

Children Protection Policy

Prepared in 2011

Prepared by



**Population Crisis Control and Mass Education
Committee (PCC&MEC)**

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Background of PCC&MEC

Population Crisis Control & Mass Education Committee (PCC & MEC) is a non-profit, non-political, and non-Government voluntary organization that came into appearance in 1985. It is committed to help in changing socio-economic and health status of the local poor, especially the deprived women and destitute children of the poor families of its working areas. A group of civic-minded men and women of Khulna area established it who closely found the measurable condition of the local poor living in the poverty brackets. The organization realizes the socio-economic problems of the poor people and believes in their potential for overcoming the problems by their own efforts.

PCC&MEC has a diverse range of activities under its organizational banner. Most of its core activities are of non-profit nature, which are essentially funded by donor organization.

Government Registration Status:

a. FDR No. 384 dated on 29/01/1991. NGO Affairs Bureau Prime Ministers Office, Government of Bangladesh	b. Reg. No. 382/86 dated on 20/10/1986 Directorate of Social Welfare Government of Bangladesh	c. FP: 24 dated on 14/02/1987 in 1987 Dated: 30.01.2008 Department of Family Planning
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Some of the major areas of focus of the PCC&MEC

- ▣ Development Projects
- ▣ Child Protection
- ▣ Women Rights
- ▣ Micro Credit and IGAs
- ▣ Disaster management
- ▣ Education (Human Resource Building)
- ▣ Renewable Energy
- ▣ Capacity Building, Training and Workshops
- ▣ Fisheries and livestock
- ▣ Mother and child Health care

VISION OF THE ORGANIZATION:

- ▣ A prosperous country, technologically modernized and self-sufficient.
- ▣ In a broader sense: An enlightened world, free from the darkness of poverty, pollution, illiteracy, and fundamentalism.
- ▣ A healthy and sustainable society with equity and justice in the program areas.

Mission and vision of PCC&MEC

Work with those poor people who have less access and unserved and undeserved in the operational areas, organized and provide them demand driven support, mobilize local

resources, contribute sustainable development ensuring quality services and also ensure people participation at all levels.

Objectives of PCC&MEC

- As a visionary organization working in the development sector PCC&MEC has many enlightening objectives that reflect its vision and mission as an organization. Apart from its general organizational objectives, PCC&MEC formulates specific objectives for its different development projects. The general organizational objectives of the organization are illustrated below: To be established as a transparent, efficient and visionary national Non Government Organization in the NGO sector of Bangladesh
- To actively and voluntarily participate in multidimensional development projects focusing on poverty alleviation, disaster management, rehabilitation, rural health, literacy, livelihood sustenance, infrastructure development and other social issues.
- To build and disseminate awareness regarding different societal problems such as crime, illiteracy, environmental degradation, malnutrition, natural calamities, safe water & sanitation etc.
- To work effectively for building a safer and pollution free environment characterized by an ecologically stable habitat in rural and urban Bangladesh
- To come up with innovative project designs and ideas to address these multidimensional social issues in the context of Bangladesh.
- To facilitate innovative and practical ICT tools that will aid these development activities
- To share management expertise and know-how with partner organizations in order to facilitate coordinated development efforts
- To provide constructive consultancy and organizational expertise to the partner organizations and clients;
- Make ensure of children's rights in projects and programs in respect of gender issues for bringing equal rights and opportunities.
- To actively work as a complementary force alongside the government initiatives of Bangladesh, by obliging to the legal regulations of the Government of Bangladesh.

Justification:

Everyone believes that the welfare of each child is paramount. We have a responsibility to all children and parents to provide security, promote confidence and independence as vigilant with any protection issues. As practitioners we strive to build strong relationships with both children and parents so they feel comfortable asking us for help and advice. There are categories of abuse, neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse. If any signs of abuse or a disclosures is made all information will be recorded and kept in a locked filing cabinet, information will be kept confidential and be on a need to know basis. Life is difficult for families in Bangladesh. The country is riddled with malnutrition, illiteracy and [infectious diseases](#) — due in great part to abject poverty among about half of the country's 150 million people. What's more, natural disasters often strike, devastating the country's limited resources.

Save the Children has worked in Bangladesh since 1970. Since then, we've improved millions of children's lives by focusing on better nutrition, [health and education](#).

- ▶ Challenges for Children
- ▶ Health and Nutrition
- ▶ Emergency Response
- ▶ Sponsor a Child in Bangladesh

Child Protection aims:

- ▶ To promote the fundamental principles of the Children Act and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- ▶ To ensure that the welfare of the child is paramount.
- ▶ To ascertain the wishes and feelings of the child in the light of his/her age and understanding.
- ▶ To promote the development of the child to his/her full potential – intellectual, physical, social, emotional and behavioural.
- ▶ To promote the protection of children from harm or ill treatment, including supporting a child's development in ways which will foster self-esteem, security, confidence and independence to help ensure their own protection and understand the importance of protecting others.

Policy aims:

- ▶ To protect children from maltreatment.
- ▶ To prevent impairment of children's health or development.
- ▶ To ensure that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care so that they have optimum life chances and can enter adulthood successfully.

Bangladesh Facts and Statistics

Population: 163,654,860

Infant Death Rate: 47 deaths/1,000 live births

Life Expectancy: 70

[Poverty](#) Rate: 43%

Underweight Children: 41%

Human Development Rank: 146

Maternal Death Risk: 240 deaths/100,000 live births

Girls' [Education](#): 8 years

Clean [Water](#) Access: 81%

Under-5 mortality rank	60
Under-5 mortality rate (U5MR), 1990	139
Under-5 mortality rate (U5MR), 2011	46
Infant mortality rate (under 1), 1990	97
Infant mortality rate (under 1), 2011	37
Neonatal mortality rate 2011	26
Total population (thousands) 2011	150494
Annual no. of births (thousands) 2011	3016

Annual no. of under-5 deaths (thousands) 2011	134
GNI per capita (US\$) 2011	770
Life expectancy at birth (years) 2011	69
Total adult literacy rate (%) 2007-2011*	57
Primary school net enrolment ratio (%) 2008-2011* -	
Low birthweight (%) 2007-2011*	22
Early initiation of breastfeeding (%), 2007-2011*	36
Exclusive breastfeeding <6 months (%), 2007-2011*	64
Introduction of solid, semi-solid or soft foods 6-8 months (%), 2007-2011*	71
Breastfeeding at age 2 (%), 2007-2011*	90

Definitions

1) The Definitions for categories of Child Abuse:

Neglect – is the persistent or severe neglect of a child or the failure to protect a child from exposure to any kind of danger, including cold and starvation, or extreme failure to carry out important aspects of care, resulting in the significant impairment of the child’s health or development including non-organic failure to thrive.

Physical injury – is the actual or likely physical injury to a child or failure to prevent physical injury (or suffering) to a child including deliberate poisoning, suffocation, or Munchausen’s syndrome by proxy.

Sexual abuse – is the actual or likely sexual exploitation of a child or adolescent. The child may be dependent and/or mentally immature.

Emotional abuse – is the actual or likely severe adverse effect on the emotional and behavioral development of a child caused by persistent or severe emotional ill treatment or rejection. All abuse involves some emotional ill treatment. This category should be used when it is the main or sole form of abuse.

2) Conditions for making a care or suspension order.

A court may only make a care or suspension order if it is satisfied that:

(a) The child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm and that this is attributable to the care given, or likely to be given, to the child if the order were not made

or:

(b) That the child is beyond the parents’ control.

There is no statutory definition of ‘significant harm’ or ‘a reasonable parent’.

3) Categories of children considered to be ‘vulnerable’

- ▶ Looked after children
- ▶ Disabled pupils
- ▶ Pupils with Special Educational Needs
- ▶ Permanently excluded pupils
- ▶ Pupils subject to managed transfers
- ▶ Children of refugees and asylum seekers
- ▶ Travellers’ children

- ▶ Children registered with the Youth Offenders Team
- ▶ Children at risk of social exclusion

Strategies for management of child protection

The Headteacher, Alan Shaw, is the designated Child Protection Co-ordinator and has the responsibility to:

- a) Receive reports or concerns from other members of staff
 - b) Notify the Education Welfare Officer of reports from staff
 - c) Record the details of conversations and actions taken in connection with a child protection matter and complete necessary forms
- d) Liaise with the Education Welfare Service and Social Services throughout an investigation
 - e) Advise the Education Welfare Service and Social Services of any further suspicions of abuse and any unexplained or significant absences

Procedure to follow in the event of a child disclosing information to a member as follows.

- ▶ Listen to the child, make eye contact, keep at the child's level, be supportive, don't act shocked by any information the child shares with you, do not ask direct questions.
- ▶ Reassure the child but do not make any promises to keep the information a secret.
- ▶ Record accurately all information in writing, including time, date and other relevant information, and put in the locked filing cabinet.
- ▶ Information gathered to be shared with the CPO who will then contact first response and discuss the information with all the relevant people.
- ▶ If still un-sure contact other agencies who may be able to advice you further.
- ▶ ALWAYS maintain confidentiality.

Procedure to follow in the event of a member of staff having an allegation made against them:

- ▶ Allegations should be recorded in writing, and filed away in a locked cabinet.
- ▶ In the case of a child being physical harmed by any adult (staff, visitor, parent or carer) within the setting then the police will be contacted to deal with the situation.
- ▶ The member of staff maybe suspended while the investigation is carried out and if the allegation is proven then the necessary procedure will be carried out.

Challenges for Children

Tropical monsoons, frequent floods and cyclones inflict heavy damage annually to this impoverished nation. Over a third of the population is under the age of 18 and almost seven million children between five and 14 have to work to help their families survive.

While Bangladesh has made significant progress in addressing national health and education challenges over the past three decades of its independence, the country remains one of the world's poorest; indicators place it amongst the least developed countries.

Equal Opportunities:

In all projects and programs of PCC & MEC will be emphasis on equal opportunities of

children so that they can avail their rights in respect of their needs and wellbeing.

Health and Safety

As PCC &MEC has been implementing different projects where health and safety is being related so PCC &MEC will also consider this continue for running and up coming projects also.

Looked after children

Staffs of PCC &MEC who have child and who will take baby will have option of provision to look after their child in the working place and home as per the child needs also office time for them will be flexible.

Disabled child care

PCC &MEC will initiate this segments children for assisting them device , inclusive education, health, nutrition, sanitation and others needs as special for them for stand up their social values and dignity.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs

PCC &MEC will arrange assistive device for education and related facilities for them for this PCC &MEC will contact and liaison with government and donors for ensuring education to disabled child.

Permanently excluded pupils

Those who have this types being suffered PCC &MEC will take steps measures to bring them in mainstreaming society as a whole.

Children of floating and street living

PCC &MEC will consider a better life for social refugees and floating children's in a safe and secured places that will be ensuring their health, shelter and rehabilitations including safe working environment and foods.

Travelers' children

PCC &MEC already getting advocacy for the children safe journey and protection from traffickers as this is a natural phenomenon in Bangladesh. People's advocacy, stickers in transport and motivation among transport worker regarding these issues.

Birth Registration

PCC &MEC in its health, education and others project have been ensuring birth and death registration for their health services, education and future establishment.

Children at risk of social exclusion

PCC &MEC will bring children in mainstreaming society out them social risk and stigma through making advocacy and implementation of such types of projects.

Others

PCC &MEC as on demand to up coming challenging of children's will take and amend this policy according to needs of society and children's as a whole.