



Project Title: “Strengthening the Feminist Movement to Fight Against Violation of Rights”

**Report on
Observance of International Day of the Girl Child, 2025**



**Organized by: Nice Foundation
Supported by: FON, CREA**

Locations: Shimultala and Kalitala, Dumuria, Khulna Date: 11 October, 2025

Background

The Nice Foundation, established in 2005, has been at the forefront of empowering marginalized communities in Bangladesh with a special focus on women, Dalit Hindus, religious minorities, and displaced Rohingya. With a mission to alleviate poverty, secure rights, and promote gender equality, the Foundation operates various programs across human rights, education, health, governance, climate change, and sustainable development. In collaboration with national and global partners, the Foundation plays a key role in fostering systemic change for vulnerable populations.

As part of its ongoing commitment to gender justice and women's empowerment, the Nice Foundation is implementing the **FON Project** - "*Strengthening the Feminist Movement to Fight Against Violation of Rights.*" The project spans 20 villages across Batiaghata and Dumuria in Khulna, along with advocacy in 8 other districts through 10 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

Purpose of the Events

The event was organized to celebrate the International Day of the Girl Child on October 11, 2025, with the aim to:

- Raise awareness about the rights of girls and the importance of gender equality.
- Discuss key challenges faced by girls, such as gender discrimination, gender-based violence (GBV), and child marriage.
- Engage community members in meaningful dialogue to foster a safer, more inclusive society for girls and young women.

Activities of the Events

1. Community Discussion Sessions:

Two interactive discussion sessions were organized in two villages under the project area. The sessions were attended by girls, parents, youth leaders, and local community members, including local authorities and CSO representatives. The key discussion topics included:

- Meaning and Importance of the International Day of the Girl Child
- Understanding Gender Discrimination: Causes, forms, and consequences in the local context.
- Gender-Based Violence (GBV): Types, impact on girls and women, and available support mechanisms.
- Child Marriage: Legal frameworks, socio-economic consequences, and strategies to prevent it.

The sessions were designed to be participatory, with group discussions, Q&A sessions, and personal storytelling. Facilitators from the Nice Foundation encouraged critical reflection and promoted open dialogue among participants, especially encouraging girls to voice their experiences and aspirations.

2. Play Cards Display

As a creative and visual advocacy tool, a play cards display was set up in both villages. The play cards carried impactful messages and illustrations highlighting:

- The rights of girls and women.
- The harmful effects of child marriage and GBV.
- The importance of education and equal opportunities for girls.
- Empowering messages promoting gender equality and feminist values.

These displays attracted considerable attention from local residents, especially youth, and served as a medium to generate interest and discussion beyond the structured sessions.

Outcomes and Impact

- Over 45 community members directly participated in the sessions.
- Participants, especially girls, reported increased awareness and motivation to stand up for their rights.
- Local leaders and parents expressed commitment to supporting girls' education and standing against child marriage and GBV.
- The use of visual advocacy (play cards) created an engaging atmosphere and helped convey key messages effectively to people of all literacy levels.
- The events fostered a sense of community solidarity and highlighted the importance of collective action to advance gender justice.

Alignment with FON Project Objectives

These events directly contributed to the FON project's key objectives by:

- Raising awareness among community groups about GBV and gender equality.
- Fostering participation in dialogues around harmful gender norms.
- Strengthening grassroots feminist voices by empowering girls and encouraging local action.
- Mobilizing local stakeholders for advocacy and community support against rights violations.

Recommendations and Way Forward

- Continue organizing regular community dialogues and visual campaigns to maintain momentum.
- Engage more youth and adolescent boys in future events to promote inclusive change.
- Link discussion sessions with referral and support mechanisms, including legal aid and counseling for survivors of GBV.
- Develop community-led action plans to prevent child marriage and address gender-based violence.

Acknowledgements

The Nice Foundation extends heartfelt gratitude to all participants, local authorities, facilitators, and the network CSOs involved in the FON project. Special thanks to the girls and young women who shared their voices, and to the communities who continue to support the movement toward gender justice and equality.

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Photos of the events:



Shimultala, Dumuria, Khulna



Shimultala, Dumuria, Khulna



Shimultala, Dumuria, Khulna



Shimultala, Dumuria, Khulna



Kalitala, Dumuria, Khulna



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