



ESDG4Bd
Enabling Sustainable Development Goals
of Bangladesh for 2030-BdOSN



Girls' Innovation Boot Camp

Learn

Change

Flourish



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Bangladesh achieved MDGs and now running towards achieving the SDG by 2030. As secondary school enrolments for girls jumped from 39 percent in 1998 to 67 percent in 2017. However, the girls and women's participation in the workforce are not as good as expected. For the technology field, like ICT, it is only 13%. It is also mentionable that the women ICT entrepreneurs are also very few. In 2015, Bangladesh Association of Software and Information enable Services (BASIS) reported that only 3% of its member entrepreneurs are female. Since, 2012 some organization including BdOSN initiated a campaign to bring more girls in ICT based study. At that year the female enrollment is only 22%. Currently, the number goes to 29%. However, in the startup arena the number of female entrepreneurs are still very low.

In this backdrop the ESDG project aims to support women trained in ICT courses to start their own businesses with sound business plans suited for the internet economy. In this regards, Girls' Innovation Boot Camp (GIBC) was organized with some budding ideas for the first time on 27th to 29th November 2019. After the noticeable response of this camp, it was organized for the second time in this year 2020 on 27th to 29th February. This is a unique opportunity for women entrepreneurs of Bangladesh who dream big and

launch startups that bring ideas to life. Girls' Innovation Boot camp journey was started with a pilot camp in the year 2017 organized by Bangladesh Open Source Network.

Objectives

This Boot camp aims to provide the platform to the budding entrepreneurs so that they can share their roller-coaster journey. Besides, one can share about their startups and the stories behind it as well. The key objectives are-

- To identify girls who wanted to develop startup in coming days or wanted to flourish existing one
- To provide an idea to girls on how to start and going with an innovative idea with ICT usages.
- To guide the top 10 ideas and keep a follow up continue.
- To build networking between investors and entrepreneurs.
- To connect girls with the innovation and start-up platform.

Some of the Delighted Participants Share Their Experiences-



I have been interested in working on something new since childhood. From that interest I registered in Girls' Innovation Bootcamp. Coming here, I felt that the knowledge I needed before working on something new this camp was must for me. The brainstorming that took place during the three-day restless journey of the camp has given us a complete idea of innovations and as well as entrepreneurship that make me more flourish. The camp opens a window for me through which I was introduced to a vast sky of possibilities. I had the opportunity to connect to a much larger network. This camp has taken me one step ahead towards my dream of becoming an entrepreneur. I could not be separated even after the end of the camp. I was able to nurture myself through the regular follow up. In light of the experience of this camp, I am planning how to move forward by enhancing my skills.



Faiza Feroz

Faiza Feroz
Students of CSE,
Jahangirnagar University
Participants of GIBC-2019



Tabia Tanzin Prema

Tabia Tanzin Prema
Student, Jahangirnagar University
Participant
Girls' Innovation Bootcamp- 2019

I am Tabia Tanzin Prema. I am currently a third year student of Computer Science and Engineering at Jahangirnagar University. My acquaintance with BDOSN through participation in Girls' Innovative Boot Camp-2020. The three-day camp was attended by women entrepreneurs and students from different parts of the country. Where everyone shares their own business ideas and through multiple sessions successful women entrepreneurs provide ideas about their experiences. Where stories of successful women entrepreneurs in different sectors inspire me a lot. After various sessions, I with my team members created business ideas and business models from basic ideas. By participating in three steps, our idea was nominated as the best three ideas. My dream of making this business idea a reality started from then.

After participating in the boot camp, I was encouraged to work more deeply with this idea. After the success that I achieved from bootcamp, I took part in Business Idea Competition and Scientific Poster Presentation Competition. I was also able to win the award as the First Runner-up in the Ada Lovelace National Girls' Idea Poster presentation organized by BDOSN in 2020, and in the DIU Mujib Borsho IT Carnival 2020 idea Competition. The experience that started with the idea from bootcamp has given me courage and success at various times since then.



Maksuda

Maksuda Khatun
Founder, Shabab Leather
Participants of Girls' Innovation
Bootcamp-2019

I am Maksuda Khatun. I have a leather goods manufacturing company. I joined the Girls' Innovation Bootcamp organized in 2019 to move forward with my own initiative. Together in the camp, about 30 of us entrepreneurs spent three days under the same roof. Among them were many students including entrepreneurs, future entrepreneurs, doctors, engineers who want to be entrepreneurs like me. This colorful experience is indescribable. The opportunity to learn and cooperate with each other has increased my self-confidence a thousandfold.

Throughout the three days we have found ways to solve various problems from the sessions that were designed for us in addition to various ideas, business model canvas making, idea pitching! There have been a lot of chats, stories, introductions as well as networking opportunities with many professionals which is an absolute scope for small entrepreneurs like us! In my case it was more useful than others. Because the networking, teamwork, routine task, business model ideas I got from there are playing a much more effective role in my business. As a bonus there was networking and expert advice with entrepreneurs from all over the country as guests, speakers each are an idol of new inspiration for me.

And not only was there a session, we had so much fun that even after the whole day's session, we forgot to sleep at midnight for stories, chats and songs among all the participants. In fact, I never expected such 3 days of my life to be so wonderful. With the experience I have brought from the camp, now my initiative has become a lot. At present, my products are being exported to Japan, Greece, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia and China. This bootcamp has helped me go one step further.

I came to know about Girls' Innovation Bootcamp through social media. Since I had just started my career as an entrepreneur, I was looking for such a guide. The three days of camp enriched me with more information than I expected. I couldn't understand where the three days of the camp were flowing from 7 am to 12pm night. When we were about to go to sleep, participants came together and made the night more enjoyable and instructive by combining dance, songs, stories from their lives and obviously with team work. Bootcamp is adding a new dimension to my life. In this boot camp, I have found myself. I have set a goal and have been inspired to set up an integrated farm on 10 bighas of land given to me by my parents. Everything learned from here will be useful not only in business but also in many areas of my life. Our knowledge is nurtured through follow-up even after camp. I think this camp is very effective in bringing forward many more women entrepreneurs and innovators like me.



Maha Rahman

Maha Rahman
Participant of Girls' Innovation
Bootcamp 2019

“The difference between humans and animals is that humans can write, and through documentation they can pass on the knowledge they have acquired from one generation to the next.” - This is what Munir Hasan Sir of Bangladesh Open Source Network (BdOSN) said on the first day of “Girls’ Innovation and Entrepreneurship Bootcamp-2”. He also said, “It is called boot camp because you can’t sleep here, you have to work day and night” - I was shocked to hear that but I still couldn’t understand where the wind was blowing. From February 27 to February 29, 2020, I was spending some time without any sails at the boot camp organized by BdOSN in Lalmatia. There are some things in life that makes me feel lucky, this was another golden opportunity for me to participate in this boot camp.

It was not possible for me to resist myself to join this bootcamp thinking that I can learn a lot from this free three-day-two-night residential camp, so I registered. Reporting time on February 26, 2020 at 7.30 am. The first day of the camp started with onsite registration.

Everything from the selection of ideas to the way of formation of the team was exceptional. Then one by one the storm of sessions continues. The best thing about the three days is after coming to this platform of becoming an entrepreneur, age has just become a number. At the same time, many generations of people are listening each other’s thoughts and discussing so many things. It was unimaginable to have a session with so many wonderful people, including speakers and participants. Of course, on the way to becoming an entrepreneur, these three days have taught me a lot in my personal life as well.



Sama R

Sama Jamila Rahim
Student, Dhaka University
Participant, Girls’ Innovation and
Entrepreneurship Bootcamp-2020



Tisha Farhana

Tisha Farhana
Student of Innovation and
Entrepreneurship Department
Participant, Girls’ Innovation and
Entrepreneurship Bootcamp-2020

As the student of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Department in Daffodil International University, I always look for such innovation camp which highlights the budding entrepreneurs and innovators for future development. And obviously for this reason, this girls’ innovation boot camp attracts me most. I have learned a lot from this camp and now I am trying to apply those acquired knowledge to establish my own idea CRAFTICS. Learning sessions, networking with professionals, the basics of applying innovation to problem solving, idea pitching all combined, this girls’ camp was a complete instruction-rich event. I think this is a great opportunity for any budding innovator and entrepreneur.

My name is Linza Dipa Mondal. Currently I am working with a small team of 15 members to establish our organization Human for Human. While working, I felt that as my job is to solve some of the practical problems of the society, I had to struggle to give it an institutional structure as everyone take it as a social work. To understand the reason, I joined the Girls Innovation Boot Camp and as expected I got to know all my skill and knowledge gaps that was invisible to me till then.

After joining this camp I explored that I couldn't introduce myself in a smart way which create a barrier surrounding me to reach the other people. This bootcamp break my barrier and I started to communicate others willingly and now from that camp I got two new members in my organization who contribute with their skills. To me, this innovation and entrepreneurship boot camp was so informative and practical for them who wants to build their career from their own.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linza'.

Linza Dipa Mondal
Human for Human
Participant, Girls' Innovation
and Entrepreneurship
Bootcamp-2020



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'প্রাপ্তি'.

Prapti Rani Roy
Student
Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science
& Technology University

I Prapti Rani Roy, studying in the 4th year in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Haji Mohammad Danesh University of Science and Technology.

On February 8, I received a text message on my phone from an unknown number about GIBC with a web address for details. Out of curiosity, I thought of giving an idea by knowing the details through that web address. At that time, the idea came to my mind while my mother was ill and I have to maintain daily household work as well take care of her at a same time. In the homes of many like me, when an elderly member is infected with the disease, other members need to face trouble in maintaining all the family responsibilities. At that time, an idea came to my mind to reduce the hassle of managing household chores and serving the sick elderly at a same time.

I immediately write the summary of my idea and submit it. In the end I was selected and got permission from home. I arrived on the appointed day. A new chapter begins. The whole time from the first day's exceptional introductory episode to the last day was so thrilling. Every session of the camp was a guide to becoming an entrepreneur. Many more sessions including Market Review, Trade License, Loan, Capital, Break Even Point, Finance and so on have taught me to rethink my ideas. It is a great opportunity for me to get acquainted with the icons of the entrepreneurial world through this boot camp. I have also been inspired by networking with girls who dream of becoming entrepreneurs. May such an arrangement to take women forward be successful, from here let the girls learn to think anew to become entrepreneurs.



Sonia

Sonia Rahman
Participant,
Girls' Innovation and
Entrepreneurship Bootcamp-2020

I am Sonia Rahman, a participant in “Girls Innovation and Entrepreneurship Bootcamp - 2020”. I want to start with the story of the beginning. We have decided to open an online fashion house with 4 partners at the end of 2014, we dream that it will one day become a brand in the country. We were working in different organizations. We started to work according to my thoughts and prepared the necessary documents in the name of the company. Work on the website also began. We try to work with artisans with some of our own designs. But due to some technical problems we were going back and forth. In the meantime, I and two other partners went abroad for higher education in the middle of 2016. So, the work of the fashion house was stopped for about 3 years.

I returned to the country in early July, 2019 after completing my higher education. My partners were all in the country then, so, the dream started to haunt us again. But the experience and lessons learned from the early was shocking. I really needed an inspiration for how to solve this problem to move forward with my idea.

Meanwhile, I got to know about the Girls' Innovation Bootcamp through a friend. Then I was selected through registration and mobile interview. Honestly, the excitement of being in the camp was just as intense as the excitement of getting to know so many new people after so long. I left with courage, because that's what I said, I needed inspiration along with a proper guideline.

I reached the boot camp at the appointed time on the 28th. Luckily I got a place in a room of 7 people; everyone came and the introductory episode went on. Then the session continued one by one. In these three days, I met a group of young entrepreneurs - most of them are running their own businesses successfully, some are in the early stages, and the rest are on their way to becoming future entrepreneurs. I got ideas for different types of initiatives from one participant; It was also an opportunity to hear about their experiences.

There were many speakers in different sessions, whose words inspired me a lot. I got an idea of what should be taken care of in starting any venture, what are the paperwork or legal issues in implementing the venture. Some of the speakers told stories about the ups and downs of their own lives, which I personally liked very much and which inspired me not to be discouraged. There were also a few speakers who told us with examples of fragmentary events about stumbling on their way to becoming an entrepreneur, getting back on track and finally succeeding. These, I think, will guide those of us who want to be entrepreneurs, in our personal lives and on our path to becoming entrepreneurs. I would like to thank the organizers of “Girls Innovation and Entrepreneurship Bootcamp, 2020” and all concerned for making the event a success.



Shwapna Bhowmic
Country Head,
Marks & Spencer



Ms Maliha Quadir
MD and CEO
Sohoz dot com



Ms Samira Zuberi Himika
CEO Gigatech

Luna Samsuddoha
Former Chairman of Janata
Bank Limited and founder of
Dohatek Newmedia



Rezwana Khan
CEO
Star Computer System Limited



Kazi Shaila Sharmin
Sr. Manager (F &A) & Head of
HR & Admin, Grameen
Telecom Trust (GTT)



Mr Shawkat Hossain
Director
Lightcastle Parfners



Mahmudul Hasan Shohag
Chairman
Onno Rokom Group



Asif M Rahman
WordPress Enthusiast, Serial
Entrepreneur & Angel Investor



Sayeda Nabila Mahbub
Director
Pathao



Ms Achia Nila
Founder and CEO
Women in Digital



Hasan Benaul Islam
Story Coach,
Benaul the Piper



Laffa Jamal,
President, BWIT
Professor, Department of
Robotics and Mechatronics
Engineering, University of
Dhaka



Nazneen Kamal,
Vice President, BWIT
Managing Director,
Anupam Infotek



Nusrat Jahan
Managing Director, Interactive
Artifact Ltd



Shamima Akter Tulee
Fitness Consultan,
Combat Gym



Jabed Sultan Pias
Head of Digital Business,
Prothom Alo



Nazib Rafe Duke
Head of Business
Development, Creative IT
Institute



**Farhana Rahman
(Urmi)**
Head of HR, The Business
Standarder



Eushra Nashmin
Founder, Workstation 101



Saurabh Kumar
President, AIESEC In
Bangladesh



Farha Mahmud Trina
Vice Chairman, Investment
Committee, e-Commerce
Association of
Bangladesh (e-CAB)



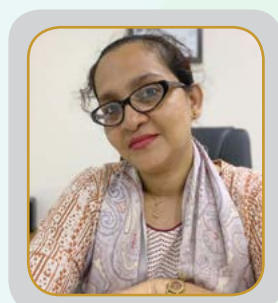
Selima Allen Hossain
Ambassador, Seed Star Dhaka



Umme Shaila Rumki
Managing Director, The
Physical Therapy and
Rehabilitation Centre (PTRC)



Zahidul Islam,
Founder
Chuijhal



Taslima Miji
Founding Managing Director,
Leatherina Pvt Ltd



Sharmin Akter Shaj,
Former Chairperson
WeBD

Sharmin Akter Shakila
Entrepreneurship Coordinator,
EMK Center



Tahmina Shaily,
Founder
Shoilee Studio



Priti Waresa,
Founder
Shahoshika



Saif Hassan,
Product Manager
weDevs



Sajjat Hossain,
Founder & Lead Consultant,
Bdpreneur

PARTICIPANTS LIST



Subrina Tanjin
Manarat, International
University



Fakhrun Nahar Anna
Home Economics
College



Umme Hany Esha
Mohammadpur
Kendriyo College



Sumsunnahar Noyoni
Khulna Government
Women's University
College



Mustanzda Mim
Jahangirnagar
University



**Tanzila Akter
priyanka**
Eden Mohila College



Faiza Feroz
Jahangirnagar
University



Maha Rahman
Dhaka



Rifatara Jannat
Bangladesh University
of Professional



Maksuda Khatun
Asa University
Bangladesh



Sumaiya Tasnim
Varendra University



Sabiha Uddin
Dhaka City College



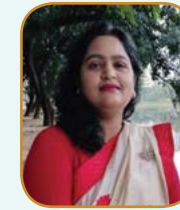
Mst. Ritika Sanjana
Carmichael College,
Rangpur



Umme Tahmina Kabir
Home Economics
College



**Mst. Umma Kulsum
Popi**
BD Assistant Ltd.



Jotsna Begum
Dhaka



Sumiya Afrose
Khulna University
of Engineering and
Technology



Salma Akter Rifa
Eden College



Annesha Chakma
Rangamati Govt
collage



Kaifa Akter
Eden Mohila College



Ifrit Zahin
University of Dhaka



Rubaiya Reza Sohana
Jahangirnagar
University



Tabia Tanzin Prema
Jahangirnagar
University



**Chowdhury Sidhratul
Montaha**
Manarat Int'l University



Shuchita Rahman
United International
University



Omra Haque Anika
Mohammadpur
Kendriyo College



Masudah Usrat Trina
Jahangirnagar
University



Rokaya Akter Kona
Central Women's
University



**Most. Jakia Akter
Monira**
Rangpur Govt. College



Tarmihim Tania
Dhaka



Sumiya Afrose
Khulna University
of Engineering and
Technology



**Nuray Jannatul
Fardoshe**
Eden Mohila College



Sama Jamila Rahim
University of Dhaka



Israt Jahan
City College



Sabrina Afrin Toma
Jahangirnagar
University.



Linza Dipa Mondol
Eden Mohila College



Syeda Anannya Faria
Jahangirnagar
University



Noshin Siara Audre
Mymensingh Medical
College



Airin
BGMI/National
Univerisit



Jannatul Ferdaws Amrin
Jahangirnagar University



Madhury Paul
Comilla Victorial
College



Rabaka Sultana
Asian University



Setu Rani Modok
Stamford University



Sharmin khatun



**Tahamina Akter
Shammi**



**Khandker Kamrun
Nessa**
CUET



Tanha Akter Mukta
Dhaka



Mst. Asma Khatun
Asha
Asha Food



**Afroz Mahmuda
Nijhum**
BIFBT



Armin Afroz
University of Dhaka



Sirajum munira lopa
NU



Sonia Rahman
Germany



Taslima Sultana



Fariha Akter Promi
Jahangirnagar
University



Nazma Sarker
Jahangirnagar
University



**Neelima Monjusha
Preeti**
Jahangirnagar
University.



**Sajia Afrin Sultana
Mithil**
Daffodil International
University



Tisha Farhana
Daffodil International
University



Prapti Rani Roy
Hajee Mohammad
Danesh Science
and Technology
University, Dinajpu



Rubana karim
Home economics



Gulshan Ara
National University



Khadijatul Kobra
BUBT



Akila Rahman
Bangladesh Army
International
University of Science &
Technology



Bangladesh Open Source Network (BdOSN)

Shelteck Niribili, 1st Floor,
210/2 Elephant Road, Dhaka-1205
Phone: 01714 11 74 78