

**Report on Computer Training for Visual Impaired,
Supported by Transcom Beverages Ltd, Bangladesh**

*Empowering Visually Challenged People through
Market Driven ICT training*

**Venue: ICT & Resource Center on Disability (IRCD)
Young Power in Social Action [YPSA] Chittagong,
Bangladesh.**

Reporting Time: 2nd quarter, April to June' 2011

Supported BY: Transcom Beverages Limited Bangladesh



Young Power in Social Action (YPSA)

Empowering Visually Challenged People through ICT

Project Goal:

Empowering Visually Challenged People involving with the utilization/operation of market driven Information Communication Technology

Objectives:

- To Introduce Visually Challenged People with the new technological applications of ICT
- To enhance their capacity & skills in order to make them competent to meet the current market demand

The training program has been initiated by Transcom Beverages Ltd, Bangladesh. The training is being conducted by Young Power in Social Action (YPSA), a pioneer organization on ICT based in Chittagong, Bangladesh. YPSA has been working for the Visually Impaired persons for the since long with a good reputation in nationally and internationally. Due to the continuous working in ICT section, YPSA has become expert on ICT promotion for visually impaired person.

Number of Student:

Total Student : 8 (Male 5 & Female 3)

Total Batch : 2

Students in each Batch : 8

A total of 16 students from different departments is being participated in this program. All are Visual Impaired students are divided into two batches in equal number so that the students can get proper training and can have sufficient time for practice.

Trainer:

In order to make the training program a success, nationally and internationally recognized trainers in our country worked so hard besides their job activities.

They are as:

The training conducted by –

1. Mr. Vashkar Vattacharya, Programme Officer, YPSA
2. Md. Rashedujjaman Chowdhury, Associate Programme Officer, IRCD YPSA

3. Mr. Ahsan Ullah Sarkar, Associate Programme Officer, IRCD YPSA
4. Ms. Shaheda Khanom Naly, Associate Programme Officer, IRCD YPSA

Outcome:

Before this computer training, the participants were totally unknown about computer literacy and current ICT knowledge of the world. All Trainees are now able to access MS Word, MS Excel, PowerPoint, Email writing, Internet browsing, Blog writing and other Information Communication and Technology. It can be said that this trainees are now thoroughly capable of operating computer and entered the information high way of the world acquiring ICT knowledge from this training.

Training Contents:

- Windows XP
- Windows 7
- MS Word
- MS Excel
- MS PowerPoint
- Outlook Express
- Email writing
- How to use Skype with JAWS Screen Reader
- Introduction with Blog
- Blog Writing
- Internet Browsing
- Introduction with different software
- DAISY, Digital Accessible Information System
- DAISY related software

All trainers tried to do their best to make the training program succeed.

Student Comments:

“Although I have learnt a lot from the training I do not want my learning to stop. I have asked the trainers if they can run some refresher training in the future which they said they will try to do. There are more things I wish to learn such as how to use facebook, Tuitor. The trainers have encouraged me to practice what I have learnt.”

“I can now use the computer to run all software which I enjoy such as special software for vision impaired users like JAWS and DAISY.”

“I now have an email account however as I am newly blind and I have found I need extra time to learn different computer programs and commands for visually impaired, especially the commands involved in navigating the internet.”

“The internet is the biggest library in the world so now this library is in my hand. This library will empower me and create more opportunities for me to learn.”

Trainer Comments:

Students were progressing at different speeds and we tried to cater to all levels of skills. We believe all participants tried their level best to acquire ICT knowledge, despite various obstacles faced during this training such as power outages and individual limitations such as limited English language skills affecting successful screen navigation using JAWS software.

Our experience was that we needed to spend more time than anticipated on specific topics where trainees required more time to memorize/ practice the commands thus the future training plans need to allow this flexible.

We feel that trainees who had no exposure to computers prior to the training will need a refresher course in the future. We are hopeful the budget will allow for a short refresher course to be completed for all above described trainees at the conclusion of both 6 month training blocks.

As mentioned above we found that limited English language skills hampered trainees use of screen reading software (there is currently no bangla screen reading software on the market and therefore English screen reading software is relied upon). In planning future training we would like to compliment the computer training with some English language training to maximize capacity trainees to fully navigate computers and related software.

Summary Profiles of Selected Candidates

| SI | Name | SEX | Type of Disability | Education | Need Pocket Allowance | Remarks |
|----|-----------------------|--------|--------------------|--|-----------------------|---------|
| 1 | Mr. Hasan Monsur | Male | Visual Impairment | B A | Yes | |
| 2 | Ms. Selina Akter Reba | Female | √ | Masters in Islamic History and Cultural, Chittagong University | Yes | |
| 3 | Mr. Abdul Malek | Male | √ | Honors in Political Science, CU | Yes | |
| 4 | Ms. Mahmuda Begum | Female | √ | Honors in Sociology , CU | Yes | |
| 5 | Md. Khaledur | Male | √ | Honors in | Yes | |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|--------|---|--------------------|-----|--|
| | Rahman | | | Sociology , CU | | |
| 6 | Ms. Masuda Akter Mukta | Female | √ | | Yes | |
| 7 | Mr. Soleman Khan | Male | √ | Honours in Law, CU | Yes | |
| 8 | Mr. Monsur Alam Chowdhury | Male | √ | LLM | Yes | |
| 9 | Mr.Khorshed Alam | Male | √ | Honors in Law, CU | Yes | He is replace in 2 nd Batch |

Conclusion: Above Eight trainees have successfully completed their six months of training. They have the continued opportunity to attend the YPSA-IRCD Center to practice computer and receive guidance form trainers. A new batch of eight students will be recruited for July to December session. On completion of the training (Sixteen students) all trainees from both batches will be awarded a certificate of course completion. A short refresher course will be planned for trainees who were new computer users in the future.

It is also important to note that on completion of the training YPSA IRCD staff assisted Selina Akter Reba to secure a 9 month internship with Vocational Training Centre for the Blind, Dhaka: Bangladesh.

Photo Gallery:



Above Left: Selina Akter Reba practicing the use of Microsoft Word.
 Above Right: Ms. Masuda Akter Mukta familiarizing herself with the keyboard.
 Left: Masuda Akter Mukta and Mahmuda Begum setting up their internet accounts.