

Pursuit of Happiness

My documentary project is about acid victims and their consequences. I have started my project by shooting Nomita Halder who is one the survivor of acid victim. Nomita Halder is a teacher and scholar who has dedicated her life to educating visually impaired children for the last two decades. She is known to be amongst the very first writers, who typed Braille books for their students.

In an overpopulated country like Bangladesh, the people get to witness very vicious and destructive types of violence in which acid attack is one of them. Acid attack has been reported in various countries of the world, none of them has an alarming rate like Bangladesh. Even though the annual percentage rate is decreasing, from 1999 up to last year 3409 incidents and 3788 survivals have been reported.

Acid survivors like Nomita Halder not only have combated the acid assault but also the cons of life. In 1983 when she was in 9th grade, a middle-aged man attacked her on her way back home from classes. Before she realized what was happening her face and hand was soaked in highly corrosive liquid. In this incident, she lost her facial structure and eyesight even the ability to move her fingers were disabled. She continued her studies with the help of Braille and even passed her matriculation and intermediate exams.

She has fought every hardship of her life with her head up and eyes filled with determination. In an interview, she replied to the question of marriage and her future ahead that, "I don't have that kind of thoughts for myself ahead. I do not see myself binding in the bond of marriage anytime soon. I have spent majority of my life teaching here at BMIS and hope to be able to continue doing so in the time ahead."

Fortunately the acid victims who were lucky enough to be helped out by some good people or got a bright opportunity at the justified time have coursed their life into a nice and stable path. There are many Nomita out here in Bangladesh who have wonderfully overcame the pushdown of a life wrecking acid attack but then again there are thousands of other acid victims who are doing nothing but drowning in the blazing fire of misery and helplessness. By witnessing their lifestyle and worries I myself have decided to step forward to help them but as I am still a student and certainly low on the financial stability I would require economical help undoubtedly. To continue my work and the goodwill that is determined to help them get out of their feet binding poverty, I would request your contribution to address their problems and providing me a fine stable ground to help them out in the best way I can. My experiences in the photography career taught me how satisfying it is to integrate my goodwill by expressing my knowledge and hardships to fellow artists to break the wall of differences in between. I will share my experiences to reach out to people through various ways as much as possible.