

Dhaka Ahsania Mission Health Sector

Observes the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

26 June 2019 was the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Multiple campaigns, rallies, poster designing and many other programs were conducted in the observance of the day. A large number of people from all over the world celebrate this day by organizing and conducting several events. The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh observes the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking with due sincerity. Civil Society Organizations (CSO) also take part in the government events, and they organize several events on their own to reflect the necessity of the day. Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) is one of the pioneer CSOs in Bangladesh which have been very vocal in the fight against drug use and other societal problems related to it. The Health Sector of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) runs treatment facilities, along with conducting preventive activities against drug use. It observed the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking through organizing week long events.

Event in Dhaka

The theme of this year's day was "Health for Justice, Justice for Health". Keeping the essence of the theme on mind, on 25 June 2019, Ahsania Mission Female Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center organized a Human Chain formation in different crowded places of the Dhaka city i.e. Shyamoli Square, Shyamoli Club Field and ASA University Bangladesh. The human chain concluded in a rally that circulated one of the busiest points of the Dhaka city with the view to raise awareness against drug abuse. Center staff and other staff members from the DAM Health Sector participated in the human chain and the rally.



In continuance of observing the day, and to take part in the national observance, DAM Addiction Management and Integrated Care (AMIC) members participated in human chain and rally in front of the National Parliament in Dhaka on 26 June 2019. Many Government and Non-government Organizations took part on the event. Honorable Home Minister, Mr Asaduzzaman Khan MP inaugurated the event and later a discussion meeting was held with representatives of several drug addiction treatment centers, CSOs, and concerned individuals. The meeting reflected several issues concerning this year's theme "Health for Justice, Justice for Health"

Ahsania Mission Female Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center organized a seminar on “Ensuring Health Rights for the Drug Dependent Females” on 27 June 2019 as a part of the day observance. Female patients on recovery, Government and other NGO representatives, staffs from several drug treatment and rehabilitation centers and DAM staff participated in the seminar. Counselor of the Ahsania Mission Female Drug



Treatment and Rehabilitation Center Ms Fairose Jeehan presented the key paper. Chief Guest, Director of the National Institute of Mental Health - Professor Dr Mohit Kamal and other speakers highlighted the trend of drug addiction among women and on the importance of their treatment. The participants engaged in spontaneous discussion on the keynote paper of the seminar and shared their opinions regarding the risks and consequences of drug use among the females.

Ahsania Mission Female Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center arranged a seminar with collaboration of AtishDipankar University of Science and Technology with the key theme of “Youth Participation in Drug Prevention Program” on 29 June 2019. Students, faculty members and government representatives joined in on the seminar. The University Vice Chancellor, Prof DrMdSekul Islam presided the seminar where DAM Health Sector Director MrIqbalMasud was the special guest. Speakers emphasized on the importance of awareness against drug use among the youth and asked the youth representatives present at the occasion to play active role against the harmful practices. An information booth



was also established to project the learning materials with helpful information about drug dependency and how to treat and prevent it. Students from all the departments of university took part in the spontaneous question-answer session on related issues.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission Health Sector organized discussion sessions for the prisoners at Kashimpur Central Jail (Female) on 29 June and at Kashimpur Central Jail (1 and 2), and Dhaka Central Jail on 30 June in the observance of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Respective Jail Supers, Jailors, Deputy Jailors, IRSOP project counselors and RSs were present at the event. Speakers mentioned that drugs have been threatening our lives for a long time and people in our country, especially the youths are becoming its victims. They also stressed on how the consequence of drug use leads to imprisonment. They asked the

prisoners to commit themselves for not using drugs again. The discussion also reflected the concerns about drug use among the females. It is to be noted that with the support of GIZ, and in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs and jail authority, DAM Health Sector has been working on rehabilitation of the prisoners who were imprisoned for drug related issues since 2014.

Event in Gazipur district

Ahsania Mission Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center, Gazipur arranged human chain formation, rally and discussion meeting to observe the Day. Recovery patients, center staffs, representatives from District Administration and Department of Narcotics Control took part in the events. Gazipur City Corporation Mayor MrMd Jahangir Alam was present as the Chief Guest. The rally circulated several busy points and it ended at the discussion meeting where the speakers talked about harmful consequences of drug abuse; and how the country, society and each family can contribute to preventing it. Recovery clients also shared their experiences of overcoming drug problems at the occasion.



Event in Jashore district



Ahsania Mission Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center, Jashore organized leaflet distribution ceremony and projection of signboards with anti-drug messages on 25 June 2019. It also arranged the formation of a human chain which later followed by a rally and discussion meeting on 26 June. Honorable MP MrKazi Nabil Ahmed, District Commissioner, other Government representatives, and representatives from other organizations along with treatment center staffs joined in on the events. The center also arranged a seminar in DrAbdurRazzak Municipality College on 27 June titled “Consequences of Drug Use”.



Students and faculty members of the college took part in the seminar, which was presided by the Vice Principle MrMdManjurul Islam. A discussion meeting was held on 29 June as a part of the events organized in the observance of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Almost 20 patients on recovery, and their family members took part in the meeting. A recovery patient and a parent of a patient under treatment shared their experiences with the audience. They thanked the center staff and management for their excellent service in preventing and treating substance use disorders. Cenetr Manager MrMdAmiruzzamanLiton expressed his gratitude for the support from the parents and emphasized the commitment to continue working in the field.

Event in Satkhira district

DAM Health Sector took part in the events organized by the Satkhira District Administration and Narcotics Control Department in observance of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. A human chain was formed and a rally circulated the District Headquarter on 26 June 2019. Health Sector also formed a human chain which later ended in a discussion meeting on 27 June 2019. The events were organized in association with SHOCHETON (an anti-drug organization). DAM Health Sector staffs, Government and Non-government representatives, concerned individuals and general public joined the events. The speakers talked about the necessities of observing the day and expressed their commitment to continue fighting the war against drug use from their own perspectives.

