

Country WID Profile
(Bangladesh)

December 1999

Japan International Cooperation Agency
Planning Department

Country WID Profile
(Bangladesh)
Table of Contents

Abbreviation	Page
1. Basic Profile	
1-1 Socio-Economic Profile	1
1-2 Health Profile.....	2
1-3 Educaiton Profile	2
2. General Situation of Women and Government Policy on WID/Gender	
2-1 General Situation of Women in Bangladesh	3
2-2 Government Policy on WID/ Gender.....	7
2-3 National Machinery	9
3. Current Situation of Women by Sector	
3-1 Education	13
3-2 Health	17
3-3 Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries	21
3-4 Economic Activities	26
4. WID/ Gender Projects by Other Donors	30
5. WID/ Gender Information Sources	
5-1 List of International Organizations and NGOs related to WID/ Gender	40
5-2 List of Reports and References related to WID/ Gender	41
6. References.....	42
7. Definitions	43

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	: Asian Development Bank
ADP	: Annual Development Programme
BANBEIS	: Bureau of Educational Information & Statistics
BBS	: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BJMS	: Bangladesh Jatiya Mohila Sangstha
CEDAW	: Convention for The Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
DWA	: Department of Women Affairs
GOB	: Government of Bangladesh
IR	: Institutional Review
MWCA	: Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
NAP	: National Action Plan
NCWD	: National Council for Women's Development
NGO	: Non-government Organization
PFA	: Platform for Action(Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing 1995)
PLAGE	: Policy Leadership Advocacy for Gender Equality
STD	: Sexually Transmitted Disease
SEDP	: Secondary Education Development Program
UNDP	: United Nations Development Program
USAID	: United States Agency for International Development
VGD	: Vulnerable Group Development
WID	: Women In Development
WFP	: World Food Programme
RPP	: Rural Poor Programme

1. Basic Profile

1-1 Socio-Economic Profile

Socio-Economic Profile						Ref.
Economic Indicators	GNP/Capita	Growth rate of real GDP		Inflation Rate*	Gini coefficient*	2
	US\$254	5.7%(96-97)		0.2%(93)		
Public Sector(97-98)	Health	Education	Social Welfare	Defense	Others	1
Expenditure to sectors	4.6%	13.2%	1.3%	NA	80,9%	
Population	Total	% of urban population		Population growth rate(90-95)		
	Total	122.9mill.		26.7%		1.72%
	Women	59.95 mill.				2
Industry/GDP	Agriculture	Industry(Manufacture/ Industry)		Service		
	30%	9%		47.5%		1
Proportion of workers(95-96)	Agriculture	Industry	Service	Aid/GNP		
	Total	51,1%	13%	36%	9.4%	1
	Women	39%	21%	39%		1
Labour Indicators	Total No.	Unemployment R.	Minimum wage	Women/Total*		
	Total	56.0mill.	2.6%	Tk.43.0	0%	2
	Women	21.3mill.	2.2%	Tk.26.0		2
Decision-making	Women/Total			Women/Total		
	Member of parliament	11.2%		Managers	NA	1
	Ministries(99)	11.1%		Technicians	NA	1
	Deputy ministries(99)	5.9%				1
Law for Women			Year	Details		
	Marriage law					
	The muslim family laws ordinance		1961			4
	The dowry prohibition act		1980			4
	The dowry prohibition amendment		1986			4
	The family court ordinance		1985			4
	The child marriage provision act		1984			4
	The muslim marriage and divorce registration act		1974			4
	Cruelty to women(Deterrent punishment)ordinance		1983			4
	Election law					
Ratification and signature of international law for women				Ratification	Year	
	CEDAW			NA		
Policy of WID						
	Domestic Violence Law					
	Laws with strict penalties such as death or life imprisonment have been enacted by the government (e.g. Women and child repression special act 1995)					4
	Employment Equality Law					
Governmental organization of WID						
	National Machinery	Ministry of women and children affairs created in 1976				4

References

- 1) Statistical yearbook of Bangladesh, 1997, BBS
- 2) Gender statistics in brief, 1996, BBS
- 3) Household expenditure survey, 1995-96
- 4) Fifth five year plan (1997-2002)

*Refer to 7. Definitions (P.46)

1-2 Health Profile

Health Profile						Ref.	
Life expectancy('94)	56.4	Male 56.3	Female 56.4	Population growth rate	1.72('90-'95)		1
Expansion of health service	Population /Doctor		12,500	Population/Nurse and Midwife		20,000	1
Government expenditure to health (% of GDP '90)			1.4%				
Infant mortality rate(per1,000)*				% of the vaccinated	1-year-old children		
Total	67 persons('96)			BCG('92-'95)	94%		6
Female	67('96)			DPT('92-'95)	69%		6
Under-5 mortality rate(per1,000)*				Polio('92-'95)	69%		
Total	115 persons('95)			Measles('92-'95)	79%		2
Family planning	Contraceptive rate('90-'96)		40%	Total fertility rate('95)*	4.1		
Births attendance rate*	14%			Age at first marriage	NA		
Maternal anemia rate*	58%			% of infants with low birth weight*	50%('90-'94)		2
Maternal mortality rate	850 persons/ 0.1million						
Nutrition				ORT use rate*('90-'96)	96%		1
Iodine deficiency	NA			Malnutrition (Under-5)	47%		4,5
Community health service('90-'96)							
Access to safe water	urban 99% rural 53%			Access to adequate sanitation	urban 85% rural 12%		1
HIV/AIDS	HIV infected			AIDS cases			
Statistics('95)	NA			NA			

1-3 Education Profile

Education Profile						Ref.
Education system	Compulsory education (5 year), Primary education (5 year)					2
Public expenditure on education	16.25%('94)					
% of GNP('93-'94)	2.3%					1
Adult literacy rate('95)	male 45.5 %, female 24.2 %					2
by race	NA					
Primary education('95)	Net enrollment ratio		Female ratio of higher education			
Male	83%		education			NA
Female	71%		humanities			NA
<Educational Issues>			social sciences			NA
Secondary education('95)	Net enrollment ratio*		natural sciences engineering			NA
Male	25%		medical			31%
Female	12%					6
<Educational Issues>						6
Higher education('95)	Enrollment ratio					
Total	3%					6
Female	1%					6

References

- 1) UNDP, Human Development Report 1997
- 2) ESCAP, 1995
- 3) Ali, 1997.
- 4) Survey of Iodine Deficiency 1993
- 5) Country Paper on International Nutrition Conference 1992
- 6) Statistical Yearbook of Bangladesh 1997

*Refer to 7. Definitions (p.46)

2. General Situation of Woman Government Policy on WID/Gender

2-1 General Situation of Woman

General Situation of Woman

Women constitutes nearly half of the total population of Bangladesh i.e. 48.5%. Majority of them are poor, illiterate, underprivileged and a vulnerable group. The State of dependency and helplessness in which they live. Due to a number of social and traditional practices women in Bangladesh are subjected to discrimination specially in matter of inheritance, child custody, marriage and divorce. Approximately 50% of women are married before the legal marriage age of 18 years and two-fifth begin child bearing as early as within 17 years. They lack behind in every indicator of human development such as health, education, income and decision making.

[Population]

Bangladesh has the ninth highest population in the world and is one of the countries having the highest population density (980 person/km²), and one of the few countries where the male population exceeds the female population, i.e. 106 men against 100 women (ESCAP, 1995). It is because of malnutrition which is higher among women than man and high mortality rate of pregnant women and nursing mothers, it is presumed. Furthermore, the male population ratio is higher in urban areas (123/100 women) than rural areas (103/100 women), and this is because, it is thought, many men are migrating into urban areas to work there. Reflecting this, the number of women in the age group of 20-34, in the prime of life, exceeds that of men in rural areas.

[Social Background and Women's social participation]

Nearly 90% of the nation is Islam and Islamic ways of thinking which attach great importance to the bond of family exert a strong influence on the form of family and marriage. In Islamic law, marriage is stipulated as a social duty and the role required for women is to give birth to children and raise them in the home. Whether or not they are married, therefore, becomes an important criterion for social judgment after puberty and many women marry before the age of 20. It is considered that women are to spend their lives under the authority and protection of husband, father, brothers or male relatives, and it is thought to be important to give birth to sons. Only living expenses for three months are given to women at the time of divorce and no estate apportionment right is given. There exists many restrictions for women's participation in society such as restriction for the freedom of migration, etc.

Since it is the social norm to judge people in Bangladesh that the men support the families and the women are protected and hide themselves from society, the barriers are great against the participation of women in social activities including piecework. Women who have jobs are deemed to be in low social standing since they are regarded to be women who must go out to work.

The ratio of the absolute poverty stratum has gradually decreased lately (from 81.4% to 44.0% in urban areas and from 82.9% to 40.0% in rural areas from 1973 to 1988) in Bangladesh, more than half of its population is still compelled to spend their lives below the poverty line. For the past 20 years, economic and social developments have not produced the results that were expected and the GNP per capita in 1991 was only US\$ 220 (ESCAP, 1995). The fact is that the preparation and renovation of social infrastructures are progressing at a snail's pace.

As to both the education level and health situation of women, Bangladesh is still at the

lowest level in the world. The importance of education is rarely acknowledged for women since expectations are directed toward their domestic role. Also, many of the women are repeatedly giving birth even though they are experiencing malnutrition under circumstances where appropriate services at the time of childbirth and delivery are not available, and their state of health is being constantly exposed to danger.

[Poverty and Women]

The ratio of the absolute poverty stratum has gradually decreased lately (from 81.4% to 44% in urban areas and from 82.9% to 40% in rural areas from 1973 to 1988) in Bangladesh, more than half of its population is still compelled to spend their lives below the poverty line. For the past 20 years, economic and social developments have not produced the results that were expected and the GNP per capita in 1991 was only US\$ 220 (ESCAP, 1995). The fact is that the preparation and renovation of social infrastructures are progressing at a snail's pace.

Strains from poverty are causing families to break up, familial support system to decline and household headed by female to increase due to divorce, separation, abundance and widowhood. Women now comprise the largest share of poverty line (under 2122 calories/ person/ day) who are some 51% of the rural and 56% of the urban population (World Bank County Study, 1993). Among the factors contributing to the acceleration of the process of feminization of poverty are:

- Socio economic and cultural practices that severely handicap women when they make attempts to cope with poverty
- Continued involvement of women in activities with low income returns
- No attention is given to perception, practices and policies that hinder mainstreaming of women in development activities
- Negative impact of structural adjustment policies of women, particularly on the poorest group
- Women's lack or limited access to education, skill training, health services and productive resources (i.e. land, credit information, improved technology etc.) and support services
- Women's near absence at national and other levels of policy/decision making

Source: (Women and poverty: Women for Women)

The major steps taken so far for poverty reduction are:

- Implementation of rural development programs
- Increase gainful employment and income opportunities on a sustained basis through expansion of the productive sectors
- Development of rural institutions
- Improvement of technology and skills for productive activities and ensure better access for the rural poor to the means of production
- Facilitate agricultural development through institutional support and expansion of irrigation and
- Promotion of participation of women in rural development

[Health and Women]

Poverty results in limited expenditure in health and as a result of which health received inadequate allocation at household level, women tend to die more frequently than men do especially in the early childhood. Period (1-4 years), reproductive ages (15 - 49 years) and within the higher age group (50 and above). Excess female deaths are evident in the adverse sex ratio of 105 males to 100 females. Although the maternal mortality has

declined by one third, i.e. from 6.5 in 1986 to 4.4 in 1997, the rate is still high. (Children of Bangladesh and their rights, UNICEF 1997, Dhaka)

Only a quarter of currently married women in the reproductive ages receive antenatal care and the percentage is lower in the rural areas than in the urban areas. Less than 5 percent of women with obstetric emergencies get appropriate care. Usually births in proper hygienic conditions under the supervision of trained health personnel reduce the risk of death, serious illness or disability to the mother and the child. But a small proportion, only 5% of all births take place at the health centers. Situation of child birth in Bangladesh in rural areas is as follow:

Situation of child birth in Bangladesh

Child birth by relatives	50%
By traditional birth attendant	42%
By trained nurse	6%
By doctor	2%

Source: MWCA, 1999

The situation is worse in rural than in urban areas. Government aims to increase the proportion of births attended by trained health personnel from its current level of 18% to 80% in the year 2000. This will help to increase the current level of skilled attendant at birth by 115% annually (Children of Bangladesh and their rights, UNICEF 1997, Dhaka)

The nutritional status of girls is also worse than boys. It is extremely poor both before and after the start of child bearing. More than half of the currently married women in the reproductive ages (17-49 years) are acutely malnourished. Almost 70% of pregnant women are anemic. Most of them fail to meet their daily calorie intake and protein requirement (Demographic Health Survey 1996-97).

Another major reproductive health problem is Exposure to Reproductive Tract Infections (RTIs), Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) and HIV/AIDS infections. Although data on these are limited, clinic, community and hospital based studies indicate that the percentage affected might be as higher as 50 - 60 percent for RTIs and almost as high for STDs, while estimates of the number of HIV/AIDS positive case varies from 56,000 to 208,000. The threat from these diseases is acute in absence of facilities for detection and treatment at the primary health care level (BOB and UNICEF, Mid Term Review October, 1998).

[Women and Employment]

Pervasive poverty prevailing among women push them into the labor market, while from the demand side growth of ready made garment industry and supply of micro credit played a dominant role. In rural areas, NGOs have played significant role by supplying available resources like skill training, credit and organizational support to women to undertake self-employment. (Draft joint issue paper of UNDP 1999 and report presented for consideration of the UN Committee for elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, 1997, MWCA).

In recent years some significant positive changes have occurred over the recent decade in women's participation in paid job. In fact a combination of forces such as poverty opportunities like garment industries and change in attitude regarding women's work has

resulted the increase. The trend of increasing landlessness and growing number of female-headed households have subjected women to serious economic pressure. Gradual changes of attitudes towards working women are also becoming apparent. An estimated 8 million women of whom 40% live in rural areas, are seeking employment.

Although women's labor force participation rate increased from 9.9% in 1985 - 86 to 18.1% in 1995 - 96, they are far behind than men (Labor Force Study 1995 - 96). Though a shift from unpaid family helpers to wage employment is found, still the number of female unpaid family worker is significant. Most of the women are employed at present in agriculture sector and it is about 43% of which 70% work as unpaid family labor. But the situation is changing gradually. It is due to lower literacy rate, health, less access to productive forces like credit, land etc. Changes in women's employment can be summarized as follows:

- Non - farm sector is generating female employment at higher rate due to increasing landlessness, restricted capability of agricultural employment generation and introduction of new technology. Moreover government and non-government organizations interventions for employment generation is more concentrated in non- - farm sector.
- Employment in formal manufacturing industries has opened up new opportunities for women and has also led to occupational shifts from low paying job such as domestic service, paid agricultural work, brick breaking, earth cutting etc. Increasing participation of women is found in different kinds of productive activities outside the home both as wage labor and also as self employed.
- Credit scheme has increased self employment activities
- Potential sectors for generating female employment are ready made garments, electrical components, traditional cottage industry (embroidery, handicrafts, bamboo and cane products, shrimp and fish processing, pharmaceutical industries and electronic industries).
- Movement of women workers is found in certain activities traditionally fall within male domain which are earth work, construction work, agricultural labor in field, roadside plantation nursery raising.
- Though quota for female recruitment in the public organizations is one of the major contributing factors for increased trend of female participation, still quota fulfillment is far short of target (against 10% quota for class 1 officers and 15% quota for class 11 officers, as per 1992 data it is only 5% and 8% fulfillment of quota for class 1 and class 11 officers respectively).
- Amount of female wages is seen to be lower compared to the share of male wages in total employment i.e. changes in female share in employment are not associated with changes in share of female wages.
- Employment opportunities particularly in industrial sector are more inclined towards younger and educated women.
- In rural areas currently married women with young children are engaged in off-house employment indicating growing economic pressure and needs for family survival.
- A significant part of the female labor force is also casualised

Population below poverty line by male and female

Year	Category	Absolute poverty (2122calories intake/ person/ day)			Hardcore Poverty (1805calories intake/ person/ day)		
		Both	Male headed	Female headed	Both	Male headed	Female headed
1988-89	National	47.75	47.89	43.14	28.36	28.23	32.88
	Rural	47.77	47.93	42.28	28.54	28.52	33.05
	Urban	47.53	47.59				
1991-92	National	47.52	47.31	51.35	28.00	27.80	32.54
	Rural	47.52	47.37	52.70	28.27	28.04	32.54
	Urban	47.52	46.93	42.07	28.25	26.31	25.02

Urban: Household Expenditure Survey 1991-92 and MWCA

2-2 Government Policy on WID/Gender

Government Policy on WD/ Gender

Before 1990, the policies, applied to women and laid down in national development plans, were limited to the creation of income and technical training for women only. However, in the Fourth National Development 5 Years Plan (1990~1995), attention was focused, for the first time, on the dissolution of gender gap and promotion of women' participation in the mainstream of social and economic development, one chapter was allocated for female policy and, in addition, descriptions in regard to women was also incorporated in the policies of each sector. It is stated in it that the access for social services such as health, education and so on is to be improved and participation of women is to be accelerated in various fields such as employment, agriculture, control of environment and resources, manufacturing industry, administration, etc.

[Government Policy on WID/Gender Policy]

The constitution guarantees the equality of men and women and measures are being enforced to promote the augmentation of female employment, such as a 15% female quota has been allocated for public service personnel and so on, but, in fact, without any noticeable results. The things which rule in actual life in regard to marriage, divorce, child custody rights, inheritance, etc. are common law based on Islamic doctrines and the rights of women are greatly restricted in comparison with those of men. Dowry (bride's marriage portion), which are a heavy economic burden for families having daughters, is prohibited by law, but reality shows that almost no penal provisions, etc. are being enforced.

[Five year development plans]

Women issues hardly received any focus in the First, Second and Third Five Year Plans. During that periods only a few projects for upliftment of women were taken up as an ad-hoc basis outside the macro-economic framework of the plans. In the Fourth Five Year Plan, mainstreaming of the women was adopted as a policy objective. But measures were undertaken to operationalise this policy. Consequently, women's issues and concerns were not mainstreamed in the sectoral policies and programs of many of the line ministries.

The First Five Year Plan (1973-78) could not visualize the role of women in economic development separately. There was no women's affairs sub-sector or separate budget allocation. However a Women's Affairs Division was created in the President Secretariat in 1978 and five women specific projects were started.

In the Two Year Plan (TYP- 1979-80), WID received separate and special attention. The main emphasis were on women's vocational training, agricultural based rural

development programs, cottage industries, production and sales center and creation of self employment facilities for women and their children. Government also initiated two new social welfare and rehabilitation projects. By the end of the TYP two out of the seven projects namely National Women's Training Academy and the Planning and Development Cell completed.

The Second Five Year Plan (SFYP- 1980-85), out of 25 women's development programs 21 were implemented. One was dropped and three were carried out with the Third Five Year Plan (TFYP).The SFYP emphasized on training and creation of employment opportunities for women. The Plan recommended establishment of 204 Skill Development Training and Production Centers with an ultimate objective of creating diversified program of income generation of women.

The Third Five Year Plan (TFYP, 1985-90) emphasized the need for equal participation of women in the labor market. The major thrust were on health, education and employment of women. The quota for women in public sector employment were increased from 10 to 15%. The age at the service entry point was increase4d from 27 to 30 years.

The Fourth Five Year Plan (FFYP, 1990-95) for the first time aimed to integrate women in mainstream of development to reduce gender disparity in all socio-economic sphere. Thus women were recognized as a distinct target group, as an agent of development program were placed within the context of macro-economic framework. The main objectives of WID in the FEYP were to:

- Increase women's participation as beneficiary and agent, particularly in education, health and family planning, agriculture, industries, trade, services, environment and natural resources sector.
- Increase female literacy rate from 16 to 30%
- Increase women's share in the public sector employment from 6 to 15%
- Alleviate poverty among the women and young girls living below the poverty line.
- Expand vocational skill development facilities for women
- Expand credit facilities for women to enable them to take up self-employment both in rural and urban areas.
- Deal with special concerns of women related to destitute, violence and legal aid requirements, and take measures to redness.
- Take measures to overall development of children with special emphasis on female child
- Create a gender responsive development awareness in general and positive self image of women in particular.

[The Fifth Five Year Plan]

Development goal and objective of the Fifth Five-Year Plan are briefly presented below:

- Alleviation of poverty through accelerated economic growth (on an average 7% per annum) during the Plan period to bring about the noticeable improvement in the standard of living of people by raising their level of income and meeting their basic needs. In this context, alleviation of poverty will be considered as synonymous to development.
- Generation of substantial employment opportunities and increase in productivity through an optimal choice of the traditional labor intensive and new capital intensive technology.
- Improvement in the quality of life of the rural population through mobilization of the rural masses and resources of their command as well as channeling increased volume of invisible resources to the rural economy so as to attain an accelerated growth in rural

employment and income.

- Transformation of the rural socio-economic structure into a more equitable, just and productive one and empowerment of rural poor through ensuring their increased access to resources.
- Attainment of food production beyond the self sufficiency level within the shortest possible time and of higher production of diversified high-valued export goods.
- Human resources development with emphasis on compulsory primary education and vocational training and foundation laying of knowledge based society.
- Development of necessary infrastructure, utilities and other services needed to promote growth particularly in the private sector, with special attention to generation of power, exploitation of gas, coal and other natural resources and to the development of rural infrastructure, including market outlets, for marketing rural products within and outside the locality.
- Development of industries essentially based on comparative advantage of the country.
- Development of hitherto neglected areas like northwest region, Chittagong Hill Tracts and coastal areas.
- Achievement of lower population growth rate (1.32%) by the terminal year of the Plan, coupled with provision of necessary health care and improved nutrition of mother and child.
- Strengthening of the country's scientific and technological base with emphasis on research and development of new generation technologies, including in areas such as electronic and genetic engineering.
- Protection and preservation of environment by putting in place adequate regulatory regimes and effective institutions, keeping in view the need for regeneration, recycling and optimum exploitation of natural resources consistent with sustainable development.
- Closing the gender gap, giving priority of women's education, training and employment and social support for education of the female child.
- Establishment of social justice through equitable distribution of income, resources and opportunities, and creation of effective safety nets for the socially and economically disadvantaged sections of the population and by strengthening the law and order and the rule of law.
- Putting effective local government institutions, at the union, *thana* and *zilla* levels, and vesting on them the power and responsibilities for design, formulation and implementation of local level development programs and projects, with active participation of people belonging to all strata of the rural society as well as through effective cooperation between the local government institutions and non government organizations.

2-3 National Machinery (1997-2002)

Government Policy on WD/ Gender	
Name	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
No. of Staff	25(Office) / 534 (Department of Women's Affairs)
Budget Allocation During Fifth Five Year Plan	858,938.9 million Taka
Ministry of Women and Children Affairs	2,760.0 million Taka
Budget Ratio	0.32%
Purpose	Women's participation in education, health, and et al. Women & girl children's improvement of life

	Vocational training, Expansion of micro financing for women Expansion of supportive services for working women Violence against women/ human rights Public awareness on gender issues
--	--

[Background]

The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs was founded in 1987 and is engaged in the establishment of WID/gender related policies and coordination of various activities. The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs is playing the key role in the enforcement of policies of the ministry and staffs posted in 64 counties and 460 villages take charge of the planning and enforcement of the ministry's policies and also coordination of activities with other ministries and NGOs. In addition, the Jatiyo Mahila Sangstha (56 staffs), a WID/gender related semi-governmental organization, has been founded in Bangladesh and is assisting the activities of the ministry and implementing vocational training, financing programs, literacy classes, management of sewing factories and nurseries, etc.

[Sectoral Programs on Women in Development by the Related Organizations]

In 1995, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs developed an inventory of the different projects undertaken by the various ministries and sectors for advancement of women. It was found that sixteen ministries has nearly 58 WID related projects and most of these are being implemented from late eighties. Based on the information received, a rating of WID friendly ministries were done as follows:

- 1) Ministry of Women and Children Affairs with 16 projects
- 2) Ministry of Health and Family Affairs with 13 projects
- 3) Ministry of LGED and Cooperative Division with 5 projects

Ministry wise detailed information on WID related projects as founded by the survey are mentioned below. (Source: Department of Women's Affairs: Inventory of sectoral programs on Women in Development 1995)

Projects of Ministry of Women and Children Affairs during the Fifth Five Year Plan

Sl No.	
A	Spill over projects (18 projects)
B	New Program on Women and Children
	Skill development/staff training
	Women's credit program/empowerment and poverty alleviation
	Policy leadership and advocacy for gender equality
	Reduction of violence against women and children
	Working women's hostel
	Day-care service programs
	Special women's concern/support services programs
	Innovative program on women's development
	Program and innovative program for child development
	Program for prevention of child trafficking

It is well recognized that the women particularly the poor ones are the poorest of the poor. Their access to the education, employment opportunities, improved technologies, nutrition, medical care and the like is much less than men due to their subordinate socio-

economic status. But in absence of adequate statistical information on women poverty, critical issues and concerns of these women are hardly reflected in the normal policies and programmed.

The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs has WID focal points in 32 ministries and agencies and is trying to take charge of coordination and cooperation among ministries and agencies when going ahead with WID/gender related policies, but no noticeable activities are being carried out at present.

Inventory of sectoral programs on Women in Development during 1990-1995

Sl. No	Ministry	Sectoral WID policy	No. of projects	Funding agency
1	Ministry of Agriculture	There is no specific policy on WID in this ministry. But emphasis has been given on involvement of women in various activities	1	CIDA
2	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief	To involve women in rural development and income generation activities through various programs of Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief	1	WFP/EEC/Canada /Australia
3	Ministry of Education	Though there is no separate activities on WID in this ministry but emphasis has been given on maintaining the equality in education for boys and girls	3	UNICEF/NORAD/ SIDA/ Saudi Arabia
4	Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock	There is no separate policy for WID in the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock. But emphasis has been given to engaging women in the development activities in both of the sectors. In policy emphasis has been given for employment and income generation activities for landless and destitute women by undertaking livestock and poultry related programs	2	DANIDA/IFAD
5	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has taken integrated approach to the question of improving the health and nutritional status of women through creating awareness and making services available at the community level and ensuring their active participation in health care delivery system	13	IDA/UNFPA/NORAD/SIDA/Japan/IDA/UNDP/WHO/UNICEF/Australis /CIDA/USAID/DFI D/GOB
6	Ministry of Home Affairs	There is no separate sectoral policy for WID in this ministry. But the Ministry of Home Affairs has undertaken some activities related to WID for Ansars and VDPs only.	1	Not available
7	Ministry of Industry	The sectoral policy of the Ministry of Industry is to involve women in the mainstream of production process, create opportunities by developing their skill on different trades and to provide support for self-reliance. It proposes to reduce the gender gap in development and utilization of human resources in industry by facilitating full utilization of female labor potential in this sector.	4	ILO/USAID/The Netherlands/GOB
8	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	There is no sectoral policy or any particular project related to WID in this ministry. But different mass media are playing significant role in creating mass awareness among the women through different programs	1	GOB
9	Ministry of Land	The Ministry of Land has given emphasis on	1	WB/EEC/GOB

Sl. No	Ministry	Sectoral WID policy	No. of projects	Funding agency
		enhancing the socio-economic condition of the women through involving them in different activities. The Adarsha Gram project is such a type of endeavor for uplift of status of women.		
10	Ministry of Labor and Manpower	To integrate women in the mainstream of labor and manpower sector.	1	GOB/ILO/UNDP
11	Ministry of LGRD and Cooperative	The policy of this ministry is to integrate women into the mainstream of development planning process for improving their conditions. More specifically, the policy objectives are: a) To increase women's participation as beneficiary agent in development; and b) To create a gender responsive development awareness in general and positive self image of women in particular	5	CIDA/GOB/IDA/UNFPA
12	Ministry of Planning	The project is a development program of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. Bureau of Statistics collects data of all the sector of the economy to feedback the national development activities; data are disseminated by gender to formulate development activities for women	1	GOB
13	Ministry of Social Welfare	To integrate women in the mainstream of social welfare activities	4	GOB/NORAD/UNICEF/EDM/WB/DANIDA
14	Ministry of Textile	There is no specific policy on WID in this ministry. But emphasis has been given for involving women in various activities in the field of textile specially in garment industries	1	GOB
15	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs	The ministry has given emphasis on socio-economic development for women, specially the lower income group for their self reliance through undertaking various development oriented activities all over the country	16	GOB/WFP/IDA/UNICEF/DANIDA/CIDA/NORAD/OISCA/IDB/Japan
16	Ministry of Youth and Sports	To integrate women in the mainstream of youth and sports sectors	3	GOB
	Total		58	

3. WID/Gender Issues in the Main Sectors

3-1 Education

Education

- Women in Bangladesh are substantially less empowered than men in terms of education. Literacy among the male population rose at a faster rate. The enrollment rate for primary education is 71.0% for girls and 83.0% for boys and the gender gap is already great at the primary education level. The main reasons which are preventing educational opportunities for girls are, passive attitude of family and society toward girl's education, expenses required for education, burdens for housekeeping and child care, etc., and curriculums which are separated from real life, insufficient number of female teachers, low ability of teachers, insufficient sanitary facilities such as toilets, etc..

Although formal vocational training and technical education are being implemented by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labor and Manpower, to be registered with them is difficult for many women since it is a necessary requirement to have finished 8 years of education

[General Situation]

The educational system of Bangladesh consists of primary education (5 years) and secondary education (7 years) followed by higher education of 2 or 5 years. Primary education for 5 years is mandatory. Although the spread of education has advanced considerably in the past 20 years, the enrollment rate in each level is still low in comparison with neighboring countries, and is 70% in the primary education level, 17% in secondary education level and 3% in higher education level (World Child White Paper, 1997 and ESCAP, 1995). Although more than 70% of the children receive primary education, percentages of pupils who attend school regularly are low for both boys and girls and were only 23% of children 5-9 years old and 33% of 10-14 years olds as shown in the results of the 1981 National Census. As a result, the percentages of those who leave school without finishing are high for both boys and girls and those who finish the 5 years are only 42% of the boys and 45% of the girls out of the pupils who entered primary schools. Almost all of those dropouts occur between the first grade through the third grade. Furthermore, the geographical gap in educational level is also large and there are fairly large differences in the literacy rate of male adults such as from 50.5% in Khulna State to 25.4% in Jamalpur State and that of female adults such as 31.3% in Barisal State to 5.6% in Bandarban State. Various things such as passive attitudes toward poverty and education, problems related to safety, etc. are pointed out as reasons why school attendance level is kept at a low level.

[Education and Women]

Women in Bangladesh are substantially less empowered than men in terms of education. Between 1991 and 1996, literacy rate among the female population aged 7 and above rose from 25.5% to 31.4% while literacy rate among male population aged 7 and above rose from 38.9% to 51.3%(BANBEIS). Thus literacy among the male population rose at a faster rate. More over literacy continued to be more widespread among women than among men.

The gender gap persist among the primary, secondary and the higher levels of education and the gap widens as the level of education rises. Female enrollment in the primary schools rose from about 45% in 1990 to 48% in 1998 (BANBEIS 1998). Gender gap in the secondary level education (grade 6 to 10) remains wide. In 1995 more than 51% of female students enrolled in the primary and secondary level schools could complete 8 years of schooling while 61% of male students enrolled at the same level could complete 8 years of schooling. Agonizing aspects of the education scene is that in the period 1991-95, the

number of female pupils studying science has dropped from 32% to 20%. This is not in conformity with the NAP where programs were formulated to provide technical and science education to women and girls.

The rate of enrollment of female in the primary school rose significantly from about 45% in 1990 to about 48% in 1998(BANBEIS 1998), however drop out rate remains high at secondary levels. In 1995 more than 51% female students enrolled at the primary and secondary level schools could complete 8 years of schooling whereas 61% male could complete the same level.

The above improvement of women's status in education was possible due to the following gender specific steps taken up by the government during 90's.

- 1) Food for Education program
- 2) Stipend system for girls up to grade 10
- 3) Rising proportions of the female teachers in the primary school up to 60%
- 4) Distribution of free text books
- 5) Provide additional opportunities for admission of girls through school attractiveness programs

Enrollment of girl child at the primary levels also increased due to NGOs intervention. Implementation of stipend programs, Secondary Education Development Project (SEDP) funded by ADB and increased residential accommodations for them are important measures for improving women's secondary levels education. Both government and NGOs have taken special measures to educate women through Integrated Non-Formal Education Program (INEFEP). These are helpful for the deprived adult women.

[The National Action Plan]

The National Action Plan has identified the actions to be taken to improve women's status in terms of education. Among these following actions have been prioritized:

- The implementation of Compulsory Primary Education Program throughout the country should receive top priority.
- The issue to increase the number of girls' schools, college and universities should also receive top priority. The policy makers should take into consideration the issue of providing incentives to the private sector to establish more schools and colleges since various micro level data show that the performance of the private educational institutions are better than that of the government ones.
- Careful review of the various systems of education of the country from the standpoint of cost effectiveness and productivity should receive the top priority.
- There should be efficient monitoring of the implementation of the policy of tuition fee waiver for women up to grade 10.
- Number of stipends and scholarships for science education should be increased for female students.
- Special attention should be given to establishment of technical and vocational schools for women.
- The participation of women should be increased at the decision making level of education.
- Linkage and coordination between the Ministry of Education and other ministries should be established immediately. Active linkage between the Ministry of Education and the NGOs, who are the major implementing agency of education policy, should be established.

[Primary, Secondary and Higher Education]

It is stipulated clearly in the constitution that men and women should receive equal education but, in reality, there exists a large gap in educational opportunities for men and women. The enrollment rate for primary education is 71.0% for girls and 83.0% for boys and the gender gap is already great at the primary education level. The primary school dropout rate is about 4 points lower for girls in comparison with boys indicating girls' enthusiasm for education is not inferior to that of boys, but enrollment rate of girls decreases sharply to 12% in secondary education (15% for boys) and that of higher education decline as low as 1.3% (5.9% for boys) (ESCAP, 1995). The main reasons which are preventing educational opportunities for girls are: 1) Passive attitude of family and society toward girl's education derived from their leaving home at the same time of their marriage: 2) Expenses required for education: 3) Burdens for housekeeping and child care, etc., and curriculums which are separated from real life, insufficient number of female teachers, low ability of teachers, insufficient sanitary facilities such as toilets, etc. are added to these.

Reflecting the large gender gap in educational opportunities, the literacy rate of women remains at 24.2% (1991), one of the lowest figures in the world, in comparison with that of men, 45.5% (ESCAP, 1995). Although the literacy rate of women shows a growth of 16.4 points compared with 1961, the literacy rate of men grew 21.3 points in the same period and it does not mean that the gender gap has shrunk. In addition to the gender gap, the geographical gap in educational opportunities has an influence on the educational level of women. The literacy rate of women is 52.5% in urban areas showing a difference in 32.5 points with 20% in rural areas and this indicates that especially women in rural areas are being deprived of opportunities to receive education.

[Teachers]

The percentage of women teachers is 20.0% in primary education, 11.3% in secondary education and 12.6% in higher education and is very low throughout all levels (ESCAP, 1995). Although a policy provides that 50% of the teachers must be women, it is difficult to accomplish this for the reasons that necessary requirements to obtain qualification to be a teacher are too high for most women, there is resistance from family and society for commuting a long distance or living away from home as a teacher and so on. The fact that the number of female teachers is low leads to the lack of future role models for women and is one of the reasons for women's enrollment being held in check.

[Informal Education]

Government and NGOs are offering informal education to those who become adults without being able to receive primary and secondary education or left schools without completing their schooling, but there is no data making implementation status clear. It is evaluated as obtaining certain results in improving literacy rate but the actual situation shows that the areas and to whom it is applied are limited.

[Vocational Training and Technical Education]

Although formal vocational training and technical education are being implemented by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labor and Manpower, to be registered with them is difficult for many women since it is a necessary requirement to have finished 8 years of education. Almost all of the informal training being implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Rural Development and Cooperative Division, etc. is

for men but is open also to women compared with formal training. However, no markets have been established yet in the field of handicraft manufacturing where many women receive training and, therefore, voices are also being raised which doubt if training useful for the improvement of life is being offered.

No. of Institutions			
Institutions	Boys	Girls	Total
Primary School	47,214	3,684	50,898
Secondary School	9,678	1,704	113,482
College	760	88	848
University(Public & Private)	17	1	18
Agricultural Univ.	-	-	1
Engineering Univ.	-	-	1
Medical College (Public \$ Private)	-	-	18
<i>Madrassa</i>	-	-	6,179
<i>Maktab</i>	-	-	58,126

Source: BBS(1995-96), Bangladesh Bureau of Education Statistics(BANBEIS)

Note: Madrasa and maktab = Religions education institute

No. of Students			
Institutions	Boys	Girls	Total
Primary School	9113,000	7650,000	17068,000
Secondary School	3277,000	2511,000	5788,000
College	1672,114	830,489	2502,603
University(Public & Private)	50,672	15,803	118,945
Agricultural Univ.	4,220	619	4,839
Engineering Univ.	4,442	607	5,049
Medical College (Public \$ Private)	4,948	2,598	7,582
<i>Madrassa</i>			1875,000
<i>Maktab</i>			3898,202

Source: BBS(1995-96), Bangladesh Bureau of Education Statistics(BANBEIS)

Note: Madrasa and maktab = Religions education institute

No. of Teachers

Institution	Male	Female	Total
Primary Sch.	182,802	66,913	249,715
Secondary Sch.	134,515	21,772	156,287
College	15,419	3,254	18,673
University	3,349	578	3,927
Agricultural Univ.	397	15	412
Engineering Univ.	366	35	401
Medical College.	967	255	1,222
<i>Madrassa</i>	-	-	93,007
<i>Maktab</i>	-	-	-

Source: Budget Report 1996-1997

Note: Madrasa and maktab = Religions education institute

Dropout Rate

	Unrban					
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Primary	58.3	54.9	56.9	41.7	45.1	43.1
Secondary	57.6	65.9	60.5	42.4	34.1	39.5

Source: Bangladesh Education Statistics, 1991; BANBEIS, 1992

Adult Literacy

Topics	Male	Femael
Rate of adult Signing	44.3	18.6
Primary Edu.	77.7	61.4
Secondary Eku.	32.0	15.0
	2.3	12.2

Source: Human Resource Development Report, 1994

Budget

Sub-head(in Taka)	Budget 1996-97	Revised 1995-96	Budget 1995-96	Budget 1994-95
Primary education	9,981,978	9,404,436	9,534,796	8,502,680
Secondary edu.	9,328,461	9,146,606	8,903,745	8,362,680
Technical edu.	446,295	448,708	446,998	414,807
Univ. edu.	1,757,000	1,713,940	1,646,500	1,533,000
Other subsidiary edu. system	819,038	780,042	917,632	887,974
Total	22,332,772	21,493,732	21,449,671	19,701,141

Source: Budget Report (1996-97)

Female ratio in Medical Schoos(%)

Year	Female Ratio	
	Teachers	Students
1990 - 91	N.A.	N.A.
1991 - 92	21.1	30.5
1992 - 93	21.7	25.6
1993 - 94	18.0	31.4
1994 - 95	19.4	31.7
1995 - 96	20.9	34.3
1996 - 97	N.A.	N.A.
1997 - 98	N.A.	N.A.

Source: BBS,1997

3-2 Health and Medical Care

Health and Medical Care

The mortality rate of pregnant women and nursing mothers is 850 (against 100,000 births), one of the worst figures in Asia. The causes for death are excessive loss of blood, abortion, eclampsia, septicemia, tetanus, etc. and there are many cases where their lives could have been saved if they had received appropriate medical treatment in the early stage.

the rate of malnutrition in all infants is overwhelmingly high for girls, 14% for girls against 5% for boys (Altef Ali, 1997) and it indicates food is given to boys with priority at meals. The total fertility rate was about 7 in 1975 but decreased to 5 in 1988 and 4 since the beginning of the 1990s. However, in order to decrease the birthrate to 2.1, the government's target, it is necessary to overcome hindrances such as the low literacy rate of women, delay in development of social economy, high infant mortality rate, etc. and to undergo a change in parents' attitude to consider children as a labor force.

[General Situation]

Health and medical care are provided through county level hospitals and village level health posts but not much attention has been paid to preventive medical science up until now, since there had been a strong tendency to give priority to treatment. Also, the main concern was how to cope with the requirements of urban areas for a long time but, lately, it has been starting to place the focus finally on the activities in farming village areas.

Although considerable progress is observed in the diffusion of health services including human resources, both the disease rate and mortality rate in Bangladesh are still high. The majority of diseases are contagious diseases such as dysentery, infant diarrhea, malaria, whooping cough, etc. and, especially, diarrhea is the leading cause of death of children under five. Recently, malaria is becoming prevalent again and certain measure will become necessary.

However, as a matter of fact, the countermeasures for these problems have not obtained expected results because of widespread malnutrition and natural disasters which periodically hit the country.

Things which damage the health of the poverty stratum are those such as low incomes, diets of insufficient nutrition, inferior food sanitary situation, etc. Seventy-six percent of all households have not been able to take in sufficient calories. Families who are using toilets in farming villages are less than 10% and the hygienic environment is extremely poor especially in rural areas.

[Reproductive Health]

Decreasing in the deaths of pregnant women and nursing mothers is the biggest task for health and medical services in Bangladesh. It is estimated that 23,000 women lose their lives every year because of difficulties caused by pregnancy and childbirth and the mortality rate of pregnant women and nursing mothers is 850 (against 100,000 births), one of the worst figures in Asia. The causes for death are excessive loss of blood, abortion, eclampsia, septicemia, tetanus, etc. and there are many cases where their lives could have been saved if they had received appropriate medical treatment in the early stage. The biggest reason for the high mortality rate of pregnant women and nursing mothers such as this is the difficulty to giving birth in an appropriate health and medical service environment, and deliveries which are attended by trained people engaging in medical services such as doctors, nurses, etc. are less than 5%.

Infant mortality rate was improved from 150 (against 1,000 births) in 1975 to 88 (the same) in 1992 because of the diffusion of the preventive inoculation program. Investigation held in 1993 reports that 68% of children in rural areas and 79% in urban areas had been inoculated with a three type mixture and infantile paralysis. The highest rate of infant deaths occur in the neonatal period and the main causes are, it is considered, tetanus, pneumonia, anoxia, immature infants, etc. Half of the newborn babies are babies with low birth weighing and this is one of the reasons causing high infant mortality rate. The infant mortality rate is higher in rural areas than urban areas.

Malnutrition has a great influence on the health of pregnant women, nursing mothers and infants. Infantile malnutrition is in the worst level in the Asian region and 63.8% of the children under 6 are in the state of semi-critical or critical malnutrition. Malnutrition is caused by the interrelation of poverty, traditional ways of nutritional intake, insufficient food intake amount, lack of access to nutrition related social services, lack of nutrition education, etc. In addition, the rate of malnutrition in all infants is overwhelmingly high for girls, 14% for girls against 5% for boys (Altef Ali, 1997) and it indicates food is given to boys with priority at meals. Since the health of women is threaten by various difficulties at the time of pregnancy and childbirth in addition to malnutrition, Bangladesh is one of the few countries where the average life expectancy of women at the time of birth (55.9 years old) is lower than that of men (56.8 years old) (ESCAP, 1995). Women do not take the necessary measures, in many cases, until nothing can be done because they keep on preparing meals, gathering firewood, drawing water, cleaning, washing and so on, without taking a time for resting, from dawn to dusk, and continue to work in spite of exhaustion and illness to some extent.

[Family Planning]

Birthrate in Bangladesh stayed at a high levels until the 1970s but the crude birthrate decreased to a considerable extent in these past 20 years, 43 in 1975 to 33 in 1991. At the same time, the total fertility rate was about 7 in 1975 but decreased to 5 in 1988 and 4 since the beginning of the 1990s. The decrease in birthrate is attributable to the spreading of contraceptive devices by the Family Planning Program which mobilized 28,000 Family Planning diffusers and to the consequential change in the desirable number of family (from 4.3 in 1969 to 3.2 in 1989). Behavioral transfiguration such as this has been confirmed in every stratum regardless of wealth or poverty, age, urban community or farming village, and it is worth notice that this was achieved while no noticeable improvement has been observed in the social economic situation. However, in order to decrease the birthrate to 2.1, the government's target, it is necessary to overcome hindrances such as the low literacy rate of women, delay in development of social economy, high infant mortality rate, etc. and to undergo a change in parents' attitude to consider children as a labor force.

Implementation rate of contraception increased from 7.7% in 1975 to 39.9% in 1991. It is possible to access various kinds of contraceptive devices and methods, from methods which have short term effect such as condoms and spermicide, etc. to longer term methods such as IUD, norplant, sterilization, etc. and to obtain them from the government, NGOs and private organizations. More than half (52.1%) of those who used contraception used modern methods and the utilization rate of the pill is high. Sterilization has also increased and 9.1% of the women utilized them.

Basic Profile of Health

Population (1995)	120,400,000	U5MR('95) (per 1000 births)	115
% of population under 15 year-old	45	% of infants with low birth weight	67
% of female ratio, (15-59year-old)	50	Total fertility rate 1995 (per 1000 births)	35
		Total mortality rate 1995 (per 1,000 deaths)	11

Source: ESCAP, 1995, The State of the World's Children 1997

Spread of Medical Services

Year	Hospital		Govt. Dispensaries	Bed No.		Doctor	Nurse	Midwife	Female Health
	Govt.	Private		Govt.	Private				
1979	405	36	1,752	17,494	2,703	2,709	2,461	1,167	432
1991	610	280	1,318	1,318	7,242	21,004	9,655	7,713	3,459
1996	645	288	1,362	1,362	8,025	27,425	13,830	11,200	-

Population Ratio Under Absolute Poverty Line (2,122kcal/ day/ person)

Year	Population (mil.)	Ratio for Urban Population	Population (mil.)	Ratio for Rural Population
1983/84	7.3	67.7	51.1	61.9
1988/89	6.3	47.6	43.4	47.8
1995/96	9.6	49.7	45.7	47.1

Source:

Cause of Maternal Mortality

Cause	Rate
Complicated Pregnancy/ Convulsion/ eclamsia	2.0
Hemorrhage during pregnancy (APH)	0.4
Complicated child birth	0.8
Hemorrhage after delivery (PPH)	0.3
Complicated abortion	0.5
Tetanus	0.3
Total	4

Source: Gender Statistics in Brief 1996, BBS.

Differences between Female and male over Nutrition Ingestion

Age in Year	Energy (kcal)		
	Male	Female	Both
1-3	804	751	779
4-6	1,201	1,092	1,136
7-9	1,506	1,314	1,408
10-12	1,788	1,314	1,408
13-15	2,172	1,774	1,961
16-19	2,456	1,763	2,152
20-39	2,639	1,864	2,320
40-49	2,664	1,873	2,336
50-59	2,554	1,724	2,111
60-69	2,322	1,666	2,018
70+	2,084	1,522	1,803
Pregnant		1,854	
Lactating		1,991	

Protein Intake(Per day/ person)

Age in Year	Protein intake(gram)		
	Male	Female	Both
1-3	20.3	18.8	19.6
4-6	30.2	28.5	29.3
7-9	37.4	33.1	35.2
10-12	44.2	41.0	42.8
13-15	54.2	43.6	48.6
16-19	61.1	44.5	53.8
20-39	68.6	47.4	59.9
40-49	69.0	46.9	59.8
50-59	63.5	42.9	52.5
60-69	60.5	43.1	52.4
70+	57.1	38.3	47.7
Pregnant		46.8	
Lactating		48.6	

Source: Nutrition Survey 1995/96. Institution of Nutrition and Food Service, University of Dhaka, 1998.

Source: Nutrition Survey 1995/96. Institution of Nutrition and Food Service, University of Dhaka, 1998.

Infant Mortality Rate

Year	Sex	National	Urban	Rural
1987	Total	113	95	115
	Male	102	102	112
	Female	105	87	107
1991	Total	92	69	94
	Male	95	72	98
	Female	90	65	95
1996	Total	67	50	76
	Male	70	52	78
	Female	67	49	74

Services at child delivery

Year	1983	1988
Doctor	0.6	1.3
Nurse	1.8	3.0
Midwife	24.4	27.6
Family Member	68.9	64.9
No attended	4.2	3.1
Total	100	100

Source: ESCAP, 1995

Female Ratio over Medical Profession (%)

Doctor	Dentist	Nurse	Medical Helper	Pharmacist	X-ray Technician	Dental Technician	Examination Technician
18.0	20.0	87.0	3.0	0.6	0.4	3.4	10.4

Source: Altef Ali, 1997

3-3 Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

As is made clear from this, the role of women performing in agricultural production and the agriculture related industries is important, differing from the general understanding that women do not participate in work at paddy fields and upland fields. Furthermore, because of poverty and / or landlessness, more and more women from small farmers actively engage in agricultural activities. However, many of them are in-house unpaid workers.

[General Situation]

Agriculture, forestry and fisheries have a share of 36% in GDP (1992/93) and is the most important sector for sustaining the Bangladesh economy. In the labor force population, 66.4% engages in agriculture, forestry and fisheries and the greater part of the population is making a living relying on agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Close to 80% of the cultivated land is rice paddies but the main cash crops are jute and tea. Productivity has been improved lately to a noticeable extent but yields per unit area are still considerably lower than achievable levels. The land is owned unequally by a small part of the people and the situation is such where 9% of the people possess 40% of the land. As a result, more than half of the population in the farming villages are placed in a situation as almost having no land and farming village lives are arduous for most of the people.

[Policies and Budget on WID/ Gender]

In agriculture sector GOB policy and strategies in involving women population mainly directed to:

- 1) Address the socio-legal cultural constraints to women's effective participation
- 2) Provides intersectoral linkage between the agencies of rural development, cooperative and agriculture so that most needy and assetless and asset poor women of rural population are provided in productive agricultural and non-agricultural activities.
- 3) Recognize and provide support to women's increasing participation in the field of agriculture and
- 4) Support women's role in homestead production

[Agriculture]

Women accounted for only 4~10% of the labor force in the national censuses before 1985. However, in the survey of 1989, the rate of women in the labor force greatly increased to 41.4%. This is because the concept of economic activities was expanded in the survey from that year and labor which had been borne by women such as plowing of rice fields, watering, weeding, harvesting, hulling, horticulture, food processing and preservation, etc. were included as subjects for totalization. As is made clear from this, the role of women performing in agricultural production and the agriculture related industries is important, differing from the general understanding that women do not participate in work at paddy fields and upland fields. Women are participating in agricultural work in land owned by the family or as wage workers but 70% of them are unpaid family workers (Altef Ali, 1997). Participation of women in agriculture is more obvious in small and medium farm households who own 0.05~0.99 acres of land and the stratum having no land, and tends to decrease drastically if the area of the land owned exceeds 2.5 acres. Moreover, the survey on working hours has made it clear that women are working longer than men. As to women's participation in decision making regarding agricultural production, the larger the area of land the household possesses is, the less their participation becomes, although women also participate in general in the decision making (World Bank, 1990).

What women take charge of mainly are various activities such as hulling, drying, cultivation, processing and preservation of vegetables, fruits and spices, raising of livestock, etc. Women also engage in agricultural production for their own needs and their role performed in securing foods and health for their family is important.

Cases have increased lately where men, those from the no land stratum and so on where they are unable to earn enough income only from farming, choose to migrate to neighboring cities and towns to work and, as a result, families with female householders are increasing in rural areas. This also shows the role women play in agricultural production is increasing.

[Land Ownership for Women]

The Islamic law stipulates that although a wife inherits, when she loses her husband, 1/8 of the property if there are children or 1/4 when there are no children and a husband inherits, when he loses his wife, twice as much as what his wife inherits, in other words, 1/4 of the property if there are children or 1/2 when there are no children. In regard to reasons why there are such differences in the portion between men and women, scholars of the law point out that 1) men have a responsibility for supporting their wife and children but women do not have such a responsibility and 2) women can be protected by children. However, in reality, inheritance rights for land owned by women have not been exercised in many cases since a lot of women are illiterates due to poverty and so on and have no knowledge about the law. As a result, the control of land by women is extremely limited.

[Agricultural Diffusers]

Only 404 of the agricultural diffusers are women, and men do not engage in diffusing activities for women. In addition, many of the diffusers are from cities and towns and they do not really want to go to the villages where transportation is inconvenient. Many women, therefore, are not receiving the benefit of agricultural diffusion activities at all. Furthermore, diffusers do not have, in many cases, enough knowledge and experience for technology in regard to agriculture, horticulture, raising of livestock, etc. and methods for diffusion and, consequently, are scarcely contributing to the productivity improvement of women in farming villages, as a matter of fact. Although there also are diffusers in the field of livestock and fisheries, participation of women is always very difficult since women are not deemed as subjects in general and, in addition, there is a distance barrier to ubajira (county) offices where meetings are held. In regard to forestry, women are not been deemed as the subjects of diffusion.

The industrial support for women's organization on cooperative, credit, extension services are extremely inadequate and significant efforts are needed in this direction. Male oriented input provisions and management training are not enough to make a breakthrough in the agriculture of Bangladesh unless women specific needs are addressed separately. Effective provision of training for women are essential due to the following reasons.

- Nearly 43% of women are involved with agriculture directly or indirectly
- Highest involvement of women in agriculture is found in small farm households followed by women in small and medium size farm households
- 70% of women in agriculture work as unpaid labor
- Women who work as agriculture wage labor are mostly from landless or very small farm households
- Most of homestead agriculture are in the hands of women land. They play a crucial role in maintaining food security in the household

Moreover, the extension services bypass the majority of the rural women population in agriculture. Following are identified as some of the reasons

- The number of female extension workers are very few and therefore cannot reach the vast majority of women engaged in agriculture.
- Male extension workers are not assigned to contact rural women
- The extension workers are not properly trained to provide extension services on field agriculture, crop, horticulture, fisheries, livestock and poultry.
- Given, women's traditional involvement in field agriculture, the existing extension service has hardly any impact on productivity.
- The women's of Livestock and Directorate of Fisheries are responsible for disseminating extension messages on livestock and poultry. The extension system is not effective in reaching large number of women who generally have the responsibility of taking care of livestock and poultry. Furthermore, generally, women are not targeted to receive extension on homestead forestry.

Training activities are organized by Department of Agriculture. Extension staff cover a wide range and be broadly categorized as 1) District Training Program: Training needs varies among thanas and districts and responses; 2) Thana Training Unit at the thana level

Block supervisors are the key link between the Department of Agricultural Extension and the rural population. Effectiveness of the block supervisors in putting the principles of extension approach in practice largely determine the success of the block, thana and district extension program. Besides this Subject matter Specialist are responsible in the respective disciplines for providing technical support to field extension staff.

In coordination of all these an agriculture program is being developed for making women visible farmers having equal access agricultural delivery system and support service including credit. This is being implemented with the following strategies

- to employ more women in agricultural extension, training and information services responsive to women's needs in agriculture.
- to promote technological innovations to improve women's productivity in agriculture
- NGO being involved and motivated to undertake agriculture related projects incorporating specific women's concerns in agriculture.
- Strengthening women training program in poultry keeping, tree plantation and small scale fisheries

[Women's role in processing and marketing]

Government attaches high importance on expansion and diversification of on-farm as well as off-farm activities in the areas with particular emphasis on motivation, skill development, training for technological upgrade and provision of credit for minor enterprises undertaken by the target beneficiaries. Small-scale industries and cottage industries are coming up in the rural areas as a result of such intervention.

Government has established targeted and direct employment programs in order to raise the income of the rural poor men and women through various income generating activities (IGAs)

Government executes area development projects and organizes local resources based artisanal enterprises which minimize regional disparities. RD-1, RD-2, Noakhali IRDP and

Sirajganj IRDB projects have been successfully implemented by BRDB. BRDB has also executed RD-12, project to alleviate poverty in 139 thanas of greater Mymensingh, Khulna, Barisal, Bogra and Dinajpur. This has helped reduce disparity. BRDB conducts skill development training program in order to transfer technology and increase efficiency of irrigation equipment, HYV cultivation, poultry and duck rearing, beef fattening etc. Under the BRDB's help and assistance numerous micro enterprises have taken up by members utilizing available local resources. BRDB has come forward to support marketing activities primarily of off-farm products by establishing "Karu Palli" (Display cum sale center) in Dhaka Capital city and efforts are being taken to set up its branches in other suitable locations.

[Activities of women organizations in rural communities]

The rural women are being organized into formal and informal groups for group action and participation in improving the quality of their lifestyle under different projects. The formal groups are Mahila Samabaya Samity (MSS) i.e., women cooperative society and Mahila Bittahen (assetless) Samabaya Samity (MBSS) i.e., women assetless women's cooperative society. They are federated with TBCCAs. The MSS members are not all assetless and they are federated with the Thana Central Cooperative Association, (TCCA) the thana level institution organized during sixties for the farmers as evolved by the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BRDB) at Comilla. The project for MBSS were started during mid-eighties along with BSS. Till June 1996, 0.21 million rural women have become members of MBSS organized under different projects. Some informal groups (pre-cooperatives) are also being organized in 197 thanas under three projects. The beneficiaries are 16 million rural poor women. Till June 1996, these organized women belonging 35,493 formal and informal groups accumulated an amount of Taka 351.38 million as their own capital through a system of weekly savings and purchase of annual shares. This capital is being used as collateral of members for taking credit. 75% of the shares or savings are also allowed to be used as credit by the members.

[Support for training in micro enterprises]

Training is very important for social and economic uplift of the rural poor women. The leaders of the women cooperatives are being trained regularly on a weekly basis at the thana level on management, family planning, health, nutrition, livestock development, poultry rearing etc. By the thana level GO/NGO officials. These leaders viz., the Manager and other four Directors of women cooperatives in turn go back to the villages and discuss with their fellow members in the weekly meetings the important issues and technical know-how learnt at the thana training. The leader also brings unresolved issues and problems of the cooperative members to the thana for necessary guidance for the respective thana experts. This is a system of two-way communication between the rural women and the experts working for them at the local level.

Some selected members of the cooperatives are also trained on primary health care, nutrition, MCH and family planning for which regular residential training courses have been designed and are held. They work within the group as an extension agent on those subjects which help in reducing fertility, infant and maternal mortality, amongst the cooperative members. The field staff of the project are also trained on family planning health and nutrition during their on the job training.

Selected members of the cooperatives and informal groups are trained on different income generating activities for development of their skills. Most favorite income generating traditional activities for the rural women are tailoring, embroidery, kitchen

gardening, handicraft, mini poultry etc. Besides, training on innovative trades, such as small scale wood works (wooden handicraft), radio repairing, sewing machine repairing etc. Is also going on. Introduction of these new skills is still at the experimental stage. The skill development training is aimed at improving productivity and thereby additional income for poor women. Several GO and NGO facilities are being used for providing the skill development training.

Around 58% of these trained members are working for income generation. This relative low figure is due to lack of on-time working capital required for the trade and non-linkage of credit fund with the training. Marketing of products is also a problem.

Credit is a pre-requisite for income generation. Selected members of the women cooperatives and informal grouped are provided with required credit for investment in different IGAs. The members are required to fulfill certain conditions to get credit. The cooperatives must be registered with the Registrar of Cooperatives. The member must repay earlier credit and she should have a good repayment behavior. Proper use of credit is also looked into. Member received skill development training are preferred to receive credit.

Credit is also disbursed on the basis of local and individual needs. Rural women generally prefer credit for poultry/duck and goat rearing, milk-cow, beef fattening, kitchen gardening, tailoring, small trades/shop-keeping, handicrafts, paddy husking, weaving, food processing, making puffed-rice etc.

[Access to Small Scale Financing]

Although access to institutional financing has been closed to women for a long time, NGOs, represented by Grameen Bank, have expanded small scale financing for female groups in place of institutional financing. Although there are no accurate statistics pertaining to the implementing situation of this small scale financing, it is said that the number of users is 2,000,000 or so.

This small scale financing was afforded to women without the necessity of mortgages such as land, etc. and women who were financed marked extremely higher refunding rate than that of men. This experience in Bangladesh has presently become a model in many other countries in the point that it opened the way like this for small scale financing to women of whom it had been thought had no refunding ability. Women buy livestock and make seed-plots with the money they borrowed and women who succeeded in the purchase of land have also appeared, but on the other hand, it is also reported that it is the husbands who decide how to spend the money they were loaned.

[Forestry]

Forest resources such as fruits, fuels, wood, fodder, etc. play an important role in the life in Bangladesh and forests in villages are supply sources for 90% of fuels in families (Government of Bangladesh, 1995). It is women's work in Bangladesh to collect firewood and women have traditionally engaged in taking care of seedlings and afforestation. Some of the very poor women make their living by selling firewood. However, afforestation at places away from home are carried out by men since freedom of migration is limited and so on and, therefore, women are not deemed as the subject of forestry diffusion as mentioned above.

[Fisheries]

Although fisheries are carried out mainly at ponds near home, 60% of the catch is for personal consumption and not very many are carrying out fisheries for commercial purposes.

The main reason for this is that ownership of the ponds is not clear in many cases and, therefore, fishery rights are not clear. In general, women engage in the repair of fishing nets and processing of fish, but many women have been participating in fisheries more than before keeping in step with the increase of men's migration for work. In some places, women are also engaging in the sale of fish.

Percentage distribution by sex and occupation-1990-91

Occupation	Bangladesh		Urban		Rural	
	Av. % of total population	Av. % of total employment	Av. % of total population	Av. % of total employment	Av. % of total population	Av. % of total employment
Agriculture	31.5	68.5	29.8	55.8	33.4	88.1

Source: Altef Ali, 1997

Rate of Employment persons in agriculture

Male	49.3%
Female	50.7%

Source: Bangladesh, Government of, 1995

Women's Participation in Agricultural Works

	No. of People		
	Total	Female	Male
Agriculture	37,035	18,773	18,262
Plowing/ Irrigation/ Planting	4,093	42	4,051
Weeding	3,754	55	3,699
Harvesting	3,139	62	3,077
Threshing/ Rinse	3,250	1,214	2,036
Hulling/ Dry/ Boil	3,956	3,522	434
Vegetable/ Spice Cultivation	1,525	1,107	418
Processing/ Preservation	1,114	954	160
Livestock	6,193	2,984	3,209
Poultry	8,985	8,766	219
Others	1,026	67	959

Source: Bangladesh, Government of, 1995

3-4 Economic Activities

Economic Activities

For about 20 years since the 1960s, population of women participating in the labor force increased three times and has grown to account for 9% of the total labor force (World Bank, 1996). Twenty-six percent of women engaging in employment labor are working in the manufacturing industry (ESCAP, 1995). Being different from neighboring Asian countries where women account for the majority in this field, women consist of only less than 4% of the total in Bangladesh

It is difficult for women to have opportunities to obtain new skills, etc. since freedom of movement is still limited for women and, consequently, they are obliged to engage in unskilled labor. Furthermore, unstable employment forms such as day-to-day engagement has increased for female workers.

[General Situation]

The share of the manufacturing industry sector in Bangladesh economy is low and almost all of them are small plants of small scale excluding a few large scale factories. Many of these small scale plants have engaged in the process of agricultural products but the

manufacturing industry of new fields such as sewing plants is expanding recently and the manufacturing industry attained an average growth of 8.6% per year in 1985~1995. The government is placing its exception on the development in the field of the manufacturing industry since there is no prospect of expansion in agricultural production but the percentage of the manufacturing industry in the GDP is still at a level of about 10% (ESCAP, 1995).

[Participation in Labor]

For about 20 years since the 1960s, population of women participating in the labor force increased three times and has grown to account for 9% of the total labor force (World Bank, 1996). The survey in 1989 shows that the participation rates in the labor force by sexes are 61.5% for women against 80.9% of men. The participation rates in the labor force by places of residence show the difference in men is limited to about 10% between urban areas (72.7%) and rural areas (82.5%). On the other hand, there is a difference of more than two times for women, 28.9% in urban areas against 67.3% in rural areas, and it shows that women in rural areas are aggressively participating in labor (ESCAP, 1995).

[Employment Labor]

Twenty-six percent of women engaging in employment labor are working in the manufacturing industry (ESCAP, 1995). Women are concentrated in foodstuffs, soft drinks and tobacco plants in the manufacturing industry and 85% of the workers in these manufacturing sites are women. In addition, women account for 32% of the workers in the fields of clothing and leather products (Opus citatum). Rates of women in the other fields in the manufacturing industry are 20% or less. One thing which shows a remarkable difference compared with neighboring countries is the rate of men and women engaging in sales. Being different from neighboring Asian countries where women account for the majority in this field, women consist of only less than 4% of the total in Bangladesh (Opus citatum). In the classification of workers by form of employment, the greater part of the women are unpaid family workers while many of the men are doing business on their own, and wage workers account for 37% of the male labor force population while it is only 7.3% in women (ESCAP, 1995). Moreover, a quota system where 15% of the public service personnel are to be women has been introduced but the percentage of women is still only 5% and those who are in the administrative level are only a few. (UN CEDAW, 1993).

Wage differences between the sexes in labor of other than the agricultural, forestry and fisheries industries are 23.16~31.58 takas and women's wages are 50~60% of those of men (ESCAP, 1995). It is pointed out that the background causing such a big gender gap in wages is; 1) lack of skill and ability due to the scarcity of educational and vocational opportunities, 2) low demand for female labor, 3) excessive supply of female labor, 4) poor negotiation capability of women, and so on. It is difficult for women to have opportunities to obtain new skills, etc. since freedom of movement is still limited for women and, consequently, they are obliged to engage in unskilled labor. Furthermore, it is characteristic that unstable employment forms such as day-to-day engagement has increased for female workers. The number of women who are able to leave their children and go for work is very limited because social services such as public nurseries, etc. have not been provided yet and, consequently, they must continue their work while they are dealing with housekeeping and childcare.

[Informal Sector]

Since the number of employment is limited, many poverty stricken women are absorbed into informal sectors such as independent enterprises, etc., but no data to clarify the

situation exists. It is also said that 40% of the women are engaging in some small scale independent enterprises in rural areas (World Bank, 1990). Women are engaging in various kinds of occupations such as small scale production of processed foods, etc. at home, laundry women, helping with domestic work, cleaning women, helping in construction work, etc.

Basic Profile of Labor

Index	Female	Male
Rate of Labor Population(except engaged in agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries) (%)	15.0	85.0
Ratio of Civil servants by gender (%)	6.0	94.0
Rate of unemployed (%)	1.9	2.0
Rate of wage workers paid over 300 Taka/ week (%)	19.0	61.7
Average Monthly Income of Household (Taka)	827	2240
Ratio of Household under Poverty level (%)	38.8	35.3
Ratio of In-house workers without salary (%)	33.9	15.6

Source: ESCAP, 1995 (1US\$=40.5 Taka, 1996) , Labor Force Survey, 1996/97, BBS, and Household Expenditure Survey, 1995/96, BBS.

Gender Ratio by Occupation

Occupation	Female	Male	Total
Professional, Technical	633	1,190	1,823
Administration, Managerial	9	173	182
Clerical workers	125	1,074	1,199
Sales workers	455	5,714	6,169
Services workers	1,117	788	1,905
Agriculture, Forests, Fisheries	16,419	18,439	34,858
Production, transport, Labors and others	2,073	6,384	8,457
Total	20,831	33,762	54,593

Source: Labor Force Survey 1996/97, BBS.

Ratio of Labor Participation

National		Urban		Rural	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
62	38	72.5	27.5	59.6	40.4

Source: Labor Force Survey, 1996/97, BBS.

Worker's Ratio by employment types by region and sex

	National			Urban			Rural		
	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Self employment	39.7	22.3	43.5	36.9	19	41.7	40.5	23.5	43.9
In-house workers w/0 salary	18.9	33.9	15.6	9.6	16.2	7.8	21.5	40.3	17.7
Employee	16.8	25.3	15	39.2	55.6	34.8	10.5	14.5	9.7
Daily worker	24.2	18	25.5	13.5	8.8	14.8	27.2	21.3	28.4
Employer	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.3	0.9	0.2	0.4	0.2

Source: Labor Force Survey, 1996/97, BBS.

Wage gap by sex by works in charge(Tk/ worker/ month)

Characteristics	Wage		Female/ Male (%)
	Male	Female	
Quality Controller	2196	1075	49
Cutting Master	2602	2000	77
Cutting Helper	890	780	88
Supervisor	2316	2426	105
Sewing Operator	1237	1069	86
Sewing Helper	597	438	73
Iron Man	971	540	56
Folding	997	804	81
Finishing Helper	764	558	73

Source: Garment Works in Bangladesh, SC. Zohir and P.B. Majumder, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, 1996.

4. WID/Gender Projects by Other Donors

Project Title	Donor Agency	Content
Economic Empowerment and Credit Provision		
- Credit Based Income Generation Programmes	- DANIDA (ASA, CODEC)	- Aquaculture Development
- Aquaculture Development	- DANIDA (DOF)	- Livestock Development and Credit Based Income Generation
- Integrated Poultry Development	- DANIDA, IFAD (DLS/BRAC/PROS HIKA/Swanirvar	- Grameen Bank Replication Project (Grameen Trust)
- Small Scale Enterprise Development Project	- Norway (Agrani Bank, Banking Div)	- Banchte Sekha (Continuing Interest)
- Kurigram Poverty Alleviation Project	- Norway (BRDB)	
- Grameen Housing Loan	- Norway (Grameen Bank)	
- Rural Women and Children Development Project	- Norway (Banchte Sekha)	
- Integrated Development Programme	- Norway (SUS)	- SUS: Kishore Empowerment Project-future support intended UNDP (VGD Program)
- Food Supply (Income Transfer)		
- Training on marketable income generation skill	- WFP, EU	- Increased: Tree nurseries Vegetables gardening
- Financial Services (Savings and Credit)	- Australia, Canada, France, GOB (DWA, DRR, DLS, BSB, BRAC-NGO/CBOS)	- Continuing interest
- Social Awareness (Negotiation skill/bargaining ability/control over resources)		
- Credit Based Income Generation Programmes	- ADB	- Continuing interest
- Social mobilisation	- ADB	
- Micro Credit in the Urban Poverty Project	- ADB/World Bank (GOB and NGO)	- Continuing interest
- Poverty Alleviation Micro-Finance Project		
- Resettlement Plans Jamuna Bridge Approaches		
- Micro-finance for women entrepreneurs		
- Grameen Bank Special Program	- ADB/OECF/World Bank	- Continuing interest
- Credit (Support in mainstreaming gender issues to existing projects within the various sectors water management, micro-credit, health, education and agriculture)	- ADB/SDC	- Continuing interest
- Credit line to Grameen Bank	- UNICEF	
- Handicrafts Display and Sales center	- The Royal Netherlands Embassy: BRAC, PROSHIKA, ASA, Shakti Foundation	- Micro-credit (Economic Empowerment)
- Micro-finance services, employment creations, social awareness	- JICA/OECF, Bangladesh Bank, Grameen Bank	- Continuing interest
- Rural Road and Market Improvement	- JICA (BRDB)	- Continuing interest
- Third Rural Development Project	- SIDA (BRDB PROSHIKA, Buro	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to DWA in monitoring VGD - Rural Bittaheen Institution - Rural Maintenance Program - Vulnerable Group Development - Canada Fund Supported Small Projects - Infrastructure projects including North East Regional Project, Rural Electrification 	<p>BRAC, PROSHIKA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuing interest - Continuing interest - Continuing interest - Establishment of a Palli Bidyut Samity (REB/GoB)
Health and Basic Services		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primary Health Care - Rural Water & Sanitation - Urban Water and Sanitation - International Training Network Centre - Functional health and nutrition messages - Urban Primary Healthcare (including a component on assistance for women victims of violence) - Maternal Mortality Reduction - Nutrition and Immunisation - Water and Sanitation (Rural and Urban areas) - HAPP-5 Preparation/ Reproductive Health - Training of OBGYN (Hospital Training) - Access Safe Water & and Sanitation (Basic Services) - EPI, Control of ARI, Diarrhoeal diseases (Primary healthcare) - HIV/AIDS - Front Line project on Maternity and Child Health Care - Hospital Training - Projects on Population and Health - Fourth Population and Health Project (FPHP) - Health and Population Project (HPP) - Child survival and population and reproductive health - Strengthening MCH/FP services at maternal and child welfare centres - RH for Commercial Sex Workers - Strengthening Management Capabilities of NGOs in FP Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DANIDA (GK) - DANIDA, SDC (DPHE/NGO Forum of W+S) - DANIDA (DPHE/ Pourashabas) - DANIDA (BUET) - WFP (DWA, NGOs, DPHE, DAE NNC) - ADB - UNICEF - UNICEF - UNICEF - UNICEF - UNICEF - The Royal Netherlands Embassy (Imp. Agency: GOB; NGO: BWHC, FPHP) - The Royal Netherlands Embassy - JICA (MOH&FW) - JICA (MOH&FW) - (Japan (NGOs)) - Core funding, SIDA (GOB and NGOs) - SIDA (BRAC-RHDC, MFSTC, BWCH, MRSTP, BAPSA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Institutional Development for W&S, Rural and Urban W&S - Intensify vegetable gardening - Continuing interest - Gender in Public expenditure on health - Ended in June 1998 - Started in July 1998 - Male involvement in RH, including FP - Advocacy and Institutional Capacity building for Adolescent RH

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fourth Population and Health Project (FPHP) - Health and Population Project HAPP-5 - Bangladesh Integrated Nutrition Project - HAPP-5 Preparation/ Reproductive Health - Fourth Population and Health - Fourth and Fifth Projects (Nursing, MCH-FP Service, HRD through, GOB, NGOs and private sector) - Reproductive Health, STD/HIV, TB/Leprosy, Community based services and health education - Child survival and population and Reproductive Health - Social mobilisation to prevent HIV/AIDS - HIV/AIDS - Population and Health Project - Canada Fund Supported Small Projects - FP-MCH including STD and HIV/AIDS - Primary Healthcare Focusing on Women - Reproductive Healthare - Research on Reproductive Health - Functional Health and Nutritional Messages - HIV/AIDS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNFPA (GOB) - UNFPA (GOB) - WB/CID/SIDA/ EC/Netherlands/ DFID etc. (GOB & NGO) - WB/CIDA/SIDA/EC/Netherlands/ DFID etc. (GOB & NGO and Private Sector) - WB - DFID - DFID - DFID (through NGOs) - SDC (ICDDR, Confidential Approach to AIDS Prevention) - UNDP - CIDA - USAID - EC (TFIPP) - EC/UNFPA - EC(ICDDR) - EC(TFIPP) - EC(HASAB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will end in June 1998 - Operation to start in July 1998 - ILO - Gender in Public Expenditure on Health - HAPP-5 (GOB) - Existing areas as well as water and sanitation, urban poverty and arsenic - Urban Programs - UNDP
Violence Against Women/Human Rights		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research on VAW - Rights Education, Legal AID & Investigation - Formulation on Multi-Sectoral Program on VAW - Realisation of Human Rights and Democratisation - Democracy and Human Rights Program - Establishment of Law based on principles of Justice, Gender Equity and Human Rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DANIDA, CIDA, Norway (NARIPOKKHO) - DANIDA (BESHR) - Norway (BNWLA) - Norway (MLAA) - Norway (ASK) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to Follow Up on Research on VAW. Support to Multi-Sectoral Program on VAW. Support to Judicial Training Ombudsman Grameen Courts. Human Rights Commission - ADB/NDF - Multi-Sectoral Program on violence against women

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening Women's Movement - Beyond Beijing, Research and Documentation - Formulation on Multi-Sectoral Program on elimination of child trafficking - Human rights training (CRC/CEDAW) for judges at Judicial Administrative Training Institute (JATI) - Memorandum of Understanding with BGMEA for ending child labour in garment sector - Legal study on VAW - Action regarding VAW (through stakeholder alliance and health sector and women friendly hospital initiative) - Birth and Marriage Registration - Juvenile Justice - Legal education, alternative dispute resolution, research, advocacy for legal reform, investigation, shelter for victims of violence, public awareness on women/human rights - A regional study has been planned on this issue - Research on VAW - Formulation on Multi-Sectoral Program on VAW - Legal literacy education, legal advice and investigation - Proposed project on VAW - Proposed project for building capacity of police services - Research on VAW - Legal education, ADR, research, advocacy - Legal rights awareness training (including media activities), alternative dispute resolution - Gender Fund Supported Small Projects - Governance Fund Small Projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Norway (BMP) - Norway (BNPS) - Norway (NGO Forum/FWCW) - UNICEF - UNICEF - UNICEF/ILO - UNICEF and Regional Office - UNICEF - UNICEF - SIDA (GSS, ASK, BNWLA, ACD) - WB - Royal Netherlands Embassy - SDC (Bangladesh Society for the Enhancement of Human Rights) - EC (ILO) - EC (GSS) - USAID (with Asia Foundation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sensitisation of police on the rights of children - Training of UP Members on Children and Women Rights - Human rights training - Multi-Sectoral Program violence against women - Elimination of child trafficking - ILO - Continued interest - UNDP - UNDP - Continued interest - BRAC, 11 NGOs - CIDA (NGOs)
Education and Training		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education for working children - Intensive district approach to education for all (IDEAL) - Basic Education for Hard to Reach Urban Children - Training for Teachers - Primary Education Development Project for Quality Improvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DINADA - UNICEF - UNICEF/SIDA - UNICEF/SIDA - Norway (Directorate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuing interests in girl's education

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Female Secondary Education Stipend Project Phase 2 - Non Formal Education Project 2 - Functional Literacy and Numeracy - Primary Education - Non-formal Education - Stipend for Girls at Secondary level Primary Education - Primary Education - Agriculture Training Center for Women - Projects on Primary Education - Primary and adolescent Education - Non-formal Education Project II and III - Training of trainers in gender planning and analysis - Population Education - Female Secondary School Assistance Project (FSSAP) - Non-formal Education Project - ELTIP (English Language Teaching Improvement) - ESTEEM: Primary Education Capacity Building - - BRAC NFPE II (Non-formal Education) - UCEP Phase II (NFE and vocational training) for underprivileged children - GSS phase III (Basic education for children completed) - PERC (Resource Center) - REFLECT – Adult literacy for women - UTTARAN Non-formal education for children - NIJERA SHUKHI – Adult Literacy - Non-formal life oriented education in rural and urban areas - Formal + non-formal education, functional literacy/numeracy - Programs to motivate, train and employ (PROMOTE) female teachers in rural secondary schools - Through gender fund project - Training for Women’s groups on nutrition awareness and on-farm and off-farm income generation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> of Primary Education) - Norway (Directorate of Secondary Higher Education) - Norway (Directorate of Non-formal Education) - WFP (NGOs) - ADB - Netherlands Embassy (GOB, NGO,BRAC, GSS) - JICA (MOWCA, OISCA) - Japan (NGOs) - SIDA (GSS) - SIDA (DNFF) - SIDA (STD) - UNFPA (GOB) - WB and Norway (GOB & NGO) - USAID - DFID - DFID - DFID (BRAC) - DFID (UCEP) - DFID (GSS) - DFID - DFID - DFID - DFID - SD (UCEP, Non-formal education project, CMES) - EC (GSS, BRAC, PROSHIKA, RD 9) - CIDA - FAO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IEC Package - Continuing interests - Continuing interests - Expansion of women training projects - Primary education development project (GOB) - Likely to continue - Recently started - Phase III of BRAC being considered - Phase III of UCEP being considered - DNFE-non-formal education for hard to reach being considered - Non-formal literacy education for children Shoishab - Continued interests - Future interest
---	---	---

Political Participation and Decision Making		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elected women members in the local government structure - Local government strengthening/capacity building - Documentation of best practices as regards local government training and information towards the support of local government - Local government training (Training module development on gender and child rights for newly elected UP members) - Local government training - MP training - Voter education programs, activities to increase ability of UP members (especially women to meet the needs of the poor) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Norway - Netherlands Embassy - SDC (Power and Participation Research Center) - UNICEF (Proshika) - UNDP - UNDP - USAID (with Asia Foundation, BRAC and 14 NGOs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Netherlands Embassy support NGOs - ILO - Continuing interest - Continuing interest - Continuing interest - Continuing interest
Advocacy and Media		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to local print media for investigation and publication of human rights violations (Massline Media Centre) - Thematic Poster - Program presentation in various forum - Annual Publication - Video - VGD women's participation in International Women's Day activities - Advocacy, awareness and information project with MOWCA (including communication campaign on child rights) - Advocacy, information and communication program with Ministry of Information (Advocacy for women and children, Facts for Life, Meena) - Advocacy for participatory democracy - Advocacy for legal reform - Survey and colloquiums on women on journals - Gender training for FP personnel - Strengthening Dept. of Mass communication for motivation campaign on FP/MCh - Capacity building for gender mainstreaming - Gender training for GOB, employers and workers association - Both the FSSAP and non-formal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DANIDA - Norway - WFP - WFP - WFP - WFP - WFP - UNICEF - UNICEF - The Royal Netherlands Embassy (Small Embassy funds to NGOs,) - SIDA (GSS, PROSHIKA, ASK, BNWLA, BCDJC) - UNFPA (GOB) - UNFPA (GOB) - UNDP - ILO - WB - SDC (New network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Audio slide - News article - Success stories - Continuing interests - ILO - Continuing interests

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> education program have social mobilisation an community awareness programs for female education - Investigative journalism polling, training of journalists - Advocacy for legal reform - Advocacy by association of their members interests - Small projects supported by local funds, Canada fund, Gender find, Environment fund and Governance fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> and centre for sustainable development) - EC (GSS, ILD) USAID (with the Asia Foundation BRAC, 6 NGOS) - CIDA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuing interests
The Girl Child		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food supply - Basic education - Vocational training - Primary education development projects - Child labour and non-formal primary education - Support NGO activities for adolescent girls - Meena - Child trafficking PCP is on the consideration of Ministry of Planning - Child labour (girl priority area) - Health environment and legal education, social mobilisation, credit and savings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Norway - Norway WFP - WFP (DSS & NGOs) - WFP Institutional Feeding component will be terminated in July 1998 - UNICEF/CIDA - UNICEF - UNICEF - UNICEF - ILO/IPEC - ILO/IPEC - SDC (CMES) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elimination of child trafficking (MOWCA) - Elimination of child labour in garment industry - Continuing interests - UNDP - CIDA (Child as a distinct category i.e. impact of all projects on children will be assessed)
Capacity Building of the GOB		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to the institutional review - Strengthening planning capability of MWCA - National Action Plan for implementation of Beijing PFA - Sector Policy Development W&S - Institutional capacity building through technical support - Policy leadership and advocacy unit - Independent review of Bangladesh's development - Strengthen community based organisation - Capacity development of GLEWs - Group development - Management support - Project Implementation Unit - Training on management and monitoring practices - Training of trainers in the GOB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DANIDA, CIDA Norway, UNICEF, DFID, SIDA, Netherlands UNDP (MWCA) - DANIDA (MWCA) - DANIDA (LGED) - SIDA (GOB) - Core fund with other donors - SIDA - -WFP (DWA, DRR, DLS, BSB, DAE, NGOS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Follow up to institutional review and National Action Plan - Follow up to institutional review and National Action Plan for support to GOB - Higher allocation of GOB development resources - Participatory planning and monitoring

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - implementing agency - Developing linkages between GOB agencies - Equipment and logistic support to strengthen monitoring and reporting system of GOB implementing agency - Pouroshava strengthening program under ongoing development loan - RETA on good governance: Bangladesh a participating copuntry - Institutional Reform of Dhaka city Administration - Gender training for WID focal points - Development of a CEDAW training module and supporting CEDAW training for government official - CRC training for the GOB (district level/GO/NGO Forum) - Strengthening Management capability of the Dept. of Women's Affairs - Dhaka Urban Transport Project (under prepartion) - Strengthening Management capability of DWA - Technical assistance through gender facility - Policy leadership and advocacy unit - Modernisation of accounts - Monitoring adjustment and poverty - Analysis of poverty trends - Independent review of Bangladesh's development - Strengthening of MWCA capacity to consult with civil society groups (PLAGE) - Strengthening policy making capacity of MWCA (PLAGE) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ADB - ADB - ADB - UNICEF - UNICEF - UNFPA (GOB) - WB (GOB & NGO) - UNDP - CIDA (MOWCA, BWDB, BIDS, BBS, CPD/NGOs) - CIDA - CIDA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuing interests - Continuing interests - Continuing interests - Follow up to institutional review and National Action Plan for support to GOB - Review and National Action Plan for support to GOB - UNDP - ILO - Generation of data on poverty including gender desegregated data from poverty survey project, monitoring of poverty through certain indicators
Agriculture		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrated pest management (IPM) - Agriculture extension services - Integrated pest management - Women Labour Contracting Societies (LCS) for earthwork for construction of feeder roads type B and for maintenance of plantation along the road side - Rural infrastructure development project poultry raising under livestock project - Model Rural Development Project - Goat Farm Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DANIDA (DAE/NGO) - UNDP/FAO - WFP (DAE & NGOs) - ADB - ADB (LGED) - ADB (DLS) - JICA (BRDB) - JICA (BRDB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ongoing projects - Vegetable gardening - Ongoing projects - Continuing interest - Continuing interest

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agriculture Support Service Project - Assistance to homestead gardening - Northwest fisheries extension project - Grameen Motsya Foundation - CARE Aquaculture - Integrated Pest management - Bay of Bengal Program - Assistance to rural households o grow tree in homestead and farmlands, long term sustainability of the farming systems - Sustainable homestead gardening and agroforestry - Integrated pest management - Coastal Rehabilitation Project - Fisheries and vegetables production - Assistance to rural households - Agriculture extension services - Homestead gardening - Agricultural Technology Development Project - Fisheries and vegetables production - Strengthening of support services in irrigated agriculture - Thana Cereal Technology Transfer Identification Project - Integrated horticulture production and nutrition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (DFID/WB - DFID (CARE) - DFID - DFID - DFID - DFID - SDC (Village and Farm Forestry Project) - CAR: LIFT - EC (NGOs) - EC (CRP) - EC (DFO/NGO) - EC (RD 9) - EC (NGOs) - USAID - USAID (ATDP) - USAID (ICLARU, AVROC) - FAO - FAO/UNDP - UNDP/FAO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuing interest - CID - Farm to market enterprise development (DAE/GOB) and poultry feed development (DL/GOB) - Ongoing project - New project
Environment		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environment Sanitation - Strengthening Population and Environment Program, Independent University of Bangladesh - Solid Waste Management - Environment fund supported small projects - Floodplain fisheries for food security - Bay of Bengal Program for Fisheries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WFP (NGOs) - UNFPA (NGO) - SDC (WB and Prodipon) - CIDA - FAO/Denmark/ Japan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expanded tree nursery activities - Environment Project (DAE/GOB) - USAID - Ongoing Project

Source: ADP 1998-99, MWCA and donors.

5 WID/Gender Information Sources

5-1 List of International Organization and NGOs related to WID/ Gender

[Government Organization]

Name and Speciality	Past Rrecords (Project, etc.)	Report and Writing	Contact Address
Directorate of Women Affairs (DWA)		DWA Annual Report	Iskaton road, Dhaka

[NGOs]

Name and Speciality	Past Rrecords (Project, etc.)	Report and Writing	Contact Address
Saptagram Nari Swanirvar Parisad, Ms.Rokeya Rahman Kabeer (WID), Executive Director	Project for Women and Development	Annual Report	23/1 purana Paltan Line, Dhaka - 1000, Tel/Fax:837504
UBINIG, Executive Director (WID)	MS. Farida Akhtar, WID Report and Books	Annual Report	5/3 Barabo, Mohammadpur Ring Road, Dhaka - 1207

[Consultants]

Name and Speciality	Past Rrecords (Project, etc.)	Report and Writing	Contact Address
Brotee, Executive Director	MS. Sharmeen Morshed, Consultants concerning in WID, Report	Report	83, Laboratory Road, New Elephant Road Dhaka - 1207

[Research Institute]

Name and Speciality	Past Rrecords (Project, etc.)	Report and Writing	Contact Address
Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies	WID Report and Books	Annual Report, Report	17/E Agargaon Second Capital Dhaka

5-2 List of Reports and References related to WID/ Gender

<General>			
Title	Author	Year	Available at
Status of Women in Bangladesh	Rafiqul Huda Chowdhury and Nilufar Raihan Ahmed	1982	BIDS
Below the Poverty Line	Hasnat Abdul Hye	1996	The University Press Limited
The Fifty Percent : Women in Development and Policy in Bangladesh	Salma Khan	1988	The University Press Limited
Planning and Public Action for Asian Women	Rehman Sabhan	1992	The University Press Limited
<Education>			
Title	Author	Year	Available at
Bangladesh Strategies for Enhancing the Role of Women in Economic Development	The World Bank Publication	1990	The World Bank
Women's Vocational Training Center	McCullough, Irene	1986	
Statistical Yearbook	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics	1995	BBS
Educational Statistics	BANBEIS	1991	BBS
<Health • Training>			
Title	Author	Year	Available at
Women and Development	Women for Women Publication	1996	Women for Women
<Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery>			
Title	Author	Year	Available at
Agriculture Sector Review	Safilios - Rothschild, C and S. Mahmud	1989	UNDP/UNIFEM
The Role of Women in Fisheries in Bangladesh	Fazila Banu Lily	1986	World Bank
Task Force Report	Task force members	1991	The University Press Limited
<Gender>			
Title	Author	Year	Available at
The Position of Women in Bangladesh	Royal Netherlands Embassy	1996	Royal Netherlands Embassy
Women and Development in Bangladesh : Challenges and Opportunities	Rounaq Jahan	1989	Ford Foundation, Dhaka
The Wage Employment Market for Rural Women in Bangladesh	Rushidan Islam Rahman	1986	BIDS
Others			
Title	Author	Year	Available at
ASA : Situation Analysis of Children and Women in Bangladesh	UNICEF	1992	UNICEF

6. References

- UNICEF, 1996
The State of The World's Children 1996
- Ataf Ali, 1996
Women in Development Planning
- Bangladesh, Government of.
Annual Development Plan 1998-99
- Bangladesh, Government of.
The First Five Year Plan
- Bangladesh, Government of.
The Third Five Year Plan
- Bangladesh, Government of.
The Fifth Five Year Plan
- Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics 1994
Women and men in Bangladesh, Facts and Figures(1970-90)
- ESCAP, 1995
Women of Bangladesh: A Country Profile
- GOB and UNICEF, 1998
Mid term Review
- Mahmuda Islam, Poratima Majumder, Simen Mahmood
Addressing Gender Issues in Development
- The Ministry of Women Affairs, 1995
Revised Draft, National Plan of Action
- The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, 1996
Sectoral need assessment report of thirteen different ministries/ division(13 Reports)
- The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, 1997
Report Presented for Consideration of The UN Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women
- The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, 1997
Sex dis-aggregated statistics on key social development indicators
- United Nation, 1995
Platform for Action and Bijing Declaration
- UN CEDAW, 1993
Conideration of Reports Submitted by Status Prties Under Article 18 of CEDAW
- UNDP, 1999
Addressing Gender Issues (Draft)
- Unpublished Reports/ Papers of ERD/
Planning Commission and Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
- Women for Women, 1995
Empwermnt of Women Nairobi to Beijing (1985-95)
- Women for Women, 1996
Rural Women and Poverty
- World Bank, 1990
Bangladesh: Strategies for Enhancing the Role of Women in Economic Development
- World Bank, 1996
Bangladesh: Country Gender Profile

7. Definition

<Technical Terms>

Gender

Analytical concept to clarify the social role of men and women and interrelation between them. Sex (biological) is basically impossible to change, while gender implying the role of men and women and their interrelationship is likely to change according to social notion and sense of values.

Informal sector

Part of economy consisting of small competitive individual or family firms listed in the labor indicators. According to the definition of ILO, those engaged in this sector have simple technology, insufficient amount of capital, unidentified business location, minimum number of employees (or none of them), lack of legality and registration, and no capability of bookkeeping.

WID (Women in Development)

Concept of development incorporating women's participation into development processes, taking it into account that women are active agents and beneficiaries of development.

Reproductive health/rights

Health/Rights concerning sex and reproduction. To be able to live safe and satisfied sex life, and to have freedom to decide whether, when and how many children to deliver.

National machinery

Administrative organization to promote equal participation between men and women, and to implement and strengthen policies related to women, and to supplement organization for women.

Empowerment

To empower individuals or groups in political, economical and social sense

Affirmative action

Prioritized positive measure to promptly correct the difference, in the case that discriminated groups are placed in extremely unequal conditions to other groups, due to the discrimination accumulated in the past

Access and control

Access is to be able to use resources and services for the economic activity, or to have a right to exercise them. Control is a right to decide how to manage resources and services or to own them.

Reproductive activity

Activity to _reproduce for the next generation_ including to give a birth and raise the children, and to sustain the daily life, for instance, washing and cooking

<Indicators>

Inflation rate

Instead, GDP deflator is used.

Gini coefficient

Aggregate numerical measure of income inequality ranging from 0 to 1. 0 means perfect equality, and 1 perfect inequality. Larger than 0.4 are supposed to be high inequality.

Percentage of Women's Income

There are no appropriate data comparable to each country. UNDP works out that the women's income is 75% of men's in non-agricultural sector.

Total fertility rate

Average number of children whom a woman delivers in all her life

Under-one mortality rate

Annual number of infants who die among 1,000 newborn babies within 1 year after the birth

Under-five mortality rate

Annual number of infants who die 1,000 newborn babies within 5 years after the birth among
Maternal mortality rate

Annual number of mothers who die among 100,000 cases of delivery because of pregnancy

Percentage of births attended by trained health personnel

The rate of births with the help of doctors, nurses, midwives, trained health personnel,
or trained traditional midwives

Percentage of infants with low birth weight

The rate of newborn children of which the birth weight is less than 2,500 grams

Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) use rate

The rate of using oral rehydrate salt or substitute solution for
under-five infants having diarrhea

Enrolment ratio of primary and secondary school

Total enrolment ratio (or gross enrolment ratio) is the rate of pupils going to school
with no respect to school age against population at the school age. Net
enrolment ratio is the rate of pupils going to school at the school
age against the people at the school age.