

Anila's Story

Anila was born on February 20, 1998 with a physical disability. Now 13, she cannot stand or walk. She cannot write independently either. At the age of four she was enrolled in a special school to learn necessary life skills and acquire basic education. After completion of special schooling she faced tremendous problem to enroll herself in regular schools. All the schools refused to enroll her. They have appreciated her



intelligence and communication skills, but refused to enroll showing all sorts of excuses. Finally, the chairman of British Standard school agreed to take her provided she passes the admission test. She passed the test successfully and got admitted.

Anila is pleasant, friendly and intelligent so within a short time she was accepted by all the students and teachers. Regular schools of Bangladesh are not disability friendly. She faces problems all the time. But in spite of such challenging situations, she is continuing her education with an aim to work for the disadvantaged people in the society.

She is the inspiration behind her parents' (Marufa Hossain and Ashfaque-UL-Kabir) efforts to create an organisation called Tauri Foundation. This organisation is working to support disabled children and secure their rights in the society.

Even at this early age Anila has virtually become an activist for children's' rights. She has given a good number of interviews on TV channels. She spoke on children's' rights in a seminar organized by **National Forum of Organizations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD)**. As a member she contributed substantially in the National Children Panel meeting organized by Save the Children, UK. She was very vocal about children's' rights, specially about the rights of children with disability. Anila has the mind-set to become a spokesperson for the disadvantaged people of our society. She tries to express her dreams through paintings. One of her recent paintings show a procession where she put a few wheel chaired person with

placards demanding their rights. Anila participated in a painting competition on February 18, 2011 at the Shaheed Minar. More than 1000 children from 60 schools of Dhaka city area participated in this competition. Anila was one of the top 10.

Recently she has been elected a member of 12 members Global Children Panel of Save the Children, UK for three years. The next meeting of the Global Children panel will be held in July 2011, in London.