



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

SPACE – A FOUNDATION FOR PEACE & CARE

Annual Report -2024

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Our Purpose

We struggle for just global that young generation and marginalized community. The fulfillment of their goal is to build a strong gender perspective and shared commitment to sustainable development, justice, peace, human rights, pluralism, and democracy. At the same time, the vital responsibilities of this organization are capacity building on gender, sexuality, and mental health and training for transgender & intersex people.

Find out more: <http://spacebd.org/>

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Schedule :

no	Content	Page no
1.	Executive Summary	
2.	Where we work	
3.	Our strategy	
4.	Our impact at a glance	
5.	Capacity building and learning program	
6.	Awareness program	
7.	Advocacy program	
8.	Monitoring and Evaluation	

Executive Summary:

1. Introduction:

Space-A Foundation for Peace & Care is a women-headed feminist organization that is working for gender equality, inclusion, justice & peace. Space is working to build a strong gender perspective and shared commitment to sustainable development, justice, peace, human rights, pluralism, and democracy. Space started its work during the pandemic of 2020 and registered as a non-government organization (NGO) in Bangladesh in April 2021. Space has 2 regular staff to implement its regular work. Space worked all over the country. For the past four years, space has worked for gender-diverse population and their mental health. Space also worked for flood-affected people collaborating with Pother School organization in the Bangladesh flood of 2024. Every month Space organizes mental health sessions for gender-diverse people also for women. Space also arranged a program regarding film screening of intersex people for social awareness where doctors and other professionals from different organizations were invited. Space has completed 5th batch of three months-long training on human rights, gender, SRHR, gender diversity, and mental health with youth. Space also continues live programs to inform people of women's rights, mental health, sexually diverse people's rights, and Adolescent's rights.

2. Where we work:

Space Foundation works in 64 districts in Bangladesh towards just the youth generation and marginalized communities.

3. Our Strategy:

Throughout 2024, it became apparent that working with adolescents, and youth groups to develop their gender perspective sense has been considered significantly crucial among certain demographics of society in Bangladesh. Therefore, Space Foundation has worked to build a strong gender perspective youth mind, as well as organized capacity-building training on gender, sexuality, and mental health for transgender & intersex people. But before these activities, the required space foundation launched to pay for complimentary appreciation, a major strategic aspiration. While we continued to control our aligning for impact corporate strategy, following significant adjustments made to accommodate our pandemic tribute. We used this financial year to recalibrate our program strategy and have an effect on the model and organizational structure.

Underpinning this vision are the following growth strategy principles:

- Create significant revisions for adolescents, transgender & intersex people based on gender outlook
- Develop association in the middle of the like-minded outlook for successfully putting in a program through collaboration

Program Strategy Objectives:

With this in mind, the objectives of the program strategy are to:

1. Drive buildup and renewed direct allowance generation.
2. Connect and work alongside fellow activists to establish a strong voice in advocacy and consulting.
3. Strategically align the organizational structure, bearing in mind how and where we will put it into action.
4. Create significant change for adolescents, transgender, and intersex people through gender-transformative programs, ensuring emotional impact and using evidence-based results to engage investors and decision-makers.
5. Advance mental health support for gender-diverse people and adolescents by integrating trauma-informed care, peer-led support networks, and accessible mental health services within community programs.
6. Establish a foundation for peace and care work, fostering safe spaces for healing, resilience, and empowerment while combating discrimination, violence, and systemic exclusion.
7. Strengthen advocacy efforts through intersectional approaches, ensuring that social, economic, and racial justice are embedded in gender and adolescent-focused activism.
8. Develop sustainable economic empowerment initiatives, providing gender-diverse people and adolescents with skill-building, employment opportunities, and financial independence.
9. Enhance community engagement through storytelling and participatory activism, amplifying lived experiences to drive systemic change and policy reform.
10. Collaborate with allies, organizations, and institutions to push for structural policy shifts that recognize and protect the rights, dignity, and well-being of gender-diverse communities and adolescents.

Work towards these objectives began along with an organizational three-unit structure:

- 1. Fundraising**
- 2. Advocacy and Community Engagement**
- 3. Program**

4. Our impact at a glance:

- **Programmatic Success:** Our Gender School program (Adolescents, and also for youth) witnessed growth, contributing to the thoughts, and mindset in the lives of adults and adolescents. Similarly, youth' "Gender School" and various workshop programs achieved improvements, showcasing our dedication to making a positive difference.
- **Networking and Advocacy:** Space has increased efforts to build a strong network with stakeholders, especially with embassies and other organizations. Space has created some advocacy tools to work with, e.g. Documentary Films about Intersex people.

5. Capacity building and learning program:

Now, all programs are organized and facilitated in person while there was a time when we needed to take it online, the Space Foundation continued to monitor and examine the press at the forefront and achievements of programs across our portfolio, by focusing on learning and research to add the quality and outcomes of future projects. Space Foundation inauguration commissioned and contributed to evaluation and research in a range of national territories, focusing not far and wide on a variety of topics, including education, aptitude proceeds training, and youth empowerment. Youth empowerment for example, proficiency development was a particularly prominent theme in our monitoring, evaluation, and learning sectors for this year and is key to our focus on nearly improving the lives of teenagers, especially for transgender and intersex people. Evaluation of our teen's empowerment and finishing allocation is going on knowledge and skills to benefit your hands-on decent employment and increased confidence to gain others in a view of that of the program. This program into genuine outcomes a maximum number of participants secured decent thinking and ideology within just 3 months of participating in the program. Significant growth in front of was made in challenging the social norms that inhibit unprivileged transgender and intersex people's participation in knowledge employment.

1. Capacity building training: Gender School

Capacity-Building Training for Gender School:

Capacity-building training in Gender School focuses on strengthening the skills, knowledge, and confidence of individuals to understand and address gender equality and social justice issues. This training equips participants with the tools they need to advocate for equal rights, challenge gender-based violence, and promote inclusion and diversity in their communities.

Here's what it typically involves:

1. **Understanding Gender:** Training starts by exploring what gender means and how it affects people's lives. It covers concepts like gender identity, gender roles, and the difference between sex and gender.

2. **Gender Equality:** It teaches the importance of gender equality and how both men and women, as well as non-binary individuals, deserve equal opportunities, rights, and treatment.
3. **Skills Development:** The training helps participants develop key skills, such as how to effectively communicate about gender issues, advocate for change, and support those affected by gender inequality.
4. **Practical Actions:** Participants learn about strategies to reduce gender disparities. This could include addressing the gender pay gap, preventing violence against women, or promoting women in leadership roles.
5. **Creating Safe Spaces:** A key part of the training is creating safe spaces where everyone can share their experiences, ask questions, and discuss ways to improve gender equality in their local and global communities.

By the end of the training, participants should feel more empowered to challenge gender stereotypes and work towards creating a world where everyone, regardless of gender, has the same opportunities and respect.

Research:

A situation analysis study to empowering SOGISC/LGBTIQ + People through community-led research and capacity building project training organized and facilitated by Moshfee Ara (Shimul), Co-Founder & Executive Director, & Independent Consultant, Space - A Foundation For Peace & Care.

Here, funds were coming for this project that is Women's Fund Asia. It's a regional women's fund, committed to supporting for women, girls, Trans men& women and intersex people led interventions to enhance and strengthen access to their rights.

Selection Process:

The districts of Dhaka, Chattogram (Hill Tracks), and Khulna host the proposed area where 8 youth LGBTI people will lead the research in Bangladesh. Dhaka has been chosen because it is the nation's capital, a megacity with a diverse population, and a place where many opportunities and services are offered.

Training:

Research team were present at Adabor at Space office on 11-15 April and 22-24 June 2024 respectively. Facilitator Moshfee Ara (Shimul), gave an informative speech and conduct whole training process by this methodology such as Ice Breaking Session, Meditation ,Participatory story and Discussion, Group Work, Story Telling and Video showing, Drama, Games, Songs, Dance Experience, Sharing and Case Study and, Social Mapping, Body Mapping etc.

Also has explained about the project and its purposes with what is gender, sex, sexuality, human rights and constitution of Bangladesh, law and policy regarding gender diverse people in Bangladesh. Including the different kinds of power which depends on state, family, society, religion, partner education, health and the situation of participant's power position in their country, economics, education, language, freedom of speech, gender, sex, property etc. by research team for their participatory discussion to each other.

Moreover, how to prevention, diagnosis and treatment of sexual and reproductive health-related diseases, mental health & SRHR, menstruation hygiene & wed dream by experience sharing, participatory discussion.

Recommendation for Field work:

From Khulna, 2FGD will be conducted among mixed male groups and 1 for mixed female group.

In Chattogram (Hill Tracks), 2 FGD will be among males and another for female group and

In Dhaka, 2 FGD among Trans man and Trans women, 1 FGD among Intersex persons.

Key Information Interviews (KII) will be conducted among service providers.

Queer persons will be selected from Dhaka, Chattagram (Hill Tracks) and Khulna for In-Depth Interviews (IDI)

Collection of field work data:

Moshfee Ara (Shimul), the facilitator follows same methodology gave us speech about what is team, how to work in a team, conflict, conflict migration. Also, discussed about what is report, kind of report, how to write a report. Then everyone started compiling reports on their field work with sharing each other and group discussion. After that, all team members compile all the information together and also sharing all their knowledge and experience about this research which they learned from this research and made a short report and submit it. Also, conducted carrier development, challenges inside with the presence of (Human Rights). There we discussed where we want to see ourselves, carrier development and what the basic challenges inside of us are. Moreover, another mental health specialist Mumun Rifat was came and takes a wonderful session about self-care & community care.

Overall, sharing and caring each other feelings with feedback each other the training program session was end successfully.

Field Work Challenges:

- * The organizer had to face challenges in managing participants' accommodation to maintain safety and security.
- * Initially, FGD and In- Depth as provided at no expense, but at the end we arranged a very low budgeted, which making work exceedingly challenging.
- * A participant has to drop out of training suddenly for his test. So very quickly, another participant has to be recruited to do the work instead.
- * One participant withdrew from this research program due to illness. Again, another participant is taken, and after being taught, new one has to finish the rest of the work very short time.
- * The training has to be completed in a very short period of time, and a lot of things have to be learned in a short period of time.
- * For fear of having their identity revealed, a large number of individuals declined to be photographed.
- * As one's home is in Hill tracks, he had to take some risks while working through Chittagong and stayed at a relative's house. Later, everyone had to work with him very carefully.
- * Working with intersex individuals in Dhaka was tough since they are highly private, and it was hard to get everyone together for a FGD and an in-depth program.

Advocacy :

Documentary Film Screening (Intersex awareness):

With the help of the Grik gallery and ALRD, Space was able to screen its documentary film “Life of Nobody”. The documentary film "Life of Nobody" produced by the Space Foundation was screened on 17th February 2024 in Grik gallery at the Dhanmondi, Dhaka and another screened on 2nd November in ALRD office for the occasion of International Intersex Awareness Day at the Mohammadpur, Dhaka.

In the team, Moshfec Ara (Shimul) who was the first who brought this concept, Mita Nahar was the director, Alvin Joel Hazra was in camera, Marzia Prova was script writer, Shaikh Md. Mominul Islam helped to create subtitle, Rakin Absar Arnob helped in video editing. Thanks to Dr. Lelin Chowdhury, Zara Afroz and Noor Alam without whose help this work would not have been possible.

At Drik gallery

The documentary "Life of Nobody" is based on the lives of Intersex people and their rights. It is about “Unnecessary Surgery” of Intersex children and adults. Space is grateful to the Grik gallery for giving such opportunity.

At ALRD Office



For celebrating the Intersex Awareness day, SPACE Foundation organized the year’s 2nd documentary film screening by the support of ALRD. Space is grateful to the ALRD for giving such opportunity.

Monthly Emotional Wellbeing Programs for SOGISCE:

The Emotional Wellbeing Program was organized by SPACE—a foundation for peace and care—and facilitated by Moshfec Ara (Shimul), the Executive Director of SPACE, and Munmun Rifat, a mental health expert. The program ran from May to October 2024, consisting of a total of seven sessions, held at Adabor in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

During the event, the facilitator, Munmun Rifat, was present on-site. Moshfec Ara (Shimul) delivered an introductory speech, while Munmun Rifat conducted the entire training process. The program included various activities such as ice-breaking sessions, meditation, body sensation exercises, participatory storytelling and discussions, group work, storytelling and listening to music, drama, games, songs, and dance.



The program provided a safe and open space where participants could freely express their personal opinions, engage in discussions, and take part in various activities. It also encouraged participants to share their problems openly, which helped them release negative energy and transform it into positive energy. Overall, it was an excellent program for improving mental wellbeing.

Highlights:

The key focus was “LET IT GO.

The central theme was “BE BOLD & CARE FOR MYSELF—YES, I CAN DO IT.

Participants:

The program welcomed a diverse group of participants who interacted comfortably with each other. The attendees included:

- Trans men: 5
- Trans women: 3
- Lesbian: 1
- Non-binary individuals: 2
- Heterosexual individuals: several

Challenges:

1. The duration of the program was too short, and participants expressed a desire for more time.
2. Monthly sessions were not sufficient; weekly sessions were recommended.

The program allowed participants to share their feelings and learn how to take care of themselves, creating a positive and supportive environment for everyone involved.

2. Monthly Emotional Wellbeing Programs for women:

The Emotional Wellbeing Program, organized by SPACE—a foundation dedicated to peace and care—focused on women's mental health and was facilitated by Moshfec Ara (Shimul), the Executive Director of **SPACE**, and Munmun Rifat, a mental health expert. The program was held on 29 August 2024 where Space organized a heart-to-heart gathering. It was an event for women. Everyone was carrying the trauma of the Bangladesh government collapse in the July tragedy. **SPACE** strives to create an environment where everyone can freely and openly share their thoughts and emotions without hesitation. Another program was held on 08 December 2024 aligned with the global campaign for 16 Days of Activism, emphasizing mental health advocacy and support for women at Adabor in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Two of the sessions addressed critical themes impacting women's mental health.



Munmun Rifat facilitated the training process on-site, while Moshfec Ara (Shimul) set the stage with an inspiring introductory speech. The program featured a variety of engaging activities, including ice-breaking sessions, meditation, body sensation exercises, participatory storytelling and discussions, and supportive space for participants to connect and heal.

3. Investing in gender education for adolescents and youth (Gender School):



Investing in gender education for adolescents and youth is an energy-varying program. It provides adolescents taking into account opportunities to involve their futures and become the adults they were hurting to be and the ripple effects it can have for entire communities and countries in the goal of fact transforming our world. But for many returning to education adding together-pandemic will not be a substitute. Within the context of the emotional and social press, recognizing that the provision of hint alone is not plenty. Young people's obsessions to be unmodified are the opportunity to get valuable learning skills and develop determined attitudes and values. CSE is entering that recognizes and promotes human rights, knowledge skills vital for health problem prevention, and gender equality. Evidence has shown that comprehensive sex education (CSE) is scientifically accurate, culturally and age-take possession of gender education and skill-based and can be more happening gone maintenance for young people considering the knowledge, skills, and efficiency to make informed decisions approximately their sexuality and lifestyle. When teenagers are equipped with accurate and relevant mention, once they have developed skills in decision-making, arbitration, communication, and necessary thinking, and have the right of entry to counseling and SRHR facilities that are non-judgmental and affordable. They have improved skills in their personalities. At the middle of September 2024, we started to plan about in-person Gender School for youth and Adolescents. We revised our training module and created modules and materials to cater to different age (15-25) groups. We contacted many people to recruit participants for this course. We started In-person Gender School for Youth and Adolescents on 27th September 2024. We have decided to receive 1000 Taka per month as a course fee per participant. Participants who were join the Gender School 2024- Martuza Khan, Hridkonthi Islam Zaman, Azraf Fatullah, Mita Tripura, Maisha Mumtahina Islam, (Alif) Avaa Muskan Tithi, Eshama Ahmed, Adrita Zaman Islam, Rabeya moni, Intiha Samanta.



In this course, we had Gender, SRHR, Human Rights, and Mental Health components. In Gender-related classes, they learned Sex and Gender, Gender Identities, Gender Expressions, Transgender, Hijra, Intersex, Sex Chromosomes, Male and Female Hormones, Gender Roles, Sexual and Romantic Orientations, Various Sexuality, Discriminations based on Genders, Stereotypes, Harmful Social Norms, Patriarchy, Femininity, Masculinity, SGBV, etc. In SRHR classes, they learned about Puberty, Wet Dreams, Periods, Menstruation and Menopause, Masturbation, Love and Sexual Attraction, Various Sexual Diseases/Sexual Infections, Safe Sex, Consent and Sexual Harassment, Pregnancy, Reproductive Organs and Reproductive Systems, Reproductive Health and Rights, etc. In the classes on Human Rights, they learned about the Rights of Citizens, Human Rights, Bangladesh Constitution and Human Rights, Rights Violation, Rights of Women, Rights of Children and Adolescents, Rights of Homeless Street Children, etc. In the classes on Mental Health, they have learned about Mental Stress, Mental Diseases, Suicide, Yoga, Meditation, Anger Management, Stress Management, Counseling, etc. At the end of this course, we had 9 participants who completed the course successfully. Many development experts and stakeholders have appreciated our initiatives.

Add the challenge of gender school, evaluation from the participants and some outcome from the gender school.

Board Member Meet-Up:

In March, the **SPACE**- A Foundation for Peace & Care hosted an engaging Board Meet-Up, fostering collaboration and open dialogue among its members. The session was attended by:

- **Advisory Members:** Farida Begum and Hana Shams AAhmed

- **Executive Members:** Purabi Talukder, Moshfec Ara (Shimul), Mossamat Nahar, and Banu Taslima Miji
- **General Members:** Marzia Prova, Shanjida Khan Ripa, Tasnuva Anan Shishir, and Rabeya Moni

This gathering provided a platform for open discussion, sharing updates, and exploring strategies to enhance the foundation's mission and impact. Members engaged in brainstorming sessions and constructive conversations aimed at strengthening partnerships, aligning objectives, and driving the organization's vision forward.

The event highlighted the collective commitment to fostering peace and care, ensuring the foundation continues to serve as a beacon of support and growth in the community.



4. WGG Young Leaders' Capacity Building Workshop 2024

The **SPACE** Foundation collaborated with the *Women Gaining Ground Young Leaders' Capacity Building Workshop 2024*, organized by the *Bonnishikha* team. During this workshop, Rabeya Moni, who served as the Program Officer at the **SPACE** Foundation until September 2024, represented the foundation. Following her tenure, Intiha Samanta, the newly appointed Program Officer, took over the role and continues to contribute to this ongoing program. The primary aim of this initiative is to **establish sexual and gender-based rights**.

Program was held in Chuti resort in Gazipur at 1st to 4th May, 2024. In those days, all of us, the participants participated in many sessions and learned a lot about ourselves through various activities.



On the first day, all participants were introduced themselves through their hosts Tisa and Samina who are esteemed members of the “Bonnishikha” organization, followed by a discussion on self-care session and dinner together at the end of the day.

Next day, after breakfast, resource persons Zobaida and Tasafi discuss power and masculinity. In this session, participants learned "If we can eliminate poverty in our minds, you can be a powerful person". Also, feminism is that term which means men and women are complements each other where there is no dominance. Empowerment is being able to ensure the rights of the body, mind and soul. Identities in our own sexuality and what are challenges faces between our societies. What's mechanism we should follow about to gain justice. Mentor and definition of a mentor should be trustworthy, thoughtful, listening, mother, creative, inspirational, visionary, humble, kind, servant, unconditional lover, selfless, caring, and simplifying many qualities.



The following day, highlight topics were ‘WGG objectives and pathways’, ‘online movement & Digital security’ by mentors ‘Tasafi, Prianka’ and ‘Trishia & Shaveena’ respectively. After lunch, online movement, what's the difference between campaign and movement?

Parallel sessions: Divided two groups.

Group 1: Intro to research (FPAR) & Advocacy.

Group 2: Counter-narrative and sensitization.

Rabeya Moni was selected by group 1 and joining for the research team. There were discussed about the methods of research. After the group discussion the group work started in the session and research topic was selected.

Research topic is:

To reduce the challenges/obstacles of gender diverse population in Bangladesh.

Specific objectives of this research:

- ☐ To share the research findings with the larger community (civil society organizations, NGOs, UN, community-based organizations, Embassies, feminist organizations, and general people)
- ☐ To create dialogue about the discrimination against gender-diverse groups.
- ☐ To increase initiative to eradicate the ongoing challenges that are faced by gender-diverse populations.

The last day, Prianka & Ruksat was helping us to planning activities for 2024 which includes Budget, Expense report, how to make work plan, analyzing, mapping. Later, starting with music, dancing together and other entertainment activities with this the program ends.

Online Volunteer training :

The space foundation has a volunteer group where 18th youth members are active many volunteer activities. Here, our mentor is Moshfee Ara (Shimul), Co-Founder & Executive Director, & Independent Consultant, Space - A Foundation for Peace & Care. Every Monday evening, she takes online classes about SRHR, Mental Health, Gender, Sexuality, Self-care etc. Now, these group members were preparing “Child Hand Note book”.

Democracy International Research:

Space foundation made a safe platform for Democracy International organization. Some experts were come from Democracy International organization for their research purpose. They were research about Gender Diverse People. Space helps them to meet some from LGBTQI people who were suffering sexual and gender based violence.

Joining Advocacy Program in OXFAM Bangladesh:

From September 23 to 26, 2024, Oxfam Bangladesh conducted a four-day advocacy training program focused on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and women’s empowerment. The program was facilitated by Moshfec Ara (Shimul) and co-facilitated by Intiha Samanta, bringing together participants from various organizations across Bangladesh. As part of the Training of Trainers (TOT) program, attendees engaged in capacity-building sessions designed to enhance their advocacy skills and deepen their understanding of SRHR and women’s empowerment. This initiative aimed to equip participants with the tools and knowledge

necessary to drive meaningful change in their communities and organizations.