

CGS PEACE REPORT

an initiative of BPO

CENTRE FOR
GENOCIDE
STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA



Volume 1, Issue 4
November-December 2017



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C rime and Violence in
Bangladesh:
An analysis from BPO

A Global Overview on
Violence Against
Women

B angladesh's Drive to
Eliminate Violence Against
Women

U nderstanding Violent
Extremism through
Micronarratives: The
Case of Kishoreganj

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BPO- Bangladesh Peace Observatory



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From the Editor's Desk

Certain things cannot be grasped in numbers or by quantification. Violence against women is certainly one such case. When compared with Pakistan, India, or the US, the number of incidents of violence against women in Bangladesh, including cases of rape, would be low. But that should not make Bangladesh complacent when it comes to violence against women. There are good reasons for this. One reason is insufficient data or incidents of domestic violence, for instance, not being reported. Although one must quickly point out that living in extended family, which is still prevalent in much of rural Bangladesh, often acts as deterrence on the part of male members from committing violence against women. The case would certainly be different in cities and in nuclear families. Secondly, there is also the issue of what Slavoj Žižek calls the 'symbolic' and 'systemic' types of violence, which seldom attract attention. *Symbolic violence* is 'embodied in language,' while *systemic violence* is embodied in the 'catastrophic consequences of the smooth functioning of our economic and political systems.' If we were to add the latter, the extent of violence against women in Bangladesh would be exponentially high. But then, so would be the case of violence against women in Pakistan, India, or even the US.

However, the above two reasons, although important in downplaying quantification, ignore the victim, for whom the numerical configuration of violence is meaningless. One violent act is good enough to destroy one's life, including the victim's family!

Two other considerations, however, need flagging. Firstly, in our everyday attempt to empower women, we tend to forget the position and activities of men. In fact, we take pride, for instance, in the increased level of women's education, employment, mobility, etc. and conclude from there that women are being empowered. But what about men? Is our empowerment of women simultaneously disempowering men? Or, are we taking it for granted that the empowerment of women would lead to the voluntary disempowerment of the *purush jat* (i.e. the structures of masculinity)? But is it not true that the structures that have for centuries organized and reproduced the *purush jat* are still there? Do we have an agenda to dismantle them? If not, how can we initiate an agenda? This remains a moot question when framing policies for mitigating violence against women, not only in Bangladesh but also around the world.

Secondly, en-gendering security or ensuring women's security requires a post-disciplinary, indeed, in contrast to multidisciplinary, approach to knowledge accumulation and knowledge production. Poetry, music, and novels, for instance, are as important as knowledge of law, religion and economics if we were to demystify the exploitative structures and reconstruct social relations. While the positivist fragmentation of knowledge must be discarded and replaced by a holistic approach, the quest for en-

gendering security must take extra care to overcome the limits of disciplines, single or multiple, as these are often constructed with least sensitivity to issues of gender and women's security. Indeed, going 'beyond' disciplines and thinking afresh ought to be the goals if we were to ensure women's security in Bangladesh and around the globe.

Imtiaz Ahmed

Director, CGS

Crime and Violence in Bangladesh: An analysis from BPO

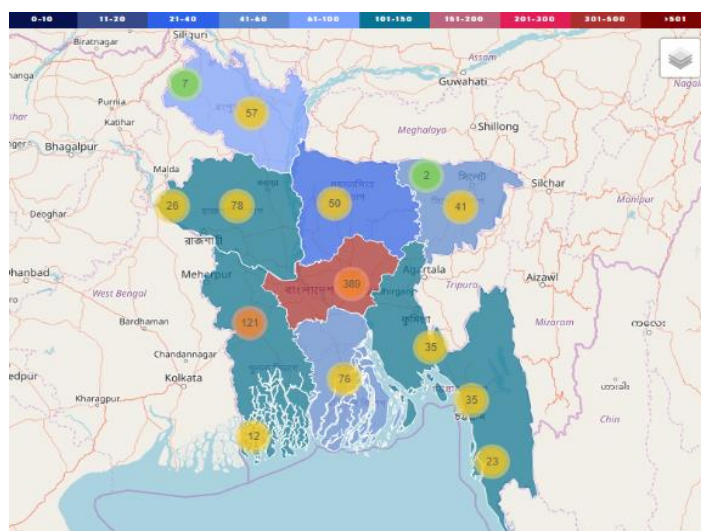
Part A: Violence Update (October- November 2017)

The Bangladesh Peace Observatory (BPO) records a wide range of violence using news reports from prominent national dailies. From November 2017 to October 2017, BPO recorded 952 violent¹ and non-violent² incidents all over the country. Figure 1 shows the prevalence of these incidents distributed in clusters across the divisions of

Bangladesh on BPO Cluster Map. As recorded by BPO, from October to November 2017, most of the incidents took place in Dhaka division (389) while the lowest number of incidents occurred in Sylhet division (43).

In **October 2017**, 496 incidents were recorded by BPO. Out of those, 249

Figure 1: BPO Cluster Map (October 2017- November 2017)



¹ Violent Incident: According to BPO Codebook: The reported incident involved the intentional use of physical force by an individual or group against another individual or group, in a way that resulted or could have resulted in death, injury or any other form of physical harm to persons or property.

² Non-violent Incident: According to BPO Codebook: The reported incident did not involve the intentional use of physical force by an individual or group against another individual or group, in a way that resulted or could have resulted in death, injury or any other form of physical harm to persons or property, e.g. Arrest, Peaceful Protest, Rescue and Recovery.

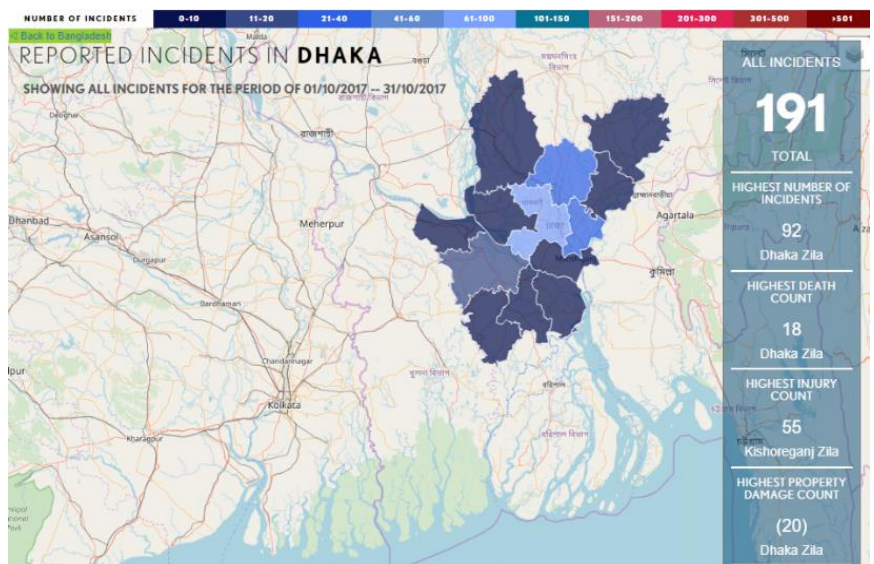
incidents were non-violent in nature, while 247 were violent. In violent incidents 112 deaths and 732 injuries were reported. Assault was the most common form of violence, with 140 recorded incidents. The BPO codes assault as one-sided violence by an individual or small group against another individual or small group. These include stabbing and shooting. 84 people, both men and women were killed and 236 were injured as a result of these assaults. Most assault incidents took place due to feud over property, social causes like previous enmity, political issues, murder by unknown perpetrators and so on. Dowry, domestic violence and Gender Based Violence (GBV) are significant motives for assault against women.

Gunfight has been dominant resulting in 16 deaths (second highest death count in terms of incident) and 12 injuries from 17 incidents. BPO codebook defines gunfight as a form of violence including shootout opposing the police or security forces to criminals, militants or other irregular forces that do not match the definition of a non-state armed group.

24 incidents of clash left 267 injury victims which is the highest injury count for any other type of violence. Intra-party/ Inter-party tensions, political position/ influence, economic issues, property issues and trivial matters are the triggers such clashes.

In October 2017, women specifically have been targeted in 72 incidents. 63 incidents can be related to sexual and GBV of which 36 incidents were sexual assault on women. 20 women died and 26 were injured due to these violence. Women have been victims of rape, attempt to rape, teasing, and humiliation by stalkers in public and private spheres.

Figure 2: Violence Prevalence in Dhaka Division October 2017 in BPO Heat Map



With 191 records, Dhaka division has the highest number of count where 82 incidents are non-violent and 109 are violent incidents. Figure 2 shows the prevalence where Dhaka Zila has the

highest number of incident, death count and property damage while Kishoreganj has the highest number of injuries. After Dhaka, Khulna division has the second most incident count in total 83 while Chittagong and Rajshahi has a tie holding the third position with 67 incidents.

In **November 2017**, BPO recorded total 445 incidents from all over the country. Among those, 232 were violent and 213 were non-violent incidents. As a result of the violence, 126 people lost their lives and 504 people got injured.

The highest prevalent incidents of this month were 129 assaults, for which 83 people died and 174 got injured.

Domestic feud, land related feud, robbery and political issues were the most common causes of these assaults. Moreover, 22 clashes

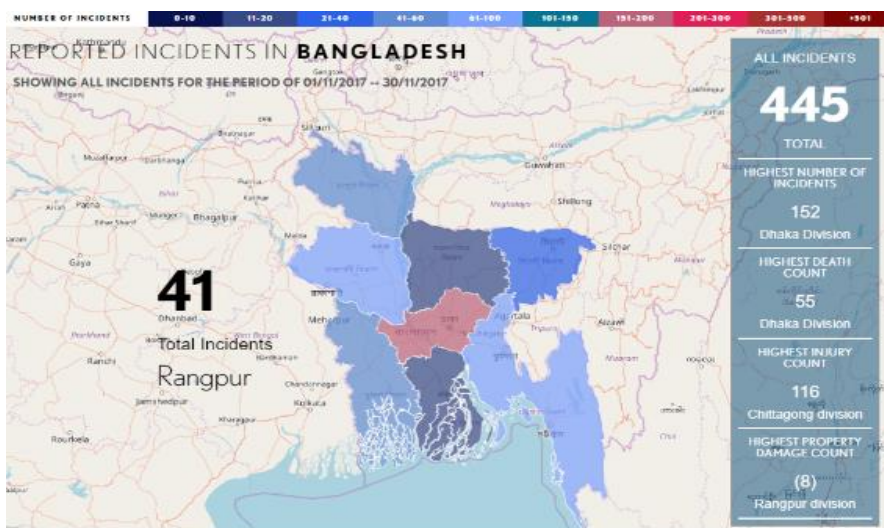
took place in this month in which 205 people were injured and 9 lost their lives. These clashes mainly focused on internal feud of political parties, land disputes and villagers fighting each other. 22 cases of abduction took place in November while in October, the number was only 5.

Likewise in October, 17 incidents of gunfights took place where 15 people died while 35 sustained injuries.

40 incidents of sexual and GBV were recorded through the month in which 16 were cases of domestic violence, 14 sexual assaults, 2 dowry related and the rest were other kind of incidents, where in general females were identified as victims.

Division wise, 152 incidents were recorded in Dhaka which is higher than other divisions. Among these incidents, 68 are non-violent and 84 are violent causing death, injury and damage.

Figure 3: Violence Prevalence in Bangladesh November 2017 in BPO Heat Map



Chittagong ranks second with 81 and Rajshahi is third with 63 incidents. However as, figure 3 shows, although Dhaka has the highest number of incidents with 55 death counts, Chittagong tops in terms of injuries caused by violence and Rangpur has the

highest number of property damage. In Chittagong, a series of political clash led to increased number of injuries. While in Rangpur, on 10 November 2017, thousands of people vandalized, torched and looted houses of Hindu community in an allegation of religious defamation on a Facebook post allegedly by *Titu Roy* (user ID: MD Titu) in the village of Thakurbari, Rangpur Sadar. This incident led to arrest of more than 100 people.

A comparative analysis of October 2017 and November 2017 data can identify several trends in violence. For example, figure 4 shows that, although November have 51 less in recorded incidents (445 incidents while in October 496 were recorded), the number of death is higher

in that month where 14 more deaths were reported than October (126 deaths while in October 112 deaths were recorded). Again, a divisional distribution of these bi-monthly incidents showed in table I and figure 5 indicates Dhaka at top in terms of every aspects while other divisions such as Mymensingh, Sylhet and Barisal has less violence prevalence. But such prevalence is subject to incidents being reported, size and population of that division. But some incidents often cause more injuries and arrest in a relatively small division. The case of Rangpur is no exception to that.

Figure 4: Comparative Analysis of Incidents (October 2017- November 2017)

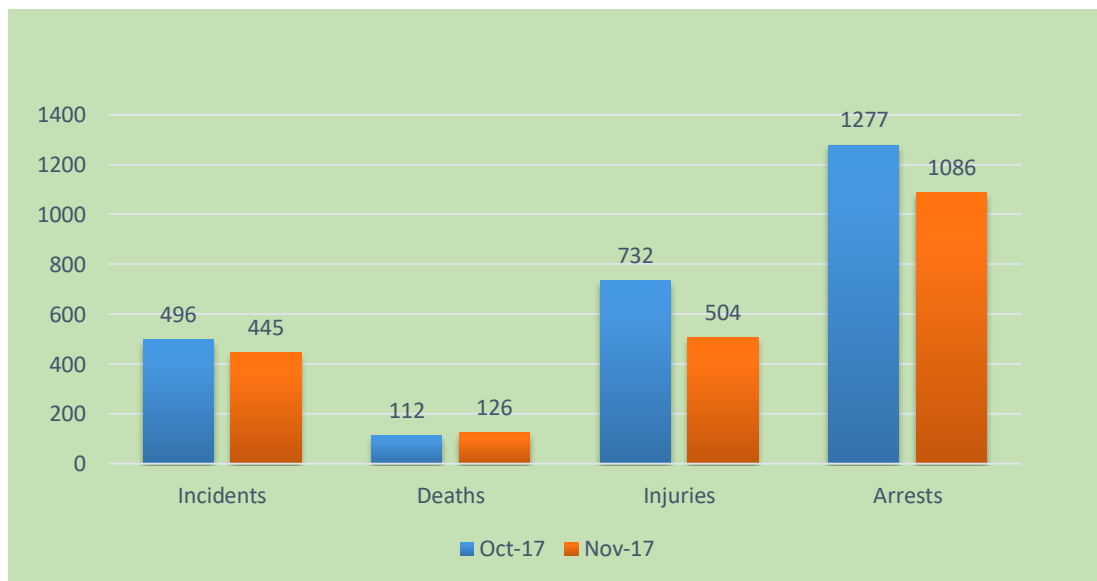


Figure 5: Bi-monthly Divisional Distribution of Incidents (October 2017- November 2017)

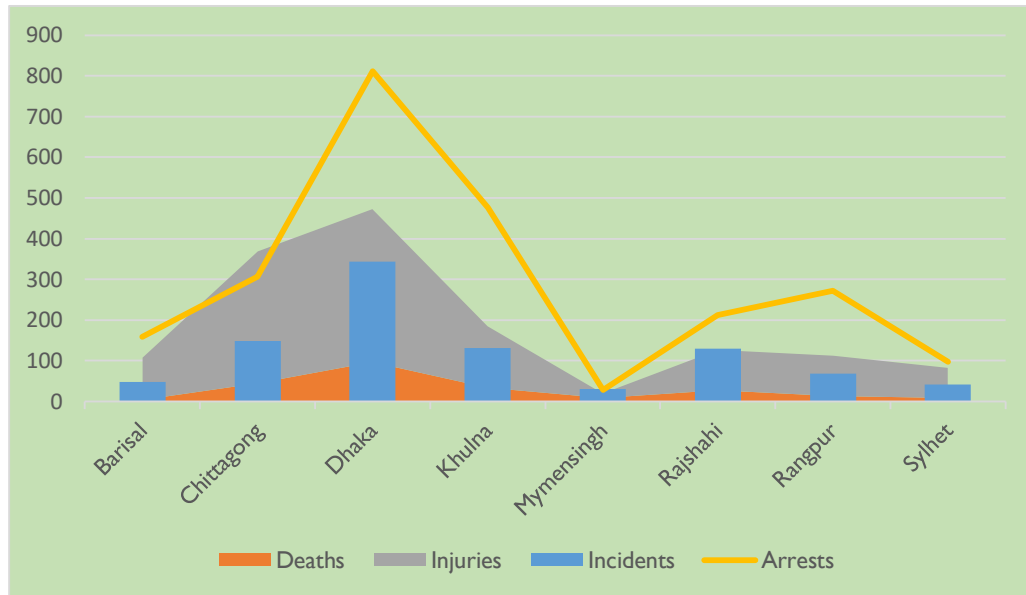


Table 1: Bi-monthly Divisional Distribution of Incidents (October 2017- November 2017)

Divisions	Incidents	Deaths	Injuries	Arrests
Barisal	48	4	103	158
Chittagong	148	45	324	306
Dhaka	343	97	375	812
Khulna	132	33	151	477
Mymensingh	30	8	12	28
Rajshahi	130	28	99	212
Rangpur	69	14	98	272
Sylhet	41	9	74	98

Apart from these, over months, number of incidents also changed by their prevalence. Table 2 shows five most frequent types of incidents which took place in October 2017 and November 2017. For instance, 36 incidents of sexual assault placed it 2nd while 3rd position was taken by 24 incidents of clash among top five frequently recorded incidents in October 2017. In November 2017, clash retained 3rd position along with a new entry of abduction/ hostage/ missing. Total of 21 incidents were recorded by BPO where 22 people were abducted or “missing”, seven were recovered and police arrested seven abductors in different cases. Among these incidents, a high profile case created a huge sensation. On 8 November 2017, Mubashar Hasan, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and Sociology, North South University, went “missing” from Agargaon area of Dhaka. He eventually returned home on 22 December 2017. As

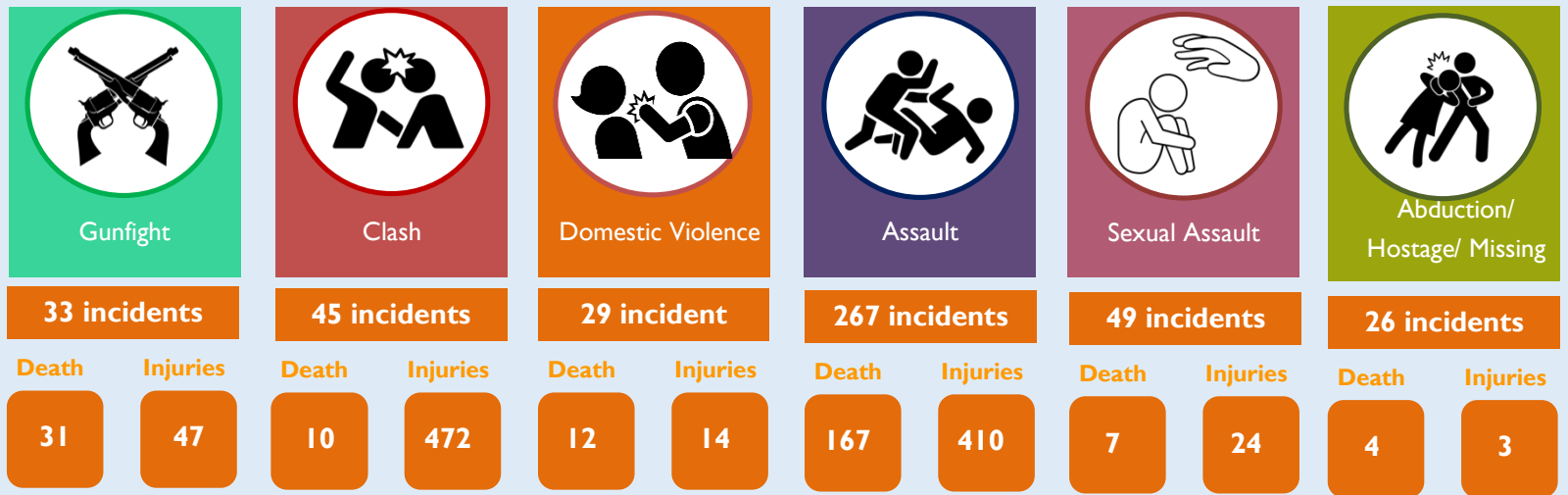
his family confirmed to media, he was dropped off by unknown people on the Airport Road.

Furthermore, a broader comparison between bi-monthly data of BPO can provide a greater perspective of violence in Bangladesh. Figure 6 indicates incremental change in gunfight (43.4%), clash (32.3%), assault (30.2%) and abduction/ hostage/ missing (23.8%) in October-November 2017 than August-September 2017 bi-monthly period. Also, BPO data shows 32.8% decline of sexual assault from August-September 2017 to October-November 2017 bi-monthly period. Equality in reported incidents of domestic violence indicates stability in comparison. In this way, BPO can provide data for macro, meso and micro levels of analysis of any given factor.

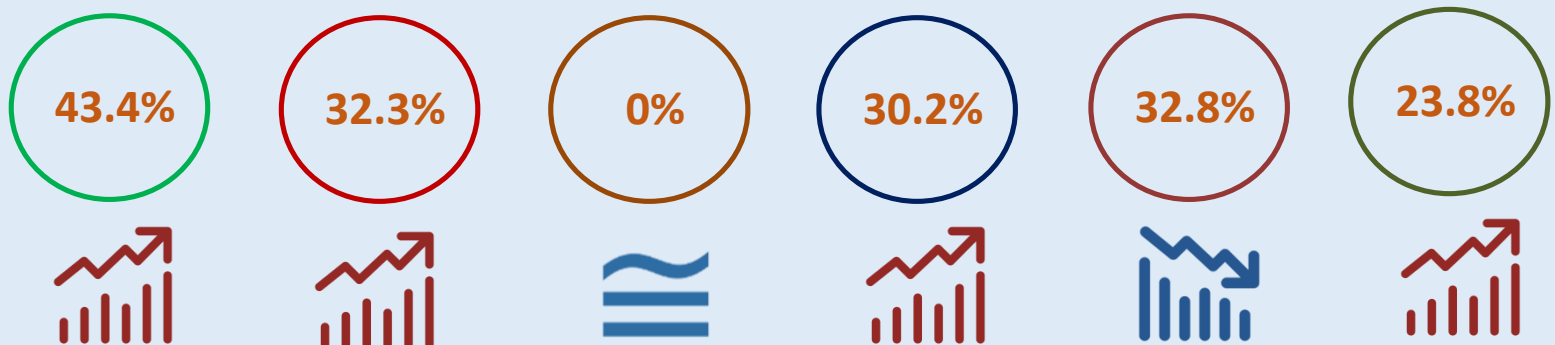
Table 2: Top 5 Incidents (October 2017- November 2017)

Top 5 Incidents in October 2017		Top 5 Incidents in November 2017	
Types of Violence	Total Number of Incidents	Types of Violence	Total Number of Incidents
Arrest	140	Arrest	213
Assault	140	Assault	127
Sexual assault	36	Clash	21
Clash	24	Abduction/ hostage/ missing	21
Gunfight	17	Gunfight	16
Fight	8	Sexual assault	13

Figure 6: A bi-monthly comparison of major violent incidents in Bangladesh (August-September/ October-November) based on BPO platform



Bi-monthly changes in number of incidents



Part B: Trends of Violence against Women

This issue of BPO Peace Report thematizes Violence against Women (VAW) and looks into different dynamics of this brutality. To statistically comprehend VAW, BPO records violent incidents against women and girls along with the number of female death and injury in any types of incident. On the basis of that data, this subsection provides a statistical quarterly trend of various GBV, such as sexual assault, dowry, domestic violence and so on. BPO data presented in table 3 show that in 2017, a total of 606 incidents of GBV occurred through the months of January to November.

Violence was observed in a large scale in the quarter of July to September. A total of 209 incidents were recorded, which resulted in 58 female deaths and 91 female injuries. A sudden increase on recorded incidents of sexual assault (from 52 of previous quarter to 97) contributed in such augmentation. The same quarter is also subject to maximum number of arrest in crimes related to VAW. In total, 250 people were arrested during July to September quarter which is near about half of the grand total of arrests. Increased prevalence of sexual assaults and response from law enforcement agencies contributed to such number of arrests. This quarter also contains records of highest number of incidents of domestic violence. A total of 38 domestic violence incidents were recorded where 28 women were killed by their family

members and police were able to arrest only 24 people in this connection. In most cases perpetrators were able to run away or remained out of touch.

However, the second largest number of incidents was recorded during April to June quarter. A total of 140 incidents occurred, where 61 female members were killed and 48 female members were injured. Noticeably, this quarter is marked by the highest number of female deaths caused by sexual assault. 12 women were killed by that time in 52 recorded incidents which also includes 34 female injuries in sexual assault.

Apart from these, a total of 558 persons were arrested during these quarters for perpetrating acts of violence. Most of these were incidents of domestic violence and sexual assault. In most of the incidents the motive was physical abuse or harassment, rape, dowry or property related conflicts. These crimes were mostly committed by victim's close relatives/family members, stalkers or rivals.

Such violence against women is indeed unacceptable yet is prevalent across the globe. For example, according to National Crime Records Bureau of India, in 2016, a total of 3,38,954 incidents of crimes against women took place in India. The number was 3,29,243 in 2015 and 3,39,457

in 2014.³ In case of Pakistan, according to the Amnesty International Report 2016/17, The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan recorded almost 3,000 cases of violence against women and girls, including murder, rape and gang rape, sodomy, domestic violence and kidnapping. Also around 512 women and girls were killed in 2016 by the relatives on the so-called “honor” factor.⁴ Manifestation of VAW is not confined to the least developed or developing countries. For example, in 2016 the U.S. Department of Justice recorded 1,109,610 incidents of domestic violence victimization committed by

intimate partners (current or former spouses, boyfriends, or girlfriends) and family members. In 2015, the number was slightly less, a total of 1,094,660 incidents while in 2014 1,109,880 incidents of domestic violence victimizations were reported. However, number of victimization through rape or sexual assault came down to 323,450 in 2016 from 431,840 in 2015 but remained higher than 2014 when 284,350 cases of rape or sexual assault were reported.^{5,6} Such horrific incidents are increasing at an alarming rate around the world, including Bangladesh.

³National Crime Records Bureau of India (2017). *Crime against Women (IPC + SLL) - 2014-2016 in Crime in India Statistics 2016*. P. 133. Accessed: 12 December 2017. Available at: <http://ncrb.gov.in/StatPublications/CII/CII2016/pdfs/Crime%20Statistics%20-%202016.pdf>

⁴ Amnesty International (2017). *Pakistan in the Amnesty International Report 2016/17*. Pp. 285-286. Accessed: 12 December 2017. Available at: (<https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/POI1048002017ENGLISH.PDF>

⁵ Morgan, Rachel E., and Kena, Grace (2017). *Criminal Victimization, 2016*. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics. . Accessed: 12 December 2017. Available at: <https://www.bjs.gov/>

⁶ Truman, Jennifer L., and Morgan, Rachel E. (2016). *Criminal Victimization, 2015*. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics. . Accessed: 12 December 2017. Available at: <https://www.bjs.gov/>

Table 3: Trends of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

A Quarterly Analysis of BPO Data (January-November 2017)																
Types of Incident	Incidents				Total Female Killed				Total Female Injured				Total Arrests			
	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Nov	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Nov	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Nov	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Nov
Domestic Violence	21	26	38	23	26	23	28	9	4	2	13	13	16	20	24	15
Dowry-Related	10	13	10	6	5	11	4	4	3	2	6	1	4	1	4	4
Sexual Assault	29	52	97	45	2	12	6	6	21	34	56	18	26	42	104	45
Other Domestic/GBV/ VAW	25	11	8	24	13	4	4	11	10	4	4	10	17	6	6	13
Other Cause (Unknown, Unspecified)	28	21	35	14	15	11	16	9	5	6	12	5	18	7	74	7
Arrest	15	17	21	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	23	38	23
Total	128	140	209	129	61	61	58	39	43	48	91	47	102	99	250	107
Grand Total	606				219				229				558			

Violence against Women: The Conceptual Maze

The concept of VAW is a loaded one, and its understanding and comprehension has evolved, widened and broadened over a period of time to engulf its multiple dimensions, both objective and subjective. The following is an explication of this.

Violence against Women

The 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women addressed the issue in a comprehensive manner and is widely used to define VAW. Article 1 of the Declaration stipulates: *“For the purposes of this Declaration, the term “violence against women” means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”*

Article 2 identifies categories by which VAW shall be understood to encompass, but not be limited to;

- a. “Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation;*
- b. Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community,*

including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution;

- c. Physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the State, wherever it occurs.”⁷*

Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the protection of women against violence considered the term “VAW” to be understood as any act of gender-based violence, which “results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life. This includes, but is not limited to;

- a. violence occurring in the family or domestic unit, including, inter alia, physical and mental aggression, emotional and psychological abuse, rape and sexual abuse, incest, rape between spouses, regular or occasional partners and cohabitants, crimes committed in the name of honour, female genital and sexual mutilation and other traditional*

7 UN Documents (1993). Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women. Accessed:

12 December 2017. Available at: <http://www.un-documents.net/a48r104.htm>

practices harmful to women, such as forced marriages;

b. violence occurring within the general community, including, inter alia, rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in institutions or elsewhere trafficking in women for the purposes of sexual exploitation and economic exploitation and sex tourism;

c. violence perpetrated or condoned by the state or its officials;

d. violation of the human rights of women in situations of armed conflict, in particular the

taking of hostages, forced displacement, systematic rape, sexual slavery, forced pregnancy, and trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation and economic exploitation.”⁸

The same definition was later provided during the Councils’ Istanbul Convention 2011 which is also known as Treaty no. 210/Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

The Cycle of Violence against Women

World Health Organization (WHO) has classified VAW according to the different ages of life cycle. These are:⁹

Phase	Type of violence
Pre-birth	“Sex-selective abortion; effects of battering during pregnancy on birth outcomes”
Infancy	“Female infanticide; physical, sexual and psychological abuse”
Girlhood	“Child marriage; female genital mutilation; physical, sexual and psychological abuse; incest; child prostitution and pornography”
Adolescence and adulthood	“Dating and courtship violence (e.g. acid throwing and date rape); economically coerced sex (e.g. school girls having sex with “sugar daddies” in return for school fees); incest; sexual abuse in the workplace; rape; sexual harassment; forced prostitution and pornography; trafficking in women; partner violence; marital rape; dowry abuse and murders; partner homicide; psychological abuse; abuse of women with disabilities; forced pregnancy”
Elderly	“Forced “suicide” or homicide of widows for economic reasons; sexual, physical and psychological abuse”

⁸ Council of Europe (2002). Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the protection of women against violence. Accessed: 12 December 2017. Available at: https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectID=09000016805e2612

⁹ World Health Organization (1997). Violence against women Definition and scope of the problem. Accessed: 12 December 2017. Available at: <http://www.who.int/gender/violence/v4.pdf>

Domestic Violence

According to BPO Codebook, domestic violence is a type of violence between intimate partners and/or members of the same household, regardless of the gender of the victim. As provided by the *Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence 2011*, “domestic violence” constitutes of “all acts of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence that occur within the family or domestic unit or between former or current spouses or partners, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim.”¹⁰

Therefore, VAW can also take the form of domestic violence, but overall, domestic violence can happen to anyone regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, religion, gender, socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels. As defined by the United States Department of Justice domestic violence is “a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes

any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or wound someone.”¹¹

Sexual Assault

This is also a type of violence common to all gender. However, more often women fall victim to such kind of violence. For example, during wartime, women are systematically subject to sexual assaults to destroy the spirit of the opposing party and upcoming generations. Moreover, sexual assaults against women take place in peacetime also. According to BPO codebook, sexual assault is a one-sided sexual violence, such as rape or attempted rape, by an individual or small group against another individual or small group. According to the United States Department of Justice, “Sexual assault is any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit consent of the recipient. Falling under the definition of sexual assault are sexual activities as forced sexual intercourse, forcible sodomy, child molestation, incest, fondling, and attempted rape.”¹²

10 Council of Europe (2011). Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. Accessed: 12 December 2017. Available at: <https://rm.coe.int/168008482e>

11 The United States Department of Justice (nd). What is Domestic Violence? (2017). Accessed: 15

December 2017. Available at:

<https://www.justice.gov/ovw/domestic-violence>

12 The United States Department of Justice (nd). Sexual Assault (2017). Accessed: 12 December 2017. Available at:

<https://www.justice.gov/ovw/sexual-assault>

A Global Overview on Violence against Women

Part A: Global Measures to Address Violence against Women

This section covers key international conventions, declarations, resolutions, and organizational establishment adopted by the international community aimed at developing a regime to stop VAW.

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), 1946

CSW was formed as a sub-commission of Economic and Social Council, which soon became a full commission and since then it is working for promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. The commission successfully inserted women issue separately in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948 on equality in universal rights. Throughout the years CSW worked relentlessly for women's political rights, equal rights in marriage, education, participation in development.¹³

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 1979

Adopted by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, CEDAW aimed at eliminating the global phenomenon of discrimination against women. In its 30 articles, the convention urges the state parties to recognize the equal rights of

women in the personal and political spheres. In Article 1, the convention defined "discrimination against women" and identified different features under this terminology. In the 2nd article, it recommends the state parties to incorporate equality of women and men within the legislation and in the legal parameters. Right to vote, political participation, equal rights of citizenship, education, employment and services are emphasized upon in this convention. Equal rights in marriage and its process, custody of children, health care, family life and other personal rights are also highlighted in the text. State parties are advised to take serious and appropriate measures against trafficking and prostitution of women. Traditions and cultural norms (i.e. female genital mutilation in Africa, honor killing in Pakistan, son preferences) that promote discrimination against women should be addressed by the state parties and due measures should be taken to eliminate such practices. Women and men should be equal before law and treated

¹³ UN Women (2011). Commission on the Status of Women (1946). Accessed: 13 December 2017. Available at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw>

equally by the law enforcement agencies. CEDAW has addressed many areas of discrimination that women face only because of their sex, some of which were never perceived as discrimination in the past.¹⁴

However, it did not directly address the issue of VAW and its impact. This was later covered in the general recommendation 12 in the eighth session in 1989, and general recommendation 19 in the eleventh session 1992. The main theme of these recommendations is given below.

In general recommendation no. 12, the committee recommends the state parties to include some additional features in their periodic reports to the committee. The reports should include information about the legal instruments that exists to prevent VAW in the legislation in force. In case of Bangladesh, it will include the Acts and Laws in Bangladesh such as Prevention of Oppression of Violence against Women Act, 2000 or Domestic violence (Prevention and Protection), 2010. They also suggest the inclusion of information about measures taken to eradicate the violence and support services for the

victim of oppression. Sufficient data and statistics about VAW scenario and about the victims are also to be included in the report.¹⁵

In general recommendation no. 19, the committee acknowledged the gender based violence as a form of discrimination that limits women rights and freedom in comparison to men. It also recommends the state parties to adopt measures to ensure equality for men and women. Sexual harassment in workplace, which is defined as “unwelcome sexually determined behavior” is a serious matter that hampers peaceful working environment for women and is suggested to be taken into attention.

Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, 1993

World conference on human rights 1993 acknowledged VAW as violation of human rights of women. From this specific mention, Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women 1993 evolved. This is the first declaration on VAW, which is widely accepted now. The declaration explicitly addressed the issue of VAW.

¹⁴ United Nations Human Rights: Office of the High Commissioner (nd). The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979). Accessed: 13 December 2017. Available at: <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/cedaw.pdf>

¹⁵ United Nations Human Rights: Office of the High Commissioner (nd). Committee on the Elimination

of Discrimination against Women (1989). Accessed: 13 December 2017. Available at: http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/I_Global/INT_CEDAW_GEC_5831_E.pdf

International Conference on Population and Development, 1994

This conference linked the issue of reproductive health and rights and VAW. Women's poor access to healthcare puts them in risk, causing high rate of maternal mortality and infant mortality. It also urges upon the states to take appropriate measures both at legal and policy levels to prevent VAW.¹⁶

Beijing Platform of Action, 1995

Beijing Platform identifies twelve critical areas of concern for women's advancement and empowerment; and VAW is one of them. It also proposes strategic measures to eradicate the problems that make women's empowerment difficult.

UN Women, 2010

UN Women was formed out of the necessity the UN felt to focus its attention

on equality of women. It works with the member states of UN to help them achieve gender equality and women's empowerment in political and social life. It has five major goals, increasing women's leadership and participation; ending VAW; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting. It works with the UN bodies to form policies and work plans, to help the member states with planning and funding and leads UN system works on gender equality. They work with the government for policies to change the social norms and legal infrastructure to combat VAW. They also work to raise awareness about the impacts of VAW and social norms that promotes VAW.¹⁷

¹⁶ UN Women (2011). Global norms and standards: Ending violence against women. Accessed: 13 December 2017. Available at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/global-norms-and-standards>

¹⁷ UN Women (2011). About UN Women. Accessed: 13 December 2017. Available at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/about-us/about-un-women>

United Nations Resolutions

• United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325

The major points of Resolution 1325 are:

- “The participation of women at all levels of decision-making. This includes national, regional and international institutions, mechanisms for conflict prevention, peace negotiations, peace operations (as soldiers, police and civilians) and as Special Representatives of the UN Secretary-General.

- The protection of women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence. This includes the training of peace operations personnel in women’s rights and effective protection measures.

- The prevention of VAW through the promotion of women’s rights, accountability and law enforcement. An important part of this section is the prosecution of those responsible for war crimes – such as sexual violence – and that crimes of sexual violence always must be excluded from amnesty agreements. It also stresses the responsibility to strengthen women’s rights under national law.

- The mainstreaming of gender perspectives in peace operations, which

(2000) on women and peace and security.¹⁸

includes appointing gender advisors to all UN peace operations, always take the specific needs of women into account when designing policies and letting the knowledge of women’s organizations permeate all policy and programme development.”¹⁹

• UNSCR 1820 (2008)²⁰

The main points of Resolution 1820 are:

- “Strengthening the protection of women from sexual violence. This includes evacuating women under imminent threat and training troops on prohibition of sexual violence.

- Strengthening advocacy aimed at ending conflict-related sexual violence. Focuses on training of UN peace operations personnel and on “exposing myths” that fuel sexual violence at country level.

- Supporting victims of sexual violence. All countries should develop and strengthen their basic health services, maternal care and psychosocial counseling.

- Countering impunity and strengthening accountability. This includes developing systems to account for and prosecute crimes

¹⁸ United Nations Security Council (2000). Resolution 1325, 2000. Accessed: 17 December 2017. Available at:

<http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF6E4FF96FF9%7D/WPS%20RES%201325%20.pdf>

¹⁹ Equal Power – Lasting Peace (nd). Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security 2000. Accessed: 17 December 2017. Available at:

<http://www.equalpowerlastingpeace.org/why/resolution-1325/>

²⁰ United Nations Security Council (2008). Resolution 1820, 2008. Accessed: 17 December 2017. Available at:

<http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF6E4FF96FF9%7D/WPS%20RES%201820.pdf>

of sexual violence, and never letting sexual violence be part of amnesty provisions in peace processes.

- *Strengthening women's participation locally. It mentions the importance of empowering civil society actors who advocate against sexual violence and support victims.*

- *Increasing women's representation and integrating gender perspectives in peace operations.*"²¹

- **UNSCR 1888 (2009)** ²²

*The aim of 1888 is to reinforce 1820 by repeating its demands and addressing some of its practical implementation matters. It calls for more systematic reporting to the Security Council on incidents and trends of sexual violence as well as measures to protect civilians within peacekeeping operations, and for the identification of parties of armed conflict credibly suspected of rape and other types of sexual violence.*²³

- **UNSCR 1889 (2009)**²⁴

Presented by Vietnam, this resolution is a follow-up to UNSCR 1325. UNSCR 1889 emphasizes the participation of women in all phases of the peace process. Most important, it calls for monitoring and introduces accountability mechanisms UNSCR 1325 lacks. The resolution strongly encourages cooperation with civil society, particularly women's organizations.²⁵

- **UNSCR 1960 (2010)**²⁶

Resolution 1960 calls for an end to sexual violence in armed conflict, particularly against women and girls, and provides measures aimed at ending impunity for perpetrators of sexual violence, including through sanctions and reporting measures.²⁷

²¹ Equal Power – Lasting Peace (nd). UN Security Council Resolution 1820, 2008. Accessed: 17 December 2017. Available at: <http://www.equalpowerlastingpeace.org/why/resolution-1325/resolution-1820/>

²² United Nations Security Council (2009). Resolution 1888, 2009. Accessed: 17 December 2017. Available at: <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/CAC%20S%20RES%201820.pdf>

²³ Equal Power – Lasting Peace (nd). UN Security Council Resolution 1888, 2009. Accessed: 17 December 2017. Available at: <http://www.equalpowerlastingpeace.org/why/resolution-1325/resolution-1820/>

²⁴ United Nations Security Council (2009). Resolution 1889, 2009. Accessed: 17 December 2017. Available at:

http://www.peacewomen.org/assets/file/BasicWPS_Docs/scr1889.pdf

²⁵ The Institute for Inclusive Security (nd). UN Security Council Resolution 1889 on Women, Peace, and Security. Accessed: 17 December 2017. Available at: http://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/1889_guideto1889_iss_sep2010_0.pdf

²⁶ United Nations Security Council (2010). Resolution 1960, 2010. Accessed: 17 December 2017. Available at: <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/WPS%20SRES%201960.pdf>

²⁷ United States Institute of Peace (nd). What is Resolution 1960? Accessed: 17 December 2017. Available at: https://www.usip.org/gender_peacebuilding/about_UNSCR_1325#What_is_Resolution_1960

Part B: Bangladesh in Global Indexes

This subsection compares Bangladesh with few countries of the world through different indexes with well-defined measurable variables.

Gender Gap Index (GGI)

Gender Gap Index (GGI) by World Economic Forum examines the gap between men and women in four fundamental categories (sub-indexes): Economic Participation and Opportunity; Educational Attainment; Health and Survival; and Political Empowerment. Table 4 displays the year-wise ranking of top (Iceland) and bottom countries (Yemen) where Bangladesh gained significant momentum in gender equality by becoming the top in GGI for South Asia region.²⁸

Table 4: Rank of 10 Countries Including Bangladesh in Gender Gap Index (2010-2017)²⁹

Ranking year	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Country								
Iceland	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bangladesh	47	72	64	68	75	86	69	82
Bhutan	124	121	118	120	93	-	-	-
India	108	87	108	114	101	105	113	112
Maldives	106	115	113	105	97	95	101	99
Nepal	111	110	110	112	121	123	126	115
Pakistan	143	143	144	141	135	134	133	132
Sri Lanka	109	100	84	79	55	39	31	16
Yemen	144	144	145	142	136	135	135	134

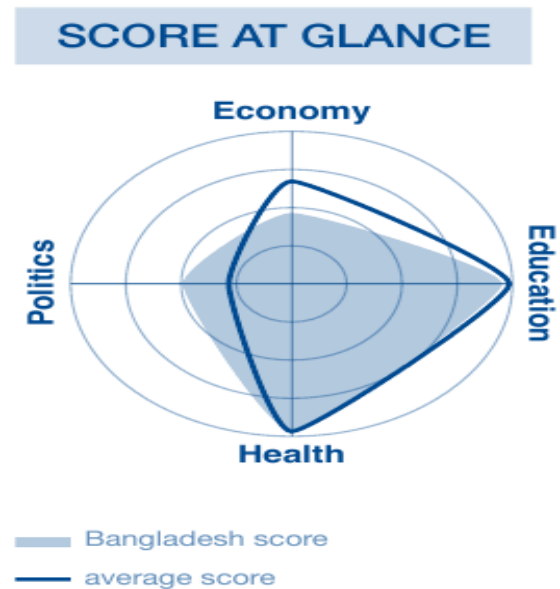
²⁸ World Economic Forum (2017). Gender Gap Report 2010-2017. Accessed: 12 December 2017. Available at: <https://www.weforum.org/reports>

²⁹ Ibid

As table 5 and figure 7 shows, Bangladesh has scored outstanding in political empowerment (.465). However, this is due to high ranking position (1) in 'years with female head of state'. The scores for women in parliament and ministerial position remain below average. Also, political participation is low for most of the other countries which numerically benefitted Bangladesh.

Bangladesh has highest distance to parity in 'economic and opportunity', where all scores remain lower than the average. However, Bangladesh has slightly better position than the global average score in 'educational attainment' and 'health and survival' due to the highest enrolment rate in primary and secondary enrolment and sex ratio at birth.

Figure 7: Bangladesh's Score at a Glance Compared with Average Score in 2017



Source: http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2017.pdf

Table 5: Performance of Bangladesh in Each Indicator by Year (2015-2017)³⁰

Indicators	Economic participation and opportunity (score)	Educational attainment (score)	Health and survival (score)	Political empowerment (score)
Year				
2017	129 (0.465)	111 (0.954)	125 (0.966)	7 (0.493)
2016	135 (0.410)	114 (0.950)	93 (0.971)	7 (0.462)
2015	130 (0.462)	109 (0.948)	95 (0.971)	8 (0.433)

³⁰ World Economic Forum (2017). Gender Gap Report 2015-2017. Accessed: 12 December 2017. Available at: <https://www.weforum.org/reports>

Gender Development Index (GDI)

The Gender Development Index (GDI) measures progress in addressing gender inequalities in three basic areas of human development: health, measured by female and male life expectancy at birth; education, measured by female and male expected years of schooling for children and female and male mean years of schooling for adults ages 25 years and older; and command over economic resources, measured by female and male estimated earned income.³¹ GDI shows countries in groups³² along with their Human Development Index (HDI) rank since 2015.

Table 6 shows human development rankings of some countries as compared with Bangladesh. Here, though some countries have relatively higher HDI rankings but that performance did not

reflect in GDI position. For instance, Sri Lanka has the highest HDI rank in South Asia, but it is categorized within group 3, like Bangladesh and Maldives. India has higher HDI than Bangladesh but it falls into group 5 which shows it has low equality in HDI achievements between women and men.

Bangladesh is gradually improving in both HDI and GDI indicators, which is very significant, considering the situation in other South Asian countries. This has been possible partly due to the measures taken to implement the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

³¹ United Nations Development Programme (2016). Human Development Report 2016. Accessed: 12 December 2017. Available at: http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hdr2016_technical_notes_0.pdf

³² The GDI groups are based on the absolute deviation of GDI from gender parity. Countries with absolute deviation from gender parity of 2.5 percent or less are considered countries with high equality in (Human Development Index (HDI) achievements between women and men and are classified as group 1. Countries with absolute deviation from gender parity of 2.5–5 percent are considered countries with medium-high equality in HDI achievements between women and men and are classified as group 2.

Countries with absolute deviation from gender parity of 5–7.5 percent are considered countries with medium equality in HDI achievements between women and men and are classified as group 3. Countries with absolute deviation from gender parity of 7.5–10 percent are considered countries with medium-low equality in HDI achievements between women and men and are classified as group 4. Countries with absolute deviation from gender parity of more than 10 percent are considered countries with low equality in HDI achievements between women and men and are classified as group 5.

Table 6: Human Development Index and Gender Development Index (2014-2016)³³

Year Country	2016		2015		2014	
	HDI Rank	GDI Group	HDI Rank	GDI Group	HDI Rank	GDI Rank
Norway	1	1	1	1	1	5
Bangladesh	139	3	142	4	142	107
Bhutan	132	5	132	5	-	-
India	131	5	130	5	135	132
Maldives	105	3	104	3	103	90
Nepal	144	4	145	4	145	102
Pakistan	147	5	147	5	146	145
Sri Lanka	73	3	73	3	73	66
Niger	-	-	188	5	187	147
Central African Republic	188	5	-	-	-	-

³³ Table prepared by BPO team on the basis of year-wise data of Human Development Report and Gender Development Report (2014-2017). Accessed: 12 December 2017. Available at: <https://www.weforum.org/reports>, <http://hdr.undp.org>

Bangladesh's Drive to Eliminate Violence against Women

Violence against Women in Bangladesh

Women's participation in different sectors of economy, agriculture and politics is increasingly becoming visible and robust in Bangladesh. In the last few decades, Bangladesh's achievements in women empowerment has been remarkable. Women empowerment can be gauged by varied scales. It can be the extent of female participation in the workplace; the increasing percentile of female leadership in the social and political arenas or their access to credit; and decisions on credit spending. Gender equality is imperative for a country to move ahead in an inclusive and sustainable manner.

Bangladesh adheres to the CEDAW with some reservations³⁴ and the Beijing Platform for Action. It has achieved substantial success in achieving the 3rd MDG, as it has secured gender parity in primary and secondary education at the national level.³⁵ Government interventions as well as non-governmental efforts, such

as scholarships and exemption of tuition fees for girls in rural areas, and the stipend scheme for girls at the secondary school level played crucial role in achieving it. According to United Nation Development Programme (UNDP),

“Bangladesh has made significant progress in promoting the objectives of ensuring gender equality and empowerment of women”.

Despite remarkable success in the area of gender equality and women empowerment, gender-based violence remained a critical challenge for Bangladesh. According to UNWOMEN (2017), in Bangladesh, 87% of married women currently experience different forms of violence by their husbands, 77% women reported to be victims of gender-based violence in the past 12 months, 67% have experienced physical violence in their life with nearly 51% of that in the last 12 months.^{36,37} 25% of Bangladeshi women have experienced

³⁴ Reservation- Articles II (principle of non-discrimination and elimination of discrimination against women) and 16 (1)(c) (elimination of discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations, in particular the same rights and responsibilities during marriage and its dissolution)

³⁵ Centre for Research and Information (2017), Accessed: 25 December 2017, available at: http://cri.org.bd/2014/09/01/development-of-women-empowerment-in-bangladesh/#_edn1

³⁶ UN Women (2017), Prevalence Data on Different Forms of Violence against Women, Accessed: 25 December 2017, available at: <http://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/asia/bangladesh>

³⁷ The Daily Star (2015). Gender Based Violence: Current Situations and Ways Forward. Accessed: 25 December 2017, available at: <http://www.thedailystar.net/supplements/unfpa-supplement/gender-based-violence-current-situations-and-ways-forward-159676>

physical violence from a non-partner, and about 4% have been victims of sexual violence in their lifetime.³⁸ VAW does not only affect their health and wellbeing but also leads to socioeconomic repercussions for individuals, families, communities, and societies.

Women in Bangladesh are exposed to different types of violence, reasons for which vary. According to Ain O Salish Kendro (ASK) data, several types of VAW continue to prevail. For example as table 7 shows, in case of rape, incidents and attempts of rape rose in 2017 from 724 and 97 to 749 and 65, while it was reduced to 626 and 81 in 2014. Although dowry related physical torture increased in 2016 (108) compared to 2015 (101) but numbers of suicide and killing were less than past few

years. Number of sexually harassed women has increased from 182 in 2013 to 244 in 2016 but suicide as an impact has reduced from 14 to 6 over these years. In case of domestic violence, number of women tortured by her husband and in laws has increased over the years from 46 in 2013 to 64 in 2016 while number of women killed by their husbands and in laws has slightly reduced from 259 in 2013 to 244 in 2016. But number of women murdered by their own family continue to increase from 18 cases in 2014 to 26 in 2016 after reaching 29 in 2013. Only the number of acid attacks is somewhat the same during 2015-16, incidents ranged between 34-35 while in 2013-14 it ranged between 44-48.

³⁸ Ibid

Table 7: ASK Data on Violence against Women

RAPE				
Year	Rape	Death After Rape	Committed Suicide after Rape	Attempt to Rape
2017	749	39	11	97
2016	724	37	16	65
2015	846	60	2	94
2014	626	68	13	81
2013	813	87	14	185

DOWRY RELATED INCIDENTS			
Year	Physical Torture	Suicide after Physical Torture	Killing After Physical Torture
2016	108	4	126
2015	101	10	187
2014	121	11	163
2013	125	21	163

SEXUAL HARASSMENT		
Year	Women Harassed	Committed Suicide
2016	244	6
2015	224	10
2014	146	14
2013	182	14

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE			
Year	Women Tortured by Husband and His Family	Women Murdered by Husband and His Family	Women Murdered by Own Family
2016	64	244	26
2015	46	252	21
2014	45	341	18
2013	46	259	29

ACID ATTACK	
Year	Incidents
2016	34
2015	35
2014	48
2013	44

Source: Data Compiled from ASK Website

Government's Initiatives to Eliminate Violence against Women

Government of Bangladesh has taken a number of initiatives to eliminate VAW. These include: National Women Development Policy 2011; National Plan of Action to Prevent Violence against Women and Children 2013-25; establishing acid case monitoring cell and 'National Coordination Committee' to prevent trafficking of women and children under Ministry of State; service through One Stop Crisis Centre, One Stop Crisis Cell at district and upazila level and National Trauma Counseling Center; establishing National Helpline Centre for Violence against Women and Children (see annex 1); strengthening Mobile Court Law of 2009; formulation of the Pornography Control Act 2012; providing legal aid at no cost to women who are unable to bear cost through Legal Aid Cell of Jatiyo Mohila Sangstha (a statutory organization under the Ministry of Women and children affairs of People's Republic of Bangladesh); formulation of The Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act,

2012 and increasing activity of law enforcement agencies.³⁹ The Dowry Prohibition Act of 1980 criminalizes dowry by defining it as *any property or valuable security given or agreed to be given either directly or indirectly-*

- a) *by one party to a marriage to the other party to the marriage; or*
- b) *by the parents of either party to a marriage or by any other person to either party to the marriage or to any other person.*⁴⁰

This Act penalizes demanding, giving or taking dowry as offence, which are non-cognizable, non-bailable and compoundable.

The Prevention of Women & Children Repression Act 2000 and its Amendment (2003) aims to strictly suppress crimes against women and children. To attain that, the Act made necessary provisions including definition and punishment related to following issues:^{41,42,43}

³⁹ Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (2017). Various steps have been taken to prevent women and child repression: Prime Minister (Nari o Shishu Nirjaton Rodhkolpe Bivinn Podokkhep Grohon Kora Hoyeche). Accessed: 25 December 2017, available at: <http://www.bssnews.net/bangla/newsDetails.php?catid=7&id=274369&date=2015-02-25>

⁴⁰ Bangladesh Ministry of Law (nd). The Dowry Prohibition Act 1980. Accessed: 25 December 2017, available at: http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/print_sections_all.php?id=607

⁴¹ Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (2000). Women and Children Violence Protection Law

2000. Accessed: 25 December 2017, available at: <http://www.mowca.gov.bd/site/page/23d2df35-9246-4d1c-b54a-c54fe6a481d1>

⁴² National Infokosh (nd).

The Prevention of Women & Children Repression Act 2000 and its Amendment 2003. Accessed: 25 December 2017, available at: <https://goo.gl/648Xe3>

⁴³ National Infokosh (nd). 2003 Amendment of the Prevention of Women & Children Repression Act. Accessed: 25 December 2017, available at: <https://goo.gl/G8VcTI>

- Causing or intention to cause injury, mutilation, deformity or death by inflammatory, corrosive or poisonous substances;
- Abduction and/ or recovering ransom for abduction;
- Rape, rape attempt, gang rape, death by rape and custodial rape;
- Instigation in committing suicide of women;
- Sexual assault;
- Causing death, grievous hurt and simple hurt for dowry.
- Regarding children born as a result of rape;
- Publication of the identity of the oppressed in media;
- False cases and complaints;
- Crime prompting or support;
- Compensation, investigation, judgment, attestation, forensic test, presence of witness, jurisdiction of the tribunal, appeal, approval of the death penalty, and safe custody.

Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2010 is *an Act to provide as a signatory state of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979 and the Convention on the Children's Right, 1989 and to establish equal rights for women and children guaranteed in the Constitution of the People's*

Republic of Bangladesh prevention of domestic violence, protection of women and children from domestic violence and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. This Act defines domestic violence as *physical abuse, psychological abuse, sexual abuse or economic abuse against a woman or a child of a family by any other person of that family with whom victim is, or has been, in family relationship.*⁴⁴ To ensure justice to the victim and punishment to the offender this Act includes provisions on the following issues:⁴⁵

- Duties and Responsibilities of Police Officer, Enforcement Officer and Service Provider, etc. (appointment, shelter home, medical service);
- Rights of Victim, Remedies, etc. (interim protection order and issuance of notice, residence, compensation, custody);
- Disposal of Application, Trial, Appeal, etc. (camera trial, local inquiry, trial in absentia);
- Offence, Punishment, etc. (cognizance, bailability and compoundability, penalty for breach of protection order, community welfare service, punishment for false complaint).

Along with the above mentioned Acts, there are also a number of Acts related to ensuring women's rights in their own terms. According to Jatiyo Mohila Sangstha's 'Totthoapa (see annex 2)', these

⁴⁴ Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (2010). English Version of the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010. Accessed: 25 December 2017, available at: <http://mowca.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/mo>

wca.portal.gov.bd/page/203db6dc_7c82_4aa0_98a6_8672334b235c/Domestic%20Violence%20Act%20English.pdf

⁴⁵ Ibid

Acts are important regarding women's right in Bangladesh:⁴⁶

- The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929;
- The Muslim Marriages and Divorces (Registration) Act, 1974;
- The Dissolution of Muslim Marriages Act, 1939;
- Bangladesh Arbitration Act, 2001;
- Village Courts Act, 2006 (amendment), 2013;
- The Muslim Family Laws Ordinance, 1961;
- The Right To Information Act, 2009;
- Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006;
- The Family Courts Ordinance, 1985.

Along with legal support, government is also involved in some activities to prevent VAW through different bureaucratic offices. For example, the Department of Women Affairs established a central cell to support women and prevent VAW and later expanded over union parishad level. The key activities include:⁴⁷

- Provide legal advice at no cost to helpless women;
- Receiving complaints and giving free legal assistance to tortured and helpless women;
- Resolving family feud through arbitration / counseling between plaintiffs and defendants;

- Provide protection for the victims of domestic violence;
- Arrange for the payment of the tortured and divorced woman;
- Arrangement for the maintenance of minor child custody;
- Discourage the dowry system;
- Working on the prevention of child marriage;
- Helping the court to execute justice at no cost on behalf of a lawyer appointed by the cell;
- Follow up of the cases;
- Preserve and follow-up information about incidents of VAW published in newspapers;
- Provide shelter to victims in the support center for free (up to six months) (including two children below 12 years of age);
- Provide free food, clothing, medical and primary education to women and children in the support centers;
- Provide free training to women at the time of stay in the center for rehabilitation in society.

Also, there is a toll free national **helpline 109** is active round the clock to provide every kind of support to protect women and children of Bangladesh.⁴⁸

⁴⁶ Totthoapa (2014). Some Important Laws Regarding Women's Rights. Accessed: 25 December 2017, available at: <https://goo.gl/1pV5Fu>

⁴⁷ Department of Women Affairs (2016). Women's Support Program to Prevent Women's Torture. .

Accessed: 25 December 2017, available at: <https://goo.gl/FBYMRr>

⁴⁸ National Infokosh (2014). National Helpline Center's Toll Free Number 109 to Prevent Women and Child Abuse. Accessed: 25 December 2017, available at: <http://www.infokosh.gov.bd/atricle/natinal-helpline>



Commentary:

Cracking the walls of patriarchy

Mrs. Tania Haque ⁴⁹

GBV is an extreme demonstration of unfair power relations. It stalks from gender hierarchies that brings about and provides authority to VAW. The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against women (1993) defines VAW as a subcategory of GBV that results in or is likely to result in physical psychological harm or suffering to women whether occurring in public or private life. VAW is an infringement of women's human rights and a blockade to women's full and equal participation in social, economic and political life. In Bangladesh, VAW essentially originates from social patterns, lack of access to legal protection, - lack of effective laws and religious propaganda. The content of social syllabus is based on one formula that is "women are made vulnerable by men but they can be made safe only by men which ultimately makes women dependent on men". As a consequence the systematic nature of patriarchy supports VAW both in private and public ways behind closed door and on city streets. For me violence is an expression of class, gender, heterosexual

dispensation and a problem of dysfunctional or pathological families.

In Bangladesh, VAW is a very common practice which denies women's equal prospect, safety, self-worth, and stateliness in the family and in the society as a whole. Although Bangladesh is a signatory to various UN conventions on gender equality, has in place policies and legal provisions that address VAW and has formulated a National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children (2013 – 2025) however, the situation of women in terms of violence is very bleak. A Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) survey on Domestic Violence in 2011 revealed that 87% of married women are subject to some forms of violence.⁵⁰ The problem is the conservative policy that has proven to be largely futile in reviewing the complexities of patriarchal structures which thus crafts gender as asymmetric endowments, risks and constraints and as a result it compels women to remain within its limitations.

The empowerment of women as a way of mounting female agency is an obligatory

⁴⁹ Associate Professor, Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of Dhaka.

⁵⁰ Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (2013). Report on Violence against Women Survey 2011. Accessed: 9 January 2018, available at: http://203.112.218.65:8008/WebTestApplication/userfiles/Image/LatestReports/VAW_Report_2011.pdf

requirement to stop VAW in Bangladesh. There is a requirement for a holistic approach using multidimensional strategies that address the root causes of women's susceptibility as well as its impact. At the same time, it is decisive for any strategy that seeks to empower women to take control over their lives and transform gender and power relations to also involve men. This is because a women's empowerment strategy without the involvement of men is at best a partial solution and at worst could create further divergence and more problems by increasing men's feelings of estrangement. Admission for human wellbeing and rights cannot be discretionary in development; it is fundamental to the kind of development that will determine full potential of the society. Governments, NGOs and international organizations have a key role in addressing more directly the question of human rights so that the quality of development receives as much attention as its more quantitative aspects.

We need to remember that sustainable development cannot be achieved until women of a country can obtain their due rights. Although, adequate legislation are in place, the most significant hurdle of the next few decades will be to change public attitudes so that GBV becomes socially unacceptable linked to the issue of substantive equality must be the recognition that women are not a homogenous group. Women do not experience violence and discrimination in the same way-thus we must take it into

account that women is a heterogeneous group. Issues must be analyzed by gender lens and lens of intersectionality. In addition traditional expansion interventions have failed to engage men lucratively or deeply enough in women's rights movement. This is because a women's empowerment strategy without the involvement of men is at best a partial solution and at worst could build further clash and more troubles by increasing men's feelings of hostility. At the same time, it is crucial for any strategy that seeks to empower women to take control over their lives and transform gender and power relations to also involve men. Men's roles responsibilities, attitudes as well as behavior are needed to be brought into work on GBV and it is very important to note the political framework taking into account the gender power relations. Various movements like 'He for She' has highlighted the role of men and boys in taking leadership in changing gender stereotyping. So there is a need for all men to speak out against violence and for women and men to work together to challenge the existing definitions of masculinity that provide the foundation for violence. At the same time it is important to avoid the trap of thinking that all men are violent by nature. We will have to think that while some men are part of the problem, all men are part of the solution or can be part of the solution. The most significant impact should come from the construction of nonviolent masculine distinctiveness and a cultural harmony in which GBV is delegitimized.

Finally, a gender sensitive lens only reveals the frequency of gender hierarchy, which thus brings some hope. We demand the realization of justice and whatever our commitments we cannot pursue towards justice. There is no single enemy to fight or simple strategy to follow -but there is much that we can do. We turn now to consider different aspects of this changing context, which are cumulatively raising new questions about VAW and its future. Why society does not hold women responsible for their violence? Women should be pointed out and therefore required to be held responsible. Wieringa claimed in the question of transformation that 'women should learn to define their own problems'.⁵¹ Women therefore should share their responsibility for their behavior of acceptance of violence. Therefore gender equality and women empowerment cannot be attained in the absence of equal rights and women themselves have to be the active agents for this change and only then GBV can only eliminate these gender inequalities. It is therefore essential for women to engage in constructive debate with policy makers and negotiate the conceptual and policy issues that affect them directly. Noting Fraser's suggestion to shift focus from "who gets what" to "what people need" in a welfare state, policy makers should consider.⁵² There is no doubt that social

dialogue can easily address the illogical discrimination against women because dialogue takes different roots, new ideas and brings diversity. Egalitarian views need to develop between men and women so that the differentiation between femininity and masculinity is resolved. Therefore achieving gender equality in Bangladesh means countering cultural and hegemony of masculine power. The policy in Bangladesh is silent on addressing the cultural inequalities that can challenge adverse social system.

This is the biggest challenge of the policies designed to heighten the position of women, the intent is good but when it comes to implementation there are neither clear channels of execution or monitoring. Upgrading of women's situation cannot be achieved without an acceptance of the impenetrability they face and the needs they have. Therefore effectual relevant action to improve the underprivileged position of women requires synchronization of research, policy and action. Therefore the planners should deem that woman is a social agent and that it is necessary to take an agent oriented approach on women's agenda.⁵³ Therefore women need to be assisted through holistic approach and comprehensive programmes that not only address their lack of productive resources

⁵¹ Wieringa, Saskia.(1994). Women's interests and empowerment: gender planning reconsidered, *Development and Change*. 25: 829-848.

⁵² Fraser, Nothing. (2003). Redistribution and Recognition? A political Philosophical exchange,

London ,New York: Verso.

⁵³ Sen, Amartya. (1990). Gender and Cooperative Conflicts' .I .Thinker (ed.). *Persistent inequalities: Women and World Development*, Oxford University Press .123- 145.

but also their subordinate situation within households and society at large. In sum, there is a need for multipronged policies to address the needs of different categories of women in Bangladesh. Thus social dialogue and public debate is more powerful for transforming traditional mindset or cultural norms. Wieringa claimed that on question of transformation women should learn to define their own problem.⁵⁴ Gender

equality cannot be attained in the absence of equal rights and women themselves have to be the active agents for this change. Therefore, a more serious understanding and analysis of political, economic and social realities being faced by men and women in developing countries is needed, otherwise gender equality interventions designed towards that end will always be a fallacy.

⁵⁴ Wieringa, Saskia. (1994). Women's interests and empowerment: gender planning reconsidered, *Development and Change*. 25: 844.



Interview:

Dr. Meghna Guhathakurta ⁵⁵

Do you think that the existing legal and social initiatives to fight VAW taken by Bangladesh government are effective enough to combat the arising challenges against women in the age of globalization? How can we find the way out?

I believe that there are some existing laws which are not sufficient enough to prevent or fight VAW. These laws ensure reactive response through the punishment of the convicted after the incident has taken place. Laws regarding prevention and protection of women and children, and domestic violence embrace all kind of possible measures to stop VAW in the society. Unfortunately, even lawyers don't use the existing laws to the fullest extent in establishing justice. There are some very progressive components in the law, but the mechanisms are not strengthened. Thus implementation of these laws is problematic. Domestic violence covers many things including marital rape. We work in rural areas, where many cases of violence can be stopped by implementing this law, but it is not being utilized uniformly by all. It is because the law enforcement agencies are not primarily concerned of VAW. Besides, there are

some traditional obstacles like filing of a case at police stations. If a single woman want to file a general diary (GD) at the station mentioning 'my family is torturing me', this complaint is not being filed. The root cause behind this is that a woman is not given her own guardianship as the agencies understand the existing legal system. Due to the prevailing patriarchal system in the society. In our country, inequality in sharing inheritance exacerbates the vulnerability of a woman's position and status.

Furthermore, issues of marriage and custody of children fall under the parameters of religious laws. But they are not effective to address the root cause of these violence. People usually use VAW as a "weapon of war" in the social and economic conflicts. Identifying and annihilating the root cause of VAW is a way out of it. There are some fundamental laws in our constitution that need to be changed to stop VAW. As it is interpreted in the spirit of law, everyone is equal. But women are deemed equal in the public sphere, but not in private sphere. Her marriage, her custody over children, her divorce everything is guided by personal laws, which is present in our legal system since the British period. If the personal

⁵⁵ Executive Director, Research Initiatives, Bangladesh (RIB).

laws are not revised or reformed like in India, preventing VAW would not be possible. India changed inheritance laws that ensures son or daughter fifty-fifty share of inheritance. Marriage registration is also mandatory there. But Hindus in our country fall under unreformed laws, so women are being exploited severely.

Is there any urgency of reformation and proper implementation of the existing laws?

We need proper implementation and reformation of existing laws. People are asking for a marriage registration act for women. It is already there in Islam, also in Christianity, but not in Hinduism, because for them marriage is taken as sacrament or religious duty. Although we have conducted a survey where 90% of the respondents, both male and female said that 'yes, registration is necessary', even after that they passed the law stating this act should remain, not mandatory. So,

“Men and women both believing in an ideology can be involved in any movement..... So, it shouldn't be stereotyped, we should see the dynamics of the movement.”

problems of early marriage, divorce, abandonment remain. Even after having a public consent, this is not being implemented. Patriarchic tendency of the society does not allow government to enact the law. Thus, we cannot reform the laws overnight if even one wants, so we have to take the path of long struggle, for reform and at the same time monitor proper implementation of the existing legal system. It has to be multipronged.

How can you evaluate the women's involvement in violent extremism?

It's not that only men will be extremists, history has shown us that there can be female extremists. Furthermore, it is an ideological matter. Men and women both believing in an ideology can be involved in any movement. Are there only women involved in our women's movement? There are also men who get involved in it. Actually, extremism is formed by centering on an ideology. So, it is not surprising that women get involved in violent extremism. Women may become violent in the defense of their rights. I think that human beings have both features, violent and non-violent. If a woman can't give food to her child, she can murder if she is desperate to get food. If a woman believes that there should be a state, and that state should be an Islamic state, she becomes a soldier, just like a man. So, it shouldn't be stereotyped, we should see the dynamics of the movement.

Why women are being the prime victims of cyber-crimes? What would be panacea for mitigating the negative impact of cyber world?

Here, anti-women stereotypes imagined in society is responsible. Why are women's body being advertised all the time? Why do women have to be posed at side by a car wearing a bikini? These indicate social norms in a society. Despite the technological advancement, the imagination and mind set of people remains the same like before. People try to harass women in social media from the same mindset. Women have to go through very hard struggle. In this regard, we need to be gender sensitive about cyber-crimes. The laws are made to stop freedom of expression rather than making it gender sensitive. So, we need to incorporate gender sensitivity in the law.

How can we address the sufferings of Rohingya women in a time of distress when they fled to neighboring country?

The issue of Rohingya refugees is not new, but the nature of their coming in to Bangladesh add new dimensions in analyzing facts. Rohingya women mostly lost their main earners of the family. They fled from their home for being persecuted. Many Rohingya women were raped by the Burmese military junta. Rape is used as a weapon of ethnic cleansing. In Bangladesh,

they are trying to survive hand to mouth and seeking safety.

Anan Commission gives a good solution to the crisis that would lessen the sufferings of Rohingya women. Citizenship for Rohingyas are a must to end the crisis. Gender sensitive lens should be used in ending the crisis. After taking back the Rohingyas to Myanmar, the government must give their lands and houses back to them and provide compensation for their crops that has been looted. At the same time diplomacy should remain strong so that the Burmese government can provide Rohingya population a dignified position, we have to keep the pressure on the Burmese government and the military. Persecution of the Burmese government are not only happening to Rohingyas of Rakhain state, they are happening to many other communities like, Karen and other ethnic groups. After the ascension of military government in 1962, this persecution against minorities is a continuous process.

Why is the detention rate of Rohingya women in Bangladesh on the rise? Is there any trends of crossing the border for India?

India is a large country, and Rohingyas have support base there among Indian Muslims. Indian government allows United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to give them rations, (although

the Modi government is talking about revoking it). In Hyderabad there is almost 400,000 Muslims, in Kashmir too. They get support from UNHCR, like food and other rations. NGOs do not have any restraint to work with them. We have a restraint before this recent surge. That's why they have already created a route to India. They pass through Satkhira or the Chittagong hill tracts which is more difficult, through Cox's bazar to Mizoram. But they don't stay there, because it is alien territory for them. And it is also a trafficking route. Bangalees also trespass through there. They pass through Satkhira, sometimes enter into Pakistan through Kashmir. So they (Rohingyas) use the same route. In case of trafficking and migration you have to have a route, network and money.

They always think Bangladesh as a transit point. Sex trafficking is also very common, I have done a study on it before. Even it was like a cross-border trafficking, they only gave 500 taka to seek entry in this country. They provided their services in hotels in Cox's bazar and then they crossed the border again. When a woman is desperate enough, if she is offered some money, she can at least eat or feed her child.

So, the situation is that many were already raped before they got here. And here too they were first abducted and then raped. Later they were told, 'you have become "bad" (now you have to do this as society

“Women are not minorities, therefore if the gain in strength (in education and employment), they will pose a threat for the male population.”

will no longer accept you'. There is a systemic violence going on. So, this is not uncommon in any refugee situation. But here it had been going on for a long time. Not surprisingly, trafficking is a number one crime in Satkhira. And Satkhira is number two in VAW rate also; because it is a border district.

Education rate and domestic violence rate are simultaneously increasing. Is there any connection between these phenomena?

There is a very important study by Fatema Mernissi on identifying the reasons behind the growing VAW despite women becoming more educated in recent days. When women become more educated, violence rate increases. Men feel their privileges to be under threat. They feel that their area of employment and education, the basis of their power will be decreased. So we can learn from these studies that when women emerge as a force, they pose a threat. If a minority group becomes more educated from the general population, they are not a threat.

Because the general population who are lesser educated outnumbers them. But when the general population becomes equal in education to the minorities, then there is a threat because competition will arise. Women are not minorities, therefore if the gain in strength (in education and employment), they will pose a threat for the male population.

“The privileged community does not want women to become empowered because they are not willing to change the system.”

What is your view on the existing reservation of Bangladesh on CEDAW article 2 and 16(1c)? Do you see in the near future that it can be withdrawn?

I think it's a long haul. As long as political parties are eager about the vote count on religious basis, it would have been tough to materialize the good will by full implementation of law.

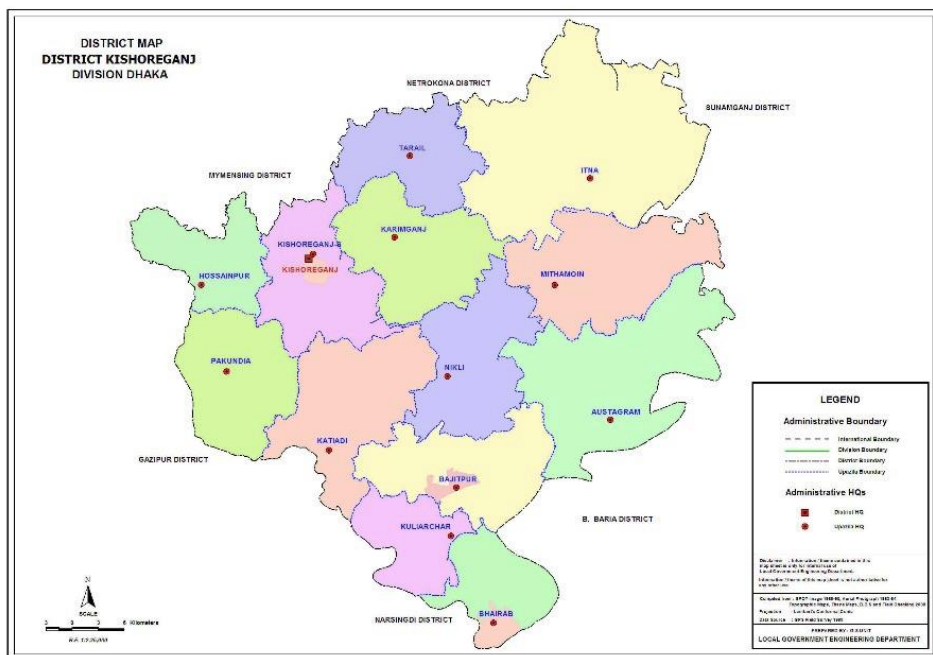
Government often tries to maintain good relations with some powerful community by compromising with them on many issues. It is one of them. Thus the government has become reactive rather proactive. When there is a voice of women's empowerment, government usually asks stakeholders, 'how many do

you have behind you?' Political parties considers how much influence you have in election. Women cannot do it but they have the numbers to overturn the existing system. There are so many women in numbers, but they haven't become an influential voice in election.

The privileged community does not want women to become empowered because they are not willing to change the system. Until the sharing mentality forms, until the women becomes a force, it would not be possible. But the dynamics of change is embedded in the society. I know many female bloggers who are severely threatened; but they have not stopped even after being threatened. They are not murdered but they are living a life with a constant threat of death. People know that they can't change it with only one or two. Where is the control here? Minority will never be able to overturn the majority. When was Bengali nationalism at its peak? When was it really strong? When we had the numbers. When Bengalis constituted the majority in Pakistan. In Bangladesh we have become half *Bangali* and half Muslim. No matter what kind of minority we talk about, the conclusion is the same. But an interesting thing is, women are not minorities. They are part of the majority. That's why they are considered a threat and that is why empowering women constitute more of a threat to the establishment and its politics.

Understanding Violent Extremism through Micronarratives: The Case of Kishoreganj

Figure 8: District Map of Kishoreganj



Source: <http://www.lged.gov.bd/UploadedDocument/DistrictMap/kishoreganj/kishoreganj.jpg>

Kishoreganj district borders the north-eastern districts of Bangladesh, Sunamganj, Habiganj and also the districts of Mymensingh, Gazipur, Narshingdi and Brahmanbaria. There are 13 upazilas under this district (figure 8) and more than 30, 28,706 people resides there.⁵⁶ Kishoreganj

has historically been a tolerant area as far as violence, political and/or religious and extremisms, are concerned. The district in general and the Kishoreganj Sadar upazila in particular have specific religious significance. Traditionally, in a place called Sholakia Eidgah of the Kishoreganj town

⁵⁶ Official Website of Kishoreganj District (2017)
Accessed: 12 December 2017. Available at:
<http://www.kishoreganj.gov.bd/site/page/203881a1-2013-11e7-8f57-286ed488c766>

the biggest Eid *Jamaats* of Bangladesh are held. Thousands of people from various part of country attend the Sholakia Eid *Jamaats* (twice) each year. In 2016, the 189th Eid *Jamaat* of Eid-ul Fitr was held on 7 July at 10 am in the morning following the custom of opening blank fires. However, just before the Eid *Jamaat* at around 9.30 am an attack was carried out by the extremists, which resulted in the death of four persons: two policemen, one perpetrator, and an innocent Hindu woman named Jharna Rani. The miscreants used bombs, pistols, and fired at police forces at one of the entrances of Eidgah, that also wounded nine other policemen.

Three months after this unholy incident, on October 2016, Centre for Genocide Studies (CGS) teamed up with UNDP and conducted a study at Kishoreganj to collect life stories from the dwellers. Under the broader spectrum of a study on “Building Tolerant and Inclusive Society in Bangladesh”, CGS team visited different parts of Bangladesh and collected life stories in the form of oral narratives. During visit to these districts, the study team also made some general observation and remarks on any particular incident adhering that area. The following section brings up some selected sentiments from the collected life stories in the form of micro-narratives. These statements not only carry observation on Sholakia incident but also their opinion on other local issues like minority oppression, migration, local politics and youth’s deviation from peacefulness.

General Observations

- Respondents were mostly uncomfortable during interview when sensitive questions were asked;
- Despite uneasiness, respondents were cooperative;
- Local people possessed high respect for the University of Dhaka;
- Women, on average are less conscious about politics;
- There is an absence of cultural activities in the area;
- The local people blames the non-locals for the recent prevalence of extremism;
- Reservations on female attire is visible in the rural areas.

Remarks on Sholakia

- People had different ideas regarding number of attackers and how many were killed and captured by police;
- Different accounts on local people’s involvement in the attack was noticeable;
- Most people came to know about the incident through TV;
- Competence or incompetence of Police was an issue of debate among respondents.

“Religion based politics has been a part of this area, but people were never afraid of extremism as they are now after the Sholakia incident. Dirty local politics, drug abuse among youth and absence of cultural activities has spoiled the environment of our place.” He added that, misuse of mobile and internet has created opportunities for the youth to get involved in criminal activities. According to him, these devices have distanced the youth from liberal thinking and tolerance. Youth involvement in violent criminal activities is visibly present in Kishoreganj. Recently a Hindu schoolchild was killed during Durga puja because of his religious affiliation. A year back, a Muslim boy was killed too. He also believes that the wrong message of heroism draws young people into violent extremism.

In case of minority oppression, he added, “personally I have faced serious psychological, mental and even physical torture for being a minority. Some people attacked my house to forcefully occupy it. The administration of police did not help me to get justice. Instead, everyday some people tried to put me into the trap of law.” He also stated that- just like him, all other people in the locality live in fear that anything might happen at any moment.

Swapan
Char Sholakia

“People are becoming self-centric and individualistic. Drug addiction is also increasing. Youth are involved in Drug addiction. Eve teasing, stealing, robbery, sexual harassments are increasing in the society. The uneducated young people are being engaged in serious violence under the leadership of local leaders. In 2012, there was a dangerous conflict in Srinagar. One party attacked another. Two people were dead and many people were injured. The committee of Nobin League was the reason of the conflict. Later, administration became conscious about the security. Security system is far better now than before.”

Bashana Begum
Srinagar

“In the day of Eid-ul-Fitr people of Sholakia as well as Bangladesh faced a terrible situation. The incident occurred at 9:45 a.m. within a week of the Gulshan attack. The exact reason behind the incident is vague. This does not seem a case of revenge. It is more like religious conflict. Unfortunately a Hindu woman died in that incident. This created a mistrust and tension among the religious groups. I do not think Imam’s involvement is issue in this incident.”

Iqbal Ahmed
Harua

“The Sholakia Eidgah became target may be because of the Khatib who was going to deliver the sermon. There is a possibility that he is little controversial and also inclined to the ruling Awami League. The former Imams were alleged to have affiliations with BNP. Now Awami League supporter Imam leads the prayer (Namaz). This could be a reason for the attack. But we never heard anything from the extremists or their organization. Moreover, all of those extremists who were involved in the attack were killed. That day we went out to see what happened. But we ran away as police chased us off.”

Padma Rani
Shatal

“The incident of Sholakia happened because of the failure of law enforcement agencies. There are many close circuit cameras in different spots and a good number of police were available around the Eidgah. It was quite unexpected that the extremists could conduct such an incident through tight security. I think that extremists might have some connections with the local people. Their main target was Farid Uddin Maswood, the Imam of Sholakia Eid Jammāt. The Imam is from Gopalganj, which is the hometown of the present prime minister of Bangladesh. He praised Bangabondhu and his family during the Munajat after Eid prayer.”

Ariful Haque
Batrish

“‘Purohīts’ of various temples received death threats by letter before puja in the last year. These things used to happen a lot even before the Sholakia incident. Still, the Sholakia incident was unexpected for a place like Kishoreganj. I was at my home on vacation during that time. I heard people died in the incident. I do not think any local was behind this. But, after the incident, people became vigilant to avoid this kind of situations. They expect the police’s involvement to ensure safety.”

Bipul Chakrabarty
Kishoreganj

Figure 9: Annex I (National Helpline Centre for Violence against Women and Children)

① nhc.gov.bd



National Helpline Centre for Violence against Women and Children



১৬দিন ব্যাপী আন্তর্জাতিক বারী বির্যতন প্রতিরোধ পক্ষের এ বছরের প্রতিপাদ্য বিষয়ঃ
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Location Map





Welcome and thank you for taking time to visit our website. Violence in Bangladesh has reached epidemic proportions. Today, most of the Bangladeshis are touched directly or indirectly by violent acts. Violence and abuse affect women from all kinds of backgrounds every day. Sometimes, Women are attacked by strangers, but most often they are hurt by people who are close to them. Violence and abuse can cause terrible physical and emotional pain.

Bangladeshi women are facing different kinds of violence. They are not even aware about their rights and legal provisions against violence. Sometimes they need to share these with confident one. In response, National Helpline Centre for Violence against Women and Children, a helpline centre for the Bangladeshi women and children victim was founded in 19th June, 2012 to provide the immediate service to victims and links up to relevant agencies.

The helpline number is 10921. It is a toll free number and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is accessible from all parts of Bangladesh and all beneficiaries can make call from both fixed phone and mobile phone. It's a confidential service that offers legal advice, police assistance, telephone counseling, referrals to other organizations service, information regarding violence issues.

The main purpose of this website is to inform the people, stakeholders and organizations about the helpline centre and told the women and children that you are not alone. you can get help.

Click for Bangla

Contact

National Helpline Centre for Violence against Women and Children
Department of Women Affairs
(7th Floor)
37/3 Eskaton Garden Road,
Dhaka-1000
Helpline Number- 10921
E-mail:
Website:

Latest News/Event

No need to visit our office, Please ring our National 24-hour Helpline: **109**

Photo Gallery

About Helpline Centre

National Helpline Centre for Violence against Women and Children was established in 19th June, 2012 under the Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence against Women (MSPVAW) of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, a programme being carried out jointly by the Government of Bangladesh and Government of Denmark.

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Our Service

- If you (women and children) are the victim of Physical Assault.
- If you (women and children) are the victim of Sexual Assault.
- If you (women and children) are the victim of Burn.
- you are facing any kind of sexual harassment.
- If you (women and children) are threatened by anyone.
- If you wants to know information regarding violence issue.

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Our Success

- Tania gets relief from early child marriage.
- Helpline protected a child life
- Helpline safe schoolgirl from blackmailing
- A ten years old girl named shopna was rescued
- Rescued Porn Pictures

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Frequently Asked Questions

- What is the National Helpline Centre for Violence against Women and Children?
- Where is the National Helpline Centre for Violence against Women and Children located?
- Who can call to the National Helpline Centre for Violence against Women and Children?
- How to make call to the Helpline Centre and in which number?
- Is this Helpline Centre available for any time?

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National Helpline Centre for Violence against Women and Children

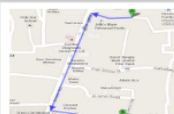


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Location Map



Service and Supports

National Helpline Centre for Violence against Women and Children

The National Helpline Centre for Violence against Women and Children team hope to be your partner in the violence against women and children field. We believe our specialized service can benefit other service provider as much as the people we help.

- Rescue
- Legal Aid
- Police assistance
- Give suggestions
- Counseling Service
- Medical assistance
- Awareness raising
- Help to arrange arbitration
- Link up victims to other service
- protect and prevent Early marriage
- Authentic information and contact details for various supports.

Contact

National Helpline Centre
for Violence against Women
and Children
Department of Women Affairs
(7th Floor)
37/3 Eskaton Garden Road,
Dhaka-1000
Helpline Number- 10921
E-mail:
Website:

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109

Figure 1: Annex 2 (Totthoapa)

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info.totthoapa.gov.bd/#



পদ্মভক্তবতী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
জাতীয় মহিলা সংস্থা
মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়



তথ্য আপা



তথ্য ভান্ডার
KNOWLEDGE BANK

👤 রেজিস্ট্রেশন 📄 লগ ইন

তথ্য অনুসন্ধান

তথ্য আপা: ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ গড়ার লক্ষ্যে তথ্য যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তির মাধ্যমে মহিলাদের ক্ষমতায়ন প্রকল্প



জাতির জনক
বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান



স্বাস্থ্য

এই বিভাগে নারী স্বাস্থ্য বিষয়ক তথ্যাদি টেক্সট, অডিও, ভিডিও, এনিমেশন এবং ছবি আকারে পাওয়া যাবে।

বিস্তারিত



আইন

এই বিভাগে আইন ও মানবাধিকার বিষয়ক তথ্যাদি টেক্সট, অডিও, ভিডিও, এনিমেশন এবং ছবি আকারে পাওয়া যাবে।

বিস্তারিত



জেন্ডার

জেন্ডার সম্পর্কিত তথ্যাদি সমৃদ্ধকরণ ও যাত্রাই বাছাই তথ্যাদি টেক্সট, অডিও, ভিডিও, এনিমেশন এবং ছবি আকারে পাওয়া যাবে।

বিস্তারিত



শিক্ষা

এই বিভাগে শিক্ষা বিষয়ক তথ্যাদি টেক্সট, অডিও, ভিডিও, এনিমেশন এবং ছবি আকারে পাওয়া যাবে।

বিস্তারিত



ব্যবসা

এই বিভাগে ব্যবসা বিষয়ক তথ্যাদি টেক্সট, অডিও, ভিডিও, এনিমেশন এবং ছবি আকারে পাওয়া যাবে।

বিস্তারিত



কৃষি

এই বিভাগে কৃষি বিষয়ক তথ্যাদি টেক্সট, অডিও, ভিডিও, এনিমেশন এবং ছবি আকারে পাওয়া যাবে।

বিস্তারিত

Glossaries

Dowry: The money, goods, or estate that a woman brings to her husband in marriage.

Durga Puja: Annual Hindu festival that reveres the Goddess Durga.

Eid: A Muslim festival, in particular Eid al-Fitr or Eid al-Adha.

Eid-ul Fitr: Muslim festival marking the end of the fast of Ramadan.

Eidgah: Open-air enclosure reserved for Eid prayer.

Eid Jamaat: Special prayer offered to commemorate Eid.

Imam: The person who leads prayers in a mosque.

Khatib: A person who delivers the sermon during the Friday prayer and Eid prayers. The khatib is usually the imam but the two roles can be played by different people.

Purohit: Hindu priest who worship/ritual/s.

Sadar Upazila: Sub-units of district situated in the district headquarter.

Union Parishad/Council: Smallest rural administrative and local government units in Bangladesh.

Violent Extremism: Includes incidents involving rouge (religious or non-religious) organizations, rebel and militant groups (non-political party) who use violence and intimidation for pursuing their aims, and in many cases are proscribed by the government as terrorist groups.

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