

# **Aragati Seba Sangstha**

## **Empowerment of persons with disabilities through providing supports**

Disability is human diversity. Lack of awareness, knowledge and sensitization on disability, most of the community people see it negatively and could not include persons with disabilities in the social development process, violating persons with disabilities rights and entitlements. As a result persons with disabilities are not being enjoying their rights and living under poverty with inhuman life. They are mostly also excluded from the family and social festivals as well as depriving from education, health, economic activities. They have very less access to existing government and non-government services. WHO finding in 2013, 15% people are suffering from different degree and level of disability in the world. This percentage is higher in dense populated country like Bangladesh. Total development is not at all possible without development of persons with disabilities.

Exclusion of persons with disabilities from social development process-- One hand Human rights is violated, other hand total development is not be achieved.

ASS believes in that disability issue is not only human rights issue but it is a development issue for Bangladesh as well as world. So ASS had taken this disability development program as a core program since 2008. The main objective of the program is to preserve rights of persons with disability and build a disability inclusive society for their better life and livelihood where they will feel also dignity as like general people.

ASS implementing this program with it own fund and collaborating with other local, national, international NGOs and other stakeholders through exchanging knowledge, skill, information, logistics and financial supports.

So far ASS provided services to near about 78 persons with disabilities

Following major activities have been implementing under the program:

- Awareness raising of community people on disability issue
- Identification of persons with disabilities
- Assessment disability of identified persons with disabilities
- Awareness rising and capacity building of persons with disabilities
- Refer to persons with Disabilities to local donor for assistive devices
- Provide referral services to persons with Disabilities in different specialized hospital/service centers
- Provide medical services to persons with disabilities
- Provide life skill training to person with disabilities/families members through other organization
- Provide loan support at less interest among the disabled people to rehabilitate them in various IGA sector
- Enroll children with disabilities into school and provide education support
- Advocacy and liaison with different government and non-government service providing institutes in favor of persons with disabilities
- Networking with other disable based organization, forum and stakeholders