

Bangladesh Report

**The Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for
Action (1995)
and the outcomes of the Twenty-third Special Session of the
General Assembly (2000)**

Annexes

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Process of preparing the national review of Beijing Plus 20

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) a global pledge to achieving equality, development and peace for women worldwide has been adopted by UN member countries. In the next 20th anniversary session the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will review and assess the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action by governments and other stakeholders. The Commission will also address current challenges those are creating hindrance in the implementation process of the Platform for Action, plus prospects for attaining gender equality and the areas for empowerment of women for inclusion in the next post-2015 development agenda.

Like other implementing countries of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Bangladesh has conducted a comprehensive national-level review on the achievements, impacts and challenges of the implementation process of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The national-level review will be submitted for consideration and compilation by the CSW and for placement to the 23rd special session of the General Assembly in 2015.

The national-level review in Bangladesh was conducted in a participatory manner by involving stakeholders from different areas. Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) as the nodal Ministry took lead and UN Women at a technical agency provided support.

Two technical experts were assigned the responsibility of facilitating the review through a participatory process by engaging with civil society , government and other stakeholders and compiling the report.

The methodology of the review included the following:

- a. Review of documents including national report submitted as per international commitments of the Government including, CEDAW, MDG, BPFA, CRC, UPR, ICPD, Rio Plus 20.
- b. Browsing of websites of the Government ministries and agencies, UN agencies, and searching reports and statistics
- c. Collection and compilation of data and statistics from different sources, reports and websites.
- d. Collection of good practice examples in different areas of PFA.
- e. Interview with selected stakeholders
- f. Participation in the meeting of Women In Development (WID) Focal Points of Government Ministries.
- g. Coordination with the regional survey conducted by UN Economic and Social Council of Asia Pacific (UN ESCAP)
- h. Conducting 5 (five) issue based and technical consultations with experts and stakeholders working in relevant areas, representatives of relevant government ministries including media. In three of the consultation two issues were combined. The five consultations were conducted on the following themes; Poverty and Economy, Health, Human Rights and Violence Against Women, Environment, and Media.

- i. One consultation was conducted in the Chittagong Hill Tract (CHT) with different ethnic minority groups and discussed peace and conflict and environment issues including natural resource management.
- j. A national consultation took place on May 12th 2014, involving experts, government ministries, development partners, civil society, academia, media and private sector.

The contents of the five issue based consultations included the following:

1. The purpose of the consultation
2. The contents of Beijing PFA and the process of the review
3. Preliminary findings on the achievements, challenges, missing data and information and upcoming priorities in the relevant area
4. The process of Post-2015 agenda and the goals proposed by the Government of Bangladesh
5. Receiving information of achievements (additional, if any), sources of data, challenges and good practices with request to send additional information
6. Collecting opinion about priorities for next 5 years for women's advancement.
7. Suggestions, if any, for post MDG agenda
8. In addition the consultation in CHT included discussions on current situation of women in the area after the Peace Accord, 1997.

The draft report was shared at the National Consultation participated by experts, government ministries, development partners, civil society, academia, media and private sector. The key areas of progress over 20 years (since 1995) was shared in the plenary. Participants were divided in six groups to discuss 2 areas each. The groups reviewed the relevant sections of the report, suggested additional areas for incorporation, deletion of backdated information and provided recommendations.

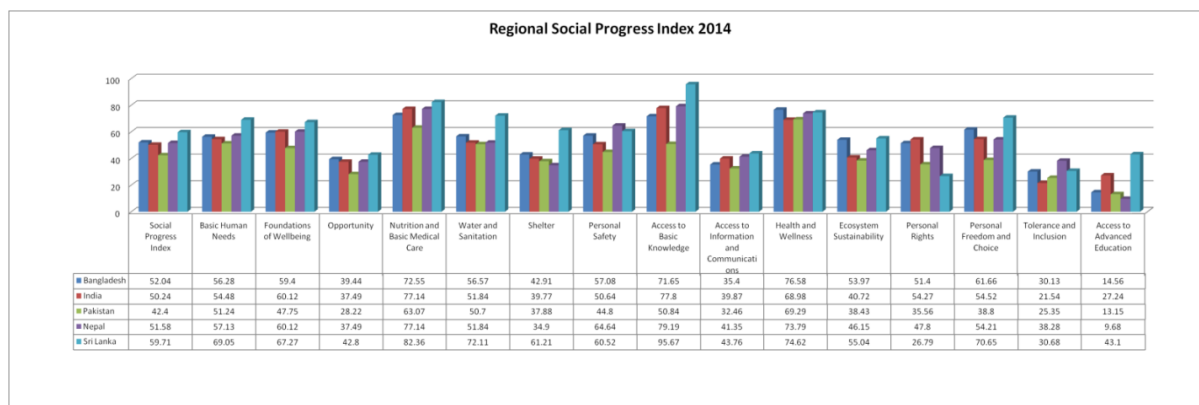
The recommendations of the groups were presented in a plenary session. These included priorities identified for the next five years and the Governments recommendations were shared in the plenary session. Feed back and comments from the groups and from the plenary sessions were noted and compiled.

The final report was prepared incorporating all relevant the suggestions and feedback from all.

Tables and Figures Related to Sections 1 and 2 of the Report

Section 1: Overview analysis of achievements and challenges since 1995

Figure 1: Social Progress Index 2014 Report



Source: Social Progress Index 2014 Report, Social Progress Imperative

Section 2: Progress in the Implementation of the Critical Areas of Concern of the Platform for Action since 2009

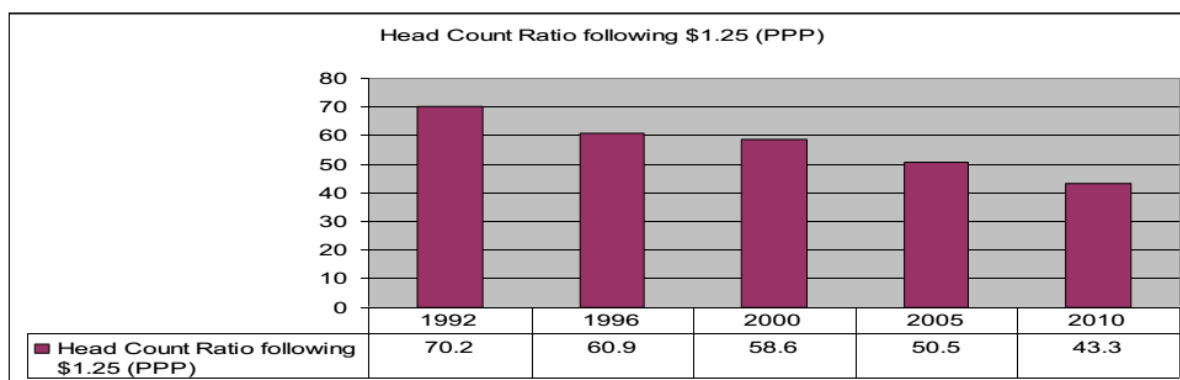
2.A.1 Women and poverty

Table 1: Incidence of Poverty (CBN) by Selected Household Characteristics by CBN Method, 2010

Characteristics of Households	2010			2005		
	National	Rural	Urban	National	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Using Lower Poverty Line						
National	17.6	21.1	7.7	25.1	28.6	14.6
Gender of head:						
Male	17.9	21.5	7.9	25.4	29.0	14.5
Female	14.6	17.3	5.5	21.9	23.6	16.2
Marital Status:						
Married	17.5	21.1	7.6	25.0	28.5	14.4
Unmarried	10.7	9.6	13.5	17.2	19.7	11.1
Widowed/Divorced	19.4	22.9	7.6	29.6	32.3	20.0
Religion:						
Muslim	17.8	21.4	8.0	24.9	28.3	15.0
Non Muslim	15.5	18.8	4.5	26.6	30.3	10.4
1. Using Upper Poverty Line						
National	31.5	35.2	21.3	40.0	43.8	28.4
Gender of head:						
Male	32.1	35.9	21.7	40.8	44.9	28.7
Female	26.6	29.3	17.5	29.5	31.0	24.4
Marital Status:						
Married	31.4	35.1	21.1	40.3	44.1	28.4
Unmarried	23.3	22.4	25.5	29.9	32.7	22.8
Widowed/Divorced	33.9	37.2	22.8	39.2	42.0	28.9
Religion:						
Muslim	31.6	35.2	21.6	39.2	42.9	28.7
Non-Muslim	31.1	34.7	18.7	45.7	50.4	25.0

Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey-2010, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) 68-69

Figure 2: Head Count Ratio



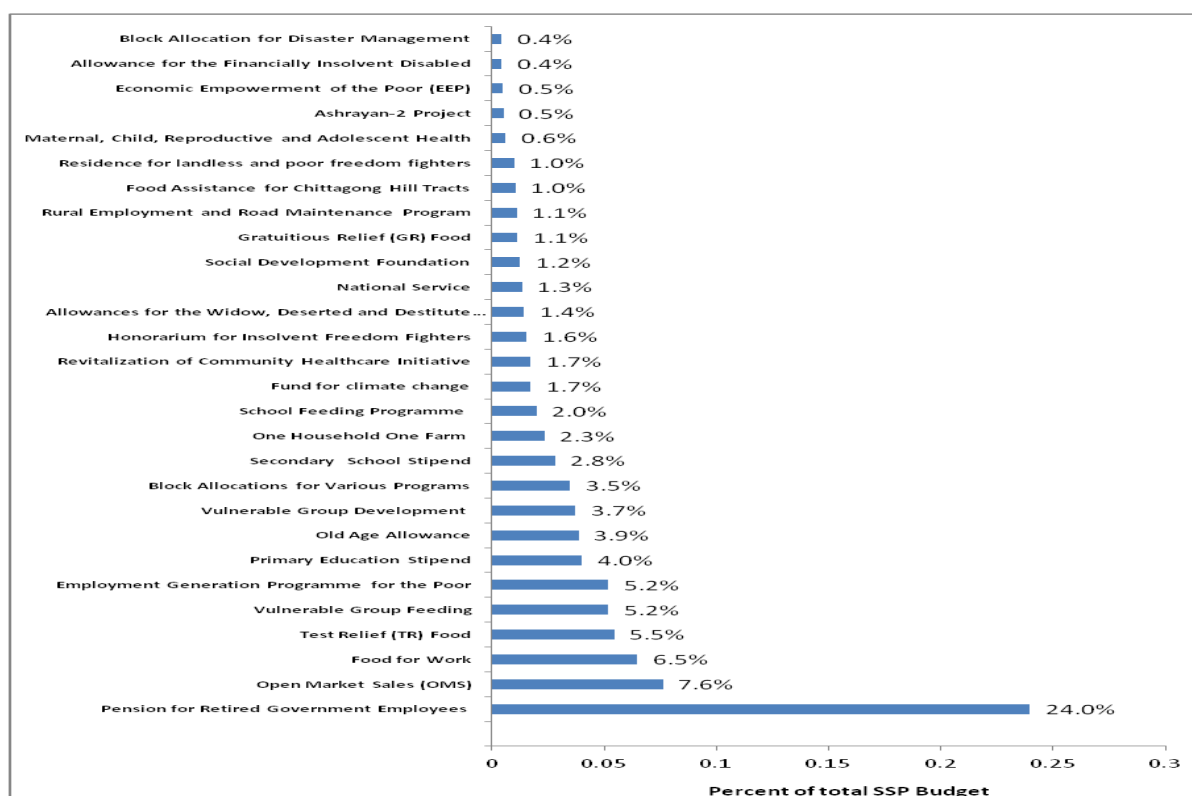
Source: unstats.un.org/unsd/mdg/data.aspx in GOB MDG report 2013: 23

Table 2: Head Count Rates of Incidence of Poverty (CBN Method), 1991-92 to 2010

Years of HIES	Upper Poverty Line			Lower Poverty Line		
	National	Rural	Urban	National	Rural	Urban
2010	31.5	35.2	21.3	17.6	21.1	7.7
2005	40.0	43.8	28.4	25.1	28.6	14.6
2000	48.9	52.3	35.2	34.3	37.9	20.0
1995-96	50.1	54.5	27.8	35.2	39.5	13.7
1991-92	56.7	58.8	42.8	41.1	43.8	24.0

Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2010

Figure 3: Distribution of Major SSP Programmes (% of FY13 SSP Budget)



Source: Ministry of Finance, 2014.

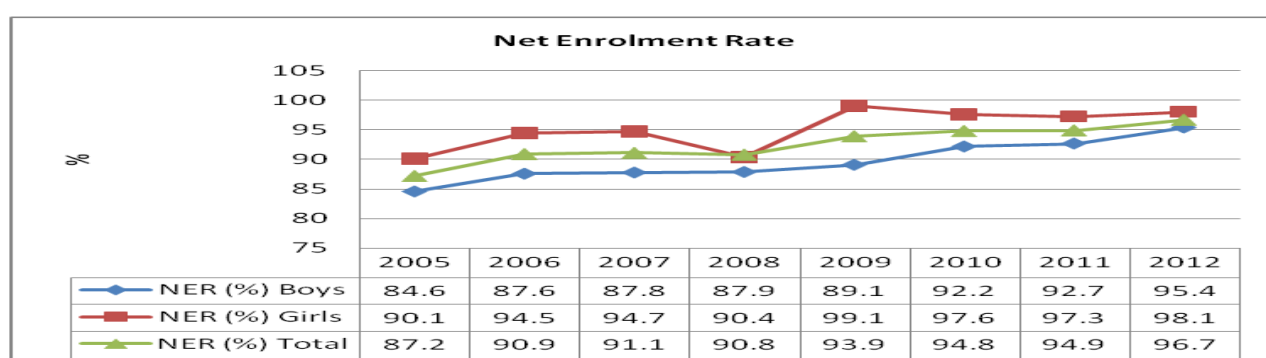
Table 3: Coverage and Fund Allocation of Different Women Targeted Programmes

Name of the Programme	Coverage (in Lac people/month)		Fund Allocated (In crore BDT)	
	FY2011 (R)	FY2012	FY2011 (R)	FY2012
Allowance for Widow, Deserted and Destitute	9.20	9.20	331.20	331.20
Maternal Health Voucher Scheme	1.79	2.44	66.20	90.00
Maternal Allowance Programme for Poor Lactating Mothers	0.80	0.92	36.96	42.50

Source: Ministry of Finance, National Budget FY2011 (R) and FY2012.

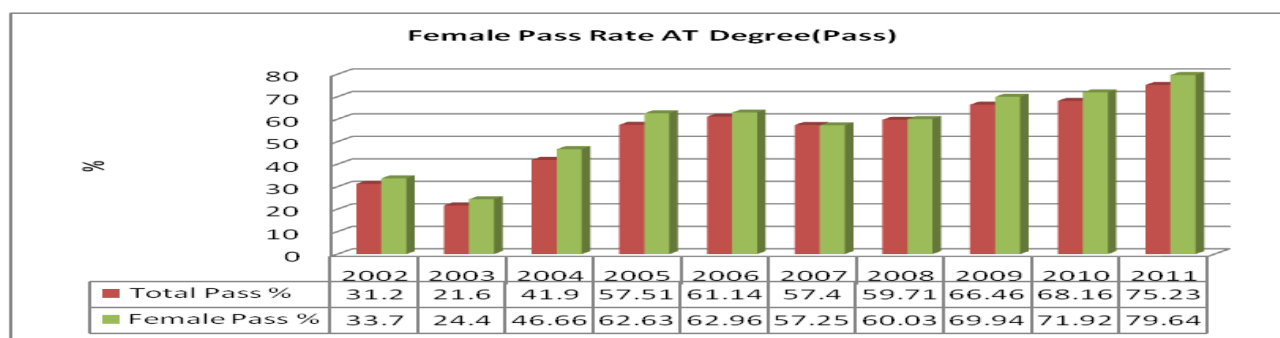
2.A.2 Education and training of women

Figure 4: Net Enrolment Rate in Primary by year and sex



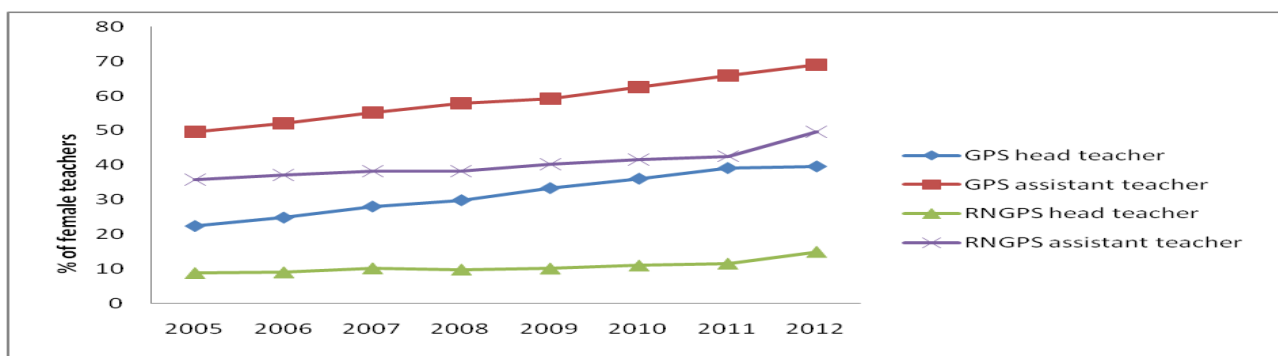
Source: Annual Primary School Census 2012, Dept of Primary Education

Figure 5: Female Pass Rate at Degree (Pass)



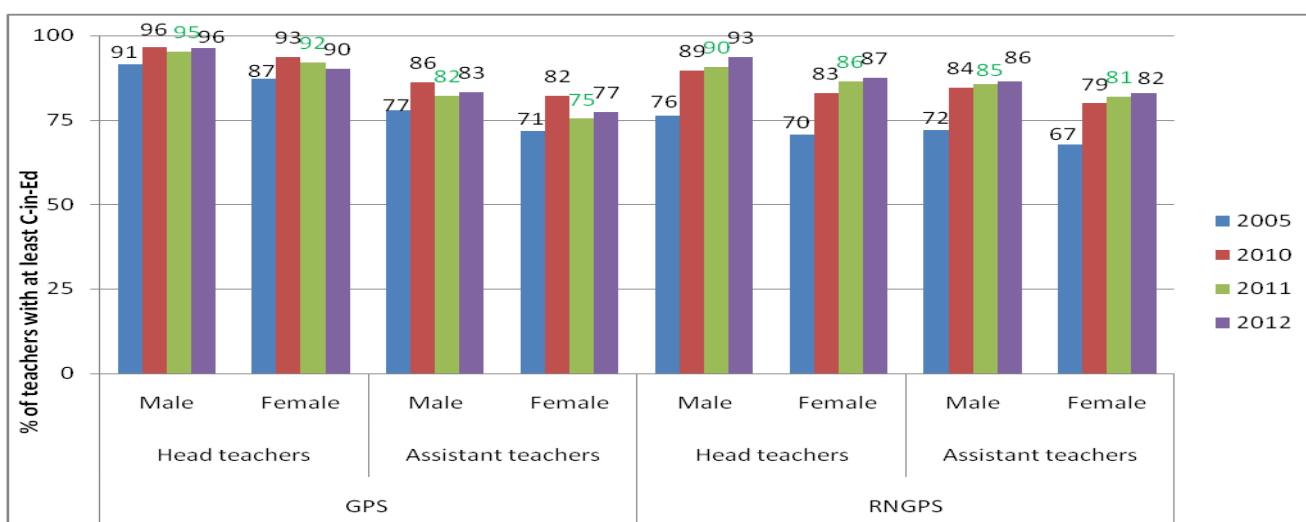
Source (BANBEIS, Basic Education Statistics-2012)

Figure 6: Proportion of female teachers in GPS and RNGPS, 2005–2012 (%)



Source: APSC various years

Figure 7: Proportion of teachers (in GPS and RNGPS) with at least C-in-Ed, 2005, 2010-2012 (%)



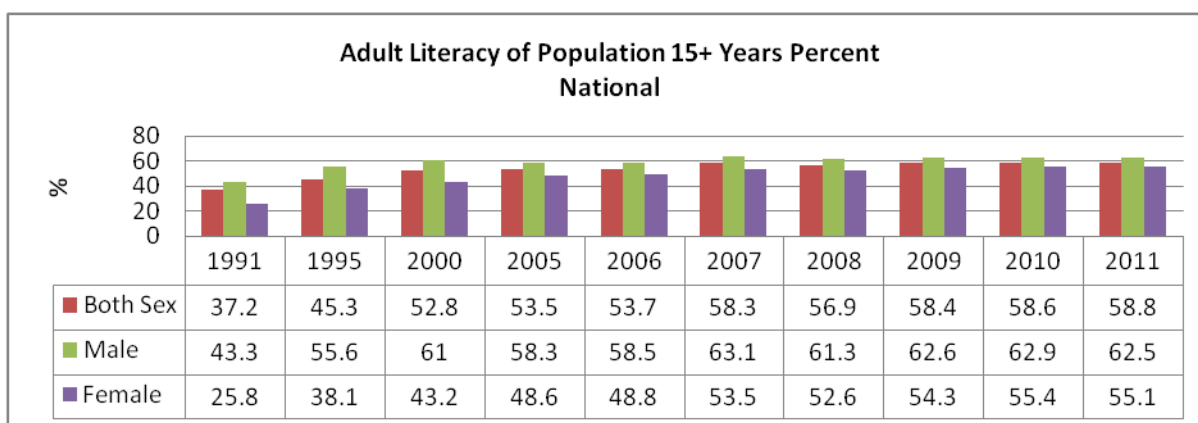
Source: APSC 2005, 2010 and 2012 Dept of Primary Education

Table 4: Share of Gender in Annual Budget of MOPME and MOE

Year	MoPME		MoE	
	Budget for gender	% of total budget	Budget for gender	% of total budget
2007-08	1767	33.50	2712	43.95
2008-09	2849	51.07	1541	22.89
2009-10	2289	33.43	1972	22.01
2010-11	3164	45.76	3025	29.75
2011-12	3389	43.85	3108	29.18
2012-13	4022	42.53	3856	33.36
2013-14	6325	52.99	4290	32.56

Source: Compiled from MoF website

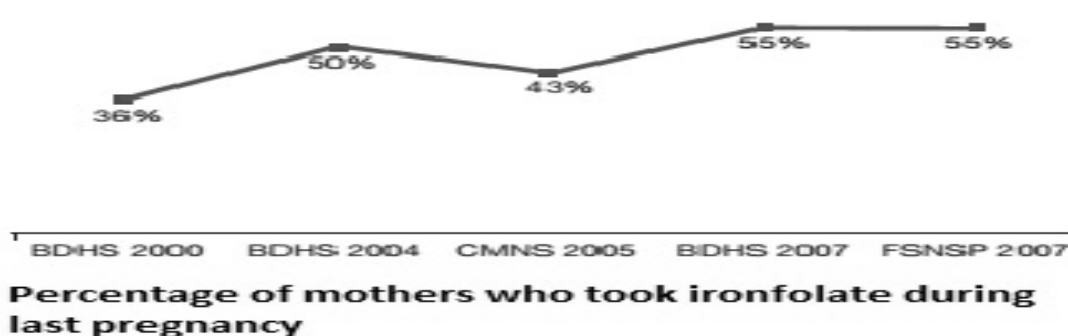
Figure 8: Adult Literacy Rate



Source: Sample Vital Registration Survey 2011

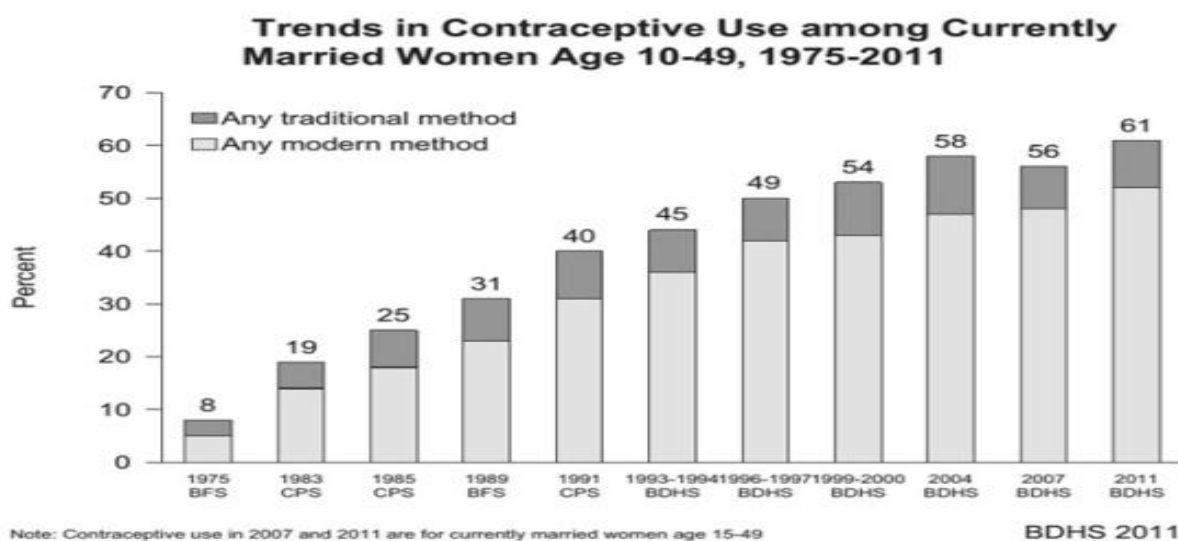
2.A.3 Women and Health

Figure 9: Percentage of Mother who took Iron folic during last pregnancy



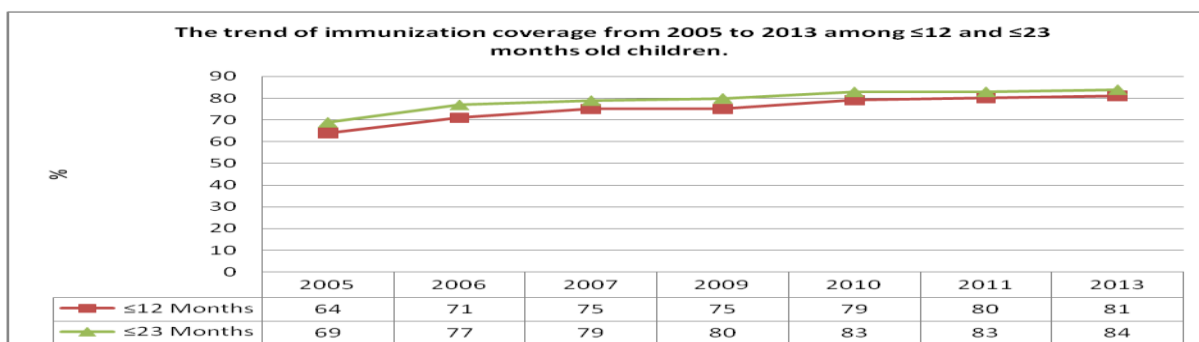
Source: Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2011

Figure 10: Trends on Contraceptive Use Among Currently Married Women Age 10-49, 1975-2011



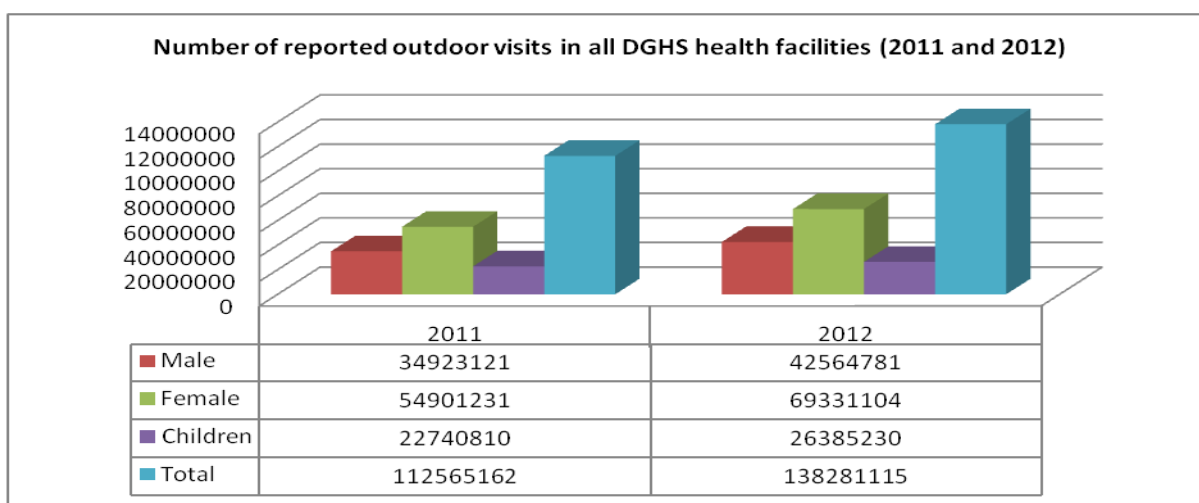
Source: Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2011

Figure 11: The trend of immunization coverage from 2005 to 2013 among ≤12 and ≤23 months old children



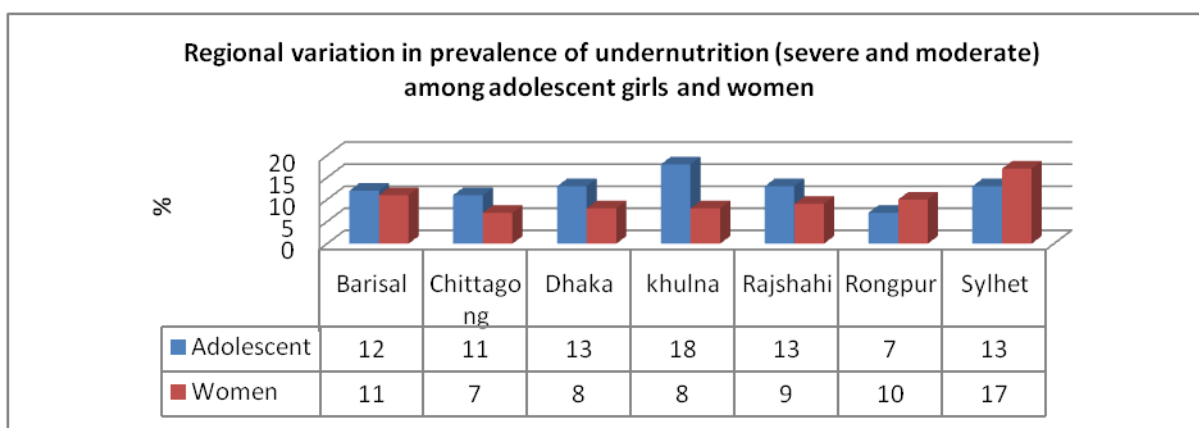
Source: Health Bulletin 2013

Figure 12: Number of reported outdoor visits in all DGHS health facilities (2011 and 2012)



Source: Health Bulletin 2013

Figure 13: Regional variation in prevalence of under nutrition (severe and moderate) among adolescent girls and women



Source: Health Bulletin 2013

Table 5: Allocation in three SWAp of MOHFW of Bangladesh (1998 to 2016)

Name	Duration	Funding-size (billion US\$)	GOB contribution	DP contribution
Health and Population Sector Program (HPSP)	1998-2003	2.2	62%	38%
Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Program (HNPSP)	2003-2011	5.4	67%	33%
Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Development Program (HPNSDP)	2011-2016	7.7	76%	24%

Source: Health Sector Bulletin 2013

2.A.4 Violence against women

Table 6: Number of cases for VAW from Police Headquarters (June 2013 - February 2014)

Category	June 2013	Jul 2013	Aug 2013	Sep 2013	Oct 2013	Nov 2013	Dec 2013	Jan 2014	Feb 2014	Total
Dowry	657	593	522	616	533	446	362	374	367	4470
Acid	14	9	9	12	6	2	5	4	4	65
Abduction	366	285	273	408	319	338	253	265	291	2798
Rape	370	345	254	375	297	264	171	177	214	2467
Homicide/injured after Rape	0	4	0	1	2	4	1	1	2	15
Murder	31	22	26	14	18	21	15	14	14	175
Injured	18	16	8	19	26	5	12	8	11	123
Other forms of VAW	465	480	383	362	309	306	215	190	246	2956
Total	1921	1754	1475	1807	1510	1386	1034	1033	1149	13069

Source: http://www.mspvaw.org.bd/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=235

Table 7: Different Types of Emotional and Psychological Effects of Physical Violence on Women, According to Perpetrator and Locality

Physical and mental impact of Physical violence	National		Rural		Urban	
	Current Husband %	Previous Husband %	Current Husband %	Previous Husband %	Current Husband %	Previous Husband %
Attempt to Suicide	7.09	12.86	7.22	12.51	6.68	13.97
Drug Addiction	0.17	1.87	0.20	1.77	0.05	2.21
Abortion	1.31	1.42	1.23	0.93	0.80	2.96
No. Of Respondents	7082582	961944	5464489	730992	1618093	230952

Source: BBS VAW Survey 2011: 38

Table 8: Percentage of Women Who Took Legal Action by Places of Legal Action, According to Perpetrator and Locality

Place Where violence incident were reported for Legal Action	National		Rural		Urban	
	Current Husband %	Previous Husband %	Current Husband %	Previous Husband %	Current Husband %	Previous Husband %
Police Station/Thana	22.36	22.11	14.56	20.23	55.25	30.02
Union Parishad	22.43	24.14	22.90	27.31	20.49	10.83
Government Organizations	1.18	1.74	1.31	1.94	0.91	0.91
Village Court	17.61	29.22	19.03	30.37	11.64	24.40
Court	29.47	14.36	34.31	10.50	9.01	30.55
NGO/Others	7.05	8.42	8.08	9.65	2.73	3.30
No. of Respondents	426343	211479	344677	170817	81666	40662

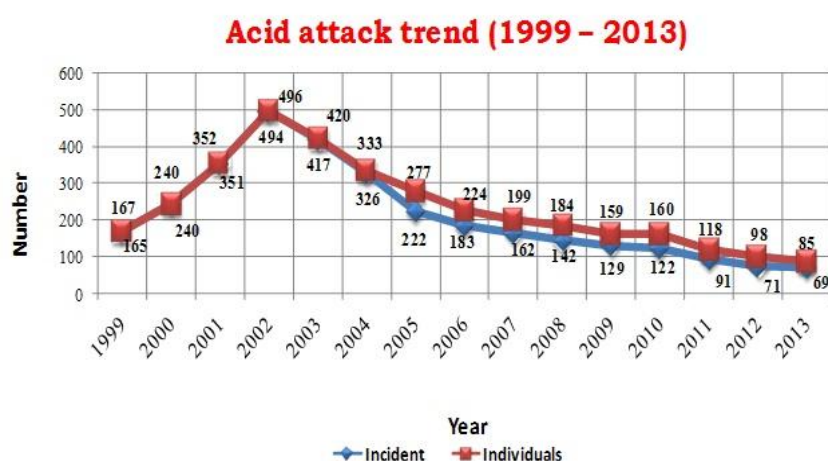
Source: BBS VAW Survey 2011: 38

Table 9: Motivation of acid attack – 2013

Reasons	Man	Woman	Children
Dowry	-	3	-
Family related dispute	-	5	2
Land/property/money dispute	14	13	-
Marital dispute	1	5	-
Refusal/rejection of love/marriage/sex	1	9	9
Not known	2	3	1
Others	10	6	1
Total:	28	44	13

Source: <http://www.acidsurvivors.org/Statistics/2>, accessed 12.4.14

Figure 14: Acid Attack Trend (1999-2013)



- **1999 – 2013 , 3512 persons were acid attacked from 3184 incident.**

Source: <http://www.acidsurvivors.org/Statistics/2>, accessed 12.4.14

2.A.6 Women and the economy

Table 10: Economically active 15+ population in millions

	2002-2003						2005-2006						2010					
	Active		Employed		Unemployed		Active		Employed		Unemployed		Active		Employed		Unemployed	
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
Urban	2.7	8.6	2.5	8.2	0.2	0.4	2.8	8.9	2.7	8.6	0.2	.3	4.0	9.3	3.6	8.8	0.4	0.5
Rural	7.6	27.4	7.3	26.3	0.3	1.1	9.3	28.5	8.6	27.5	0.7	0.9	13.2	30.2	12.6	29.1	0.6	1.1
Total	10.3	36	9.8	34.5	0.5	1.5	12.1	37.3	11.3	36.1	0.9	1.2	17.2	39.5	16.2	37.9	1	1.6

Source: Labour Force Survey 2010(BBS). F-Female, M-Male

Table 11: Employment by sector (million)

	2002-2003	2005-2006	2010
Formal Sector			
Male	7.2	8.6	5.5
Female	2.0	1.6	1.3
Total	9.2	10.2	6.8
Informal Sector			
Male	27.2	27.5	32.4
Female	7.9	9.7	14.9
Total	35.1	37.2	47.3

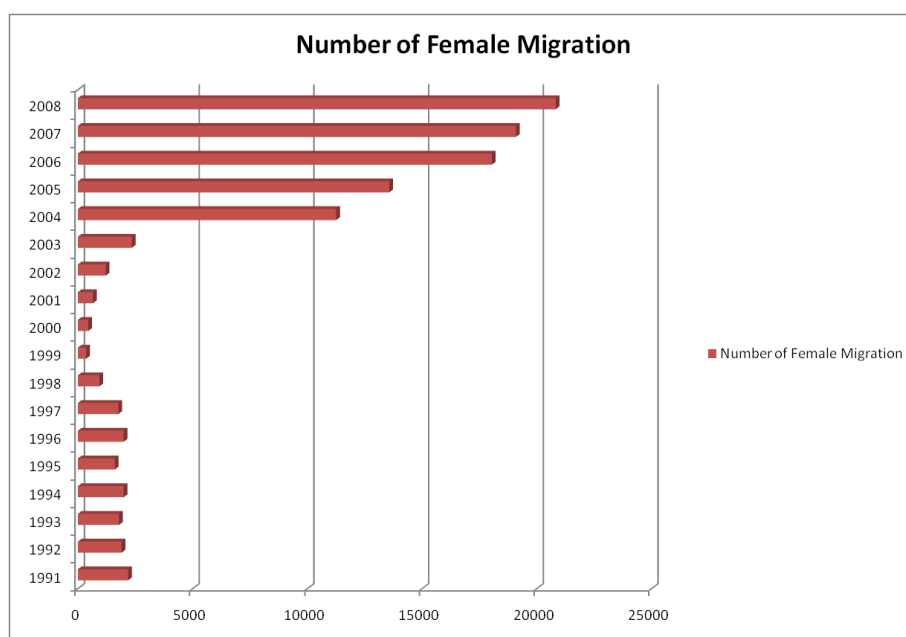
Source: Labour Force Survey 2010 (BBS): 51

Table 12: Percentage distribution of migrants percent by sex and residence

	Both sexes	Male	Female
National	100.00	97.17	2.83
Rural	82.49	97.08	2.92
Urban	17.51	97.60	2.40

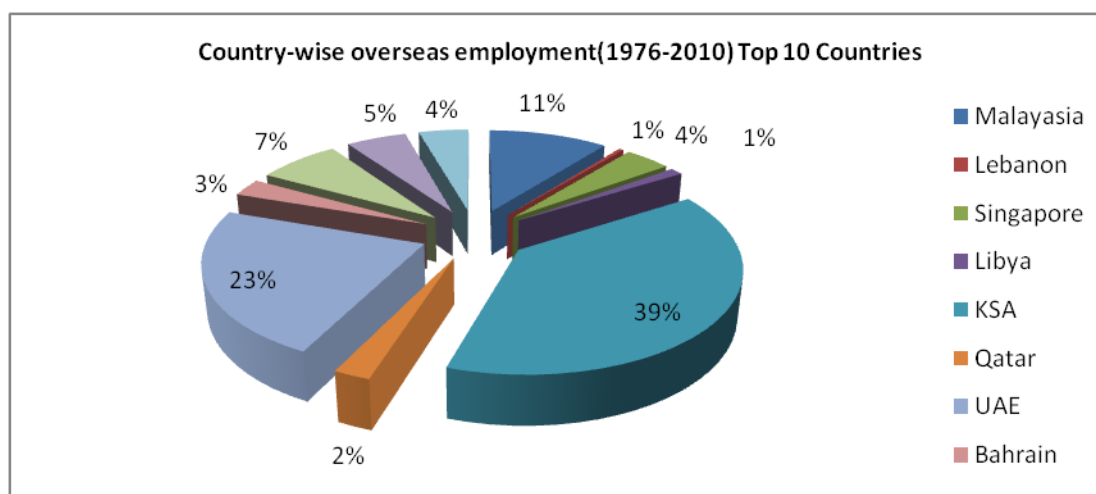
Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2010(BBS): 84

Figure 15: Year-wise Female migration from Bangladesh (1991-2008)



Source: Survey on Women Migrants, BMET

Figure 16: Country-wise overseas employment (from 1976-June 2010)



Source: Islam, Nurul (2011) "Migration from Bangladesh and overseas employment policy", Page-5, Dhaka, Bangladesh, Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) www.bmet.gov.bd

Table 13: Country-wise female migrants from Bangladesh

Name of Country	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Oman	114	255	1050	937	11
Ireland	03	-	02	-	-
Sudan	06	04	06	01	-
United Arab Emirates	5396	4820	6474	4735	6715
Jordan	1797	1139	29	21	416
United Kingdom	07	15	28	23	21
Brunei Darussalam	03	02	02	06	02

Northern Mariana Islands	02	01	-	-	-
Syria	19	26	10	01	73
Malaysia	02	05	141	622	908
Saudi Arabia	4267	7765	7881	8188	758
Maldives	13	38	06	03	05
Pakistan	01	-	02	07	06
Palau	02	-	-	-	-
Kuwait	1557	630	516	13	-
Cyprus	08	01	03	-	29
Mauritius	499	564	891	588	766
Singapore	08	06	09	20	55
Libya	03	36	-	274	03
Bahamas	02	-	-	-	-
Qatar	01	07	03	05	04
Lebanon	02	110	1828	3777	13283
Bermuda	01	-	-	-	01
Name of Country	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Bahrain	1541	149	144	264	109
Italy	30	22	71	118	60
Iran	01	-	-	01	-
Hong Kong	01	01	03	07	10
Thailand	-	01	-	-	01
Fiji	-	-	01	-	01
Spain	-	-	01	-	01
Egypt	-	-	01	01	02
Canada	-	-	02	02	04
Japan	-	-	03	01	01
Poland	-	-	-	01	-
New Zealand	-	-	-	02	04
India	-	-	-	02	01
Hungary	-	-	-	01	-
Czech Republic	-	-	-	01	02
Denmark	-	-	-	-	01
South Korea	-	-	-	-	01
Latvia	-	-	-	-	01
Afghanistan	-	-	-	-	01
Yemen	-	-	-	-	14
Tunisia	-	-	-	-	04
Netherlands	-	-	-	-	01

Source: Islam, Nurul (2010) "Gender analysis of migration from Bangladesh", Page-5-6, Dhaka, Bangladesh, Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET), www.bmet.gov.bd

Figure 17: Category-wise overseas employment



Source: Islam, Nurul (2011) "Migration from Bangladesh and overseas employment policy", Page-4, Dhaka, Bangladesh, Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET), www.bmet.gov.bd

2.A.7 Women in power and decision-making

Table 14: Actual number of women candidates in the 2008 election

Name of the Political Party	Candidates submitted nomination		Contested Candidates in Election		
	Number of Women Candidates	% of women candidates from the party	Number of total Candidates	Number of women candidates	(%)
Bangladesh Awami League	22	7.35	259	17	6.56
Bangladesh Nationalist Party	20	5.86	256	13	5.07
Jatiya Party	9	6.52	46	3	6.5
JSD	-	-	6	1	16.66
Bangladesh Jamaati-Islami	-	-	39	0	0

Source: The Election Commission Report (2013)

Table 15: Number of women who contested from the five political parties in 2001, 2008 and 2014 elections

Party	2001		2008		2014	
	Total Candidates	Female Candidates	Total Candidates	Female Candidates	Total Candidates	Female Candidates
Bangladesh Nationalist Party	252	3	259	13	0	0
Bangladesh Awami League	300	10	256	17		
Jatiya Party (Ershad)	281	3	46	3		
Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal	76		6	1		1
Jamaati-Islam Bangladesh					0	0

Source: Election Commission of Bangladesh, accessed in July 2013 and newspaper reports

Table 16: Class wise number of female officers and employees in 2009 and 2012

Service category	No of Women in 2009	Women as % of total in 2009	No of Women in 2012	Women as % of total in 2012
Class I	13595	14.2	17,616	15.6
Class II	6062	12.5	7003	12.9
Class III	182375	26.1	181324	25.3
Class IV	21604	10.6	44256	19.0
All categories	223636	21.3	250,199	22.4

Source: Ministry of Establishment in BBS 2010 and 2013

Table 17: Sex Disaggregated Human Resources in the Civil Service, 2011, 2008-9 and 2006

	Women (no./percentage of total)		
	2011	2008/9	2006
Ministry/Division	1465 (16%)	1310 (15%)	1176 (14%)
Department/ Directorates	229,198 (27%)	206,789 (25%)	129408 (23%)
Autonomous Bodies/Corp.	19536 (8%)	15,545 (7%)	12918 (5%)
Total	250,199 (22%)	223,644 (21%)	143502 (15%)

Source: Ministry of Establishment December 2011 in BBS 2012, and appendix 2 table 4, CEDAW Alternative Report 2010

Table 18: Batch and distribution by sex of candidates recommended for recruitment

Batch	Male	Female
24 th	3809 (72.90%)	1416 (27.10%)
25 th	2029 (74.54%)	693 (25.46 %)
26 th	703 (66.13%)	360 (33.87%)
27 th	2417 (74.62%)	822 (25.38%)
28 th	1520 (69.41%)	670 (30.59%)
29 th	71.54%	28.46%
30 th	68.57%	31.54%
31 st	70.42%	29.58%
32 nd special	49.50%	55.10%
33 rd	61.78%	38.22%

Source: adapted from table 13.1, page 125 BPSC Annual Report 2010 and PSC4.5.14 quoted in Daily Star

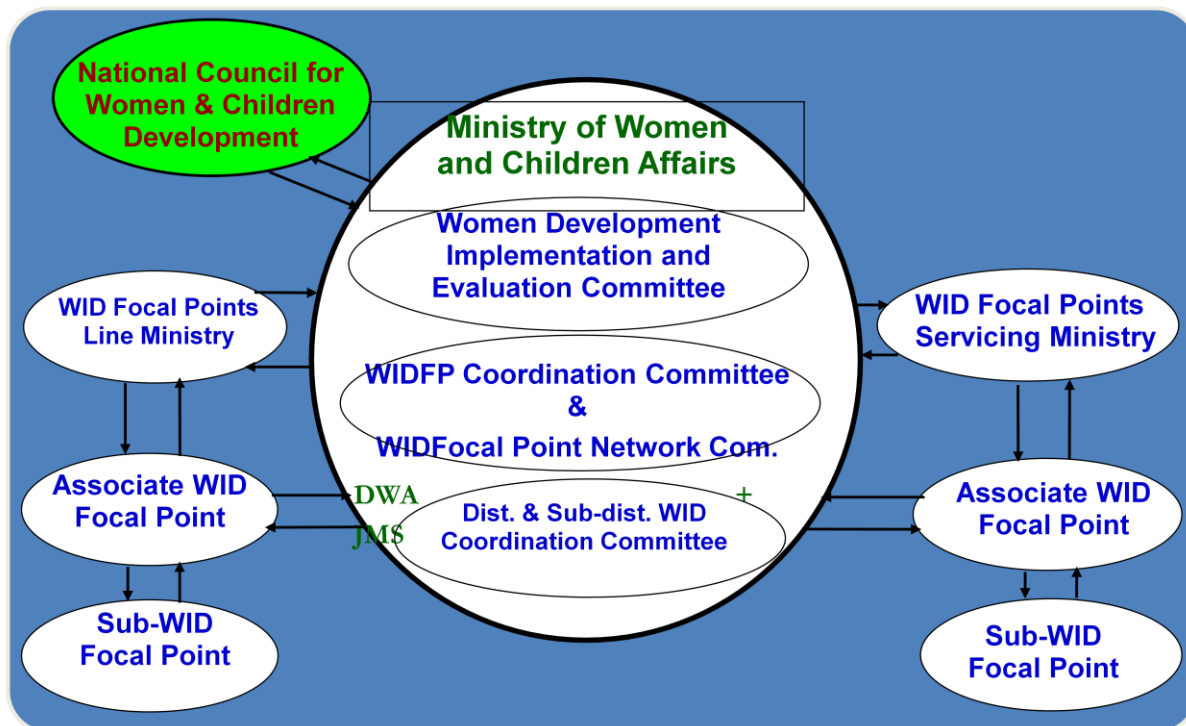
Table 19: Present number of women in Bangladesh Police Force (shaded areas are officer level)

Rank/designation	No of approved posts	No of women			No of women as percentage of total
		No of serving women officers	No of women in training	Total no of women	
Inspector General	1	0	0	0	0
Additional Inspector General	9	0	0	0	0
Deputy Inspector General (DIG)	33	2	0	2	6%
Additional Deputy Inspector General	41	3	0	3	7%
Superintendent of Police (SP)	204	4	0	4	2%
Additional Superintendent of Police	260	23	0	23	0.4%
Senior Assistant Superintendent of police	230	24	0	24	10%
Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP)	913	48	23	71	8%
Total cadre	1691	104	23	127	7.5%
Inspector	3079	25	0	25	0.8%
Sub-Inspector (SI)	12535	236	13	249	2%
Sub-Inspector (TR)	254	0	0	0	0
TSI	113	0	0	0	0
Sergeant	1569	0	0	0	0
Assistant Sub-Inspector	7838	281	0	281	3.6%
Head constable	6887	0	0	0	0
Nayek	6104	0	0	0	0
Constable	101053	2809	997	3502	3.5%
Total	141123	3455	1029	4484	3.18%

Source: Police Headquarters Establishment Cell data as of 27/6/11) In UNDP Case Study on Women in Public Administration.

2.A.8 Institutional mechanism for the advancement of women

Figure 18: Institutional Mechanism of MoWCA



Source: Ministry of Women and Children Affairs

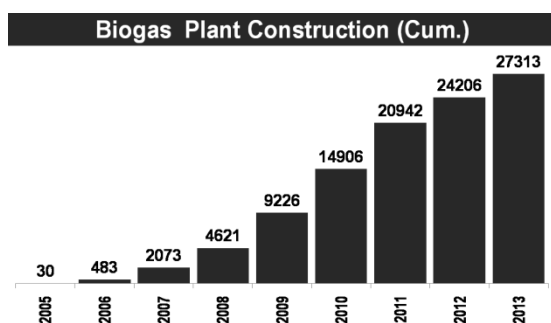
Table 20: TOR of NCWCD

TOR of NCWCD	
➤	To ensure women's participation in socio-economic development work. The council will formulate rules and regulations for the development work of different ministries, divisions and other agencies and coordinate them
➤	The council will formulate laws and regulations to ensure women's legal rights and development and prevent oppression against women
➤	The council will also take measures to preserve women's interest in all areas in which women are active and ensure their participation and advancement.

Source: Ministry of Women and Children Affairs

2.A.11 Women and the environment

Figure 19: Growth of Biogas Plant only in Grameen Shakti



Source: Grameen Shakti

Case Studies

List of Case Studies:

1. Vitamin A Supplementation
2. MOVE-IT Bangladesh
3. Maternal Health Voucher Scheme
4. Salute to Selima
5. Khurshida Begum Received Wangari Maathai Award-2012
6. Rizwana Received Ramon Magsaysay Award

Women and health

1. Vitamin A Supplementation

The Government of Bangladesh prioritizes vitamin A supplementation as an important public-health program and is distributing vitamin A capsules to children of 6-59 months through National Vitamin A Campaign (NVAC). In the past, the success of NVAC was highly appreciated. The coverage was 84% according to BDHS 2011 and 88% according to Utilization of Essential Service Delivery Survey 2008. Every year, two rounds of vitamin A capsule supplementation to children aged 6-59 months have been conducted. Health workers and volunteers administer vitamin A capsules to around 20 million children at 140,000 sites located in health facilities, health centers, schools as well as in mobile sites (bus, boat, and railway stations) throughout the country. The national estimate of the average in May 2013 was 77.0%, with 77.9%, 73.1%, and 72.4% rural, urban and the slum coverage respectively. According to asset index, the coverage was 76.4% in the 'poorest' section and 87.5% in the 'richest' section of the population.

Source: HB 2013

2. MOVE-IT Bangladesh

Universal Registration of Mothers and the Children Text: Drawing on the Government of Bangladesh's commitment to Digital Bangladesh 2021 and the health sector priority to scale-up maternal, neonatal and child health programs, MOVE-IT Bangladesh is a multi-stakeholder collaborative process that aims to register all pregnant mothers and their children in Bangladesh in a unified electronic information system that tracks vital events (births, deaths, causes of death), non-fatal health events, and coverage of priority services. Through the development of common standards for unique identification of mothers and children and agreement on a minimal data set, MOVE-IT Bangladesh is harnessing the power of mobile and electronic health technologies to ensure that all mothers and children are part of a universal vital events and health information system. Such a system promises to transform traditional paper-based approaches to vital statistics and health records with the prospect of real-time, continuous reporting on the health and well-being of mothers and children.

Source: Health Watch Report, 2011

3. Maternal Health Voucher Scheme

Government has introduced in 2007 an innovative maternal health voucher scheme, a demand-side financing (DSF) initiative, to improve access to and use of quality maternal health services. Currently, the program is being implemented in 46 upazilas of 41 districts and 7 upazilas of 4 MNHI (maternal and newborn health initiative) districts. Poor women defined by specific criteria (roughly 50% of the pregnant women) and validated by local government representatives are eligible for the voucher. Half of the target population qualifies as poor. The total number of cumulative beneficiaries reached 870,423. In 2012, a total of 152,401 pregnant women received the benefit. A voucher entitles its holder for specific health services free of charge, viz. antenatal and postnatal care, safe delivery, treatment for complications, including cesarean section, transportation cost, and laboratory tests. If delivery is attended by skilled staff, voucher-holders get unconditional cash benefits for nutritious food and gift-box. Safe delivery rate is now at impressive 85% amongst the voucher recipients. Both public and non-public healthcare providers (NGO and private facilities) participate in the DSF scheme. There is a target to scale the program up to 100 upazilas, with a 20% increase each year. Strikingly, the maternal mortality rate among the voucher-holder women is 12 per 100,000 live births, in sharp contrast to the national rate of 194 per 100,000 live births.

Source: Health Bulletin, DGHS, 2013

Women and Economy

4. Salute to Selima

Leading businesswoman Selima Ahmad has won the prestigious Oslo Business for Peace Award 2014 for her socially responsible and ethical business practices. Selima, vice-chairperson of Nitol Niloy Group and founder of Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BWCCI), is the second Bangladeshi and first Asian businesswoman to win the award. The selected honourees are business persons who through their own actions and commitments promote socially responsible and ethical business practices in an outstanding way and stand out as examples to the world. An independent award committee, consisting of Nobel Prize winners in peace and economics, selected the recipients of the award. They will be presented with the awards in a ceremony on May 15 in Oslo City Hall. With this recognition, Selima Ahmad is included in the group of exceptional business personalities like Ratan Tata, chairman of Tata Group in India, who got the award in 2010, and Jeffrey R Immelt, CEO of General Electric in the US, who won it in 2009.

Source: The Daily Star, May 16, 2014

Women and Environment

5. Khurshida Begum Received Wangari Maathai Award-2012

Khurshida Begum received for the first ever Wangari Maathai Award-2012 for her pioneering role in co-management in wildlife conservation of forest resources at a village in the south-eastern Cox's Bazar district. She was selected for the Wangari Maathai Award-2012 in Rome for her co-management efforts and leadership in wildlife conservation of forest resources in the area. She made the local people aware about biodiversity conservation for future generation. Her exceptional efforts in helping women of her village form a community patrol group alongside forest department guards to protect the forests and biodiversity of the Tenkaf Wildlife Sanctuary from illegal logging and poaching has been recognized. The first-ever Wangari Maathai Award has been given to Khurshida to recognise her efforts to promote community forest management in Bangladesh. The Wangari Maathai Awards were established by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), of which FAO is an active member, to recognize the efforts to improve and sustain forests and to

honour the memory of Wangari Maathai, the Kenyan environmentalist and the first African woman to win a Nobel Peace Prize for her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace.

Source: <http://www.cpfweb.org/86207/en/>

6. Rizwana Received Ramon Magsaysay Award

Syeda Rizwana Hasan received the 2012 Ramon Magsaysay Award, in recognition to her uncompromising courage and impassioned leadership in a campaign of judicial activism in Bangladesh that affirms the people's right to a good environment as nothing less than their right to dignity and life. Rizwana is the Executive Director of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA), a pioneer in public interest litigation. BELA has taken on close to a hundred cases involving industrial pollution, sand extraction from rivers, forest rights, river pollution and encroachment, hill cutting, illegal fisheries, waste dumping, and others.

Two precedent-setting cases raised BELA's visibility and generated wide public support for the cause of environmental justice. Since 2003, Hasan and BELA have fought a battle in the courts to prevent toxin-laden ships from entering Bangladesh unless they have been decontaminated at their origin, and to enforce standards for the protection of workers and the environment. Compensatory fines were ordered -- the first time in Bangladesh's judicial history that a polluter was fined. Then, in 2009, the Supreme Court directed the closure of all thirty-six ship-breaking yards in Bangladesh that have been operating without environmental clearance, and directed the "pre-cleaning," at origin or before entering Bangladesh, of all ships to be imported for breaking.

In 2000, BELA mounted a successful campaign for a law that would ban the filling up of wetlands, but the law was never enforced. In 2004, Hasan put the law to a test by filing a case against a large and powerful land development company, for filling land for a new township in the middle of a flood-flow zone. Hasan and her small team had to face twenty senior, high-profile lawyers, navigate court corruption, and endure protracted delays. Eventually, they won, when the court ruled the housing project to be illegal. However, the judgment was undermined by the fact that the developer had already sold lots in the meantime. Undaunted, even as appeals and counter-appeals have been filed, Hasan asserts: "Standing against all these forces is in itself a victory." She and BELA have sent a clear message that it is not going to be business-as-usual, and that despoilers of the environment are going to be challenged.

Adopted from: <http://www.rmaf.org.ph/newrmaf/main/awardees/awardee/profile/335>

Related Laws, Policies and Plans

Plans	
Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy & Action Plan, (BCCSAP) 2009	
Climate Change and Gender Action Plan (ccGAP) 2013	
National Action Plan on Girl Child	
National Disaster Management Plan 2010-2015	(http://www.dmr.gov.bd/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=305&Itemid=236)
National Plan of Action 2011	
National Plan of Action for Combating Human trafficking 2012-2014	(http://actbd.org/doc/NPA%20FINAL%20DR-AFT%2026-01.pdf)
National Plan of Action to Prevent Violence Against Women and Children 2013-2025	
Perspective Plan 2010-21	. (http://www.plancomm.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Perspective-Plan-of-Bangladesh.pdf
Sixth Five Year Plan 2011-2015,	(http://www.plancomm.gov.bd/sixth-five-year-plan/)

Policies	
Disaster Management Plan (2008-2015).	(http://www.preventionweb.net/files/9472_NationalPlanforDisastermanagement.pdf)
Draft National Environment Policy 2013	
EPZ Labour Welfare Association and Industrial relations Act 2010	
Health Policy 2011	(http://www.mohfw.gov.bd/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=74&Itemid=92&lang=en)
Information and Communication Technology Policy 2009	(http://www.cabinet.gov.bd/file_upload/news_events/en_382.pdf)
Integrated Policy of Initial Care and Development of the Children 2013	
National Agriculture Policy 2010	(http://www.moa.gov.bd/policy/Draft%20Agri_Policy_English.pdf)
National Broadcasting Policy 2013	
National Child Labour Elimination Policy (NCLEP) 2010	
National Children Policy 2011	
National Children Policy 2011	(http://www.mowca.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/National-Child-Policy-2011.pdf)
National Education Policy 2010	(http://www.moedu.gov.bd/index.php?option=c

	om_content&task=view&id=338&Itemid=416)
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National Forest Policy 1994.	http://www.bforest.gov.bd/index.php/forest-actpolicya-rules)
National Labour Policy 2012	http://www.mole.gov.bd/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=443&Itemid=522)
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National Livestock Resources Policy 2007.	http://www.dls.gov.bd/files/Livestock_Policy_Final.pdf)
National Overseas Employment Policy 2006	
National Policy for Women's Advancement' (NPWA) 2011	
National Policy of Fisheries 1998	http://www.mofl.gov.bd/pdf/National_Fisheries_Policy.pdf)
National Rural Development Policy 2001	http://www.mccibd.org/images/uploadimg/file/Local%20Government/National%20Rural%20Development%20Policy%20%28English%29%5B1%5D.pdf
National Skill Development Policy 2011	http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-dhaka/documents/publication/wcms_113958.pdf)
National Social Welfare Policy 2005	http://www.bforest.gov.bd/index.php/forest-actpolicya-rules
National Social Welfare Policy 2005	http://www.msw.gov.bd/dmdocuments/SW_Policy.pdf)
National Sports Policy 1998	http://www.moysports.gov.bd/Policykriraniti.html)
National Water Policy	http://www.mowr.gov.bd/images/pdf/National%20Water%20Policy%20%28English%29.pdf)
National Women Development Policy 2011	http://www.scribd.com/doc/52431073/National-Women-Development-Policy-2011-Bangladesh
Small and Medium Enterprise Policy 2005	http://www.fbcci-bd.org/fbcci/update-policy/SME%20Policy%20Strategies.doc
Acts	
Overseas Employment and Migration Act 2013	http://asianparliamentarians.mfasia.org/phocadownload/resources/policies/bangladesh%20overseas%20employment%20and%20migrants%20act%202013%20_english_.pdf
Citizenship (amendment) Act, 2009	http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/print_sections_all.php?id=242
Hindu Marriage Registration Act-2012	
Labour Welfare Association and Industrial Relations Act, 2010	http://www.clcbd.org/document/622.html
Legal Support Act 2000	
Mobile Court Act, 2009	
National Acid Crime Prevention Act (Amended) 2010	http://bolobhi.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Acid-Control-and-

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National Children Act 2013	
Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012	
The Acid Control Act 2002	(http://www.acidsurvivors.org/images/frontImages/Acid_Control_Act-2002.pdf)
The Acid Crime Control Act 2002	(http://www.acidsurvivors.org/images/frontImages/Acid_Crime_Control_Act-2002.pdf)
The Legal Aid Support Act 2000)	(http://www.nlaso.gov.bd/index.php/faq?lang
The Birth and Death Registration Act 2004	
The Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929	(http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/print_sections_all.php?id=149)
The Disaster Management Act, 2012	(http://www.ddm.gov.bd/pdf/diastermanagementact%202012.pdf)
The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010	(http://phrplanbd.org/attachments/article/42/DV%20Act_Engling%20Translation%20%28unofficial%29.pdf)
The Labour Act, 2006	(http://www.mole.gov.bd/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=291&Itemid=236)
The Local Government (Municipality Corporation) Act, 2009.	(http://www.ecs.gov.bd/MenuExternalFilesEng/268.pdf)
The Pornography Control Act 2012.	(http://www.oijj.org/en/docs/general/control-of-pornography-act-2012)
The Right to Information Act, 2009	(http://www.moi.gov.bd/RTI/RTI_English.pdf)
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Forestry Sector (Amendment) Rules 2009, 2011	
Guidelines for Participatory Water Management	(http://books.google.com.bd/books/about/Guidelines_for_Participatory_Water_Manag.html?id=CxIAAAAYAAJ&redir_esc=y)
Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Development Programme 2011-2016.	(http://www.mohfw.gov.bd/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=1641)
High Court Directives on Sexual Harassment	(http://www.supremecourt.gov.bd/scweb/documents/298639_WP%20No.%208769%20of%202010.pdf).
High Court rulings on Fatwa	(http://www.blast.org.bd/news/327#_ftnref1
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UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Specially Women and Children 2000.	(http://www.uncjin.org/Documents/Conventions/dcatoc/final_documents_2/convention_%20traff_eng.pdf)

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