

SSP implementation through Co-financing

NGO Forum for Public Health

Bolashpur Government Primary School is one of the target schools of Enhancing Inclusive Disaster Resilience in Bangladesh project in Mymensingh which is situated at 19 no. ward of the Municipality. This school has 8 teachers and around 420 students. It was established in 1925 and got government registration in 1973. During the period different development works took place in this school, they already have a new two storied building with a ramp and there is a tin shed teachers' room. But the school authority was not aware about the disaster risks and never considered any development activities based on risk reduction. After introducing the project concept with school authority they gradually became sensitized about the school safety and also prepared a school safety plan where all types of risk were identified along with inclusion issues. As one of the teachers is a person with disability (PWD) so from the beginning their concern was to introduce risk reduction in an inclusive way which will ensure the well access of physically challenged teachers and students. During the selection of schemes from the School Safety Plan, those schemes were identified that included PWD or weak students along with disaster risk reduction such as railing and tiles work on ramp, elevated school yards and veranda for easy access, safe drinking water facility, safe electric line, etc. As there was no school fund and SLIP allocation was selected for some academic instrument and maintenance, ensuring school contribution in co-financing became a great challenge. Due to lack of an elected SMC, the school authority conducted meetings and sessions with guardians and community people to donate fund for the school risk reduction works.

By the hard work of school teachers around 30,000 BDT were collected for school fund to contribute in the co-financing work of School Safety Plan. Nur Nahar (35), a person with disability teacher said, "From now I can easily move to the teachers' common room without anyone's help. It makes me really happy and empowered." The involvement of the guardians in fund raising also helped to increase their awareness. Md. Jamal Hossain (45), guardian of a class four student said, "After meetings and sessions, we would understand the disaster and the risks of this school. As my girl is a student of this school this is my duty to contribute from my end to make the school safe." Overall, the project activities have made the school authority and community sensitized towards increasing resilience.