

## Life Skills Based Education

### Issue

Youths and adolescents in Bangladesh are faced with many personal and social challenges. These come in the form of drug addiction, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, physical and sexual abuse, child trafficking and exploitation, violence and discrimination in many forms.

To empower them to handle these challenges they should be equipped with relevant knowledge and psychosocial skills. Adequate education and training will allow them to overcome these challenges and lead a healthy and productive life.

### Action

The Life Skills Based Education (LSBE) intervention is a secondary level training curriculum that equips students with the skills and knowledge to address

issues encountered by adolescents. This curriculum helps to prepare the adolescents for life and bring about desired behavioural changes conducive to healthy and productive living. The National Curriculum and Training Board (NCTB) lead this intervention with technical and financial support from UNICEF.

The LSBE intervention is comprised of three main elements:

- Teacher training;
- Textbooks and teaching materials for students; and
- Communication materials to be used by students, teachers and field officials from the Directorate of Secondary & Higher Education (DSHE).

Teachers are provided with a five-day basic LSBE training session and a subsequent three-day refresher. LSBE materials contain 75 lessons that are included in four thematic areas:

- **Personal Safety:** Focusing on child marriage, sexual and physical abuse, child labour, dowry, child trafficking, and child injury.



- **Personal health and HIV/AIDS:** Focusing on the prevention, risks and transmission of HIV/AIDS and other STIs.
- **Drugs:** Focusing on the impact and consequences of drug addiction, the influence of media and peers, coping with peer pressure and preventing addiction.
- **Puberty and Reproductive Health:** Focusing on changes during puberty, relationship management, early pregnancy, maintaining reproductive health and nutrition.

Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). Elements of this approach include:

- The establishment of a Sector Wide Approach in secondary education.
- The inclusion of LSBE concepts and teaching learning methodologies into mainstream teacher training curriculum (B.Ed/M.Ed) from 2014.
- The development of a social awareness and advocacy programme.
- An extra-curricular focus on adolescent issues as a part of regular school activities through the YC programme.



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## Geographic Location

The LSBE pilot was initially implemented in seven UNICEF convergence districts. It was then expanded to cover all the 20 UNDAF districts.

## Expected Results

When fully implemented, LSBE will benefit 7.5 million children/adolescents per year in secondary schools.

By end of June 2014, 300 adolescents will be developed as “Peer Educators” on adolescent issues.

LSBE has also been included in a three day training programme for Young Champions (YCs) developed and implemented through the United Nations Girls Education Initiative (UNGEI). YCs are young women and men (15 to 20 years plus) who represent the UNGEI movement as advocates and spokespersons for children and girls’ education in a country. LSBE messages have been incorporated into the YC training package as another mechanism to target youth at secondary education level.

## Key Challenges

Having already worked with the Government of Bangladesh to include LSBE into textbooks UNICEF will continue to work with the government to expand the teacher-training programme to all remaining districts.

## Strategic Approach

UNICEF have established a multi-pronged approach to support the implementation of LSBE in 20 districts specifically targeted under the United Nations

Till to date, UNICEF has developed 445 teacher trainers as LSBE Master Trainers from Teacher Training Colleges (TTCs) and Higher Secondary Teacher’s Training Institutes (HSTTIs). More than 20,000 teachers have received LSBE training to implement in classroom teaching-learning.

The LSBE intervention has also achieved the following results:

- LSBE content has mainstreamed into the secondary curriculum textbooks of three subjects.
- Students of grades six to 10 have been gaining knowledge on life skills and relevant adolescent issues since January 2013 in targeted areas.
- Teacher Trainers from DSHE and curriculum specialists from the National Curriculum and Textbook Board have been trained to provide training in the LSBE curriculum to teachers across Bangladesh.
- Teachers have been trained in three of the targeted UNDAF districts.