



National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and Children 2013-2025

Ministry of Women and Children
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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State Minister
Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



MESSAGE

The Government of Bangladesh is determined to eliminate the all forms of discrimination against women and children. To fulfill this commitment, present Government has declared the National Women Development Policy 2011 and National Children Policy 2011. To protect women and children from domestic Violence, the Domestic Violence (Prevention and protection) Act, 2010 and the Domestic Violence (Prevention and protection) Rules, 2013 have been launched. The Mobile Court Act, 2009 and the Pornography Control Act, 2012 is playing an important role to prevent sexual harassment. The Children Act, 2013 has been enacted to protect the child rights.

The Declaration of Elimination of Violence against Women, the UN general assembly, 1993 and some international commitments including Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, 1995, UN declaration and commitment gave importance to undertake and implement of National Action Plan in government level to prevent violence against women and children.

National Action Plan has undertaken as an initiative to prevent violence against women and children and to form a safe and secure society to implement the Vision of 2021, of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. In this action plan, modern activities have been taken to prevent violence against women and children. I believe that the successful implementation of this action plan may take significant contribution to prevent violence against women and children.

My heartiest thanks is to all who have undertaken the initiatives and associated with The National Action Plan.


(Meher Afroze Chumki MP)



Secretary
Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



FOREWORD

To prevent violence against women and children different declarations and commitments have been made in an international level. Ministry of Women and Children Affairs has undertaken the initiatives of National Action Plan to prevent violence against women and children.

For the implementation of the National Action Plan 2012-13 fiscal year has been taken as the base year. In the upcoming years, types and intensity of the violence against women and children will be evaluated and the effects of action will be observed. National Action Plan will consider the issues of legal management, social awareness and positive attitudes towards women and children. Besides this, development of the socio-economic status of women, the services of protection and rehabilitation for the women and children victims of violence will also be considered.

We all should come forward to prevent violence against women and children. I hope that the implementation of National Action Plan will help to reduce the violence against women and children in the near future in Bangladesh.


(Tariq-ul-Islam)

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CHAPTER ONE

Overview of Violence Against Women and Children

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Overview of Violence Against Women and Children

1.1 Background

Violence against women and children is identified as a global problem. For this violence they face physical and mental impairment along with social and economic damage. In developing countries this violence mostly happens in family environment. The types of violence are changing with time. In present women and children are facing violence both in the private and public sphere. Both domestic and social violence could be a potential cause of permanent disability for women and children like physical and psychological etc. According to the United Nations survey of 2006, one of three women becomes a victim of violence in the world.¹ Reporting on a wide range of developing countries, the Global School-based Health Survey recently found that between 20 and 65 per cent of school-aged children reported having been verbally or physically bullied.² Recent ILO estimates indicate that, in 2004, 218 million children were involved in child labour, of whom 126 million were in hazardous work.³

1.2 Present perspective of violence against women and children in Bangladesh

Like many other nations, violence against women is pandemic in Bangladesh. A number of surveys and studies conducted during 1992-2010 indicate the prevalence of violence against women in Bangladesh ranges anywhere from 42 to 70 percent. According to the studies, the women of reproductive ages between 19 and 49 years are the worst affected by violence, followed children and adolescents. Violence against women and children data from 24 national dailies is as follows:

| Types of Violence | 2010 | | 2011 | | 2012 | | 2013 (upto August) | | Total | |
|---------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| | Women | Children | Women | Children | Women | Children | Women | Children | Women | Children |
| Physical | 1610 | 339 | 2060 | 472 | 2389 | 611 | 1477 | 598 | 7536 | 2020 |
| Rape | 128 | 306 | 179 | 373 | 239 | 443 | 167 | 445 | 713 | 1567 |
| Gang Rape | 139 | 95 | 115 | 122 | 84 | 84 | 92 | 85 | 430 | 386 |
| Sexual Harassment | 73 | 76 | 86 | 140 | 117 | 174 | 68 | 147 | 344 | 537 |
| Burn (Acid burn included) | 177 | 36 | 213 | 22 | 174 | 42 | 104 | 22 | 596 | 194 |
| Grand Total | 2127 | 852 | 2653 | 1129 | 3003 | 1354 | 1908 | 1297 | 9619 | 47041.3 |

Source: Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence against Women Nature of Violence against Women and

¹ UN secretary general campaign suite to end violence against women

² Analysis provided to the study by the global school based health survey: WHO 2004

³ The end of child labor: with in global report (Geneva, ILO), 2004

1.3 Nature of Violence against Women and Children:

A. Physical Violence: Physical abuse that is, any act conduct which is of such a nature as to cause bodily pain, harm, or danger to life, limb, or health or impair the health or development of the victim and includes assault, criminal intimidation and criminal force;⁴

B. Sexual Violence: Sexual abuse that is, any conduct of a sexual nature that abuses, humiliates, degrades or otherwise violates the dignity of the victim⁵ Nature of sexual violence:

- **Rape:** If any male person except in marriage tie, without the consent of the woman or by intimidation or by deceitful means cohabits with a woman aged above the age [sixteen years] or with a woman of below the age of [sixteen years] with consent or without consent cohabits then it shall be presumed that he has raped her.⁶
- **Sexual Harassment:** Sexual Harassment includes (1) undesirable sexual appeal (direct or gesture) which indicated to made sexual relationship; (2) For fulfilling the sexual urge to established sexual relation by using the administrative power; (3) Sexual appeal in facial expression; (4) Request or desire to sexual oath; (5) exhibition of pornography; (6) Sign or gesture-posture of sexual appeal; (7) unacceptable gesture, intending harassing language or word, sexually provoking jokes; (8) intended writing word which is sexually provoking jokes in letters, telephone call, mobile call, SMS, posturing, notice, industry, classroom and public toilet; (9) recording still and videos to fulfill the purpose of Blackmailing or blaming the character; (10) restricting or refusing the participation from sports, cultural and institutional programme, curricular activities for the cause of sexual harassment; (11) proposal for affairs and providing pressure and provoking fear for refusal the proposal; (12) trying to build the sexual relationship by pretending or false promising⁷

C. Psychological Violence: Psychological abuse that includes but is not limited to: i) verbal abuse including insults, ridicule, humiliation, insults or threats of any nature; (ii) harassment; or (iii) controlling behavior, such as restrictions on mobility, communication or self-expression;⁸

D. Burn Violence: Abuse by any burning object like, hot water, hot things, fire of burner, cigarette searing, kerosin oil, fire from lamp.

E. Acid Violence: Acid means any kind of thick, fluid or mixed ingredients of sulphuric acid, hydrochloric acid, nitric acid, phosphoric acid, caustic potash, carbolic acid, battery fluid (acid), chromic acid and aqua regia and other corrosive items determined as acid by the government. Acid burn means the person who was physically affected by acid thrown or any kind of acid.⁹

F. Economic Violence: that includes but is not limited to: (i) deprivation of all or any economic or financial resources or property to which the victim is entitled under any law or custom or an order of a court or any other competent authority; (ii) not allow to use the articles of daily necessities to the

⁴ The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010

⁵ The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010

⁶ The Suppression of Violence against Women and Children Act, 2009

⁷ The Sexual Harassment Against Women And Children Writ Petition No: 8769/2010

⁸ The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010

⁹ The Acid Control Act 2002

victim; (iii) deprivation or prohibiting the victim from applying legal rights to her or stirdhan or dower or alimony or any consideration for marriage or any property owned by the victim; (iv) transferring without consent of the victim or prohibiting the victim from applying legal rights to any assets whether movable or immovable owned by her; (v) deprivation or prohibiting the victim from applying legal rights to continued access to resources or facilities which the victim is entitled to use or enjoy by virtue of the family relationship.¹⁰

G. Human Trafficking: Human trafficking is define as an act where the selling, buying, recruitment, receipt, transportation, transfer, or harboring of any person for the purpose of sexual-exploitation, labor-exploitation or any other form of exploitation whether in or outside of Bangladesh by means of (a) threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, or (b) abduction, fraud or deception, or of the abuse of any person's socio-economic, environmental or other types of vulnerability, or (c) of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person.¹¹

H. Polygamy: Disobeying the laws, without the consent of wife or forced to get multiple marriage only for own interest and unequally treated to wives is an example of multiple marriage.

I. Child Marriage: (a) Child means the person who, if a male, is under twenty-one years of age, and if a female, is under eighteen years of age. (b) Child marriage means a marriage to which either of the contracting parties is child¹²

1.4 State and International Measures for Advancement of Women and Children:

In the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women 1993, the United Nations defines VAW as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life."¹³

Poverty, cultural norms and beliefs, non-implementation of laws, women's economic dependency, unequal power relationships are the major contributing factors of violence against women and children. Historically, Violence against women and children was viewed as a private matter. In the 1970's and 1980's, states, international conventions, several national and international organizations brought attention to violence against women and children.

In recent years, violence against women and children has gained public acknowledgement in many countries in the world but denial of its scope and seriousness remains widespread. Countless acts of violence are perpetrated on women and children ranging from domestic violence that include battering, psychological violence, dowry related violence, rape, sexual harassment, acid throwing, burn, abduction, forced prostitution etc. Moreover, in situations of armed conflict, women and children are increasingly targeted for attack.

¹⁰ Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010

¹¹ Human Trafficking (Deterrence and Suppression) Act, 2012

¹² The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929

¹³ Declaration of Elimination of Violence against women 1993

The international conventions and protocols outlined have been complemented by the development of policy instruments at the international level that provide detailed guidance on the steps to be taken by States and other stakeholders to strengthen the legal framework for addressing all forms of violence against women. These instruments include declarations and resolutions adopted by United Nations bodies, and documents emanating from United Nations conferences and summit.

1.4.1 The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh¹⁴

- the right to social security, that is to say, to public assistance in cases of undeserved want arising from unemployment, illness or disablement, or suffered by widows or orphans or in old age, or in other such cases (Article 15.d).
- The State shall adopt effective measures to prevent prostitution and gambling (Article 18.2).
- 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).
- No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth, be ineligible for, or discriminated against in respect of, any employment or office in the service of the Republic. (Article 29.2).

1.4.2 International Commitments and Declarations

A. Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948¹⁴:

- All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood (Article 1).
- No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Article 5).

B. Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict 1974¹⁵

- All the necessary steps shall be taken to ensure the prohibition of measures such as persecution, torture, punitive measures, degrading treatment and violence, particularly against that part of the civilian population that consists of women and children (Article 4).
- All forms of repression and cruel and inhuman treatment of women and children, including imprisonment, torture, shooting, mass arrests, collective punishment, destruction of dwellings and forcible eviction, committed by belligerents in the course of military operations or in occupied territories shall be considered criminal (Article 5).

C. Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) 1979

- The Convention is considered as an international bill of rights for women, Consisting of a preamble and 30 articles, it defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination.

D. Convention on the Right of the Child 1989

- The Convention provides provisions for States parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.

E. Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women 1993

- Consider the possibility of developing national plans of action to promote the protection of women against any form of violence or to include provisions for that purpose in plans already existing, taking into account, as appropriate,¹⁶

F. The Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action 1995

- The Beijing Platform for Action identified 12 critical areas of concern that require urgent action to achieve the goals of equality, development and peace; one of these areas was on violence against women. Such violence is also addressed in several other critical areas of concern.¹⁷

G. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 1999

- It reaffirms the determination of States parties which adopt the protocol to ensure the full and equal enjoyment by women of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and to take effective action to prevent violations of these rights and freedoms.¹⁸

H. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Optional Protocol 2006¹⁹

- States Parties recognize that women and girls with disabilities are subject to multiple discrimination, and in this regard shall take measures to ensure the full and equal enjoyment by them of all human rights and fundamental freedoms (Article 6.1).
- States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the full development, advancement and empowerment of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise (Article 6.2).
- States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social, educational and other measures to protect persons with disabilities, both within and outside the home, from all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, including their gender-based aspects. (Article 16.1).

¹⁶ Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women 1993

¹⁷ The Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action 1995

¹⁸ Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 1999

¹⁹ Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Optional Protocol 2006

¹⁴ Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948

¹⁵ Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict 1974

I. Commission on the Status of Women : Resolution of 57th session 2013

- Take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social, education and other measures to protect and promote the rights of women and girls with disabilities as they are more vulnerable to all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, including in the workplace, educational institutions, the home, and other settings (gg).²⁰

1.4.3 United Nations Campaign to End Violence against Women and Children

Sixteen Day Campaign: The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence is an international campaign sponsored by the Center for Women's Global Leadership in 1991. Participants chose the dates, November 25, International Day Against Violence Against Women and December 10, International Human Rights Day. In order to symbolically link violence against women and human rights and to emphasize that such violence is a violation of human rights.

UNITE to End Violence Against Women Campaign: On February, 2008, Secretary -General Ban Ki-moon announced the launch of the UNITE to End Violence Against Women Campaign to raise public awareness of VAW and to ensure that policy makers at the highest level work to prevent and eradicate violence against women. This campaign runs from 2008 to 2015.

Say No- UNiTE to End Violence Against Women: Say No-UNiTE to End Violence against Women is a social mobilization platform on ending violence against women and girls, contributing towards UN Secretary General's system-wide campaign. UN Women launched this campaign in November, 2009. Say No-UNiTE aims to trigger and highlight actions by individuals, governments and civil society partners. Actions can range from reaching out to students at schools, to volunteering at local shelters, advocating for legislation or donating funds towards programmes that protect women and girls from violence, and more.

UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women: UN Trust Fund is an international fund to end violence against women and girl child. The Trust Fund was established by U.N General Assembly on December 22, 1995. The Trust Fund is administered by UN Women and relies on voluntary contributions from national governments, the non-profit and private sectors and individuals.

Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence Against Women and Girls: The Virtual Knowledge Centre is an online resource in English, French and Spanish, designed to serve the needs of policymakers, programme implementers and other practitioners dedicated to addressing violence against women and girls. UN Women launched this Virtual Knowledge Centre on March, 2010.

U.N. Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict: In 2007 U.N Action draws 13 U.N entities together to improve and better coordinate the U.N system response to sexual violence before and after conflict. It is a concerted effort by the United Nations to improve coordination and accountability, amplify programming and advocacy and support national efforts to prevent sexual violence and respond effectively to the need of survivors.

²⁰ Commission on the Status of Women.: Resolution of 57th session 2013

1.5 Government and Non-Government Initiatives to Prevent Violence Against Women and Children

A. Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence Against Women: Ministry of Women and Children Affairs:

The main objective of this project is: Reduction in incidences of violence against women and children and improved redress through joint collaboration between relevant ministries and non-government agencies. The major activities are:

- ◆ **One-Stop Crisis Centre (OCC):** One-Stop Crisis Centre has been established at Dhaka, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Chittagong, Khulna, Barisal, Rangpur and Faridpur Medical College Hospital for women and children victim of violence. OCC provides medical facilities, police assistance, DNA test, legal assistance, psychosocial counseling, and shelter services for the women and children victim of violence.
- ◆ **DNA Laboratories:** In order to ensure speedy and fair trial the National Forensic DNA Profiling Laboratory has been established in Dhaka Medical College Campus along with seven divisional DNA screening laboratories at seven medical college hospitals. This Laboratory extends assistance to track down perpetrators of various heinous and despicable crimes such as rape, murder etc and paternity, maternity and in identifying defaced corpse and continue to provide support to the activities of various Law enforcing agencies.
- ◆ **National Trauma Counseling Centre:** This centre provides psychosocial counseling for the women and children victims of violence. Besides, this centre also provides training to the government, non-government officials and teachers on psychosocial counseling skills.
- ◆ **VAW database:** VAW related data and information from various sources collected from 24 national daily newspapers, police headquarters, Jatiyo Mahila Sangstha, OCC, DNA laboratory, National Trauma Counseling Central, Violence against Women cell of the Department of Women Affairs and Jatiyo Mahila Sangstha, One-Stop Crisis Cell and send the report to the respective government and non-government organizations.
- ◆ **One-Stop Crisis Cell:** A total of 60 One-Stop Crisis Cells including 40 in District Sadar Hospitals and 20 in Upazila Health Complexes. The main objective of the One-Stop Crisis Cells is to provide information to the women and children survivors of violence regarding various services i.e. health care, police assistant, legal advice, psychosocial counseling, rehabilitation, reintegration etc and refer them to the relevant organizations.
- ◆ **National Helpline Centre for Violence against Women and Children:** A National Helpline Centre for Violence against Women and Children has been established in 2012. The women and children victims of violence, their families can get necessary information, suggestions about available services by calling at the helpline number 10921. This helpline has taken effective step to prevent early marriage, sexual harassment and rescue the women and child victims of violence.

B. Women Friendly Hospital Initiatives, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare:

Women Friendly Hospitals are being implemented in 10 districts and 3 Upazila level throughout the country which is jointly implemented by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and UNICEF. The major activities of this initiatives are: provide, immediate support for the oppressed women; Take

girls in public places. The programme aims to build awareness and confidence of 12000 students (girls and boys) and community members to protect and protest sexual harassment; also establish and functioning networks and alliances involving government and non-government actors. Another activities is Gender Quality Action Learning) which facilitates gender equality and empowerment of women to actively engage them in realization of their rights. It focuses on their decision making ability in families, reduction of violence against women, and an increase in knowledge, attitude and practice regarding gender culture. The aims of the Community Empowerment Programme of BRAC is to empower the poor, particularly women, by increasing their human, social and political assets so that they are aware of and exercise their rights, can claim their entitlements, resist exploitation and play a more active role in public life. Utilizing the strong grassroots networks of more than 12000 Polli Shomaj and Union Shomaj identify and reports on incidents of violence against women and ensure their rehabilitation and re-integration.

J. Manusher Jonno Foundation:

The major activities of the Manusher Jonno Foundation are to prevent and protest violence against women. This foundation basically provides fund and technical supports to the different NGO's. The basic objectives are: establish human rights and good governance, especially change the live hood of the unprivileged people and increase their dignity in the society.; The activities are: creating and increasing social awareness to prevent violence against women; ensuring the services, health facilities, legal support and services from the local government for establishing the appropriate judgment to the women victims of violence; Promote leadership and participation; rehabilitation; conduct research and policy advocacy.

K. Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF):

Acid Survivors Foundation was formed with a vision to reduce and eventually eliminate acid attack in the country and ensure that acid survivors are able to live with dignity. For this purpose 20 bedded hospitals named 'Thikana' is being run by the ASF for providing better care to the acid victims. ASF also have a hotline number.

L. National Violence Against Women Forum (Action Aid Bangladesh):

This forum was consist by the local , National and International person, organization, citizen society, journalist and women activists working in different districts through a network. This forum works in two ways: firstly specific programme has been taken for preventing violence against women; secondly: Taken preventing and protecting approach to bring change the mindset of the society.

M. Dhaka Ahsania Mission:

Two Drop in Centres for street and working children are being implemented by the Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Also established a shelter home for women and children victims of trafficking and other violence and get them free education, counseling, health care, capacity building training, entertainment facilities for their better rehabilitation. This center is located at Jessore under the Dhaka Ahsania Mission.

N. Safe Project, ICDDR,B:

Safe Project under the ICDDR,B is being implemented at 19 slums of the adjacent of Marie stops clinic at Mohakhali, Mohammadpur and Jatrabari areas of Dhaka cities. The major objectives of the project is to reduce incidences of VAW; to reduce child marriage and early pregnancy and to increase the uses of contraceptives for birth control; to aware the young women and adolescent girls for their rights to get sex and reproductive health issues, right to get free from violence; to build a secured and suitable environment for women; Promote women to get legal, sexual and reproductive health services from One Stop service centre or other related centre; Facilitated to review the Laws and Policies through advocacy and networking.

O. We Can Campaign:

We can campaign was launched in Bangladesh on 18 September 2004 as an Oxfam's initiative. We can Bangladesh is now member of regional and global forum also. The goal of we can is to enhance gender equality at family, community and state by bringing a positive shift in attitudes, beliefs and practices that support violence against women . Objectives of the campaign are: fundamental shift in social attitudes and beliefs that support violence against women; collective and visible stand on violence against women by different section of people; to create a favorable environment for formulation and implementing gender sensitive programme at every sector; to coordinate all efforts whether local, national, regional or international to end all kind of violence against women.

In addition, a number of non-government organizations like, AIN O Shalish Kendra, BLAST, Aparajeo Bangladesh, RDRS, Steps Towards Development, Naripokkho, Durbar Network, Bangladesh Nari Progati Shangha, Karmajibi Nari, Nari Uddog Kendra, Bangladesh Pratibandhii Kallayan Shangstha, NAPDPO, Utsho Bangaldesh, Shishu Adhkar Forum, PRIP Trust, Avas, Association for Community Development etc. have several activities at national and local level for preventing violence against women and children. The activities include the establishment of human rights of women and children, provide social security, create awareness, case file and legal aid services, medical and psychosocial counseling, capacity building training etc. Moreover, these organizations have shelter homes where women and children victims of violence can stay for a certain period of time. Non-government organizations jointly with the civil societies conduct activities for rehabilitation and re-integration of the women and children victims of violence from national to grassroots level.

1.6 Different Surveys on Violence against Women and Children

- **Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies 2009:** An Inventory and Statistics on Violence against Women: Who is doing What and Where was conducted by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies. This survey included the government and non-government activities of VAW and VAW data of the related organization and their role to prevent VAW.²¹
- **Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence Against Women 2008:** Baseline Survey on Violence Against Women Survey was conducted by the Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence Against Women of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs during May-June 2008 in six Upazilas where 6105 women (age 10- 49 years) participated. The main objective of the survey was (i) to identify the nature of violence against women and

²¹ An Inventory and Statistics on Violence against Women: Who is doing What and Where 2009

children; (ii) to explore the places of occurrence of such incidents; (iii) to reveal the identity of the perpetrators or abusers of those offences; and (iv) to assess the knowledge of the respondents about the existing institutional arrangements to combat violence against women. The survey was focused on psychological, physical, burn and sexual violence. The 58% respondents said they were the victims of violence during their lifetime.²²

- **ICDDR'B 2000:** A survey conducted on 1254 from the urban and 1146 from the rural area of Bangladesh. A total of 2400 men aged 18 to 49 (1254 in the urban and 1146 in the rural area) were interviewed. About 52 percent of urban and 46 percent of rural men reported emotionally abusing their female intimate partners during their lifetime. About 52 percent of men in both the sites reported ever physically assaulting female intimate partners. About 10 percent of urban and 15 percent of rural men reported ever forcing their intimate partners into sex.²³
- **Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics 2011:** A Survey conducted on Violence Against Women and Children. To generate official national statistics on the prevalence of violence against women and to observe the overall situation including the forms of violence along with their magnitude in the country was determined through the survey. According to the survey 65% of married women experienced physical violence perpetrated by their current husbands in their lifetime. The data indicates that prevalence of physical violence seems to be slightly higher in rural than urban areas. About 4% of the women responded that they had experienced physical torture during their childhood, while 3% of the women have experienced sexual harassment. The prevalence is higher among rural than urban women. Besides 80% of the women responded that they had experienced psychological violence.²⁴

1.7. The Rationale for National Action Plan

The Beijing Platform for Action, adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 urges Governments to formulate and implement, at all appropriate levels, plans of action to eliminate violence against women (Article 124. k).²⁵ The Declaration on the Elimination of violence against women, adopted by the General Assembly in 1993, provides that States should consider the possibility of developing national plans of action to promote the protection of women against any form of violence (Article 4.e).²⁶ Besides in 2013 the follow up on concluding observations of the Committee on the CEDAW remarks in 20 paragraphs that the Committee urges the State party to give propriety attention to combating violence against women and girls and to adopt comprehensive measures such as a national action plan to address all forms of violence against women and girls.²⁷ The Secretary General's global campaign "UNiTE to end violence against women", launched in 2008, identified the adoption and

²² Baseline Survey on Violence Against Women 2008

²³ Men's Attitude and Practice Regarding Gender and Violence Against Women in Bangladesh 2011

²⁴ Nature of Domestic Violence against Women in a Rural Area of Bangladesh: Implication for Preventive Interventions 2000

²⁵ The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 1995

²⁶ Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women 1993

²⁷ Concluding observations of the Committee on the CEDAW remarks in 20 paragraphs

implementation of multi-sectoral national plans of action as one of the dive key outcomes of the campaign, to achieve in all countries by 2015.²⁸ In the year 2006, on 19 December, United Nations General Assembly resolutions 61/143 urge to formulate an effective National Action Plan by the State.²⁹

Formulation of an updated National Action Plan is required for appropriate implementation of the International Commitments and to prevent violence against women and children through the comprehensive approach by all.

1.8 Process to Formulate the Action Plan:

National, Divisional and Upazila level consultation meeting, workshop with various stakeholders were done in order to wider recommendation for developing the National Action Plan to prevent violence against women and children. The first workshop was held at BIAM Foundation of Dhaka on 11 December 2010 to formulate the national action plan. The Hon'ble State Minister of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs was present as chief guest. Representatives from the government and non-government organizations, member of the Parliament, representatives from the development agencies and the representatives from the citizen's societies participated in the workshop. Besides, several workshops were held at divisional, district and upazila level. Representatives from the violence against women and children committee of the district and upazila, local administration, teacher, lawyer, non-government organization, religious leader, media people participated in these workshops. A draft National Action Plan to prevent violence against women formulated according to the recommendation made from these workshops and divisional, district and upazila level.

Later on 27 August 2013 and 19 September 2013, two consultation meeting were held with the representatives of different non-government organization. Besides, LCG-WAGE was also given their recommendations on this plan. Also a consultation meeting was held with the representatives from child related organisations. For finalizing the action plan an inter-ministerial meeting was held on 26 September 2013. Secretary of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs presided the meeting.

1.9. Vision, Mission, Goal and Objectives

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Vision | To develop a society without violence against women and children by 2025 |
| Mission | To ensure the accountability and promoting the agencies for women empowerment and gender equality by developing and implementing the specific program plans for preventing and curative of the violence against women and children |
| Goal | To take effective measures for preventing and curative the violence against women and children through a multi-dimensional holistic programme and strategies. |

²⁸ UNiTE to end violence against women 2008

²⁹ Handbook For Violence Against Women 2012

Objectives of the National Action Plan:

1. Ensuring effective implementation and updated the Laws and Policies for prevention of violence against women and children.
2. Increase awareness to prevent violence against women by integrating government, non-government organization and civil societies.
3. Making the necessary arrangements for strengthening the socio-economic status of women, and ensuring the full enforcement of such arrangements;
4. Mobilizing government and non-government institutions for providing special focus on the protection and promotion of women and Children's advancement.
5. Preventing violence against women and children and making the necessary arrangements for their rehabilitation and re-integration.
6. Undertaking and institutionalizing the policy, planning and activities by mainstreaming the activities of violence against women and children.

1.10 Strategies to Prevent Violence Against Women and Children

1.10.1. Elimination of discrimination against women and children

- Engaging men-women, adolescent boys and girls.
- Changing stereotype attitude by the activities of media, advertising and popular cultural programme.
- Ensuring meaningful participation of government, non-government, local leaders and civil societies.
- Including Gender and child rights related important laws and policies into the text book of primary level to higher secondary level.
- Ensuring effective implementation and updated the Laws and Policies for prevention of violence against women and children.
- Women and Children friendly educational materials.
- Ensuring proper utilization of information technology.

1.10.2 Development of women and children as human capital

There is no substitute for skilled human resources for ensuring sustainable national development accelerating economic growth. Government plays vital role for developing women and children as human capital. Pre-conditions to create skilled human resources are:

- Access to physical and mental health, education, training, and employment and improve the infrastructures and capacities that support the delivery of services for women in these areas.
- Issues of safety and security for women in both domestic and public places.

- Strategies to obtain family member's support and sympathy for the development of women's human capital.
- Create vocational education for child and adolescent with others training facilities to create women as skill human resources.
- Changing men's mindset towards women empowerment and rights and ensure their participation in this regards.

1.10.3 Promotion of women leadership

- Capacity building towards women and child empowerment.
- Promote partnership building between and among women and men and increase opportunities and mechanisms for women's leadership and participation in communities and formal institutions.
- Inclusion of women in different committee for taking decision making

1.11 Time Frame for Implementing the National Action Plan

1.11.1 Time-frame: Action Plan will be implemented by three Phase.

- First Phase from 2013-2014 to 2015-16 fiscal year considered as short term.
- Second Phase from the 2013-14 to 2020-21 fiscal year considered as medium term.
- Third Phase from the 2013-14 to 2024-24 fiscal year considered as long term.

1.11.2 Institutional Framework for Implementing the Action Plan: National Action Plan to prevent violence against women and children will be implement through the overall supervision and guidance of the National Council for Women and Children Development (NCWCD) headed by Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Inter-ministerial Committee on violence against women and children and the national programme against dowry.

1.11.3 Fund allocation for implementing the plan: Proposed activities will be conducted through the revenue and development budget allocated in the different Ministries and Department. Besides, the initiative will be taken to implement the plan through the financial support by the development partners and agencies.

1.11.4 Reviewing the implementing progress:

- 2012-13 will be considered as base year. Reviewing the impact of the agreed activities through the evaluating the nature and level of violence against women and children in subsequent years.
- Future activities will be modified (if needed) on the basis of intensive evaluation of ongoing activities by end of every Phase.
- Necessary provision should be made for incorporating the policy, planning and programme of government during the implementation period of the National Action Plan to prevent Violence against women and children.

CHAPTER TWO

Legal Arrangement and Legal Facilities

Chapter Two

Legal Arrangement and Legal Facilities

2.1 Background

A number of existing laws have been amended and new legislations made to prevent violence against women and girl child in Bangladesh. Among these most significant laws are the Dowry Prohibition Act 1980, The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, The Suppression of Violence against Women and Children Act, 2000, the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2010 etc. To prevent violence against women and children and provide them legal support and suggestions, violence against women prevention cell, one-stop crisis centre, victim support centre, rehabilitation centre for the women victim was established. Moreover, the district and session judge has fund to support the cost as legal fees and other expenditure.

Law review, modification and amendment are essential for the demand of social perspective and necessity. One important goal of the national action plan is to promote a new trend to review the present laws, adopt new laws and eliminates the violence against women and gender discrimination.

2.2 The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

- ...the right to social security, that is to say, to public assistance in cases of undeserved want arising from unemployment, illness or disablement, or suffered by widows or orphans or in old age, or in other such cases (Article 15 d).
- The State shall adopt effective measures to prevent prostitution and gambling (Article 18.2).
- All citizens are equal before law and are entitled to equal protection of law (Article 27).
- 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).
- To enjoy the protection of the law, and to be treated in accordance with law, and only in accordance with law, is the inalienable right of every citizen, wherever he may be, and of every other person for the time being within Bangladesh ...(Article 31).

2.3 International Commitments and Declarations

A. Universal Declaration of Human Rights³⁰

- No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks (Article 12).

³⁰ Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948

- Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution (Article 16.1).

- Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses (Article 16.2).

B. Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women 1979³¹

- To adopt appropriate legislative and other measures, including sanctions where appropriate, prohibiting all discrimination against women (Article 2 b).
- To establish legal protection of the rights of women on an equal basis with men and to ensure through competent national tribunals and other public institutions the effective protection of women against any act of discrimination (Article 2 c).
- States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women (Article 6).
- States Parties shall accord to women equality with men before the law (Article 15.1).
- States Parties shall accord to women, in civil matters, a legal capacity identical to that of men and the same opportunities to exercise that capacity. In particular, they shall give women equal rights to conclude contracts and to administer property and shall treat them equally in all stages of procedure in courts and tribunals (Article 15.2).
- States Parties agree that all contracts and all other private instruments of any kind with a legal effect which is directed at restricting the legal capacity of women shall be deemed null and void (Article 15.3).
- States Parties shall accord to men and women the same rights with regard to the law relating to the movement of persons and the freedom to choose their residence and domicile (Article 15.4).

C. Convention on the Rights of Child 1989

- Government should ensure that children are properly cared for and protect them from violence, abuse and neglect by their parents, or anyone else who looks after them (Article 19).

D. United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty 45/113 of 14 December 1990 (Havana Rules)³²

- The juvenile justice system should uphold the rights and safety and promote the physical and mental well-being of juveniles (Rules 1).

³¹ Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women 1979.

³² Child Rights convention 1989

³³ United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty 45/113 of 14 December 1990 (Havana Rules)

³⁴ Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women 1993

E. Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women 1993³⁴

- Consider the possibility of developing national plans of action to promote the protection of women against any form of violence or to include provisions for that purpose in plans already existing, taking into account, as appropriate (Article 4 e).

F. Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action 1995

- The Beijing Platform for Action identified 12 critical areas of concern that require urgent action to achieve the goals of equality, development and peace; one of these areas was on violence against women. Such violence is also addressed in several other critical areas of concern. Article 122-133 described the issues of violence against women.

G. Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)³⁵

- The use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances (Article 3.b, k).

H. SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution 2002³⁶

- The State Parties to the Convention shall sensitize their law enforcement agencies and the judiciary in respect of the offences under this Convention and other related factors that encourage trafficking in women and children (Article VIII.2).

2.4 Plans and Policies

A. National Women Development Policy 2011³⁷

- To revise and amend existing law and make necessary legislation to ensure the human rights of women (17.3).
- Stern enforcement of legislations against minor matrimony, rape of girl child, abuse and repression and trafficking (18.1).
- To extend legal support to women victim of abuse (19.3).
- To stop trafficking of women and rehabilitation of the affected ones (19.4).
- To train the judiciary and the Police department in the matter of legislations pertaining to women and to make these departments gender sensitized (19.6).
- To simplify the adjudication procedure to complete trial of offence relating to women, female children and their trafficking (19.7).

B. National Children Policy 2011

- Initiatives shall be undertaken to make necessary legislations and provisions to materialize child rights (5,7).³⁸

³⁵ Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)

³⁶ SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution 2002

³⁷ National Women Development Policy 2011

³⁸ National Children Policy 2011

2.5 Acts, Rules and High Court Directives

2.5.1 Acts and Rules

A. The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929

This act is expedient to restrain the solemnization of child marriages; child means a person who, if a male, is under twenty-one years of age, and if a female, is under eighteen years of age.

B. The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1980

If any person, after the commencement of this Act, gives or takes or abets the giving or taking of dowry, he shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to five years and shall not be less than one year or five or with both (3).³⁹

C. The Suppression of Violence Against Women and Children Act, 2000

This act provides provisions to punish the perpetrators of Violence against Women and Children under Special Tribunals.

D. The Acid Crime Control Act 2002

This act is expedient to frame laws for the suppression of offences rigidly relating to Acid. If any person causes the death of another person by acid he shall be convicted to death sentence or for rigorous life imprisonment and in addition shall be fined up to taka one lakh (section 4).⁴⁰

E. The Acid Control Act 2002

This act is expedient to frame laws for the controlling import, production, transportation, stocking, selling and misuses of acid as a combustible objects and to provide medical, rehabilitation and legal support to the victims of acid.

F. The Citizenship (amended) Act, 2009

The provision for giving citizenship by mother to child was made by the national parliament by amending the Citizenship Act in 2009.

G. The Mobile Court Act, 2009

The executive magistrate was given power to take steps by under section 509 of the Bangladesh Penal Code in the schedule of the Mobile Court Act to prevent sexual harassment of the girls and women.

H. The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2010

The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010 was passed for establishing equal rights of women and children as prescribed in the constitution of Bangladesh for ensuring protection of women and children from family violence as also a signatory state to the UN Charter on Prevention of All Forms of Discrimination to Women 1979 and the Child Rights Convention 1989.

³⁹ The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1980

⁴⁰ Acid Crime Control Act 2002

I. The Human Trafficking (Deterrence and Suppression) Act, 2012

This act is expedient to frame laws for the prevention and control human trafficking and to ensure protection and rights of the victims of human trafficking and for secure immigration. If any person having been convicted for human trafficking or sexual abuse or harassment under the section 2(15) said that any other abuses of abduct, hide or confined of any other person he shall be convicted up to ten years and not less than five years rigorous imprisonment and in addition shall be fined up to taka twenty thousand (section 10.1).⁴¹

J. The Pornography Control Act, 2012⁴²

- If any person relating with producing pornography or contracting other persons for production, or to force any women, man and child to participate or attracting any women, man and child with consent or without consent taking still picture, video or film, he shall be convicted for rigorous imprisonment maximum seven years and in addition shall be fined upto taka two lakh (section 8.1).
- If any person using any child for producing pornography, printing and publishing or selling child pornography, supply or exhibition or broadcasting the advertisement of child pornography, he shall be convicted for rigorous imprisonment maximum ten years and in addition shall be fined upto taka five lakh (section 8.6).

K. The Children Act, 2013

This Act has replaced the children Act 1974, by modifying and expanding in accordance with United Nations on Child Rights Convention 1989 and the National Children Policy 2011.

L. The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Rules 2013

The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Rules, 2013 was passed for establishing equal rights of women and children as prescribed in the constitution of Bangladesh for ensuring protection of women and children from family violence.

2.5.2 High court directives to prevent violence against women and children

A. Sexual Harassment⁴³:

High Court provided guideline for preventing sexual harassment against women and children in workplace/educational institution. This guideline will be applicable for all the government and non-government educational institution. The goal and objective are creating awareness on sexual harassment; creating awareness on the effect of sexual harassment; creating awareness that the sexual harassment is punishable offences.

⁴¹ Human Trafficking (Deterrence and Suppression) Act (2012)

⁴² Pornography Control Act 2012

⁴³ High Court Writ Petition No5916/2008

B. Sexual harassment against women and children⁴⁴

The word eve teasing or teasing shall not be used from now on. In lieu of that all law enforcement agencies, government agencies/offices, media use the term sexual harassment for describing so called eve teasing or teasing/harassment incidences.

C. The extra judicial punishment in the name of the fatwa is illegal⁴⁵

The extra judicial punishment in the name of the fatwa has been declared illegal by the judgment. 1. If any person punished other than he and his associates shall be punished as per the section of penal code and other existing laws. 2. Law enforcement agencies, Union Parishad and Poursava around the country will be taken necessary action for stopping incidence like fatwa under his areas. if the incidence occurs then they will take necessary legal action against the related offender. 3. Government i.e local government division hereby informed that the extra judicial punishment in the name of the fatwa is illegal and it will consider as punishable offence. Government will create awareness among the mass people that the extra judicial punishment in the name of the fatwa is illegal. 4. Government i.e Ministry of Education incorporated articles in the syllabus and other educational materials in school, college, university and specially madrasas which will ensure the maximum respect of the constitution and legal dominion; and will take necessary steps for discourage to use the extra judicial punishment in the name of the Islamic Sharia/fatwa is illegal.

D. Nobody is compelled to obey the fatwa⁴⁶

----- 2. Appropriate educated person have to right to give Fatwa, which depends on spontaneously accepted. 3. Fatwa cannot be given in that way which will destroy the fame of any person to accept existing laws of the country. 4. No one can be punished physically or psychologically as Fatwa.

E. Executive order of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs to prevent child marriage.⁴⁷

In spite of prohibition of child marriage in Act, due to the increase of the child marriage according to the write petition no 4781/2012 on 20/06/2012 from the High court division of Supreme court, according to the letter on 13/08/2012 Ministry of Women and Children Affairs requested to act carefully on: a) Register nikah on the basis of National identity card and birth certificate for the Muslim men and women. b) Avoiding to register on nikah for children.

F. Notification of the Ministry of Education to prohibit corporal punishment in educational institutions.⁴⁸

On 21 April 2011 to prevent sexual harassment in educational institution, Ministry of Education formulated policy on prohibition of corporal punishment in educational institutions 2011.

2.6 Goal

Effective implementation of laws to prevent violence against women and children and gender discrimination.

⁴⁴ High Court Writ Petition No 8769/2010

⁴⁵ High Court Writ Petition No 5863/2009 with Writ Petition 754/2010 and 4275/2010

⁴⁶ High Court Writ Petition No 4275/2010

⁴⁷ Executive order of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs to prevent child marriage

⁴⁸ Notification of the Ministry of Education to prohibit corporal punishment in educational institutions

2.7 Programme Implementation Matrix

| Present Activities | Future Activities | Time Frame | Implementing Ministries, Related department and agencies. |
|----------------------|--|------------|---|
| Courts and Tribunals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of women and children repression tribunal at rangamati, khagrachhari and bandarban districts. Separate establishment of women and children repression tribunal at 18 districts. Tribunal must be user friendly for disable. Take necessary steps after reviewing the present activities of the tribunal. | Mid-term | Lead Ministry Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Collaborating Ministries, Division and Agencies Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs. |
| | | Mid-term | Lead Ministry Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Collaborating Ministries, Division and Agencies Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Social Welfare. |
| | | Mid-term | Lead Ministry Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Collaborating Ministries, Division and Agencies Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Home Affairs. |
| C) Family Court. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the activities of family court. | Mid-term | Lead Ministry Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Collaborating Ministries, Division and Agencies Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Home Affairs. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take necessary and effective steps for the speedy trial of the cases. | Short-term | Lead Ministry Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Collaborating Ministries, Division and Agencies Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Home Affairs. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate the alternative dispute resolution before filing the cases at family court. | Mid-term | Lead Ministry Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Collaborating Ministries, Division and Agencies Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Home Affairs. |

| Present Activities | Future Activities | Time Frame | Implementing Ministries, Related department and agencies. |
|-------------------------------|---|------------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate the alternative dispute resolution for the protection of disable women and children. | Short-term | |
| D) Mobile Court. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct regular activity of the mobile court at every upazila for preventing sexual harassment. Arrangement for receiving the application from the disable women and children in every mobile court of upazila level. | Short-term | Lead Ministry Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Collaborating Ministries, Division and Agencies Ministry of Public Administration, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare, Cabinet Division. |
| E) Judicial Magistrate Court. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize the criminal cases related to women and children with a special care. Ensuring security for the survivors of women and children during the case file. Arrange camera trial (if needed) during the case file. | Mid-term | Lead Ministry Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Collaborating Ministries, Division and Agencies Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare. |
| F) Children Court. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of child court at least one in every district. Settle the judgment procedure of child (below 18) without delay. Create child friendly environment at court. | Long-term | Lead Ministry Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Collaborating Ministries, Division and Agencies Local Government Division, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare, Cabinet Division. |

| Present Activities | Future Activities | Time Frame | Implementing Ministries, Related department and agencies. |
|---|--|------------|---|
| G. The Village Court 2006 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular activities of village court in local level. Take administrative measures to implement court decision. | Mid-term | |
| Acts, Rules and Regulation | | | |
| A. The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 B. The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1980 C. The Suppression of Violence Against Women and Children Act, 2000 D. The Acid Crime Control Act 2002 E. The Acid Control Act, 2002 F. The Mobile Court Act 2009 G. The Citizenship (Amendment), Act, 2009 H. The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010 J. The Human Trafficking (Deterrence and Suppression) Act, 2012 K. The Pornography Control Act, 2012 L. Children's Act, 2013 M. The Information and Technology (Amendment), Act, 2013 N. The Immigration (Amendment) Act, 2013 P. The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Rules, 2013 O. The National Child Labor Extermination Policy, 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update the laws. Ensure the implementation of law. Aware the laws among different professionals. | Long-term | Lead Ministry Ministry of Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Collaborating Ministries, Division and Agencies Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Information Communication Technology, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Cabinet Division |

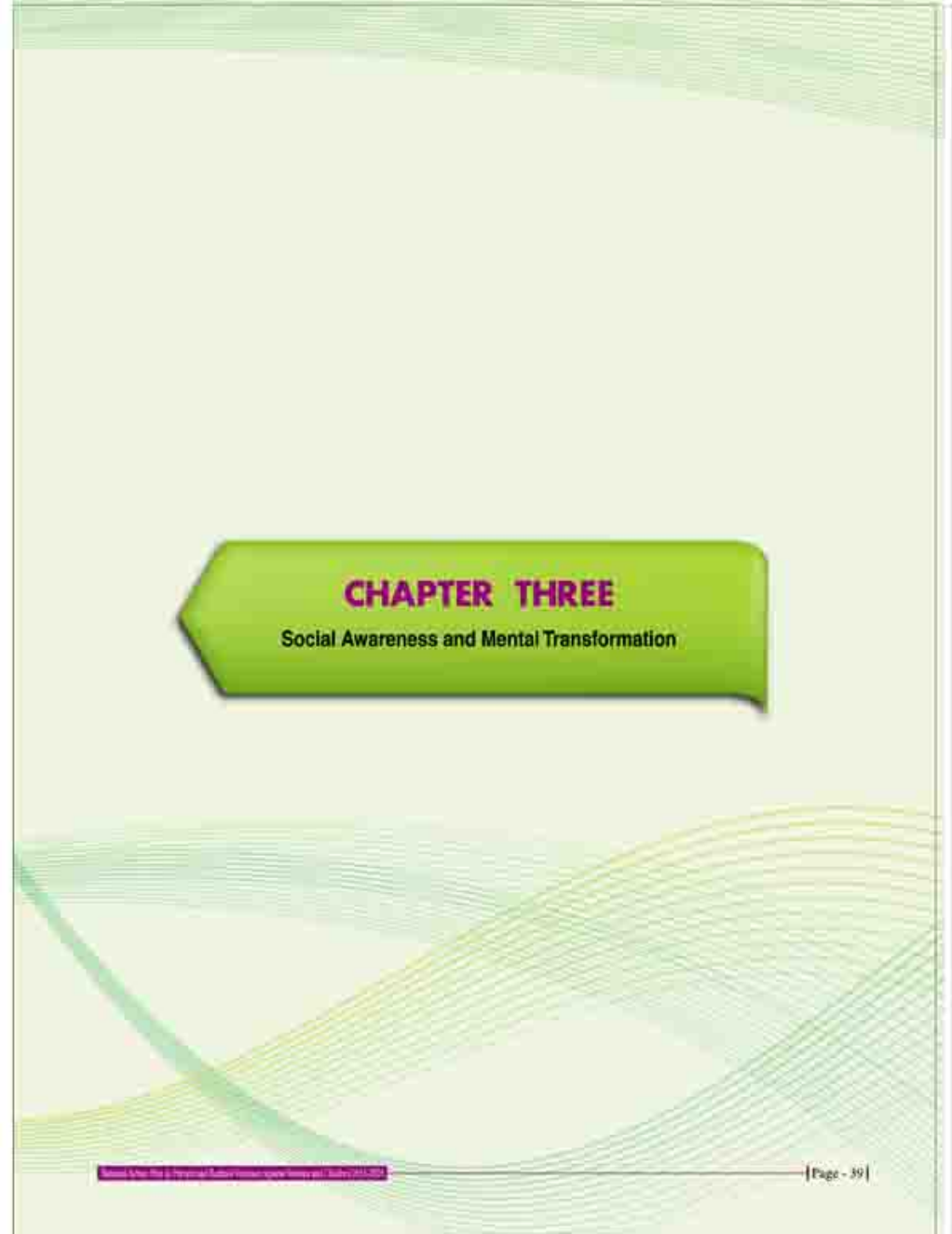
| Present Activities | Future Activities | Time Frame | Implementing Ministries, Related department and agencies. |
|---------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Adopt new Acts and Rules | | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take initiative for conducting the cases effectively by special public prosecutor and public prosecutor. Taking Initiatives for passing deoxyribonucleic (DNA) acid act Taking initiative to develop law for preventing sexual harassment according to instruction of high court Development and Implementation of act of the human trafficking (deterrence and suppression) act, 2012. Safety act for the oppressed women and children and witness. Right and protection act for the women and children who are engaged in household work. Inclusion of issue of protection of disable women and children in the right of disable act and rules. Implementation of act for using child forcefully or provoke to do unethical work. | Short-term Short-term Mid-term Short-term Mid-term Mid-term Short-term Mid-term | Lead Ministry Ministry of Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Home Collaborating Ministries, Division and Agencies Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Labour and Employment |
| Legal Support | | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procedural reform for the settlement of cases timely. Monitoring the sensitive cases. Expansion of the legal support activities around the country. | Short-term Short-term Mid-term | Lead Ministry Ministry of Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Collaborating Ministries, Division and Agencies Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare |

| Present Activities | Future Activities | Time Frame | Implementing Ministries, Related department and agencies. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of special cell for legal support at upazila level. Instruction should be kept in those cells about the proper support of disable women and children. Proper acknowledgement of lawyer who successfully work the case of women and children violence in district level. Preparation of training manual on gender sensitivity and disability and arrangement of training on this issue for the lawyer who are related with legal support. Training on gender sensitivity for the lawyer for the support of bar council at district level. Ensure medical examination of women and children of violence victim in a respectful way. In case of legal support, especially need of disable women and children, easily accessible environment, appropriate evidence for blind, deaf and dumb, intellectually disable women and children and use of sign language bringing into practice. More strengthening of activities of monitoring cell and increase of fund for the women and children of acid victim and ensure the collection of that fund | Long-term Mid-term Short-term Mid-term Short-term Mid-term Mid-term | |
| Legal Aid Services Organisation | | | |
| A. Provide free legal services under the National legal Aid Services Organization | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special activities and initiatives taken for the legal support of women and children of violence victim through district national legal aid services committee. Easy access of free legal support as well as assistance for support service for the disable women and children of violence victim. | Long-term | |

| Present Activities | Future Activities | Time Frame | Implementing Ministries, Related department and agencies. |
|--|--|------------|---|
| B. Women Support and Investigation Division. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure of legal support for the victim through victim support centre, investigation unit and quick response team. | Short-term | Lead Ministry Ministry of Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs |
| C. Provide legal support through the six divisional violence against women cell of the Department of Women Affairs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Taking necessary initiatives after reviewing the activities of women violence prevention cell. | Mid-term | Collaborating Ministries, Division and Agencies Ministry of Social Welfare Department of Women Affairs, Jatiyo Mahila Sangstha, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and Cooperative, National legal Aid Services Organization. |
| D. Provide legal support through the violence against women cell of Jatiyo Mahila Sangstha. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Taking necessary initiatives by reviewing the activities of women violence prevention cell situated at the head office of jatiya mahila sangstha. ● Taking initiative for the special service for the disable women and children like use of sign language in court, easily reachable environment, taking witness from blind. | Mid-term | |
| E. Legal advices through the National Helpline Centre for Violence Against Women and Children. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure legal advices through national helpline centre for violence against women and children. | Mid-term | Lead Ministry Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. |
| F. National Forensic DNA Profiling Laboratory and Divisional DNA Screening Laboratory provides support in legal cases. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure support for case by national forensic dna profiling laboratory and divisional dna screening laboratories. | Short-term | Collaborating Ministries, Division and Agencies Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Non-Government organizations. |
| G. One-Stop Crisis Centre provides legal support. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure legal support by one-stop crisis centre. | Short-term | |

| Present Activities | Future Activities | Time Frame | Implementing Ministries, Related department and agencies. |
|---|--|------------|--|
| H. One-Stop Crisis Cell provides legal Advices. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establishment of strong network with local legal support providing organization and non-government organization, for providing legal support through one-stop crisis cell. | Mid-term | |
| I. Legal support through the non-government organization in different districts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure support provided by different non-government organization of different districts. | Mid-term | |
| Training and Awareness Activities | | | |
| A. Training for capacity building of Justice and Magistrates | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Providing training on gender sensitivity to the lawyer related with legal support before the preparation of manual | Short-term | Lead Ministry Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs. |
| B. Training for the Officers of Judicial Department. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Arrangement of training to ensure gender sensitivity among doctor, nurse and police including law enforcing agencies. | Short-term | Collaborating Ministries, Division and Agencies Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Judicial Administration Training Institute |
| C. Training for Public Prosecutor and Special Public Prosecutor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Training on gender sensitivity for lawyer to support bar council of district level. | Short-term | |
| D. Training for Forensic Doctors. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Acknowledge lawyer who done well in the case related with violence against women and children. | Short-term | |
| E. Training for DNA Experts. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Taking necessary initiatives to make the courts as women and child friendly. | Short-term | |
| F. Training for Crime Reporters | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Aware public about the arbitration councilor. Disable issue must be clear in arbitration council. | Mid-term | |

| Present Activities | Future Activities | Time Frame | Implementing Ministries, Related department and agencies. |
|--------------------|---|------------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public awareness around the country about the domestic violence (prevention and protection) act, 2010 | Short-term | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of publicity among the population of grassroots level about all types of law in preventing violence against women and children. | Short-term | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness training and publicity activity for the acid user and acid salesman to implement the acid control act (2002). | Short-term | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of manual and arrangement of training on the children act 2013 for the government and non-government officials. | Long-term | |



Chapter Three

Social Awareness and Mental Transformation

3.1 Background

It is very essential to create social awareness to change the stereotype mindset to prevent violence against women and children. Every individual has the responsibility to create awareness to prevent violence. Social attitude will change when the individual mind-set will change. Awareness programme, several training programme can be arranged by the government and non-government organization to bring change in the negative attitude of society to prevent violence against women and children. National action plan will take different awareness raising activities to create social awareness to prevent violence against women. It will also help to build public opinion.

3.2 International Commitments and Declarations

A. Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) 1979⁴⁹

- To modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women (Article 5.a)
- Access to the same curricula, the same examinations, teaching staff with qualifications of the same standard and school premises and equipment of the same quality (Article 10.b)

B. Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women 1993⁵⁰

- Promote meetings and seminars with the aim of creating and raising awareness among all persons of the issue of the elimination of violence against women (Article 5 b)

C. Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action 1995⁵¹

- Adopt all appropriate measures, especially in the field of education, to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, and to eliminate prejudices, customary practices and all other practices based on the idea of the inferiority or superiority of either of the sexes and on stereotyped roles for men and women (Article 124 k)
- Raise awareness of the responsibility of the media in promoting non-stereotyped images of women and men, as well as in eliminating patterns of media presentation that generate violence, and encourage those responsible for media content to establish professional guidelines and codes of conduct; (Article 125J)

D. SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution 2002

- The State Parties to the Convention shall promote awareness, inter-alia, through the use of the media, of the problem of trafficking in Women and Children and its underlying causes including the projection of negative images of women (Article VIII.8).⁵²

3.3 Acts, Plans and Policies

A. The Suppression of Violence Against Women and Children Act, 2000⁵³

Provision about the Publication of the Identity of the Raped Women and Child Birth News Media (Section- 14).-

- (1) Victims of the offences under this act women and children and news about the legal actions, information, names and addresses about them may be published through news paper or news media in such a manner that there are not disclosed identities.
- (2) Infringement of the provisions of sub-section (1), person or persons each shall be liable for two years conviction or fine of taka up to ten lakh or both.

B. National Women Development Policy 2011⁵⁴

- To raise widespread awareness in prevention of abuse of women in all the levels of the society through integrated initiative with the NGOs and take appropriate initiatives in bringing about changes the male dominated thought process (19.9).
- To create widespread public awareness on the mass media in prevention of abuse of women (19.10).
- Involving male and youths in building up mass awareness in prevention of abuse of women (19.11).

C. National Children Policy 2011

-Effective public awareness program shall be undertaken to stop violence on children and abuse of them (6.7.1).⁵⁵

3.4 Goal

Creation of public awareness and mental transformation on gender equality in order to eradicate negative attitudes and behaviors' to all kinds of violence against women and children.

⁴⁹ Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) 1979

⁵⁰ Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women 1993

⁵¹ Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action 1995

⁵² SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution 2002

⁵³ The Suppression of Violence Against Women and Children Act, 2000

⁵⁴ National Women Development Policy 2011

⁵⁵ National Children Policy 2011

| Present Activities | Future Activities | Time Frame | Implementing Ministries, Related department and agencies. | |
|---|--|------------|--|--|
| Print and Electronic Media | | | | |
| a) Spot drama, serial, magazine program, issue related discussion and song for television and radio | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Campaign of social awareness program through radio and television to prevent negative attitude of thinking of the society. | Short-term | Lead Ministry Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Cultural Affairs Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Bangladesh Television, Bangladesh Radio, Department of Mass communication, Department of Film and Publication, National Institute of Mass Media, Related Non- Government Organization, Media House | |
| b) Campaign through print media | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prepare of documentary to prevent violence against women and children and regular exhibition in television channels | Short-term | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Arrangement of advertisement, magazine program, radio spot, television and print media about present organizational services (OCC, national trauma counseling centre, national forensic dna profiling laboratory, national helpline centre to prevent violence against women and children, victim support centre etc.) to prevent violence against women and children. | Short-term | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Telecast of live program on violence against women and children on radio and television. | Short-term | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Circulation of information of prevention of violence against women and advertisement in daily news papers. | Short-term | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Arrangement of awareness program on media about the role of male's involvement in household work and child care. | Mid-term | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase awareness for the preservation of samples for the medical examination of the survivors of women and children. | Short-term | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public awareness about the importance of medico legal examination. | Short-term | | |
| | | | | |

| Present Activities | Future Activities | Time Frame | Implementing Ministries, Related department and agencies. |
|---|--|------------|--|
| | | | Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Bangladesh Television, Bangladesh Radio, Bangladesh Sharghad Sangstha, Department of Mass Communication, Department of Film and Publication, National Institute of Mass Media, Related Non- Government Organization, Media House Lead Ministry Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, Ministry of Education Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Cultural Affairs |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Involvement of students in public awareness cultural activities in preventing violence and gender equality in educational institutions. | | Mid-term | Lead Ministry Ministry of Religious Affairs Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Ministry of Information, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, Islamic Foundation Bangladesh Lead Ministry Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, Ministry of Education Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Ministry of Finance |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Providing importance in behaving sensitively with women and children in different religious programs | Mid-term | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Inclusion of prevention of violence against women issue in mass education activities of religious organization. | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public awareness about prevention of violence against women through sending message in cell phone. | Short-term | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preparation and distribution of poster, booklet, sticker, billboard for public awareness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establishment of poster and billboard on prevention of violence against women in every types of educational institution. | | |

| Present Activities | Future Activities | Time Frame | Implementing Ministries, Related department and agencies. |
|---|--|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase of public awareness against misuses of technology for preventing violence against women. Preparation and distribution of poster on the basis of human trafficking (deterrence and suppression) act, 2012. Increase of public awareness on trafficking with the guardians in the trafficking zone. Increase of publicity of help line number 10921 for the women and children victim of violence. Increase of publicity of help line number 10921 for the women and children of violence victim. Establishment of on child marriage billboard in union level. | <p>Short-term</p> <p>Short-term</p> <p>Short-term</p> <p>Short-term</p> <p>Short-term</p> <p>Short-term</p> | <p>Lead Ministry Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs</p> <p>Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Local Government Division, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Posts and Tele-communications</p> |
| d) Gender Sensitization Training for the Officials of Print and Electronic Media | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steps for telecasting programs by analyzing the ethical standard of the programs telecast in mass media | Short-term | <p>Lead Ministry Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Information</p> <p>Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Bangladesh Television, Bangladesh Radio, Bangladesh Sangbad Shangdha, Department of Mass Communication, Department of Film and Publication, National Mass Media Institute, related Non-Government Organization, Media House</p> |
| e) Training for Media People | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt and implement anti-sexual harassment behavior guidelines for media. | Short-term | |
| Present Activities | Future Activities | Time Frame | Implementing Ministries, Related department and agencies. |
| Popular Folk Programme | | | |
| <p>a) Street drama, stage drama, story song, open air drama, folk song/ poet song.</p> <p>b) Influence all in preventing violence against women through local folk culture.</p> <p>c) Pot song, gombira, Jargon etc.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase of social public awareness through street drama, folk song and local folk culture. | Mid-term | <p>Lead Ministry Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Cultural Affairs</p> <p>Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Bangladesh Television, Bangladesh Radio, Bangladesh Shongbad Shongdha, Department of Mass Communication, Department of Film and Publication, National Mass Media Institute, related Non-Government Organization, Media House</p> |
| Skill and Development Training | | | |
| <p>a) Training on gender sensitization for different professionals like: teacher religious leader, doctor, police, judge, nurse, representative of local government, government and non-government officials and representative from society.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training for teachers to prevent gender based violence and sexual harassment in educational institute and to take necessary steps. Arrangement of training and workshop in district and upazilla levels for different professionals. Gender sensitive training for doctors and nurse of different district and upazilla through gender, NGO stakeholder participation Unit (GNSPU) under ministry of health and family planning. | Mid-term | <p>Lead Ministry Ministry of Education, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs</p> <p>Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Ministry of Local Government, Rural development and Cooperatives, Ministry of Health and Family Planning, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare.</p> |

| Present Activities | Future Activities | Time Frame | Implementing Ministries, Related department and agencies. |
|--|---|---|---|
| b) National Trauma Counseling Centre provide supportive counseling training for the teachers of school and college to prevent sexual harassment. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psychosocial counseling training for teachers on regular basis. Initiatives taken for the development of the skill of service provider to improve the standard of psychosocial counseling. | <p>Short-term</p> <p>Mid-term</p> | <p>Lead Ministry Ministry of Women and Children Affairs</p> <p>Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Ministry of Education</p> |
| Awareness Programme in Educational Institutions | | | |
| a) Preventive activities in educational institution to prevent violence against women and children. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include of impact of violence on women and children in educational curriculum. Discussion in school about the disadvantages of violence against women and children. | <p>Long-term</p> <p>Short-term</p> | <p>Lead Ministry Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, Ministry of Education</p> <p>Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies National Curriculum and Textbook Board</p> |
| Community Mobilization | | | |
| a) Court yard meeting and community meeting for the interpersonal interaction of grass root level women. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularization of court yard meeting and community meeting in grass root level. Community based family counseling to remove discrimination among boy and girl child to ensure gender equality. | <p>Short-term</p> <p>Long-term</p> | <p>Lead Ministry Ministry of women and children Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Information</p> <p>Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Local government, Ministry of Local Government Rural Development and Co-operatives, Non-Government Organizations</p> |
| Present Activities | | | |
| b) Celebration of International Women Day, and International Women Violence Prevention Week to create Gender Equality. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Campaign on issue that family conflict and unbearable behavior of parents increase the tendency of developing intellectual disability and autism in children. Awareness activities taken in the meeting of guardian on sexual harassment, child marriage, drug addiction, dowry, illegal fatwa, and trafficking. Recognition of man for active participation preventing violence and for sensitive behavior towards women and children. Awareness about trafficking through boys and girls club. Exhibition of documentary on role of women in society and family to change the negative attitude towards women development. Award for the associated family member who are behind the success of socially established women. Different types of activities taken to create public awareness on good interpersonal relation in removing family and interpersonal conflict. Campaign in community level with the coordination of guardians, marriage register, religious representative and local respected people to take necessary steps in preventing dowry, child marriage, violence against women and children. Strengthening of prevention of violence against women and children by spreading awareness among chairman and members of local level. Public awareness to prevent child marriage and dowry. | <p>Long-term</p> <p>Mid-term</p> <p>Long-term</p> <p>Short-term</p> <p>Short-term</p> <p>Short-term</p> <p>Short-term</p> <p>Short-term</p> | <p>Implementing Ministries, Related department and agencies.</p> <p>Lead Ministry Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs</p> <p>Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Ministry of Law Justice and Parliament Affairs, Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Ministry of Religious Affairs, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Local Government Rural Development and Co-operatives</p> |

| Present Activities | Future Activities | Time Frame | Implementing Ministries, Related department and agencies. |
|--|--|-----------------------------|---|
| b) Celebration of International Women Day, and International Women Violence Prevention Week to create Gender Equality. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness on immediate initiatives after the acid incidence for the burn and acid victims. Awareness among guardians, general population and employer on the negative sides child labor. | Short-term | Lead Ministry Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Ministry of Information, Non-Government Organization |
| Sharing Opinion with Professionals | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion with professionals on legal implementation of DNA test. Inform about the activities of National Helpline Centre for Violence Against Women and Children. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular sharing with doctor, judge, magistrate, teacher, police, lawyer, representative of media, representative of non-government organization. Inform professionals about socially available facilities in preventing violence against women. | Short-term Long-term | Lead Ministry Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Ministry of Information, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Law Justice and parliament Affairs, National Mass Media Institute, Ministry of Public Administration, Institute of Judicial Administration Training Institute, Ministry of Posts and Tele-Communications |

CHAPTER FOUR

Socio-Economic Advancement of Women and Children

Chapter Four

Socio-Economic Advancement of Women and Children

4.1 Background

Poverty and economic dependency of women is one of the main reasons of violence against women. Women are the half of total population of Bangladesh. But women are not involved in the mainstream of economic activities and it brings negative effects to the national economy. There is no alternative of skilled human resource to ensure sustainable national development. The precondition of creating skilled human resource is to develop education, health, training, psychological and cultural sector. Government is emphasizing the education sector to develop women as a human resource and reduce the violence. Government did primary education compulsory for the importance of education. Female student stipend activity is continuing to progress the women's education. Women's socio-economic status is developing for the VGD activity, allowance for the ultra-poor women and different social safety net.

4.2 Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

- It shall be a fundamental responsibility of the State to attain, through planned economic growth, a constant increase of productive forces and a steady improvement in the material and cultural standard of living of the people, with a view to securing to its citizens.....(Article 15).

4.3 International Commitments and Declarations

A. Universal Declarations of Human Rights 1948

- Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality (Article 22).⁵⁶

B. Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women 1979⁵⁷

- States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in other areas of economic and social life in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, the same rights, (Article 13).
- States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development and, in particular, shall ensure to such women the right....(Article 14.2).

⁵⁶ Universal Declarations of Human Rights 1948

⁵⁷ Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women 1979

C. Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action 1995

- The Beijing Platform for Action identified 12 critical areas of concern that require urgent action to achieve the goals of equality, development and peace; one of these areas was on violence against women. Such violence is also addressed in several other critical areas of concern.

4.4 Plans and Policies

A. National Women Development Policy 2011,⁵⁸

- To give full and equal opportunity to women in health, education, training, life-long education, technical education, income generating training, information and technology etc (25.1).
- To build social security in favor of the women to ward off hostile reaction in the application of macro-economic policy (23.4).

4.5 Goal

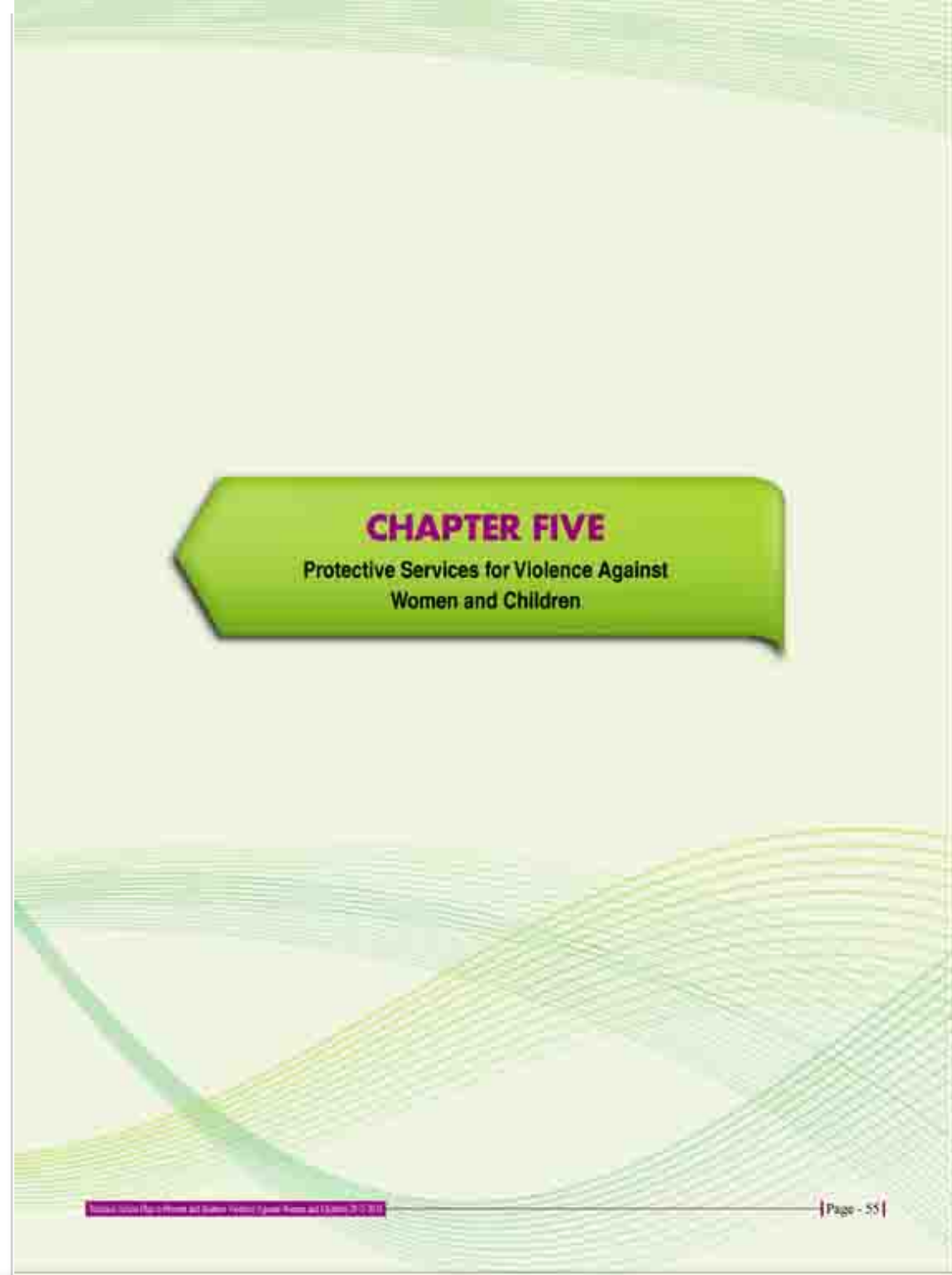
Making the necessary arrangements for strengthening the socio-economic status of women and children, and ensuring the full enforcement of such arrangements.

⁵⁸ National Women Development Policy 2011.

| Present Activities | Future Activities | Time Frame | Implementing Ministries, Related department and agencies. |
|---|--|------------|--|
| Activities under Social Safety Nets Programme | | | |
| A. Poor, Widow and distressed Women Allowance. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase the number and amount of allowance for the poor, widow and distressed women. | Short-term | Lead Ministry Ministry Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Welfare. Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Food, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Ministry of Labour and Employment. |
| B. Under Vulnerable Group Development Programme women across the country receive food grains for ensuring food security. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase of allocation under VGD programme | Short-term | |
| C. Maternity Allowance for distressed Women | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase the amount of maternity allowance. | Short-term | |
| D. Provide Lactating Working Mothers Allowance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase of lactating working mother's allowance. | Mid-term | |
| E. Old age and disable allowance for women for ensuring women poverty reduction, social security and enhancing women's empowerment. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase the amount of old and disable allowance. | Mid-term | |
| F. Sewing Machines are being distributed to the distressed and helpless women for women's self employment. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Expansion of sewing machines distribution programme for the self-employment of the helpless poor. | Short-term | |
| G. Allowance for widow, deserted and destitute women | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase the amount of allowance for widow, deserted and destitute women. | Short-term | |
| H. Fund for the Welfare of Acid Burnt and disable women under the Ministry of Social Welfare | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Expansion of the activities of fund for the welfare of acid burnt and disable women-under the ministry of social welfare | Mid-term | |
| L. Arrangement of scholarship activity for student's | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide special fund allocation for the better study of the children of destitute mother. ● Increase the amount and number of stipend for the poor and destitute child. | Long-term | |

| Present Activities | Future Activities | Time Frame | Implementing Ministries, Related department and agencies. |
|--|---|------------|--|
| Small Credit Programme | | | |
| A. Amount upto 15000 is distributed to the distressed women with 5% service charge for poverty alleviation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase the allocation of fund for providing loan for the destitute women. | Mid-term | Lead Ministry Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Ministry of Social Welfare, Bangladesh Women Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Rural Development and Cooperative Division, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Agriculture and Non-Government Organization |
| B. Orphan and underprivileged children age between 6 to 8 years of 20 Districts and 164 Upazilas are getting monthly Tk 2000 under the Enabling Environment for Child Rights project of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Participation of women and children survivors in the economic activities by providing them loan without interest. | Mid-term | |
| Special Training Programme for Life Skill Development | | | |
| A. Providing training to the lower and middle class women for their contribution in the family through the Socio-Economic Training Centre. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Arrangement of livelihood skill training in different sectors for the women victim of violence. | Short-term | Lead Ministry Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Labour and Employment and Non-Government Organization |
| B. Women receive livelihood, income generation training like sewing, computer and beautification Training through seven residential and 201 non-residential training Centre of Department of Women and Children Affairs and 115 training centre of Jariyo Mahila Sangstha. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prioritize the women and children victim of violence in health, education, training, life skill training, vocational education, income generation training, information and technology. | Short-term | |

| Present Activities | Future Activities | Time Frame | Implementing Ministries, Related department and agencies. |
|---|--|--|--|
| Small and Medium Entrepreneurship Development | | | |
| <p>A. The Bangladesh Bank is providing collateral free loan upto 25 Lakh for women entrepreneurs.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Creating self employment for the women and children victim of violence by providing them loan in easy condition by government and non-government bank and economic organization. | Mid-term | <p>Lead Ministry Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh Bank, Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Rural Development and Cooperative Division, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Commerce and Non-Government Organization.</p> |
| Sales and Marketing | | | |
| <p>A. To create an opportunity for marketing of the products of Women Sahamity of grassroots level a marketing centre named Joyeeta has been established.</p> <p>B. A sales and display centre named Sonar Tori established at the premises of Dhaka Anarkali Super Market for sales and display of the products made by the trained women.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Creating employment opportunities for the oppressed women according to their qualifications. ● Identify the promising areas for the economic empowerment and poverty alleviation of women and children. ● Arrangement of technical and marketing training for the self employment of women. ● Create opportunity for the oppressed women to make them entrepreneur. Special arrangement taken for the marketing of their produced product. ● Rehabilitate the acid burnt women and children at divisional level. | <p>Long-term</p> <p>Long-term</p> <p>Mid-term</p> <p>Mid-term</p> <p>Long-term</p> | <p>Lead Ministry Cabinet Division, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Ministry of Social Welfare, Rural Development and Cooperative, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Commerce Non-Government Organization.</p> |



Chapter Five

Protective Services for Violence Against Women and Children

5.1 Background

It is essential to give security to the women and children victim after the incident of violence. It is necessary to increase the security services and also strengthening the present services with the help of government and non-government organization.

Women support centre in the divisional cities under the ministry of women and children affairs are supporting the women and children victim of violence. This centre's are providing shelter, free legal advice, and supporting to run the case to the women victim of violence. One-Stop Crisis Centre has been established in the seven divisions along with Faridpur Medical College Hospital and this centre arranges medical service, legal service, police support, shelter and rehabilitation from one place. Through National Trauma Counseling Centre psychosocial counseling is being provided to the women and children victim of violence. National Helpline Centre for Violence against Women and Children tries to know the problem of women and children victim by talking directly with them and their relatives and give immediate suggestions or manage different services for them. In 40 districts and 20 sub-districts One-Stop Crisis Cell is giving different services to the women and children victim of violence. Shelter homes of department of women affairs, safe homes of department of social service and shelter centre's of different non-government organizations have the arrangement of accommodation for a selected period for the women and child.

5.2 The Constitution of People's Republic of Bangladesh

- To enjoy the protection of the law, and to be treated in accordance with law, and only in accordance with law, is the inalienable right of every citizen, wherever he may be, and of every other person for the time being within Bangladesh,(Article 31).

5.3 International Commitments and Declarations

A. Universal Declarations of Human Rights 1948

- Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security (Article 22).⁵⁹

B. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women 1979

- To provide special protection to women during pregnancy in types of work proved to be harmful to them (Article 11.2d).⁶⁰

C. Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action 1995

- Develop counseling, healing and support programmes for girls, adolescents and young women who have been or are involved in abusive relationships, particularly those who live in homes or institutions where abuse occurs (Article 126.c).⁶¹

D. United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on the Security of Women and Children in Arms Conflicts (2000)

- Resolution 1325 played an invaluable part in raising understanding that sexual violence in conflict is not just a gender issue, but a security concern.⁶²

E. SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution 2002

- Pending the completion of arrangements for the repatriation of victims of cross-border trafficking, the State Parties to the Convention shall make suitable provisions for their care and maintenance. The provision of legal advice and health care facilities shall also be made available to such victims (Article 9.2).⁶³

F. Handbook for National Action Plan on Violence Against Women 2012⁶⁴

- A national Toll Free 24/7 telephone hotline and online service for victims/survivors of violence against women, providing information, advocacy, support and counseling (3.5.3.3).
- Victims/Survivors of violence against women to have access to high quality counseling and support services in both the immediate and longer term (3.5.3.3).

5.4 Acts and Rules

- The Suppression of Violence Against Women and Children Act 2000
- The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2010
- The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Rules 2013

5.5 Plans and Policies

A. National Women Development Policy 2011⁶⁵

- To arrange safety of the widow, aged, guardianless, abandoned, unmarried and childless women (16.18).
- Ensuring necessary measures against girl child suffer no sexual harassment, pornography, physical and mental abuse in different situations such as educational institutions and in streets (18.6).

⁶¹ Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action 1995

⁶² United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on the Security of Women and Children in Arms Conflicts (2000)

⁶³ SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution 2002

⁶⁴ Handbook for National Action Plan on Violence Against Women 2012.

⁶⁵ National Women Development Policy 2011.

⁵⁹ Universal Declarations of Human Rights 1948

⁶⁰ Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 1979

B. National Children Policy 2011,⁶⁶

- Strategy of actions to protect the orphan and helpless children through making the social safety net programme more child friendly and supportive management (6.12.4).
- Appropriate measures shall be taken for safety and securing of the female children during disaster emergencies(6.12.2).
- The right of protection of the adolescents shall be ensured by protecting them from violence, marriage, trafficking and forcing into commercial sex ect. (7.4).

5.6 Goal

Ensuring organization and implementation of attainable protective services towards women and children victimized by any kinds of violence.

⁶⁶ National Children Policy 2011.

5.7 Programme Implementation Matrix

| Present Activities | Future Activities | Time Frame | Implementing Ministries, Related department and agencies. |
|---|---|------------|--|
| Institutional Protection | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Activities of eight One-Stop Crisis Centre in divisional public Medical College Hospitals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish one-step crisis centre in every public medical college hospital. | Long-term | Lead Ministry Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Directorate of Health Services |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish one-step crisis centre in every private medical college hospital. | Long-term | Lead Ministry Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Directorate of Health Services |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop guideline for women and children survivors to increase the quality of the services of service providing institutions. | Mid-term | Lead Ministry Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Social Welfare |

| Present Activities | Future Activities | Time Frame | Implementing Ministries, Related department and agencies. |
|---|--|-----------------------|--|
| B. Activities of sixty One-Stop Crisis Cell at District and Upazila level. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish one-stop crisis centre in every public medical college hospital. | Long-term | Lead Ministry Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Directorate-General of Health Services |
| C. Activities of National Helpline Centre for Violence Against Women and Children. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening the services of national helpline centre for violence against women and children. | Short-term | Lead Ministry Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Ministry of Information, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperative. |
| D. Activities of National Trauma Counseling Centre. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish regional trauma counseling centre at divisional level. Expansion of the services of psychosocial counseling in all upazila. | Long-term Mid-term | Lead Ministry Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Ministry of Home Affairs |
| E. Collection and Preservation of DNA samples in public Medical College Hospital at Divisional level. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collection and preservation of DNA samples facilities in all government medical college hospital. Ensure medico legal examination for the child, adolescent and women survivors at upazila level. | Mid-term Long-term | Lead Ministry Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Department of Women Affairs, Jatiya Mohila Sangstha |
| F. Violence against Women Cell of Department of Women Affairs and Jatiya Mohila Sangstha. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening the activities of the prevention of violence against women cell of the department of women affairs and the jatiya mohila sangstha. | Mid-term | Lead Ministry Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Department of Women Affairs, Jatiya Mohila Sangstha |

| Present Activities | Future Activities | Time Frame | Implementing Ministries, Related department and agencies. |
|---|---|----------------------|---|
| G. Two Victim Support Centre. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish six victim support centre at police station. | Mid-term | Lead Ministry Ministry of Home Affairs Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Non-Government Organization |
| H. Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish six burn unit at divisional level. | Mid-term | Lead Ministry Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Directorate General of Health Services, Non-Government Organizations |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish burn unit at public medical college hospital. | Long-term | |
| I. Women Friendly Hospital (13 nos) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide special training on burn and plastic surgery to the government surgeon of district and upazila level. | Long-term | |
| J. Child Friendly Hospital | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women friendly hospital at district and upazila levels. Child friendly hospital at district and upazila level. | Mid-term Mid-term | |
| K. Human Trafficking Cell of the Ministry of Home Affairs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deploy at least one female police sub-inspector in every police station. | Long-term | Lead Ministry Ministry of Home Affairs Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Police Head Quarters |
| L. Union Information Service Centre (4501) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the activities of union information service centre throughout the country. | Mid-term | Lead Ministry Prime Minister Office Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Ministry of Information, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. |

| Present Activities | Future Activities | Time Frame | Implementing Ministries, Related department and agencies. |
|--|---|------------|--|
| M. 12 thousand community clinics at Union level. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the activities of community clinics at union level | Long-term | <p>Lead Ministry Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.</p> <p>Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Directorate General of Health Services</p> |
| N. 379 adolescent club | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the activities of adolescent club in all union. | Long-term | <p>Lead Ministry Ministry of Women and Children Affairs</p> <p>Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Department of Women Affairs</p> |

| Social Protection | | | |
|---|---|------------|---|
| Present Activities | Future Activities | Time Frame | Implementing Ministries, Related department and agencies. |
| A. Prevention on Violence against Women Cell at Police Headquarter. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion of different services related to social security in district, upazila and union level. | Mid-term | <p>Lead Ministry Ministry of Women and Children Affairs</p> <p>Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs,</p> |
| B. Women Support and Investigation Division. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide psychosocial training to the teacher (at least one) of primary, secondary and higher secondary educational institutes. | Long-term | <p>Ministry of Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief.</p> <p>Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies</p> |
| C. Women Support Centre | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish women support centre in violence zone at district level. | Mid-term | <p>Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labor and Employment, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperative, Cabinet Division.</p> |
| D. One-Stop Crisis Centre | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure active participation of male and young to prevent violence against women and children in community bases police forum. | Mid-term | |
| E. Women Friendly Hospital | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide training to the district and upazila women affairs officers. | Short-term | |
| F. Awareness through the Parishad Charuman to combat women and child trafficking. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide psychosocial training to the district, upazila women affairs and the staffs of violence against women cell through the national trauma counseling centre. | Short-term | |
| G. Provides SMART cards to women who went to abroad for work. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate case management approach in every one-stop crisis centre. | Short-term | |
| H. SAARC related Database to Combat Violence like Gender Info Base. | | | |

| Present Activities | Future Activities | Time Frame | Implementing Ministries, Related department and agencies. |
|--------------------|--|------------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish fourteen training centre for survivors of women and children. | Mid-term | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening the security of the women and child survivors at workplace and educational institution. | Short-term | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a strong supervision in border area to prevent women and child trafficking. | Short-term | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the regional and international cooperation to prevent women and child trafficking. | Short-term | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate implementation of law to prevent easy access of acid. | Short-term | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the institutional arrangement for the acid burnt women and children for their better health care. | Short-term | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of daycare centre for working women. | Short-term | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen networking between the related agencies to prevent child marriage. | Short-term | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop domestic worker (rights and security) act and rules. | Short-term | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take special arrangement for the security of women and children at the street, shopping centre, public toilet, Public transport, train, beauty parlor and entertainment place. | Short-term | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish helpline at bangladesh embassy and mission in abroad for the SMART card holder women | Short-term | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respective ministry will preserve statistics and information's of the women and children who are working in the abroad. | Short-term | |

| Present Activities | Future Activities | Time Frame | Implementing Ministries, Related department and agencies. |
|--|---|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bangladesh embassy and missions in abroad will take effective measures to prevent trafficking and assists immigrant women. Establish required number CC television at the important stations, educational institution and entertainment places of the country. Separate shelter arrangement for the child and adolescent girls in shelter at the time of disaster. To take special measures for overall safety and security of the women and children in pre-disaster situations and provide psychological counseling and special care of their reproductive health issues. Take necessary action for the survivors of women and children held at abroad. | <p>Short-term</p> <p>Short-term</p> <p>Short-term</p> <p>Short-term</p> <p>Short-term</p> | |
| Financial Protection | | | |
| A. Allowance for Poor, Widow and Destitute Women | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take necessary arrangement for providing immediate financial support to the survivors of women and children. Required fund will arrange by the district and upazila administration. Initiating long term programme for the survivors of women and children by providing immediate fund for their economic livelihood. | <p>Short-term</p> <p>Mid-term</p> | <p>Lead Ministry Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare.</p> <p>Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Ministry of Finance, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Public Administration, Cabinet Division, Ministry of Labour and Employment.</p> |

| Present Activities | Future Activities | Time Frame | Implementing Ministries, Related department and agencies. |
|---|---|-------------------|--|
| Legal Protection | | | |
| <p>A. The National Forensic DNA Profiling Laboratory at Dhaka Medical College</p> <p>B. The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2010</p> <p>C. The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Rules 2013</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop gender guideline and elimination of gender discriminations for law enforcement officers. Arranging awareness programme and workshop for the law enforcement and human rights officers on the human trafficking (deterrence and suppression) act 2012. Develop act, rules according to the directives of high court to prevent sexual harassment and provide special supervision for the sake of women and children security | <p>Short-term</p> | <p>Lead Ministry Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment.</p> <p>Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Information</p> |

Chapter Six

Prevention and Rehabilitation

CHAPTER SIX

Prevention and Rehabilitation

6.1 Background

This is essential to ensure the rehabilitation service to the women and children victim of violence through joint initiative. Government and non government organization should take such initiative through helping each other. The service providing organizations should maintain the coordination and helping relation with each other and strengthening the rehabilitation service for the women and children victim of violence through proper using of present resource.

Under the supervision of department of women affairs there are violence against women prevention cell and shelter home for staying temporarily for the victims of violence, helpless and poor women in the divisional level to give legal support. Woman victim can stay there for 6 months with two children below 12 years old. Furthermore, during the trial period, women, children and girl victims are physically and mentally negatively affected when they stay with other general prisoners in safe home and for this reason accommodation facility has arranged for the women, children and girl victims in kashimpur, Gazipur district.

Social service department was established government shelter home in mirpur, Dhaka, and safe home for the women and girl prisoner in other division to protect, maintain, motivate, counseling and self realization of them. The women and girl child prisoner can be sent by court. There is an arrangement to give legal support for those who need this.

Moreover, department of social service also have 6 centres⁶⁷ in 6 division to give training and rehabilitation for socially disable girl who is under 18. This centre gives education, training, motivation, counseling and guidance to the socially disable women and rehabilitate them. Beside this, this centre rescue those women and girls who engaged different unethical and illegal work for their poverty and helplessness and also rehabilitate them with training, shelter.

6.2 International Commitments and Declarations

A: Beijing declaration and the Platform for Action 1995⁶⁷

- Provide well-funded shelters and relief support for girls and women subjected to violence, as well as medical, psychological and other counseling services and free or low-cost legal aid, where it is needed, as well as appropriate assistance to enable them to find a means of subsistence (Article 125 a).
- Provide, fund and encourage counseling and rehabilitation programmes for the perpetrators of violence and promote research to further efforts concerning such counseling and rehabilitation so as to prevent the recurrence of such violence (Article 125 i).

⁶⁷ Beijing declaration and the Platform for Action 1995

6.3 Plans and Policies

A. National Women Development Policy 2011⁶⁸

- To ensure security and safety of women in all areas of state, social and family life (16.2).
- To put special emphasis on affording adequately safe home and accommodation facilities to single woman, woman headed family, working women, professionals, apprentice and under training women. (35.2).

B. National Children Policy 2011⁶⁹

- Steps shall be taken to ensure security and safety of the children against all forms of violence, alms mongering and physical, mental and sexual abuses. Effective public awareness program shall be undertaken to stop violence on children and abuse of them (6.7.1).
- Necessary arrangements shall be ensured to that the girl child does not be victimized of any sexual harassment, pornography and physical and mental abuses in various situations such as in the streets including inside educational institutions (8.4).

6.4 Goal

Ensuring organization and provision of curative and rehabilitation services towards women and children victims of violence.

⁶⁸ National Women Development Policy 2011

⁶⁹ National Children Policy 2011

6.5 Programme Implementation Matrix

| Present Activities | Future Activities | Time Frame | Implementing Ministries, Related department and agencies. |
|---|--|------------|--|
| Safe Home and Shelter | | | |
| A. Six Shelter Home at the Department of Women Affairs. | Establishment of shelter home at rangpur district under department of women affairs. | Short-term | Lead Ministry Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Ministry of Information, Non-Government Organization. |
| B. Safe Home for Women, Child and Adolescent Custody | Establishment of safe home at rangpur district under department of social services. | Short-term | |
| C. Seven Safe Home Under the Department Social Services. | Establishment of shelter home, halfway home, drop in centre in every district. | Long-term | |
| D. Shelter Home, Drop in Centre, Half way Homes of Bangladesh Women Lawyers Association, Dhaka Ahsanul Mission, Bangladesh MahilaParishad, ShishuPalli Plus, Association for Community Development, RDRS, Aparajeo Bangladesh | Standardizing services and infrastructural development of shelter and safe home. | Long-term | |
| | Creating mass awareness to change negative attitude of shelter and safe home. | Mid-term | |
| | Establishing daycare center for child of women survivors. | Long-term | |
| Training and Capacity Building of Service Providing Institutions | | | |
| A. One-Stop Crisis Centre (8) | Creating mass awareness for the requirement of psychosocial counseling for decreasing the tendency of suicidal attack of women and children of sexual assault. | Mid-term | Lead Ministry Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Ministry of Health and Family Welfare |
| B. National Trauma Counseling Centre | Providing training on sign language to the service providers for ensuring better services of women and children victim of violence. | Mid-term | |
| C. National Helpline Centre for Violence Against Women and Children. | Initiating the case management approach. | Mid-term | |
| | Recruiting at least one regular counselor at divisional and district level. | Long-term | |

| Present Activities | Future Activities | Time Frame | Implementing Ministries, Related department and agencies. |
|---|--|------------|--|
| Rehabilitation and Re-integration Programme | | | |
| A. Government and Non-Government help for destitute Women and Children | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening life-skill training at shelter and safe home for the self employment of women. | Mid-term | <p>Lead Ministry Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Home Affairs.</p> <p>Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperative, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Labor and Employment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Non-Government Organization.</p> |
| B. Food for Work Programme | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing network between different agencies for providing job or the self employment of women after returning from shelter and safe home. | Long-term | |
| C. Different Youth Training Centre for young Women and Men under the Department of Youth Development. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take appropriate measures for rehabilitating the rescued women and children from trafficking. Ensuring health care for rescued women and children. | Short-term | |
| D. Training and Rehabilitation Centre for Socially Disabled Women | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing support center for women and children in trafficking zone Mapping the service providing agencies for rehabilitating the rescued in trafficking zone. Providing capacity development training in government and non-government Shelter homes for rescued victims. Take necessary arrangement for social re-integration. Take necessary arrangement for social re-integration of rescued victims in their family. Providing psychosocial counseling to the rescued women and children. Establishing training centre for social disable women at rangpur division. | Short-term | |
| | | Mid-term | |
| | | Long-term | |
| | | Long-term | |
| | | Mid-term | |

| Present Activities | Future Activities | Time Frame | Implementing Ministries, Related department and agencies. |
|--|---|---|---|
| Preventing Measures | | | |
| A. Adolescent Development Centre for boys (2) Adolescent Development Centre for girls (1) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take immediate action by the law enforcement agency for rescuing the women and children from trafficking. Creating awareness and take necessary steps by the Law enforcement agencies to prevent child marriage. Creating awareness to prevent violence against women and children at urban and rural area. Providing forensic report of the women and children victims of violence in time. Increasing the number of adolescent development center for boys and girls. | <p>Mid-term</p> <p>Short-term</p> <p>Short-term</p> <p>Short-term</p> <p>Short-term</p> | <p>Lead Ministry Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.</p> <p>Collaborating Ministries, Divisions and Agencies Ministry of Information, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperative.</p> |



Chapter Seven

Institutional Measures and Strategies for Implementing National Action Plan

7.1 Goal

Effective institutional arrangement for preventing violence against women and children.

7.2 Institutional Structure

- National Council for Women and Children Development (NCWCD)
- Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee on Preventing Violence Against Women and Children and for National Activities Against Dowry.
- National Action Plan Support Unit.
- District Violence against Women and Children Prevention Committee.
- Upazila Violence against Women and Children Prevention Committee.
- Union Violence against Women Prevention Committee.

7.3 Co-ordination and Support

- Ministry of Women and Children Affairs shall play the coordinating role in implementing national action plan to prevent violence against women and children.
- Different Ministries have their roles and responsibilities in implementing action plan. Action Plan Support Unit of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs will coordinate those activities in collaboration with other agencies.
- The Committee for Prevention and Evaluation of Violence against Women and children will be formed in collaboration with other partner Ministries, development partners, non-government organizations and civil society organizations. Action Plan Support Unit will provide technical support to this committee.
- Action Plan Support Unit will establish a network with different ministries, organizations, development partners, non-government organizations and civil society organizations for implementing the national action plan.

7.4 Implementation Strategies

National Centre on Gender Based Violence.

Main objective of this centre is to prevent violence against women and children through coordination among government organizations, non-government organizations, development partners and civil society organizations.

CHAPTER SEVEN

Institutional Measures and Strategies for Implementing National Action Plan



Major activities of this centre:

- Take different activities and provide overall support for implementing the national action plan.
- Take necessary initiatives in preventing violence against women and children.
- Coordination of activities on violence against women and children of different ministries, divisions and organizations.
- Make necessary recommendations for amendments of existing laws.
- Take necessary initiatives for increasing the financial and technical assistance to implement the National Action Plan.
- Take necessary initiatives for conducting research and study on preventing of violence against women and children.
- Mobilizing the efforts and initiatives of different organizations at national, regional and international levels for preventing violence against women and children.
- Ensure proper utilization of information technology for implementing the national action plan.
- Update the national database on information and facts about the incidences and initiatives of preventing violence against women and children.