

## **MID TERM REPORT**

### **UNHCR Youth Initiative Fund 2015**

**SUPPORTED BY: UNHCR  
The UN Refugee Agency**

#### **Implemented by**

Name of Proponent/Organization: BITA (Bangladesh Institute of Theatre Arts)

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## Introduction

**UNHCR Youth Initiative 2015** aims to assist primarily two different groups of youth across two refugee camps of Kutupalong & Nayapara based in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh – the first group will be aged between 18-24 years old, who will take part directly in the theatre skills training and become the developers and actors of the theatre shows; the second group will be school aged children who will be the audiences as indirect for the educational theatre shows that will take place. Ultimately some of the audience participants will become the second wave of youth to be trained and become developers and actors in the subsequent theatre shows themselves. Jointly Facilitating the whole process UNHCR offered BITA (Bangladesh Institute of Theatre Arts) as an working opportunities with partnership approach by the duration of June-November 2015 time frame. Under the initiatives the key skills aims to achieve for the youths are focusing of self confident, team approach, creative thinking ability & leadership to solving the community development issues. The whole process of the intervention are mainly methodologies by the 6 (five) of steps including evolution & reporting. Already the initial major areas of the process are covered & need to share with the respective as part of reporting.

## The Process initiated in both camp by the October 2015

**The first steps to select the camp based youth.** There are 50 of youth are selected initiating the selection process in both camp of Kutupalong & Nayapara. The effectiveness of the process was to perform drama in every block & youth are collected from the audiences instant.

**Pre assessment of the youth was the next** steps to evaluate their skills regarding creative community with cultural approach & attitude of believe, confident & intention.

**Training of the youth is designed for 10 days course.** The expected outcome of the course were to analyzing capacity of particular development issues, achieving creating thinking ability, team approach attitude & making voluntary role using cultural form aware on vulnerable issues in the community.

## Intervention Status

Particulars	Data/quantity information	Remarks
No of Camp	2	Nayapara & Kutupalong
Participants criteria	youth	Community Youth, youth with disability
Age group of the participants	18-24 years old	
No of total selected participants	50	46 are male & 4 are female, No female participants reach in Nayapara camp
No of participants attended in the training	41	82% of the total
No of girls participations in the process	4	8% of the total (Kutupalong)
No of youth with disability participations in the process	1	Kutupalong (male)

## **Major Progress**

- Increased analytical ability of particularly Child marriage, gender based violence & human trafficking.
- About 50 % of participants are able to developed role play on their daily life issues creatively.
- About 35 % of participants are able to developed role play on development issues on child marriage, girl's education, and human trafficking issues creatively including analyzing the respective issues.
- 20% of participants are capacitated to develop visual installation through painting, materials development & imposition.
- Total of 30% participants increased ability to act with improvisation acting.
- Increased understanding of using wastage household & natural resources developing creating & communicative visual materials.

## **Major learning**

- The youth are not positively well understood about afford of Government & UN support regarding refugee rehabilitation. Creating more interaction with the youth could change their attitude positively & cultural based intervention support to reduce youth arrogance & lead to building disciplinary manner.

## **Challenges/Obstacle**

- Engaging girl's participation in the initiatives is only for 8%. There is no girls participated in the Nayapara youth team. In future intervention the specific strategy should be taken to increasing girl's engagement with such events.
- Sometimes different of events are organized in the community centre during the training time by the UNHCR & respective. As a result in the working time the venue is shifted suddenly without previous information. It was difficult to carrying the training materials & logistics without having preparation & limited venue space.

## **Major Observation**

- During the youth selection process the community workers (especially male) are less supportive to engaging girls in the team. They may through that it could create problem in the community later on where they will be blamed for the task of ensuring girl's participation.
- Intention of irregular movement is belonging by the male participants within the team are visible. Some of them are tried to influences BITA facilitators to search a new way of path for abroad.
- The attitude regarding gender sensitivity is low in level. There are 4 of girls participants attended in the Nayapara youth team but the attitude of some of the male participants with the girls are negative. Sometimes the girls are abused by the male fellow through eve-teasing. They treated the situation as nothing serious matter & regularly practicing their daily life.
- During the process a BITA drama show named "Sapna Jatra" performed in both camp. The youth teams were actively participants with the campaign events. They made a voluntary role of organizing the shows, interact with the BITA theatre team members & inspired to make such intervention themselves in future action.

## Recommendation

- The future comprehending training course could be designed residential mode & scope for exposure to observe the good practice of others.
- The participants are demanded to get the training certification from the UNHCR.
- The participants are interested to learn playing traditional musical instrument. They demanded for establishing a musical school in the camp.
- For making theatre production issues have primarily selected of Child marriage, gender based violence & human trafficking.
- Providing musical instrument sets for the both camp youth groups.

## Quoted of participants

### *Finally I decided to avoid the journey to Malaysia by boat*



My name is Sarwar Islam. I live in Rohingya registries camp at Nayapara, Teknef, Coxsbazer. My elder brother's now in Malaysia reaching by the sea. My family also wishes to send me in abroad. But I have heard there are a lot of risks by the journey of sea. My elder brother also shared his painful experience by boat. Here we discussed lots about the irregular movement from here to abroad. Now we do understand the negative impact of the life risk journey. The cultural events made me to analyze the issues & impact. During the training we made a few of role play on irregular movement, child marriage etc. I discussed with my family here & finally decided to avoid the journey to Malaysia by boat.

### *I have got support in my family to attend the workshop*



I had born in the Rohingya camp at Kutupalong in Coxsbazer. We are consisting of 4 members in our family. My father is living in Middle East now. I am the elder kid in my family. I go to local school & read in class five. I attended the 10 days events conducted by BITA. The initial days it was challenging for us as girls participation with the youth boys. We attended 4 of girls in the workshop with Rajika, Shubnur & Zahida. A few of our boys team members do not like girls participating in the team but the facilitator of BITA discussed the important of girls participation. I have got support in my family to attend the workshop. Here we have learned lots of things of acting, games, creating art & craft, painting etc. Here we made a few of role play together on our daily life practices. **(Roshida Akter, Block: A, M.R.C: 42693, Side: 68, Room: 1)**

### *We are less aware about the negative impact of the child marriage*



I had born in the refugee camp of Kutupalong. Now I am 23 years old. I got married 8 years before. Then my wife & I both were child. Now I am father of couple of kids of one boy & another one is girl. I attended in the theatre making training for 10 days long. This is the

first time we the youths discussed a few of issues hugely together with. The discussed issues are child marriage, domestic violence, irregular movement girls' education etc. During the discussion of child marriage issue I remembered my personal life of 8 years before. The workshop made me the well understanding about the child marriage. In our camp almost every day child marriage is occurred but we are still less aware about the negative impact of the child marriage. Now I am really thinking should do something to crating mass awareness on child marriage issue in the camp. By the workshop we some of youth are more organized & thinking to **(Nurul Islam, Block: E, M.R.C: 49058, Room: 1-2)**

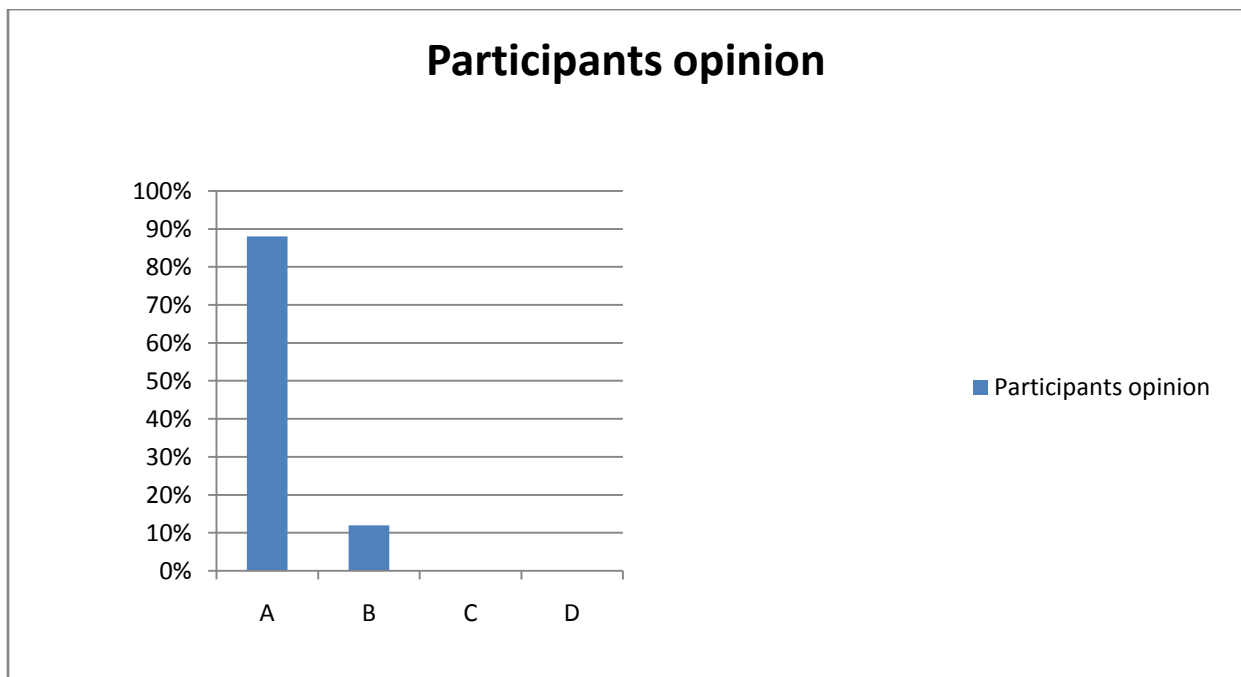
*Involving the youth team I am participating more confidently*



I am Abdur Sukkur. I am 21 years old. We are consisting of 12 members in our family. In our family we the 7 members are disable. As a disable person I got a work opportunity in the camp as daily laborer. In our community this is difficult to take part with activities as disable & isolated. Involving the youth team I am participating more confidently! I have wishes to learn a musical instrument. I have got married. **(Abdur Sukkur, Block: A, M.R.C: 15762, Side: 04 Room: 1)**

**Training Evolution by the Youth participants**

Total of 41 youth are participated are participated in the training evaluation process. 88% (36 participants) of them are given their opinion about the training is excellent. The rest of 12% (5 participants) feel good to take part into the training.



**A= Excellent, B=Good, C=Averaged=Not satisfactory**

### **Next course of intervention facilitate by November 2015**

**Conducting workshop on developing Drama Productions.** The intervention is designed by select the issue, developing improvisational story & drama production through a team approach. The youth ability & skills will be accommodating to develop the production.

**Performance the drama show in the community.** The final drama will be performed in community located the selected venue engaging the whole community peoples & intention to make dialogue with the audiences of the story of the drama & its impact. There are 5 no of shows will be performed in each camp.

**Post assessment & final reporting.** This is the last steps of the process where the intervention will be evaluated & scope of future direction will be determined by the final report & relevant documents.

### **Conclusion**

This is a remarkable experience for BITA to work with refugee youth groups developing their cultural based thought & practicing. As the opinion from the youth this is the first time they involved with such intervention. The uniqueness of the intervention is creating favorable space for interaction through cultural communication. Already their interest has been grown up & they are waiting to explore some of new expositing within the community. Hopefully achieving the destination the support of UNHCR is appreciated.