

E-specialized services for people with disabilities

Rahim, a 14 year old blooming child suffered from a fatal accident at earlier age. His left side of the body has been paralyzed. "When I woke up, everything was the same except my body." Rahim broke in tears. "I lost control over my body and all my dreams were shattered within moments" he added. Rahim belongs to a middle class family who live in a remote area of Mymensing. Both of my parents work at the primary school and it is very difficult for them to take care of Rahim physically and financially. "It is very difficult to carry me to the CRP center twice a month. I seem to trouble my parents a lot but they never express." A digital patient follow up system will make it easier for people like Rahim seek quality services complying with core values of equality, justice and cost efficiency. A2I initiative of the Service Innovation Fund (SIF) has made it possible for an automated patient follow-up system to be launched, named "Community Digital Information and Service Booth" under Upazilla Disabled People Development Council (UDPDC). This initiative is capable of providing upgraded healthcare support for physically challenged people in remote and out-of-reach places through neat integration of easily available technology (telemedicine, video conferencing, regular follow up through mobile, etc).

"This is a helpful initiative. I believe my parents would take a breath of relief. Now service is coming to me." Rahim responded thankfully.

Living in the competitive world is getting more and more difficult with time. If things aren't easy for the healthy beings then it is beyond imagination how unfavorable the fast pacing world must be for the people with disabilities. Every task is challenging for them. They need as much user-friendly support systems as possible. Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP) has been persistently trying to provide the patients with more accessible advanced facilities but the patient follow-up procedures applicable to individuals with disabilities have been very slow and expensive till now. The project "E-specialized services for people with disabilities" has been initiated to provide advanced digital patient follow up system for those under privileged people.

Within 6 months of operation the project developed 08 Upazila level CDISB under Upazilla Disabled People Development Councils (UDPDC) with advanced specialized services. This project has been developed for the purpose of social and economic of disable people in the rural areas of Bangladesh, as well as access to information with Community Digital Information and Service Booth (CDISB). All the beneficiaries of the project are physically impaired and socially discriminated. This project will be helpful to ensure access to information from various services providing organization, employment and income generation, training, capacity & skill development for the people with disabilities and it will ensure their development in a sustainable manner.