

Presentation to Zero Project Conference 2016

Production of accessible reading materials for the students with visual and print disability of class-I to class-X through DAISY standard

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The Global Alliance on Accessible Technologies and Environments

GAATES is the leading international organization dedicated to the promotion of accessibility of electronic and communication technologies and accessibility of the built environment.

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Context:

“Lack of Accessible Study Materials for the Students with Print Disability”

- There are a **large number students** are **visually impaired** in Bangladesh
- Visually impaired students are now studying at school level but there was a **severe lack of adequate/accessible study materials** hence **inclusive education is not implemented properly**.
- There is **not enough Braille books**
- They **needed to depend on someone** who can read out for them

Solution:

Accessible Textbooks, Braille books and Full-text Full- audio DAISY standard Digital Talking Books for the students with Visual, Print and Learning Disability

Collaboration

- It's a joint initiative by the **YPSA** , along with **Access to Information (a2i) Programme** at Prime Minister's Office, **Department of Social Services** under Ministry of Social Welfare, **National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB)** under Ministry of Education and by the technical support of WIPO, Accessible Books Consortium, DAISY consortium and GAATES.
- This project was implemented in the **whole country** of Bangladesh.

Goals and Objectives

- The aim of the project:
 - To ensure the **availability of the Multimedia Textbooks** to minimize inequality of information for the print disability, learning disability, visually impaired and information disadvantaged groups of students from class-I to class- X
 - To initiate a process of developing and producing **Textbooks in accessible format (DAISY standard)** for the students of class-I to class-X
 - To develop **an effective network for disseminating the multimedia DAISY reading materials** across the country through JATIYO e- Tathyakosh (National e-Content Repository- <http://www.infokosh.gov.bd/>), Community Radio, Union Digital Centers (UDCs) and different institutions.

Picture 1: Honourable Prime Ministers handing over the books(Left)
Picture 2: Students are using books(Right)



User perspective

- This practice enhances access to knowledge, information and communication.

Target group: Students with visual disability, print disability and learning disability and information disadvantaged group can read and listen to their textbooks can improve their learning.

How widely is the service available: Accessibility of Multimedia digital books for class-I to class-X is available through Jatiya e- Tathyakosh (National e-Content Repository) to make them available to the students with print disability and information disadvantaged groups

User perspective (continued)

- **Affordable for users**
 - It is cost effective, less time consuming and universally designed so that all children can have an easy access to these reading materials all over the country.
- **proven acceptable to users**
 - Users are getting benefit from this project
 - Department of Social Services (DSS) under Ministry of Social Welfare is monitoring this initiatives. And a2i has an agreement with University of Dhaka to conduct study to evaluate the effectiveness of this Digital Books/Multimedia Talking Books.

Statistics

- All the **National Curriculum Textbooks (105) of class-I to class-X** have been converted to multimedia books of DAISY standard which have also been converted to **DAISY full text full audio text books, Digital Braille and accessible e-books** from the single source file of DAISY format
- Around **100,000 students with visual disability, print disability and learning disability** and information disadvantaged group can read and listen to their textbooks can improve their learning

Statistics (continued)

- **Honourable Prime Minister of People's Republic of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina distributed "Daisy Multimedia Books"** among visually-impaired students of primary schools on December 30, 2014 as part of the countrywide textbook distribution festival for the academic year 2015.
- The Bangladesh Government distributes free books among the students of primary and secondary schools and madrasas across the country on January 1, 2016 to ensure "Education for all". As part of the programme, this year also the government took the initiative to provide free specialized books (Digital Talking Books) along with CDs and Braille books to visually impaired students.

Lesson learned

- **Summarize key lessons learned from our experiences in implementing this practice.**
 - The learning level of the students with print disability and learning disability is being improved
 - Availability of the contents in accessible format are making the students with visual disability, print disability and learning disability confident, independent and literate
 - A process has been initiated for developing and producing the Full text-full audio multimedia books, Braille books accessible e-books etc. through the use of DAISY
- **This practice is a positive example for the global south for inclusive education**

Moving Forward:

- **There is a need to scaled-up the project across the whole country**
- **This project can be replicated in other countries**

Questions

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