledge. It is composite package consisting of various social accountability tools like Citizens Report Card (CRC), Face the Public (FtP), Open Budget, Budget Tracking, Advice and Information Desks (AI-Desks), Street Theatres and other cultural method used to mobilise citizens against corruption. Working in specific fields of delivery of public services like health, education and local government, it has demonstrated that real changes are achievable in hospitals, schools, unions and municipalities. Under its new project 'Building Integrity Blocks for Effective Change -BIBEC', in addition to health, education and local government, TIB is also working on integrity issues in the land sector and climate finance governance.

In the process, TIB nurtures and depends a lot on the social conscience of the young people and provides them with a way of raising voices against corruption and engaging in voluntary work to catalyze visible and measurable results of improving transparency and accountability affecting daily lives of the citizens. The YES activities are engaged in improving the access of the poor and disadvantaged to the basic public services without harassment and unauthorised payments.

BIBEC

TIB's new project 'Building Integrity Blocks for Effective Change-BIBEC' (October 2015- September 2019) concentrates on building and strengthening a series of mutually supportive and reinforcing integrity blocks to effectively reduce corruption. 'Blocks' here imply the key institutions, policy/law, education, training, ethics



Face the Public - another social accountability tool of TIB

and values, and above all, the people of the country. BIBEC's goal is to promote a more enabling environment for reducing corruption with twin objectives of (a) advocating for reforms in laws, policies, processes, practices, and oversight for improving governance in targeted institutions and sectors and (b) generating peoples' demand for good governance and strengthening citizens' capacity to challenge corruption. To achieve this goal, TIB adopted three-pronged strategies: 1) conduct research to generate knowledge on corruption and necessary reforms in selected sectors and institutions; 2) advocate and communicate with stakeholders to catalyze change in conduct and practice and 3) build capacity of stakeholders for effective engagement against corruption.

TIB embarked on a new five-year strategic phase through BIBEC from October 2014 after successfully completing its *Paribartan-Driving Change* (PDC) Project which began in April

2009. Both these projects received full support from the Governments of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Kingdom of Sweden, Switzerland and the Kingdom of Denmark, respectively represented by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the Embassy of Sweden, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Embassy of Denmark (EOD)/DANIDA. This consortium of development partners has made a combined commitment of USD 29.6 million to support BIBEC objectives.

INTRODUCING CCC - YES

The CCCs are groups of citizens with high degree of credibility, integrity, social acceptability, courage, and leadership capacity to inform, motivate and mobilize citizens in various activities for curbing and preventing corruption and promoting good governance. Members of the CCCs are committed to values, vision, mission and Code of Ethics of TIB. They work on a fully voluntary and non-partisan basis.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the CCCs and YES are to:

- ❑ Raise awareness and generate public opinion against corruption, build up and provide leadership to the anti-corruption movement at the local level;



YES members helping patients through AI-Desk at Hospital premises

- ❑ Ensure active and widest possible participation of citizens, including the youth, in the social movement against corruption;
- ❑ Measure, assess and monitor corruption in the process of service delivery by public, private and other service sectors and/or institutions;
- ❑ Undertake various campaign and advocacy initiatives in selected local level service delivery institutions, particularly in health, education, land, climate finance and local government sectors, to improve service quality and reduce the scope of corruption;
- ❑ Inspire service providing institutions to become 'Islands of Integrity', and
- ❑ Strengthen the base and scope of sustainability of anti-corruption movement.

PROGRAMMES

Awareness and Demand Raising

CCC-YES undertake various awareness and demand generating activities on implications of corruption and deficit of good governance, especially in sectors which affect the daily lives of the general masses most adversely, like education, healthcare, local government, climate finance, land administration, and law enforcement agencies.

Measuring and Curbing Corruption

With the help of surveys and 'Report Cards' on selected sectors or institutions of public service, that assess the nature, extent and implications of corruption, the findings as tools for informed campaigns against corruption engaging are used as various stakeholders particularly the service delivery authorities.

Monitoring and Advocacy

Organise various monitoring and advocacy initiatives – workshops, roundtables, meetings, rallies and human chain, press briefings and conferences, etc. - involving relevant officials, institutions and concerned citizens with the objective of reducing corruption, improving the quality of services and promoting accountable and efficient governance.

Face the Public

They also organise specific programmes in which common citizens have an opportunity to meet the public representatives and officials to discuss selected matters of public interest. Thanks to face to face questions and answers method these 'Face the Public' events are effective means of ensuring accountability of officials and public representatives to the members of the public.

Sensitizing the Youth

CCC-YES also undertake various programmes to inform and sensitize the young generation about ill effects of corruption so these future leaders start to reject corruption and prepare themselves to be capable of rejecting and fighting corruption.

Catalyzing Islands of Integrity

They also carry out motivation campaigns for establishing accountability, transparency and good governance in various public and private service providing organisations. Attempts are made to transform selected institutions as 'Islands of Integrity' through sustained efforts of monitoring and participation for management excellence so that other organisations in similar nature are motivated to follow suit.

Access to Information

The social mobilization work of YES is reinforced by satellite AI-desks which are forums for simultaneously receiving reports/complaints of corruption, educating the public at the local levels on their rights, entitlements and duties in challenging corruption, providing effective channels for dialogue and feedback on corruption cases, and establishing working partnerships with relevant government institutions involved in the fight against corruption. A new initiative, CCC office- based ALAC (Advocacy and Legal Advice Centers) is being piloted in 9 CCC clusters under BIBEC project. ALAC will receive complaints of corruption from victims and witnesses of corruption, scrutinize the complaints and render assistance and advice on the basis of merit. Key activities would include the receipt of complaints in person or by phone calls, reaching out to affected communities, ensuring confidentiality, providing advice on how to seek redress including,

where appropriate, making referrals to other legal support groups.

Using Cultural Media

Involving the youth, especially students, YES organises various cultural events such as street theatre, folk songs, rallies, essay and debate competitions, with anti-corruption theme.

Others

Various national and international days of importance throughout the year including the International Anti-Corruption Day are also observed by CCC-YES with an underlying effort to relate the spirit of every such occasion with the importance of fighting corruption and promoting accountable governance.

Regular CCC-YES Conventions (national as well as cluster-wise) are also organised to motivate peer learning.

PROCESS OF CCC FORMATION

- Primary selection of possible areas in a geographical cluster and field investigation on the feasibility of forming Committees in each of those areas.
- In selecting areas for CCC priority is given to district/divisional levels. However, depending on specific circumstances committees are also formed at the sub-district level.
- After selection of areas, a long list of potential CCC members with all relevant information is prepared through intensive field work;
- After rigorous checking and cross-checking of credentials, antecedents, reputation, acceptability and credibility, a shorter list is created by a process of elimination under selected criteria. Provisional selection of an Advisory Committee then takes place who are extensively consulted by investigating team for preparation of a final list, of CCC members from the shorter list, which is in turn finalized at the first meeting of the Advisory Committee. The CCC is formed in this meeting;
- At this meeting of advisors joined by members of the final list signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between

the CCC and TIB takes place including the consent to adopt the CCC Manual;

- President of the CCC, Vice Presidents and sub-committees are formed at the same meeting. Members take anti-corruption oath, and sign a pledge to uphold TIB Code of Ethics.
- Implementation of the CCC activities starts, as part of which, in addition to implementation of plan of work drawn by themselves, regular monthly meetings are held to mobilize various activities. TIB also provides a series of trainings and orientation throughout the year on organisational as well as thematic issues.

STRUCTURE OF CCCs

Advisory Committee

Comprising of senior and eminent citizens, an Advisory Committee is formed to provide guidance and advice to the main CCC. There are usually at least 3 and up to 7 members in the Advisory Committee, selected under the same criterion as that of CCC membership.

The Advisory Committee provides overall guidance and support to the CCC, and advises on policy directions and programmatic priorities. It meets at least once every three months. The proposals and advice of the Advisory Committee are taken into consideration by the CCC. Advisors are also invited to attend CCC-YES meetings and Conventions.

Committees of Concerned Citizens

The main Committee of Concerned Citizens, equivalent to an executive committee, provides leadership and participates actively in devising strategies, preparing plans, budget and implementing programmes of the CCC. Once a CCC is formed, this committee takes over all responsibilities and determines its own programmatic priorities, in which TIB provides only technical and financial support.

The number of members in CCC is usually 9 and up to 21 and one-third of total members are required to be women. The committee consists of members of various professional groups and

reflects best achievable diversity in terms of gender and other markers of identity.

A President is elected among the members, who is acceptable to all, possesses leadership qualities, and is enthusiastic to give necessary time and effort. The tenure of the President is four terms of four years each provided that at the end of every year members shall review the work of the President and renew his/her tenure, or hold re-election, if necessary. Two Vice-Presidents are elected, one of whom must be woman.

Sub-committees

The CCC constitutes various issue-based sub-committees comprising of 3 to 5 members. The sub-committees would have a Convener who should also be a member of the CCC. The members of the sub-committee should have qualifications similar to the CCC members. The CCC determines the terms of reference and tenure of the sub-committee.

In each CCC there is a Gender Sub-committee striving to promote women participation and sensitization of gender in CCC activities. Other sub-committees include health, education, local government, land, YES, climate finance governance, procurement, finance, AI-Desk and cultural affairs.

YES Groups

Attached with CCCs, are youth groups called Youth Engagement and Support (YES) Organised with the objective of sensitizing and engaging the young generation in the anti- corruption movement and developing virtues of good citizenry - honesty, integrity, ethics, patriotism and social responsibility.

YES members are usually in the age group of 15-25. By undertaking various activities complementing the above-mentioned activities of CCCs, these youngsters learn core values of volunteerism and prepare themselves as future leaders of anti-corruption social movement.

By their creative, vibrant and innovative efforts they have also been emerging agents of current change. They also develop the commitment, courage and leadership qualities needed to expand

and strengthen the anti-corruption constituency.

Major activities of TIB YES groups are-

- ❑ Conduct awareness and motivational campaigns to strengthen the anti-corruption constituency at the respective area of CCC or the affiliating institution;
- ❑ Identify corruption and irregularities in selected institutions in education, health, local government, land and CFG and take part in collecting information and conducting research/report card surveys;
- ❑ Take part together with CCCs, in different initiatives to campaign for accountable and transparent governance;
- ❑ Organise and take part in various nation-wide activities organised by TIB such as national and regional conventions and campaigns, essay, debate and cartoon competition, rallies, seminars, etc.;
- ❑ Organise study circles and peer-learning discussion sessions on issues related to corruption and governance;



CCC Munshiganj brought out a rally to mark International Right to Know day 2014

- ❑ Organise and take part in various cultural programmes focusing on themes of anti-corruption movement.
- ❑ Observe national and international days of importance including annual international anti-corruption day;

- ▣ Organise and conduct the AI-Desk campaigns including mobile (satellite) services; information disclosure services particularly aimed at enforcement of the Right to Information Act, strengthening the demand side of disclosure and openness by organising various appropriate activities such as Information Fairs, training for information seeking, etc., and
- ▣ Write anti-corruption articles, stories and features in their own magazines as well as local and national newspapers;

Anti-corruption Street/People's Theatre

Often merged with YES groups, street theatre groups are a part of special efforts to use the cultural media to sensitize people at large, especially the young generation in particular, about the ill effects of corruption and motivate them in taking active part in the anti-corruption movement. The theatre activists of YES volunteers who are given training in writing, directing and performing in tailor-made theatres. Working hand in hand with YES and YES Friends groups, theatre groups stage anti-corruption cultural events in various places of CCC on a regular basis.

Advice and Information Desks

YES members are the lifeline of access to information campaign in respective CCC areas. Information is the key to creating awareness and preparing the citizens to resist corruption and preventing themselves from falling victims of corruption, hence TIB has set up the Advice and Information Desks (AI-Desks) attached to the CCCs. AI-Desks are essentially sources of information and guidance to citizens at the local level about issues of corruption and ways to confront the same including referral services with partner Organisations. Members of the public are provided access to basic information and advice on key areas of public service and their rights and duties through thematically Organised user-friendly fact sheets. Legal advice and referral service are also available in some cases. The information and advice can be obtained through personal visits to the AI-Desk in the concerned CCC or via phone calls, letters and in some cases emails. All services are provided free of cost.

MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

A CCC member should be:

- ▣ A person of high integrity and honesty and free from any allegation of corruption;
- ▣ Widely respected and acceptable to all for contribution to local public life;
- ▣ Has proven capacity to ensure that political and/or other likings and disliking would not be brought to affect the affairs of CCC and or TIB;
- ▣ Active and interested to work voluntarily;
- ▣ A person who shares the vision, mission, values and objectives of TIB and is committed to TIB Code of Ethics;
- ▣ A permanent citizen of Bangladesh and resident of the CCC area;
- ▣ Involved in bona fide legal activities;
- ▣ An income tax payer with legal income from a known source; and
- ▣ Conscious, enlightened, tolerant, balanced, proactive, patriotic and optimistic.

S/he should not be:

- A person with any record of involvement in corruption;
- Convicted of a criminal offence involving moral turpitude;
- Involved in anti-state and anti-social activities;
- Involved in such activities, which are considered to be criminal acts according to the existing laws of the country.



Human chain organised by CCC to stop pollution of the river

- Guilty of default of any public dues determined by a court of law;
- Less than 30 years of age; and
- any other full-time member of the TIB staff.

Once a CCC is formed, YES members are selected by CCC members through a rigorous selection process with the support of TIB ensuring that except the age and experience, the selected YES members represent same characteristics, values and principles. YES members also take anti-corruption oath on the day of formation and commit to uphold the Code of Ethics of TIB.

Implementation of the YES activities starts, as part of which in addition to implementation of plan of work drawn by themselves with the help of the relevant CCC (or concerned institution in case of Dhaka-based YES), regular monthly meetings are held to mobilize various activities. Trainings and orientations are also Organised by TIB in various stages throughout the year for YES members on organisational as well as thematic issues related to programme implementation.

CCC-YES OFFICE AND STAFF

Each CCC has an office with a full-time Area Manager, Assistant Manager (Finance and Administration) and Office Assistant. A Programme Manager manages a cluster comprising of four/five CCCs and his/her work station is at one of the CCC areas. Their salaries and other expenses including office rent, furniture and equipment as well as programmatic and operational expenses are covered by TIB. Although employed as TIB staff attached to the Civic Engagement Division of TIB, in day-to-day functioning and discharge of responsibilities, the field-based personnel also report to the CCC President and other members.

Swajan (Citizens for Transparency) and YES Friends

In response to growing popularity of CCC and YES, supplementary groups called Swajan (Citizens for Transparency) and YES Friends were created in nearly all the CCC areas following the same principles as for forming the CCC and YES. They support the activities of CCC and YES respectively. Among regular organisational activities are the quarterly four party meetings while CCC-YES have at least one monthly meeting

each, complemented by open-ended number of meetings depending on the intensity of work.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TIB AND THE CCC

Once the Committee is formed, the CCC President and members guided, by the Advisory Committee, assume the full authority and responsibility to develop their own programmatic strategy, work plan and budget within a broad framework provided by TIB. Specific budgeting and implementation plan are the jurisdiction of CCCs. In addition to the financial support, TIB mainly plays a supportive role, and where applicable provides technical assistance.

In case of professional risks or security problems while implementing CCC programmes, TIB and CCC provide legal and other support to each other within their respective capacity and as per the CCC Manual.

SUSTAINABILITY OF CCC-YES

CCCs are formed for an open-ended tenure with TIB bearing the programmatic and other expenses (subject to availability of funding). Depending on the level of success of programmes implemented by CCC-YES, it is expected that a sense of ownership of the committee would be developed among the local people, which would facilitate its continuation of work even after the withdrawal of TIB's support.