

## DAM Experience on Adolescent & Youth Intervention:

DAM's works are contributing to health, education, youth empowerment, adolescent & youth development in terms of innovation, outreach and coverage which has been lauded nationally and internationally. DAM launched its youth-based drug prevention and tobacco control campaign program in 1990 throughout the country and formed 402 youth committees in 54 districts in the country. On Adolescent & Youth issue, DAM has experience to work with different development partners e.g. Save the Children in Bangladesh, UNODC, UNESCO, UNICEF, Plan International, CARE Bangladesh, Aga Khan Foundation, Comic Relief, DAM-UK, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids etc. DAM has successfully implemented adolescent & youth programs in urban slums, haor, riverine, coastal, hilly and plain land. The youth volunteer group of DAM have engaged for social services, trained as volunteer on First Aid, Search & Rescue, protecting Forest & Bio-diversity etc. DAM is currently implementing several projects where youth are playing key-roles in advocating, awareness building on the issues of mental health care, substance use, early marriage, tobacco control, road safety, HIV/AIDS, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), hygiene practice etc.



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## Ahsania Mission YOUTH Forum for Health and Wellbeing An initiative of Dhaka Ahsania Mission





## Background:

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) is a non-government development organization founded by Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah (R), an eminent educationist, reformer, and Sufi. The founding motto of DAM is 'Divine and humanitarian service'. It functions since 1958 with the humble goal of social and spiritual development and services for humankind. DAM has gradually grown bigger and stronger; and spread its wings in many different fields of social and economic development; prioritizing the issues of health, education, poverty alleviation, and employment generation. Over the past year, DAM has made notable progress in alleviating human sufferings through reducing poverty, removing illiteracy, empowering youth, women, and boosting socio-economic activities. DAM founder has safeguarded the youth generation by involving them in using their creativity, working abilities, and efficiencies to protect them from being misled or misguided. He has directly involved the youth in founding the Mission. The founder of DAM considered the youth as the cornerstone of the Mission. He formed a youth association (Jubok Samity) for the betterment of society.

The population in Bangladesh is 16.98 crore and 27.96 percent of them are aged between 15-29 years. Bangladesh's youth population has increased by 15.81 percent to 4.59 crore in the last decade, as per the recent census (Population and Housing Census 2022). Therefore, DAM needs to create an "Effective Leadership Inventory" based on managerial and value-driven, knowledge-based and responsive for identifying future leaders in Bangladesh. Youth leadership programs of DAM is to preparing youth for health and wellbeing and instilling in them the values, divine and humanitarian services. This initiative is also enhancing the leadership talents in health and wellbeing.



One of the DAM Youth Advocates Moni Begum participated in 70th UN General Assembly in USA as Youth representative from Bangladesh and delivered speech for preventing early marriage, diarrhea and phenomena under the 'Everyone Campaign Project' of Save the Children in Bangladesh.

## Goal:

The goal of the Youth Leadership Program is to emerging youth in positive activities leading to increase self-efficacy and the development of life skills relevant to success and wellbeing in our country.

## Objectives are:

- ❖ To create a new generation committed to taking challenges in reversing the social, moral and ethical degradations;
- ❖ To build knowledge, capacity and resilience to counter the threats to health including substance use disorders, tobacco use, early marriage, HIV, mental health disorders, road crash, malnutrition and other health and social issues through innovative and effective youth development activities.
- ❖ To advocate with policymakers for future policy and program development to keep youth safe and create alternative pathways.
- ❖ To strengthen youth's abilities, empowerment and transform them to act as change agents in society.
- ❖ To build a network for bringing stakeholders together under a strategic partnership.



## Strategies:

### Leadership Development:

This initiative will create opportunities for personal and leadership development through leadership training, workshops, teamwork, and leadership simulations where youth can practice their leadership skills in realistic scenarios. This strategy will help to increase life skills e.g. problem-solving abilities, decision-making & coping skills, and teamwork building in a simulated environment.

### Community Service:

Youth leaders take an active role in community service programs that address social issues in their communities through youth talks, educational institute-based programs, solidarity programs, various campaigns and advocacies' spokespersons in social causes. This strategy will also encourage youth to identify and address community needs through their participation.

### Networking & Socialization:

Youth leaders build network with other leaders (peer to peer) in their community and beyond through several conferences, seminars, workshops, exchange programs and media relations for future collaborations and strengthen the socialization process.

### Change Agent:

By creating a youth champion, YOUTH Forum intends to establish a support system that will help national and global policymakers to formulate and adopt more youth friendly policies through policy dialogue, policy advocacy, policy research and networking.

