

# ICDP in Bangladesh

By Gerd Eli Haaland, ICDP Bangladesh leader

This has been a challenging year for ICDP in Bangladesh, as in many countries all over the world.

Presently the Normisjon Bangladesh is running a program called HCDP- Healthy Childhood Development Program, and in this program ICDP is the main component.

During 2020, the Normisjon Bangladesh has been in the process of training thirty- two people to become ICDP facilitators, who came from five different NGOs.

Twenty-one trainee facilitators embarked on their training in January 2020, but when the pandemic hit in March, almost all the caregiver groups and the training of facilitators had to be put on hold.

However, in September we were able to resume caregiver groups, and we are now aiming to graduate twenty facilitators in November 2020, and another twelve in January 2021.



*Practising children's songs during training of facilitators*



*Practising attunement and empathy*



*Rumi from Normisjon BD, Flora from Lamb and Nayomi from AG Mission are practicing the Seven ICDP Principles of Sensitization by doing mock session in the second Facilitator level workshop.*

Two facilitators are stepping up to trainer level this year, and slowly the ICDP team in Normisjon Bd is growing.



*Edna Velasco and Sajeda Boby are in process of becoming trainers this year.*

At the Basha enterprises, (a business that employs survivors of trafficking), two ICDP facilitators were able to train in the ICDP program four caregiver groups in 2020. A group of twenty-four received ICDP training at Basha.



*Day-care staff at Basha Enterprises and Siam one of the children in the day-care. After ICDP training the day-care staff are spending more time with the children and giving more praise.*



*Day-care staff at Basha day-care actively putting ICDP into practice. Shared focus and providing meaning.*

During this autumn (2020), we have visited several caregiver groups, and it is very inspiring to hear all the testimonies of change as a result of ICDP.

The results are very promising:

The majority of the women tell us how they are now spending more time with their children and how they understand their children better.

The use of corporal punishment is reduced.

Before receiving ICDP training, the lunch time at Basha used to be chaotic, where many of the women would feed the children without positive interaction. Yelling and quarrelling between the women was a common feature.

Now the staff observe that the women use this time to engage with their children. There is a calmer atmosphere and the children look forward to spending this time together with their mothers.

The Basha facilitators have done home visits to most of the women who received training. They reported that children who used to roam around in the slum are now

choosing to stay home instead. One mother was asked to explain how come her 9-year-old boy was now behaving so well. “Before I used to have a stick to threaten him and punish him. Now I don’t do that, but he still listens to me and wants to be with me”. The facilitators were able to praise this mother about her ways of showing interest and love to her son.

Several other women talked about how they realized that there was no need for any extra time in order to show love to their children. They can do it in the everyday situations like when going to the office, when having breakfast or when doing house chores together.

ICDP in Bangladesh started because of the need we saw at Basha, especially in one mother and her two children. It was especially joyful to observe how this mother has embraced the training and is now a loving mother for her two children.



*Salma and Salam at Basha Enterprises*

## FUTURE PLANS

Several exciting programs are starting from next year (2021).

### ICDP for mothers in a brothel

One of our future projects is linked to the Salvation Army, where we have already formed ICDP facilitators, who as part of their Salvation Army work support women living in a brothel. In 2021 these facilitators will start to give ICDP training inside this brothel. There are thirty mothers who are living with their children in the brothel.

We have started to work closely with these facilitators in order to adapt the ICDP delivery to fit in with this difficult setting. Our aim is to adjust the training to make it meaningful and useful for the women. Our hope is that through ICDP these mothers will find support in their efforts of providing a better life for their children. We will work on providing special care to those who cannot escape from their life in the brothel, and at

the same time we will also support those who after the ICDP training might find new motivation for a fresh start to try to lead their lives outside the brothel.



*Manager Shital Roy and Captain Champa Baroy from The Salvation Army will be certified as facilitators in November. Here we are working on how to adapt ICDP for a brothel setting.*

### Lamb community hospital

Another organisation we are training is Lamb community hospital and development project. They have a training centre that already provides a nursery, midwifery and several short-term courses.

Lamb is planning to include ICDP in the Nursery Curriculum and also add it as a short-term course.

Significantly, the Normisjon BD will partner closely with Lamb for the purpose of working towards ICDP becoming institutionalized in a way that will benefit many and will help ensure the sustainability of ICDP in Bangladesh.