

GSJ: Volume 9, Issue 1, January 2021, Online: ISSN 2320-9186 www.globalscientificjournal.com

# Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman : A Role Model of Empowering the Women regarding Social Welfare in Post Liberation War : A Critical Sociological View and Analysis

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<u>Abstract</u>

Women are resourceful economic actors around the world, overcoming stubborn, genderbased obstacles to advance their families' health, education, and economic sustainability. The empowerment of women is a developmental and most argumentative dilemma in the world. Women empowerment relies on the cultural, social, economic, and political aspects of the region. Women make up half of the population of Bangladesh, and their social, political, and economic engagement has risen significantly. After the War of Liberation 1971, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman urged his countrymen to give due honor and dignity to the women oppressed by the Pakistani armed force by which he meant a huge number of women who had been raped. Later the exceptional nationwide program that women leaders and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib's government coordinated to help war-affected women did successfully help many women and made new open space for women to work and live freely. This study is trying to present the role of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his government to empower the Bangladeshi women with different women welfare activities. Descriptive qualitative research techniques with secondary data were reviewed for eluting the objective of this study.

Keywords: Women, Empowerment, Liberation war, Bangabandhu, Welfare

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# Introduction :

Since independence Bangladesh has acquired huge changes in empowering women. It has detailed and actualized policies and programs that improve the conditions for women. Bangladesh has diminished maternal mortality and richness rates, accomplished gender equality in enrolment, presented gender quotas in government and instituted laws that address violence against women. The women's' development assumed a basic part in achieving these changes. Bangladesh has a long history of women coordinating to guarantee their privileges which can be followed back to anti-colonial struggles. The actors in women's movement have assembled throughout the year on various issues which include violence against women, gender in making sure about monetary chances and support, equivalent portrayal in political issues, conceptive rights, family law changes and gender mainstreaming in open policies. Bangladesh is right now classified as a lowermiddle income country that has been encountering a consistent pace of financial development over the most recent years. A country with Muslim-greater part with a parliamentary arrangement of government, it acquired freedom through a battle against Pakistan in 1971. Despite the social, cultural and structural barriers women have made extensive additions since Bangladesh got independence in 1971. The idea of progress made by women is lopsided and some gender inequalities stay persistent. Different measures and activities by the state, NGOs, women's privileges bunches have prompted legitimate changes and improved women's wellbeing and expanded chances for instruction, monetary cooperation, and presence in governmental issues. In 2016, Bangladesh positions as the 127th country in UNDP's Human Development Index. While this shows that there is a lot to be done, the speed with which changes in women's wellbeing, instruction, financial support was accomplished is astounding; especially in light of the fact that Bangladeshi women had a lower beginning stage contrasted with different nations in the area and the rate of poverty reduction was unobtrusively contrasted with the improvement in social advancement indicators (Hossain, 2017).

To understand the scenario and the pathway to empower the women right after liberation war and onward, this paper will at the beginning will explore how does the women has been treated right after liberation war 1971 and in addition will explore the leadership strategy of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to address the women in newly independent country as well as the initiatives the government has taken which is continuing later with great ambition to empower the Bangladeshi women in all aspect.

# **Research Objective**

The tale of Bangladesh's development achievement is vague from the account of women's empowerment in Bangladesh: changes in the lives of women are widely treated as both circumstances and logical results of the huge improvements in human development in the past 25 years (Mahmud et al., 2017; Hossain, 2018). During Bangladesh's independence movement against Pakistan in 1971, the Pakistani armed force embraced a system of rape. Thus, somewhere in the range of 200,000 and 400,000 women were assaulted and

madesex slaves in Pakistani military camps (Debnath, 2009; Mookherjee, 2002). After the war, the new Bangladeshi state awarded these women the title of birangona—war heroiine—and dispatched different financial projects to restore them and reintegrate them into society. The research aim of this study to examine the prior moment of empowering Bengali women just after the Liberation war 1971. The aim of the study is to analyses the contribution of Bangabandhu interms of women empowerment with different social welfare works. To develop the study and to reach its aims, a broad objective has been fixed and the broadobjective of the study is "To Understand the Contribution of BangabandhuSheikh MujiburRahman for empowering women through different social welfare works just afterLiberation war 1971." To achieve the main objective some specific objectives have been identified. These are-

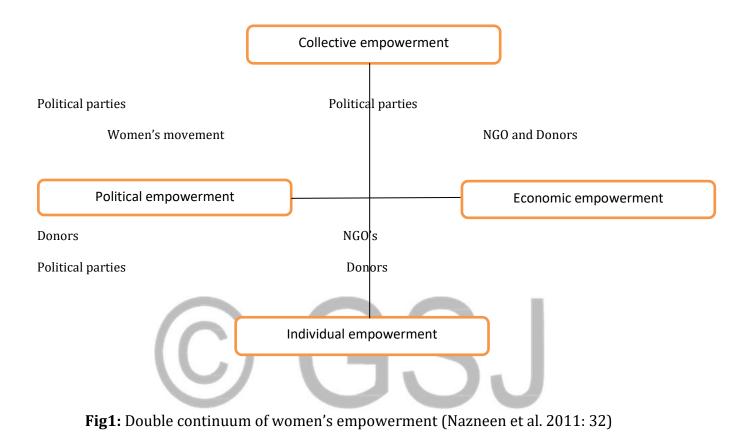
- 1. Analyzing the women rehabilitation programs initiative taken by Bangabandhu government after liberation war 1971.
- 2. Exploring the progress of women in different socio-economic sectors of Bangladesh.

#### Literature Review :

Empowerment implies giving power and authority. In the perspective empowerment has a lot of definitions and literature. Empowerment as growing individuals' capacity to settle on essential life decisions, especially in settings in which this capacity had been denied to them (Kabeer, 2005). Women in Uganda and Guatemala characterized empowerment as the capacity to improve personal satisfaction, regardless of whether financially or comparable to self-sufficiency, as dynamic limit, balance with men and eliminate dependency (Alkire and Foster, 2009). Empowerment is characterized as a gathering's or person's ability to settle on powerful decisions, that is, to settle on decisions and afterward to change those decisions into wanted activities and results (Malhotra and Schuler, 2002). Empowerment has been utilized to speak to a wide scope of ideas and empowerment characterized as the upgrade of resources and abilities of assorted people and gatherings to draw in, impact and consider responsible the organizations which influence them (Malhotra and Schuler, 2002; Kabeer, 2005). The empowerment cycle isn't straightforwardly noticeable, and empowerment brings with the two rights and duties, and may prompt a few opportunities being reduced (Mahmud, Shah and Becker, 2012). Empowerment is anything but a stoppable issue; it is a constant improvement measure with regards to socio-economic environment (Reza, 2018). Empowerment is likewise seen as the cycle by which the powerless deal with their lives, acquiring power not over others but rather to accomplish objectives and in this manner practicing decision is viewed as acquiring power or empowerment (Nosheen and Professor, 2012). Empowerment is a functioning, multi-dimensional cycle which empowers women to understand their full personality and power in all circles of life and the power should be obtained and once acquired it should be and once gained it should be worked out, sustained, and preserved (Islam, 2015).

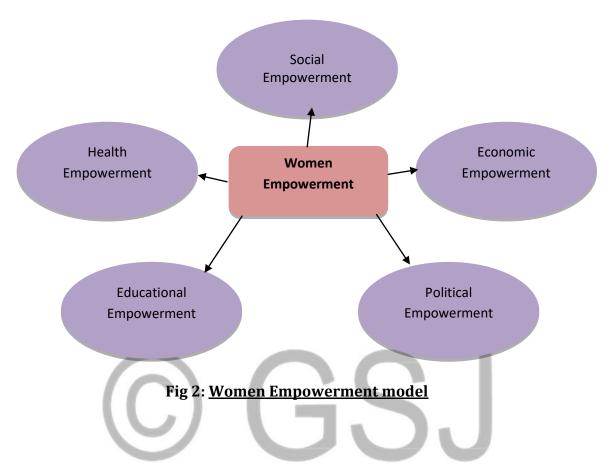
**Nazneen et al. (2011)** depict how the term empowerment evolved in Bangladesh from the initially instrumentalized logic of international donors to a more nuanced understanding with multiple discourses on divergent meanings. They have concluded in their review of

documents by NGOs, political parties, women's groups and donors in Bangladesh that empowerment is seen mostly as an individual, and not a collective or institutionalized, mechanism, focused on material means, rather than greater structural change. The authors visualized this in a double continuum of empowerment from individual to collective and from economic to political empowerment.



**Theoretical Framework :** 

Empowerment can't be infused from outside, rather it must be obtained by the women through their dynamic association in the development process. Yet, it doesn't suggest that all enhancements in women's position are achieved by women themselves as it were. Social and world of politics is likewise considered to assume a significant job in a similar combined with the income acquires they appreciate while partaking in financial exercises. Thus, the empowerment model consistently envelops various components of empowerment. A dominant part of research concentrates on microfinance and women's empowerment begins from economic empowerment of women with the supposition that female borrowers who effectively increment their income are fundamentally empowered. Thus, the current Study receives the accompanying model to evaluate the empowerment of women. Empowerment isn't an amount of all individual elements of empowerment; however it is a mix of various measurements which are interlinked with affecting one another.



There are various steps in achieving women empowerment:

1. The first step begins at a personal level. An individual woman develops feelings of personal power, command and self-sufficiency over material and inherent choices she has to make.

2. In the second step, empowerment takes place on an interpersonal level. Here a woman influences the decision-making power of another woman through their contact and working together.

3. In the third step, they emphasize the goals for social action and social change. A community development programme develops through a group effort. But there can be possibility of backward linkage also. A community development programme can lead to individual empowerment and interpersonal empowerment (Kochurani Joseph, 2005)

# **Research Methodology :**

The purpose of this article is to explain in detail the research methods and the methodology implemented for this study. The article will explain first of all the choice of research

approach, then the research design. This will be followed by a discussion on their ability to produce valid results, meeting the aims and objectives set by this study.

## **Research Approach**

This study makes use of qualitative research strategy, where the research approach implemented has been that of interpretivism. Willis (2007) defines interpretivism as an approach which is implemented by the researcher in order to synthesize facts which are derived mainly from secondary sources, and which are qualitative in nature. He also observes that one characteristic of interpretivism is that these facts are abstract in nature and governed by a variety of factors which are non-tangible and difficult to measure. These can be economic, social, or cultural factors. Therefore, for the purposes of this research, the author chose the interpretivist approach, rather than the positivist and the pragmatist approaches.

## **Research Design**

This research makes use of a qualitative research strategy in the sense that there will be no numeric data or quantitative data was produced (Bell, 2005; Sarantakos, 2013; Silverman, 2004). A qualitative research strategy is particularly applicable for the purposes of this research, where the connection between several different variables had to be established through interpretation. Also, the research makes use of triangulation because triangulation gives the opportunity to approach the research objectives from different viewpoints (Cohen and Manion, 2002; Altrichter et. Al, 2008), obtaining a more nuanced view of the connections between the different variables. Thus, this research is based on the secondary data analysis. The secondary data was derived from different journals, websites, books, articles, national and international newspapers. A descriptive technique for qualitative analysis was used for executing.

#### Findings and Discussion :

In a November 1972 report on the Women's Rehabilitation Board, named "Women's Rehabilitation Towards Emancipation", Jahangeer Haider made it very clear that nothing short of a social revolution would allow the hundreds of thousands of Bangladeshi women who had been raped as well as left without male insurance or property - and their kids - to survive in the coming years.

In his words, these women needed to work and earn. The Women's Rehabilitation Board hence opened the Women's Career Training Institute - the first professional vocational training institution for women in Bangladesh - in Bailey Road under the bearing of Taherunnessa Abdullah, who had recently been the facilitator of women's preparation at the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development in Comilla. The Women's Career Training Institute has three segments: a six-month secretarial course encouraged qualified women composing, shorthand, office management, and recording, just as the English language and public introduction abilities they expected to get work as secretaries. The second part trained women to utilize Singer hand-worked sewing machines, take estimations and make designs. Graduates were given their own machine and left the program with startup capital. Some started their own business; some looked for some kind of employment in tailoring shops. The third part elaborate preparing in the territory of jute and cane works; a large number of these women additionally began their own shops.

The Women's Rehabilitation Board set up a residential poultry farm in Savar, run by waraffected women, and furthermore housed women and offered preparing programs in handiworks and fitting at its Mohammadhur Proceeding House - a structure that it repeated in all the regions. What's more, the Central Organization for Women's Rehabilitation in Eskaton Road, with Maleka Khan as its Executive Director as of February 1973, offered to prepare programs that included handiworks, sewing machine activity, and cooking.

Simultaneously, different groups attempted to make advertising sources for the results of the numerous women who were talented in customary Bangladesh handiworks and now expected to offer their work to help their families. CORR-The Jute Works was made in 1973 via CARITAS/Bangladesh to advertise jute items (and is today perhaps the biggest exporter of handiworks). Karika - the Bangladesh Handicrafts Cooperative Federation - was set up by Hameeda Hossain, Ruby Ghuznavi and Perveen Ahmad.

# "You will be an ambassador"- Campaign.

Thousands of women abruptly required work. The training organizations knocked on doors all over the country; political and civil society leaders utilized each association they needed to secure positions. Many war-affected women looked for some kind of employment with the Women's Rehabilitation Foundation itself (and were in this manner taken over by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs when it consolidated the association). Minister of Education Budrunnessa Ahmad set qualified women as instructors in schools the nation over. (Nasreen, 2010)

Sheikh Mujib himself met with various women searching for work and on one remarkable event, he consented to particularly audacious request by Mahmuda Haque Choudhury, a war widow with a master's degree in political science, who asked to be posted to the Foreign Office. As Sheikh Mujib pointed out to Choudhury, there were no women in the Foreign Office, notwithstanding, after reflecting that things in Bangladesh didn't need to proceed with the manner in which they had been in Pakistan, he issued an order transferring her to the Foreign Office and furthermore marked another request determining that 10% of all civil service jobs were to be filled by women. "You will be an ambassador" he advised her. Furthermore, truth be told, she did at last ascent through the positions to turn into the ambassador to Bhutan in 1996. (Nasreen, 2010) Although numerous women looked for some kind of employment in 1972 and 1973, an enormous number with restricted capabilities and abilities were difficult to put. Sheikh Mujib in this manner issued an appeal for young men to come forward to marry "distressed" young women and Justice Sobhan announced that he was setting up a marriage bureau to haggle with any young men ready to marry the "dishonored" women. The Central Organization for Women's Rehabilitation arranged the wedding of around 10 women and Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib, who turned out resolutely for bothered women after the war and requested that they think of her as their mom, outfitted them with the household goods they needed. (Nilima, 1997)



#### **Social and Economic Development**

Since the independence, women in Bangladesh made a huge impact on its economy. They played a significant role in increasing GDP and led the country towards economic development. Customarily women's' part in the public arena was restricted to the private circle. Women are essentially liable for the family errands, kid raising, and really focusing on the more distant family individuals living in the conjugal home. While the predominant perspective on women's' job in the public arena places accentuation on their job as mothers, spouses also, daughter in law, in the course of the most recent 40 years this view has been tested as an ever-increasing number of women enter the labor market and political, approach and social spaces. (Hossain, 2017) In the year 1990, the rate of women (ages 15+) participation in labor force was 24.72%. This rate has increased with time. In 2020, the rate was 36.41%. ("Labor force participation rate, female (% of female population ages 15+) (modeled ILO estimate) - Bangladesh | Data", 2021)

Notwithstanding remaining obstacles, the status of women in Bangladesh has improved in numerous ways in the course of the most recent 40 years. As indicated by BBS (2008) the

women's' workforce has expanded from 5.4 million of every 1995-96 to 12.1 million out of 2005-06. Out of the complete workforce, 80.8 percent of ladies are occupied with family work. In the 40-49 age bunch the interest of women in the workforce had crested at 35.1 percent. (Khan, Rahman & Kabir, 2014)

|            | 2010LaborForceSurvey                              |        |  | 2013LaborForceSurvey                                   |                                 |  |             |
|------------|---|--------|--|--|---------------------------------|--|-------------|
| Division   | Female Populatio<br>15YearsOld<br>Older<br>('000) |        | Female Labor<br>Force Participation<br>Rate<br>(%) | Female Population<br>15YearsOld<br>and Older<br>('000) | Female Labor<br>Force<br>('000) | Female L<br>Force Participation<br>Rate<br>(%) | abor<br>and |
| Barisal    | 949   | 2,944  | 32.2   | 3,058  | 945                             | 30.9   |             |
| Chittagong | 2,743   | 8,846  | 31.0   | 9,809  | 3,568                           | 36.4   |             |
| Dhaka      | 5,565   | 15,300 | 36.4   | 18,401   | 6,614                           | 35.9   |             |
| Khulna     | 2,093   | 5,747  | 36.4   | 6,516  | 1,754                           | 26.9   |             |
| Rajshahi   | 4,891   | 12,100 | 40.4   | 7,328  | 2,500                           | 34.1   |             |
| Rangpur    |   |        |  | 6,163  | 1,830                           | 29.7   |             |
| Sylhet     | 942   | 2,796  | 33.7   | 2,934  | 945                             | 32.2   |             |

#### Table 1:Female Labor Force Participation by Division, 2010 and 2013

**Sources:** Analysis of data from Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). 2012. Labour Force Survey 2010. Dhaka; and BBS. 2015. Labour Force Survey 2013. Dhaka.

From the above table we can clearly state that, female labor force has increased since 2010 to 2013 in different division of Bangladesh. It can be marked as a positive change that happened with time. It is clear that with the time being, women have become more economically independent and at the same time they have participated raising the country's economy.

The female workforce support rate expanded from 2003 to 2006 and afterward expanded drastically from 2006 to 2010, arriving at 36.1%. The latest LFS, in 2013, discovered ladies' support declined to 33.5%, or a 2.6 rate point fall between the two studies, according to LFS. (ADB, 2016) The statistics clearly portray the participation of women in the economic sector. Women took part as active participants in the development process and set a trademark here.

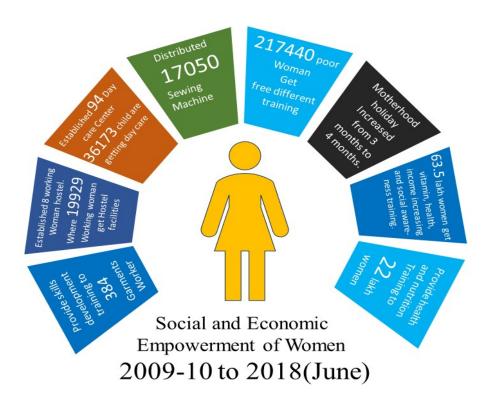


Fig 4: Social and economic empowerment of women 2009-2018

A great source of our economy is the RMG sector and women play a major role here. They are the main driving force in this sector. Bangladesh is a modest work nation, particularly female work. Articles of clothing industry have gotten prospering here on account of female modest work (3.2 million female specialists, which is 80% of all out work of RMG area). Bangladeshi female are generally master in sewing. They are imaginative in garments. Due to their imagination and difficult work, they become a good example in the articles of clothing industry and the fundamental sending out things in Bangladesh are articles of clothing items. No areas can bring as much unfamiliar cash (24 billion of every 2013-14, which is the 81% of aggregate public fare) that Bangladesh acquire from this area. (Rahman & Siddiqui, 2015)

| Total RMG sector |          |       | Female RMG worker |       |       |          |         |
|------------------|----------|-------|-------------------|-------|-------|----------|---------|
| FY               | National | GDP   | Employ            | worke | Worke | National | GDP (%) |
|                  | Export(  | (%)   | ment              | r     | r (%) | Export   |         |
|                  | %)       |       |                   |       |       | (%)      |         |
| 2013-14          | 81.16    | 14.07 | 4                 | 3.2   | 80    | 64.93    | 11.256  |
| 2012-13          | 79.61    | 16.57 | 4                 | 3.16  | 79    | 62.89    | 13.0903 |
| 2011-12          | 78.6     | 16.31 | 4                 | 2.88  | 72    | 56.59    | 11.7432 |
| 2010-11          | 78.14    | 16    | 3.6               | 2.88  | 80    | 62.51    | 12.8    |
| 2009-10          | 77.12    | 12.45 | 3.6               | 2.7   | 75    | 57.84    | 9.3375  |

**Table 2:** Contribution of female RMGworker to national economy

This table clearly states that how women are leading the RMG sector for a long time. They also create a greater impact on the country's GDP by participating in the workforce. In 2013-2014, 80% workers in the RMG sector were the women and they ensured 11.256% GDP that year. Every year the rate of women participation and their achievement has increased. National export rate increased from 57.84% to 64.53% and women played the lead role here.

Women - particularly from helpless family units are moving into the formal pay work market in expanding number. Ladies' contribution in the work market isn't regularly her individualchoice. The 1999-2000 workforce review uncovers that ladies' investment in the paid workforce rose from 15.8% (in 1995/96) to 23.9% (in 1999/00) (BBS, 2002). Anyway under business is high when all is said in done in Bangladesh with 35% of the all-out workforce working under 35 hours during a reference week; these rates are higher in the rural area (46% generally) and are especially intense for ladies of whom 72% are underemployed. Ladies additionally move all through the paid work power more habitually for a few reasons, a large number of which are natural for low – talented sectors. Women with lower schooling generally occupied with low compensation work in India. Day workers in the rural area are employed generally just on occasional premise, and in assembling areas business might be casual with short – term commitment and unregulated working conditions. (Kalam & Al Amin, 2016)

| Sector                    | Women as % of total work force in each sector |
|---------------------------|---|
| Total                     | 19.2  |
| Public// autonomous       | 11.9  |
| Formal sector (private)   | 6. 2  |
| Informal sector (private) | 22.7  |
| Non profit institutions   | 44.2  |

 Table 3: Proportion of women in selected sectors of the economy in Bangladesh

Source: LFS 1999 – 2000: total proportion excludes temporary and day labourers

#### Women in Politics

Women of Bangladesh are making their marks in politics just like the other sectors. At this present moment they are leading the political area with a great success. In order to appreciate gender issues in Bangladeshi politics, it is necessary to look at the degree of the participation of women and men in decision-making in different Organizations and to find out the gender gap and unequal scenario in each institution. "Ideas regarding the difference between private and public worlds forcefully restrict the participation of women in decision -making institutions". During the British period, local government remained almost the absolute sphere of men. The entry of women into the political process through a wider franchise and the contesting of elections on both reserved and general seats were first introduced through the achievement in 1935 of the Government of India Act. Quotas for women in Parliament is also experiencing in reaching their present level of 45 out of a

total of 345 seats. Since independence in 1971, the Bangladesh has intended to bring women into national politics through electoral quotas. Under the constitution, 15 seats for women (4.8 percent of total seats) were reserved in Parliament. The number of seats reserved for women was increased to 30 (or 9.7 percent of the total) in 1979. But this provision voided in 1987, and for the next three years there were no quotas for women in the national Parliament. "In 1990, a constitutional reform renewed the 30 seats reserved for women" (Commonwealth Secretariat, 1999: 28). The provision, reserving 30 seats voided again in 2000. There have been several controversies about the number of seats to be reserved for women in the Parliament and the way for filling these seats. Finally, a constitutional reform women in Parliament was increased to 45. The amendment also pointed out that the quota for women would be assigned to political parties based on their position or number of seats they have in the Parliament. (Rahman, 2014)

| Election<br>Year | Total<br>Percentage<br>of Women<br>Candidate | Number of<br>Women<br>elected in<br>general<br>seats |     | Number of<br>Women in<br>reserved<br>seats | •    |
|------------------|--|--|-----|--|------|
| 1973             | 0.3  | 0  | 0   | 15   | 4.8  |
| 1979             | 0.9  | 2  | 0.7 | 30   | 9.7  |
| 1986             | 1.3  | 5  | 1.7 | 30   | 10.6 |
| 1988             | 0.7  | 4  | 1.3 | -  | 1.3  |
| 1991             | 1.5  | 5  | 1.7 | 30   | 10.6 |
| 1996             | 1.39   | 7  | 2.3 | 30   | 11.2 |
| 2001             | 1.9  | 6  | 2   | -  | 2    |
| 2008             | 3.54   | 19   | 3   | 45   | 18.6 |

 Table 4:Women's Representation in different Parliaments of Bangladesh (based on year)

#### Source: Bangladesh Election Commission

The Awami League that drove Bangladesh to freedom previously administered the nation based on 1970 races, in which it won an avalanche triumph in East Pakistan. On 15 August 1975 President Mujibur Rahman and all his relatives aside from his two girls were severely murdered in a military overthrow. General Ziaur Rahman came to control in 1975 through overthrow and countercoup. In 1981 Zia was slaughtered in an unsuccessful upset. Ershad came to control through a bloodless upset. Without reasonable male beneficiaries, these two ladies pioneers arose in Bangladesh because of the low degree of political regulation. (Chowdhury, 2009) In spite of the rise of Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia, ladies' portrayal in the parliament of Bangladesh is irrelevant as in other South Asian nations. In the 10th parliament the level of straightforwardly chose ladies individuals is 6.33%, and including saved seats 18.55%.4 which is a lot higher than in the main parliament of 1973. In the principal parliament the portrayal of ladies was just 4.8%. Albeit female citizens comprise more than one-portion of the all-out electors, their portraval in the parliament isn't proportionate to the quantity of female electors. The female Members of Parliament from the held seats were considered as simple 'trimmings' because of the nonattendance of any compelling investment by them in parliament. (ibid)

To include more women in parliament, Bangladesh government likewise sets up a few enactments, for example, Women and Children Repression Act 1995 that revised in 2000 and Dowry Preclusion Act 1980 that changed in 1982, these enactments are an endeavor to guarantee women presence in political exercises in Bangladesh. Nonetheless, since its freedom, as far as number, women political investment in Bangladesh has not demonstrating the critical number before a very long time because of Bangladeshi women are distraught and denied equivalent rights with men. In the time of 1973 political decision to 2001, there are no over 12% of ladies participate parliament. Anyway in 2014 the political decision result show the rate of ladies vanquish the parliament seats increment up to 20.3% or 71 situates out of 350 seats. The governmental policy regarding minorities in society given by the Bangladesh government at least can pull in ladies cooperation to seek authoritative seats. (Bahari, Tantra & Widodo, 2019)

Women of Bangladesh are participating in politics more than before but still the path is not very easy for them. Women actually fall behind men as far as support in governmental issues as practically totally enlisted ideological groups are set to miss their objective of guaranteeing 33 percent portrayal of ladies in their boards of trustees by 2020. Women's investment in direct decisions to parliament and neighborhood government bodies are likewise poor. The Representation of the People Order 1972 specifies that all enrolled ideological groups need to build the extent of female portrayal in their panels to 33 percent by 2020. As per Election Commission authorities, with just a single year left, 38 of the 40 ideological groups enrolled with the commission presently can't seem to guarantee even 20% portrayal of ladies in their councils. Just the Ganafront and the Progressive Democratic Party expressed in their advancement report that they previously guaranteed 33 percent women portrayal in their advisory groups. In its report, the decision Awami League said that it had 18 percent women portrayal in its focal leader advisory group as the 81-part board included 15 women. Of the 16-part presidium collection of Awami League, just four, including Sheikh Hasina, are ladies while Khaleda Zia is the lone lady in the 19part public standing advisory group of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party. As indicated by the advancement reports put together by the gatherings who professed to have gained ground, BNP had 15 percent, Jatiya Party 20%, Gantanry Party 15 percent, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal 12 percent, Jatiya Ganatantrik Party 12 percent, Bangladesh Muslim League 6 percent and Bangladesh Islami Front had 1 percent ladies portrayals in all panels. The gatherings, be that as it may, didn't detail their boards of trustees. She said that her gathering gave most noteworthy endeavors to guarantee 33 percent female portrayal in advisory groups by 2020.

#### Women and Education

Education is one of the most crucial tools for development. In a developing country like Bangladesh, it is a bit difficult to ensure quality education at every level. But it is a good sign that despite the difficulties, Bangladesh is doing quiet fine ensuring education, especially female education. If we see the table below, we can clearly see the increasing rate of female literacy in Bangladesh. Every year the rate increased proportionally with the total literacy rate. In 2001, women literacy rate was 41.8% while the total literacy rate was 46.1%. This rate of women literacy rate increased to 53.9% in the year 2010. Within 10 years the rate increased 7.8% which is a remarkable progress indeed. It can be marked as a great achievement for a country like Bangladesh which is struggling with its economy. (BBS, 2011)

| Year | Total literature rate (%) | Female literature rate (%) |
|------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2001 | 46.1                      | 41.8                       |
| 2002 | 48.8                      | 44.5                       |
| 2003 | 49.1                      | 50                         |
| 2004 | 49.9                      | 46.2                       |
| 2005 | 52.1                      | 48.8                       |
| 2006 | 52.5                      | 49.1                       |
| 2007 | 56.1                      | 52.7                       |
| 2008 | 57.7                      | 54.6                       |
| 2009 | 56.7                      | 53.8                       |
| 2010 | 56.8                      | 53.9                       |

# Table 5: Female enrollment rate (Source: BANBEIS, 2013)

Enrolment rate additionally speaks to the present circumstance of female education in Bangladesh. In this segment, researchers investigate it as indicated by essential educational enrolment rate and optional educational enrolment rate. All in this manner information were introduced beneath. Besides, it has been found that in 2001, 17,659,220 understudies were selected in essential level where female enlistment rate was 49.0%. Besides in 2011, 18,432,499 understudies were tried out essential level where female enlistment rate expanded in essential degree of Bangladesh. From this table, it has been discovered that in 2001, 43.06% understudies were tried out auxiliary level where female enlistment rate was 46.2%. Besides in 2011, 47.67% understudies were tried out auxiliary level where female enlistment rate was 52%. Therefore, in a decade ago, female understudies' enrolment rate was 20.14, 20.14)

|      | and the second se |      |              |
|------|---|------|--------------|
| Year | At Primary  | Year | At Secondary |
| 2001 | 49.0%   | 2001 | 46.2%        |
| 2002 | 49.7%   | 2002 | 48.2%        |
| 2003 | 49.2%   | 2003 | 48.5%        |
| 2004 | 49.6%   | 2004 | 48.7%        |
| 2005 | 50.1%   | 2005 | 47.2%        |
| 2006 | 50.4%   | 2008 | 44.8%        |
| 2007 | 50.7%   | 2009 | 46.8%        |
| 2011 | 50.4%   | 2010 | 51.4%        |
|      |   | 2011 | 52%          |

 Table 6: Female Literacy rate (Source: BBS,2011)

# **Stipend Program for Female Students**

Adolescent young female are currently obvious in huge numbers, going to and from school in rustic zones – in itself a major change. The FSP (Female Stipend Program) offers a stipend to urge families to send young girls to class, and to assist with meeting the expenses of schooling. The principal type of the FSP for auxiliary level young ladies was set up by Bangladesh Association for Community Education in 1982. The pilot project was supposedly roused by populace related writing which proposed that young girl's' enrolment in auxiliary instruction would postpone marriage and increment prophylactic use, and subsequently decrease richness levels.

Under the program, young girls in rustic territories in Classes 6–10 are qualified for the allowance, restrictive on their keeping at least 75 percent participation, getting at least 45 percent in yearly school tests, and staying unmarried up to the Secondary School Certificate assessment in Year 10.

Improvement Goals of disposing of gender difference in training. Regarding expanding enrolment, the FSP has without a doubt been a triumph. Ascending from around 700,000 recipients in the principal year of the cross-country program, the number topped in 2001 at in excess of 4 million as more young girls finished elementary school, more schools joined the program, new young girls joined the program, and more young girls remained on at more elevated levels.

We should hold on to perceive what affect the 'straightening out' has had on the general enrolment of young ladies, however, there has in all likelihood been a drop in young girls' enrolment in 2004 and 2005. The FSP was, and still is, based inside a Women in Development framework, with an emphasis on how women can help advancement, as opposed to the other way around – an illustration of what portrays as projects that 'use women as an apparatus for a more prominent great'. Bank Discussion Paper Letting Girls Learn is a genuinely delegate model. It centers on the training of young girls, refers to early types of the FSP as a 'promising methodology' in instruction, and speaks to the considering in any event one of the significant outer offices associated with the FSP.

It was composed when plans for the cross-country program were being thought of. It records the standard WID defenses for more noteworthy interest in young girl's schooling, for example, better, better-taught kids and decreased populace development. Albeit current authority government strategy emphatically advances girls' and women's' schooling, private opposition may neutralize that public arrangement. Some exploration demonstrates that her dad's schooling and resources may really negatively affect a young lady's tutoring in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh – investigating factors that impact the bartering intensity of family individuals. – contrasted and 48 percent in 1996 – and gives the 2000 auxiliary Gross Enrolment Rate as 45 percent for young men and 47 percent for young ladies. In this way, if figures are right, Bangladesh has prevailing with regards to giving equivalent admittance to young girls and young boys at essential and auxiliary levels. Thousand years Development Goals identifying with sex in training specifically, and sexual orientation fairness and strengthening all in all. In an investigation arranged during the approach the usage of the cross country FSP in 1994, show that the most often referenced preferred position of instructing young ladies was that they could land positions. Albeit the two people said this, very nearly 50% of girls referred to it, contrasted and just around 30% of men, men's reactions having a tendency to be spread over different classifications, for example, 'instruct her own kids'. The second most as often as possible referred to advantage generally speaking was that training would assist a young lady with improving spouse, in an assessment of FSP experimental runs programs, show that schooling for young ladies is generally seen as a homegrown advantage, empowering them to improve spouses, to help their husbands, or to instruct and take care of their own youngsters better.

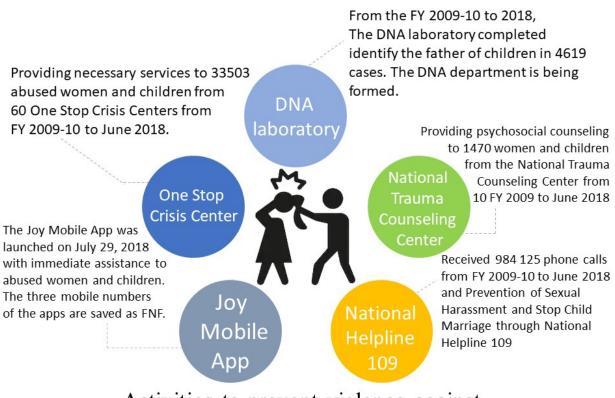
Nor is everybody certain that instruction ought to or can assist a young lady with finding a new line of work. One issue which creates surprisingly blended reports is that of the effect of schooling on share, which can be viewed as a marker of the status and estimation of young ladies in the public eye. A few early FSP messages remark emphatically on the effect of schooling on share, albeit most refer to no experimental proof to help the case.

At the optional level, aside from focusing on young ladies' enrolment, numerous training programs – the FSP being one – additionally have a target of directing young ladies into instructing. This is halfway to guarantee that young ladies have female good examples in schools, somewhat in light of the fact that instructing is viewed as an 'appropriate' job for women, yet in addition to address the issues of the always growing training framework. (Raynor, 2005)

#### Maternal Health Status in Bangladesh

Like the other sectors, Bangladesh made remarkable development in the health sector especially in maternal health. Bangladesh has accomplished striking advancement in populace and health in the course of recent years and is one of six nations that are on target to accomplish the MDG for decreasing kid mortality. Over the most recent 15 years, U5MR has declined from 133 deaths for every 1000 live births to 65. This decay is generally because of decrease in the youngster death rate from 50 to 14 and the post-neonatal death rate from 35 to 15. The neonatal death rate, be that as it may, stays high at 37 representing 57 percent of all under-5 deaths. Albeit maternal deaths keep on declining consistently, the MMR is still high around 340 for every 100,000 live births. Since, the mid 1970s, the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has declined from 6.3 youngsters per ladies to 2.6 in 2011, and the prophylactic commonness rate has expanded from 8 percent to 56 percent. Nonetheless. spontaneous pregnancies actually represent 30%, all things considered. Enhancements in the utilization of family arranging and maternal and youngster wellbeing administrations are especially delayed in some geographic territories of the nation. ("Maternal and child health and nutrition", 2021) Maternal wellbeing is a central point in designing the nourishing status of children, especially in the main phase of earliest stages. The discoveries uncover that maternal variables effect sly affected both extreme just as moderate intense under nutrition in Bangladesh. It is to be noticed that low maternal sustenance levels were related with a higher danger of squandering, low birth weight with

intense medical issue in kids. There are too explanations behind maternal wellbeing.(Rahman, 2018)



# Activities to prevent violence against women and children **2009-10 to 2018**

Fig 5: Activities to prevent violence against women and children 2009-2018

# Policy evaluation regarding maternal health

Disregarding acquiring an amazing change in various public health markers in Bangladesh, lack of healthy sustenance is as yet a concerning issue for us. This investigation noticed a diminishing pattern in pervasiveness of hindering in Bangladesh, while and predominance of squandering as of late is expanding. The anticipated level of hindering is higher than the public objective 2021. In the end on the off chance that we don't make vital strides, we won't have the option to arrive at SDG target 2.2 about unhealthiness. Guaranteeing a sound maternal and kid soundness of a nation is basic for sound general wellbeing status of the nation. Decreases in hindering and different types of under sustenance can be

accomplished through demonstrated mediations which incorporate improving ladies' nourishment, particularly previously, during and after pregnancy; early and elite breastfeeding; ideal, protected, proper and great corresponding food; and fitting micronutrient intercessions. Progress on kid and maternal sustenance is expected to lessen significant levels of under nourishment on child endurance, development, and improvement. (Rajia, Sabiruzzaman, Islam, Hossain & Lestrel, 2019) To improve admittance to quality maternity care at far off territories, two unmistakable maternity administrations are actualized. In the DSF program, alongside free maternity administrations, the two customers and suppliers get extra monetary motivating forces for typical and cesarean conveyances. DSF program has been actualized in 94 essential and auxiliary offices with empowering impacts. Crisis Obstetric Care program without impetuses. The private medical care area gives broad market based mobile and indoor maternal consideration generally at metropolitan zones. Government focused to increment gifted participation upon entering the world from 12.2% in 2001 to half by 2015. In any case, by 2010, just about 27% births were directed by SBAs at wellbeing offices. Out of the rest 77% home conveyances, over 72% were led by conventional birth orderlies. The quantity of the detailed cesarean conveyances was expanded by 5-folds from 2.6% in 2001 to in 2010 among every financial gathering. Extent of cesarean area is higher in the private than in the public sector. Since 2000, EmOC offices have been expanding at public and private areas. (Roy & Shengelia, 2016)

#### **Conclusion :**

The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's whole life bears declaration to his enduring affection and energy for Bangladesh and Bengalis alongside his solid fighting leadership with a liberal heart. Through his political premonitions and leadership, he transformed the typical political process into revolution and swerved the revolution into Liberation War. Bangabandhu guaranteed women's equivalent rights in all circles of life. The 1972 Constitution obviously expressed that means ought to be taken to ensure interest of women in all spheres of public life (Article 28). Considering the socio-economic and cultural imperatives looked by women in our society, it reserved 15 seats for women in the Parliament for a very long time (Article 65.3) which was later expanded to 50 through the 15th amendment to the Constitution of Bangladesh. Bangabandhu believed that empowered women can get more prominent awareness and fearlessness, which aids them in battling against a wide range of imbalances in every sphere.

Women made glorious contributions in our independence struggle and they played a leading role in the Language Movement of 1952. The multifaceted association of women all through the time of the Liberation War contributed to build up women's political rights in Bangladesh. During the Liberation War, women aroused public assessment, accumulated knowledge, offered clinical assistance, given food and shelter to the freedom fighters, raised the freedom fighters' morale with patriotic songs, disguised weapons for the obstruction, gathered assets, and even waged war to battle in the war. Women's contribution and investment in the Liberation War was multifaceted and broadened. Then again, expatriate women helped the Liberation War acquire force by giving their help at displaced person camps and impacting global assessment. The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman began the way toward inspiring the status of women by setting up their equivalent rights, while his daughter Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has attempted different strides to guarantee development of women and girl in Bangladesh. She is resolved to actualize the dreams of Bangabandhu by guaranteeing the rights and dignity of women according to the country's constitution by putting women's empowerment at the core of our development tries. Bangladeshi women have effectively broken the unreasonable impediments every which way; from sports to governmental issues, from business to police and military, in the apex court and at the high degree of organization, and in the world - their essence is felt all over. Bangladesh has arisen as a good example of women's empowerment. Life expectancy has markedly increased, child and maternal mortality declined forcefully, women's empowerment expanded, advanced network extended especially, and social agreement accomplished.

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