

**Welcome to the
Presentation
on**

**Mainstreaming Gender in Economic
Development: Strategic Options and
Way Forward**

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Constitution of Bangladesh

- ❑ The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth (Article 28.1).
- ❑ Women shall have equal rights with men in all spheres of the State and of public life (Article 28.2).
- ❑ Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making special provision in favour of women or children or for the advancement of any backward section of citizens (Article 28.4).

International Commitments

- ❑ Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) 1979.
- ❑ Convention on the Right of the Child (CRC) 1989.
- ❑ Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) 1995.
- ❑ Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 2000.
- ❑ Commonwealth Plan of Action (PoA) 2005.
- ❑ Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2015.

7th Five Year Plan (2016-2020)

Vision: A country where men and women will have equal opportunities and rights and women will be recognized as equal contributors in economic, social and political development.

Mission: To ensure women's advancement as self-reliant human beings and reduce discriminatory barriers by taking both development and institutional measures.

Four strategic objectives:

- Improve women's human capabilities.
- Increase women's economic benefits.
- Enhance women's voice and agency.
- Create an enabling environment for women's advancement.

SDG5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Targets:

- 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.
- 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.
- 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

SDG Targets: continued..

- 5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.
- 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.
- 5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

SDG Targets: continued..

- 5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.
- 5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.
- 5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

Current status and recent achievements

- ❑ Bangladesh ranked 10th out of 142 countries for women political empowerment.
- ❑ Bangladesh ranked 107th in Gender Development Index.
- ❑ Bangladesh ranked 68th out of 142 countries in Gender Gap Index.
- ❑ Topped all other SAARC Countries in Gender Gap Index.
- ❑ Bangladesh achieved millennium development goals target of eradicating poverty, gender parity primary and secondary education, child and maternal mortality.

Current status and recent achievements

- ❑ Women's in the National Parliament: 20% (2015).
- ❑ Women in the cabinet, standing committees and political party's positions.
- ❑ More women in government and non-government organization.
- ❑ Women in local government institutions (LGIs).
- ❑ Share of female migrant workers :17.86% (2014).
- ❑ Share of female labor force: 33.5% (2013).
- ❑ Gender budget reports are prepared by all the ministries.
- ❑ Budget thoughts for children.

Current status: continued-

- ❑ Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010.
- ❑ Human Trafficking (Deterrence and Suppression) Act, 2012.
- ❑ Pornography Control Act, 2012.
- ❑ Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) Act, 2014.
- ❑ National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and Children (2013-2025).
- ❑ Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence Against Women.
- ❑ High Court Directives on sexual harassment, dowry and corporal punishments.
- ❑ Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2015 (Draft).

Current status: continued---

- ❑ Bangladesh Bank is providing collateral free loan up to Tk.2.5million for women entrepreneurs.
- ❑ Bank's reserve 15% of total SME funds for women entrepreneurs.
- ❑ Promoting Grassroots level women entrepreneurs for marketing and designing: **Joyeeta Foundation**
- ❑ Women foreign migrants : 169711 (2012-2014).
- ❑ Gender parity ratio in primary and secondary level enrollment are 50.7% and 53.6% respectively.

Current status: continued---

- ❑ Support women through specific programmes:
 - (a) One Home One Farm Project (6.8 lakh).
 - (b) Ashrayan (Shelter) project.
- ❑ Minimum wage for garments workers Tk.5,300.
- ❑ Hostels (8) and day care centers for children of working women (44).
- ❑ Training Centers for life skill training on various trades for women.

GoB's objectives and targets

- ❑ Promoting women participation in entrepreneurship.
- ❑ Enhancing the social safety-net programmes for poor and distressed women and children.
- ❑ Promoting life skill training for women.
- ❑ Expanding microcredit programme for extreme poor women.
- ❑ Enhancing the use of ICT to promote youth girls.
- ❑ Protection and empowerment of vulnerable, marginalized and ethnic women.
- ❑ Reaching unreached women and children victims of violence through Toll Free Helpline (10921).
- ❑ Preventing child marriage and sexual harassment through Adolescent Clubs.

GoB's objectives and targets

- ❑ Formulation of national plan of action to end child marriage.
- ❑ Rehabilitation of street children.
- ❑ Enhance access to and control over productive resources.
- ❑ Strengthening women's decision making opportunities.
- ❑ Valuation and recognition of women unpaid work.
- ❑ Provisions for nominating 33% women in all tiers of political parties.
- ❑ Strengthening institutional supports for improving access to justice for women and children victims of violence.

Challenges of Women Development in Bangladesh

- ❑ Women receive only 57% of the male wage for equal work and less than a third of professional and technical workers are women.
- ❑ No recognition of unpaid work.
- ❑ Lack of gender disaggregated data.
- ❑ 62% of child marriage occurs between 15-49 age of women before attaining 18 years.
- ❑ Superstition and fanaticism.
- ❑ Trafficking in women and children.

Challenges: continued---

- Lack of awareness and knowledge about rights of women.
- Lack of sensitivity in dealing with cases of violence against women.
- Women are mostly guided by the traditional values and believes.
- Women are still concentrated in limited paradigm.
- All distressed women and children are not included in the safety-net programmes.
- Violence against women and children.

Way Forward: continued--

- ❑ Reducing and eventually eliminating child marriage.
- ❑ Recognizing and reducing women's unpaid care work.
- ❑ Enhancing access to control over land and productive resources.
- ❑ Reducing and eliminating violence against women in work place and public spheres.
- ❑ Promoting women's entrepreneurship.
- ❑ Enhancing support services to increase women's mobility.

Way Forward: continued--

- ❑ Increasing women's participation in labour force.
- ❑ Promoting inclusive development for disadvantaged groups and persons with disabilities.
- ❑ Capacity building of national women machineries.
- ❑ Promoting decent work environment for women.
- ❑ Establishing adolescent clubs for awareness on gender issues and women empowerment.
- ❑ Improving coordination and collaboration among the stakeholders for gender equality and women empowerment.

Thank you