

Access –

A programme on women's participation
in the social, political and economic
spheres 2012-2017.

Proposal for programme development during 2011.

A joint programme between Nijera Kori, Sabalamby
Unnayan Samity, Thanapara Swallows Development
Society and The Swallows India Bangladesh.

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1. Introduction

Bangladesh's most famous and powerful persons are women. The dynamics of politics in the country would not exist if it weren't for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, recently rated the 6th most powerful woman in Asia according to CNN -and her counterpart, the legendary opposition leader Khaleda Zia. In the parliament 19 % of the seats are held by women and two of the most important ministers are women. The country has laws in operation to promote gender equality and to guard women's right.

Despite this, women in general have a subordinated status in this patriarchal society, and women's engagement in politics are generally not encouraged due to social stigma, stereotyped gender roles and patriarchal values.

One of the biggest challenges for Bangladesh to reach the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and to eradicate the poverty in the country is to engage more women in income-generating activities. Only one woman out of every seven is engaged in wage employment.

To change this trend and to promote women's participation there is a strong need for women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming through all spheres in society.

2. Background

2.1 Constitutional Obligations

The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Bangladesh Constitution which not only grants equality to women, but also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women, as evident in box 1.

Box 1. Women Empowerment in Bangladesh Constitution

Article 10 states: *"Steps shall be taken to ensure participation of women in all spheres of national life"*

Article 19 (1) states: *"The State shall endeavour to ensure equality of opportunity to all citizens"*

Article 19 (2) states: *"The State shall adopt effective measures to remove social and economic inequality between man and woman and to ensure the equitable distribution of wealth among citizens, and of opportunities in order to attain a uniform level of economic development throughout the republic."*

Article 27 states: *"All citizens are equal before the law and are entitled to equal protection of the law."*

Article 28(1) states: *"The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth".*

Article 28 (2) states: *"Women shall have equal rights with men in all spheres of the state and of public life."*

Article 29 (1) states: *"There shall be equality of opportunity for all citizens in respect of employment or office in the service of the republic."*

Article 29 (2) states: *“No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth, be ineligible for, or discriminated against in respect of employment or office in the service of the republic.”*

2.2 International Legal Framework

The international legal framework to which Bangladesh has acceded to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR); the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR); the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (ICERD); the Convention on Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); the Convention against Torture (CAT); and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The country has also ratified the CEDAW Optional Protocol and the two CRC.¹

2.3 Overall Scenario - gender disparity and growing religious fundamentalism

a) Violence against women

Despite specialized criminal laws for protecting women—the Suppression of Violence against Women and Children Act, the Dowry Prohibition Act, the Child Marriage Restraint Act, the Acid Crime Control Act—instances of violence against women, especially dowry-related violence, domestic violence and rape, have not significantly decreased.

According to the Bangladeshi human rights NGO Odhikar’s 2008 Human Rights Report², 202 women and 252 girls³, for a total of 454 females, were reported as victims of rape in 2008. A total of 133 people, comprising 73 women, 34 men and 26 children, were reported as victims of acid attacks in 2008. Also in 2008 a total of 269 women were victims of dowry⁴ violence.

b) Women in the family

In Bangladesh patriarchal ideology dictates the respective terms of family, community and relationship between men and women. The oldest male is the head of a family. He takes final decision in family matters. Patriarchal ideology is the main obstacle for women to take part in the decision making process in the family and society.

¹ Naila Kabeer , IDS Working Paper 200 cited in edited by Upala Devi Banerjee 2005, Lessons Learned from Rights-Based Approaches in the Asia-Pacific Region,

² Human Rights Report 2008, Odhikar

³ The term ‘girls’ means females up to the age of 16 years in accordance with the Children’s Act of 1974.

⁴ Giving and taking dowry are both prohibited under the Dowry Prohibition Act.

c) Division of labour and wages

Women's productive role in non-formal economic sector like domestic labour or household chores and home-agriculture is seldom recognized in terms of economics as a discipline invented by men. There is a huge discrimination between the wages of women and men. Besides fundamentalism has become a new threat to the working women inclusive of women working in the development sector, rural economic development, owner of small properties, human rights workers and progressive women.

d) Rise in Religious fundamentalisms and Its Economy: Socio-Political Context

Fundamentalism and its economy stand against secularism and contradict the core essence of the 1972 Constitution. The failure of the state to implement principles that withstand discrimination on the basis of difference and to extend public welfare to all citizens has led to the extension and reproduction of the 'Economy of Fundamentalism'. Along with the global rise in Fundamentalist movements across various religions, the relative weakening of secularist ideology has meant that religious difference continues to be important in the current time.

Communalization of education has re-enforcing the strength of the economy of fundamentalism. In the last 33 years, the number of primary educational institutions has doubled, while number of dakhil madrasas has multiplied eight times. The number of students in primary schools has been doubled, while the number of students in dakhil madrasas has increased 13 times. The per head state expenses for students of junior level at government educational institutions is 3,000/ taka, it stands at 5,000/ taka in the government madrasa sector. If the fundamentalist economy generates 1200 crore taka as neat profit, the degree of communalization of our economy would be as follows:

- 1) Equivalent to 1.53% of per annum national investment (in current prices) of the country,
- 2) Equivalent to 2.1% of per annum private investment of the country,
- 3) Equivalent to 3.3% of government's total yearly revenue income,
- 4) Equivalent to 3.7% of the yearly export income,
- 5) Equivalent to 6% of the government's total yearly development budget,
- 6) Equivalent to 12% of the internal resources of government's yearly development budget.

The growth rate of fundamentalist economy in Bangladesh is 7.5% to 9% per year on an average, while the growth rate of mainstream economy is 4.5% to 5% per year on an average.⁵In addition, overt and covert restrictions on the press's coverage of violence against women exist, therefore, the number of actual incidences cannot be accurately ascertained.

Consistent with other parts of Bangladesh, patriarchal values are very strong in Nijera Kori's project areas and a recent rise in religious fundamentalism has strengthened these. As a result, women are continuously deprived of their social, economic and political rights. Violence against women is

⁵ Abul Barkat, Maulabad er Arthaniti (Fundamentalist economy in Bangladesh) published in 2005

reflected in incidents of child marriage, dowry, religious injunction *hilla* marriage⁶, fatwa⁷, rape, and acid throwing.

e) Impact of Fundamentalisms on Women: The impact of fundamentalism in life of women in Bangladesh has been proved to be fatal in recent decades. The growing trend of cladding themselves in *burqua* amongst young rural women in comparison to their predecessors, diminishing mobility and increasing seclusion and consequential outcome of lesser encroachment of women in education and employment can be noted as the worse impacts of fundamentalism on women.

f) National Women Development Policies have been accepted by the Government in February, 2008 and also these policies are highly appreciated by women and different human rights organisations. But the anti-women groups and fundamentalists reject these policies and also they are creating fanatical uproars in the country.

g) Lack of women in decision making/ administration and public bodies

Women are taking part in all election of local govt. institutions like Union Parishad and Upazilla Parishad and national assembly election in reserved post and open posts and are being elected. But, most of these elected women are not able to discharge their duties in the absence of any definite guideline and monitoring system. Specially elected male chairmen debar the elected women representatives to discharge their duties.

h) Denial of rights in traditional justice system

The traditional alternative dispute resolution, known as *salish*, is a community initiative. It is generally controlled by local powerful individuals and/or groups and the union parishad (municipal government) which leads to poor people, and especially women and indigenous, being denied justice. A 2007 TIB household survey found that 51 percent of respondents experienced irregularities during *salish* administration. Irregularities include nepotism (experienced by 43 percent of respondents), biased decision-making of arbiters (by 34 percent) and bribery (by 17 percent), for which the average amount paid was TK 5000 .

3. Empowerment

Empowerment' is the processes of change through which those who have been denied the ability to articulate their needs, exercise their rights and influence the decision-making processes which shape

⁶ **Hilla** is an injunction given in religion that if after divorce a couple wishes to reunite in marriage, the women must consummate a marriage with a man other than her *husband*, and after voluntarily divorce by that man, will the couple allowed to remarry. As per Bangladesh Muslim Family Law Ordinance prevalent now, hilla is not legal.

⁷ **Fatwa** is a matter of the Muslim religion and provides legal decisions on different issues relating to Muslim life on the basis of injunctions and guidance of the Holy Quran and the Sunnah or Hadith. In the early ages of Islam the high erudites of the Islamic theology were endowed with the designation of Mufti or the one that dispenses fatwa. Ordinarily they provided clarification on laws.

their lives are enabled to do so. The *resource* dimension relates to a variety of tangible as well as intangible resources. It encompasses conventional economic resources, for instance, i.e., land, employment, equipment, assets, finance. Resources can be embodied in the human being in the form of education, analytical and practical skills, knowledge, creativity, imagination and wisdom. Finally, they can be social in nature, encompassing the social networks associations and connections through which people are able to improve their situation and life chance.

The second dimension of power relates to *agency*, the ability to define and articulate needs and priorities and to act upon them. Resources and agency together constitute what Amartya Sen refers to as 'capabilities,' the potential that people have for living the lives they want, of achieving valued ways of 'being and doing.' This idea of achievement constitutes the third dimension of empowerment. The failure of poor and disenfranchised groups of people in a society to achieve their valued goals is a reflection of underlying asymmetries in their basic capabilities. Empowerment can be seen as providing these groups with the capabilities they need to achieve their valued goals, without violating the rights of others to do the same.

Understanding gender equality and women's empowerment

Despite many international agreements women's human rights, women are still much more likely than men to be poor and illiterate. They usually have less access than men to medical care, property ownership, credit, training and employment. They are far less likely than men to be politically active and far more likely to be victims of domestic violence.

Gender equality implies a society in which women and men enjoy the same opportunities, outcomes, rights and obligations in all spheres of life. Equality between men and women exists when both sexes are able to share equally in the distribution of power and influence; have equal opportunities for financial independence through work or through setting up businesses; enjoy equal access to education and the opportunity to develop personal ambitions. A critical aspect of promoting gender equality is the empowerment of women, with a focus on identifying and redressing power imbalances and giving women more autonomy to manage their own lives. Women's empowerment is vital to sustainable development and the realization of human rights for all.

Key Factors in Gender Empowerment

- **Stewardship of natural resources:** Women in developing nations are usually in charge of securing water, food and fuel and of overseeing family health and diet. Therefore, they tend to put into immediate practice whatever they learn about nutrition and preserving the environment and natural resources. If this de facto stewardship of natural resources of women can be translated into de jure or legal ownership, oceans of barriers in gender empowerment can be crossed in one giant leap.
- **Economic empowerment:** More women than men live in poverty. Economic disparities persist partly because much of the unpaid work within families and communities falls on the shoulders of women and because they face discrimination in economic sphere.
- **Educational empowerment:** About two thirds of the illiterate adults in the world are female. Higher levels of women's education are strongly associated with both lower infant mortality

and lower fertility, as well as with higher levels of education and economic opportunity for their children.

- **Political empowerment:** Social and legal institutions still do not guarantee women equality in basic legal and human rights, in access to or control of land or other resources, in employment and earning, and social and political participation. Laws against domestic violence are often not enforced on behalf of women.
- **Reproductive health:** Women, for both physiological and social reasons, are more vulnerable than men to reproductive health problems. Reproductive health problems, including **maternal mortality and morbidity**, represent a major – but preventable -- cause of death and disability for women in developing countries. Failure to provide information, services and conditions to help women protect their reproduction health therefore constitutes gender-based discrimination and a violation of women's rights to health and life.
- **Empowerment throughout the life cycle:** Reproductive health is a lifetime concern for both women and men, from infancy to old age.
- Experience has shown that addressing gender equality and women's empowerment requires strategic interventions at all levels of **programming and policy-making**.⁸

Women's Work and Economic Empowerment

In nearly every country, women work longer hours than men, but are usually paid less and are more likely to live in poverty. In subsistence economies, women spend much of the day performing tasks to maintain the household, such as carrying water and collecting fuel wood. In many countries women are also responsible for agricultural production and selling. Often they take on paid work or entrepreneurial enterprises as well.

Unpaid domestic work – from food preparation to care giving – directly affects the health and overall well being and quality of life of children and other household members. The need for women's unpaid labor often increases with economic shocks, such as those associated with the AIDS pandemic or economic restructuring. Yet women's voices and lived experiences – whether as workers (paid and unpaid), citizens, or consumers – are still largely missing from debates on finance and development. Poor women do more unpaid work, work longer hours and may accept degrading working conditions during times of crisis, just to ensure that their families survive.

Intergenerational gender gaps

The differences in the work patterns of men and women, and the 'invisibility' of work that is not included in national accounts, lead to lower entitlements to women than to men. Women's lower access to resources and the lack of attention to gender in macroeconomic policy adds to the inequity, which, in turn, perpetuates gender gaps. This has implications for investments in the next generation. If parents view daughters as less likely to take paid work or earn market wages, they may be less inclined to invest in their education, women's fastest route out of poverty.

4. Existing governmental policies and programmes on gender

⁸ www.unfpa.org

The integration of women's concerns and needs into development planning has both socioeconomic and political considerations. The Constitution of Bangladesh upholds the necessity of equal opportunities between women and men. It sanctions positive measures for disadvantaged groups, particularly women. The Government has already undertaken several noteworthy efforts toward integrating the women's agenda into the broader policy and plan framework. These include (i) formulation of the Fifth Five-Year Plan and PRSP adopting the mainstreaming of a women's development approach; (ii) declaration of the National Policy for Advancement of Women; and (iii) adoption of the National Action Plan (NAP) for Advancement of Women: Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (PFA).

National Policy for Advancement of Women

The National Policy for Advancement of Women and the NAP were formulated by MOWCA, based on SNA and other reports. They were approved at the first meeting of the National Council for Women Development (NCWD) held in February 1997. Its main goals are to eradicate gender disparities from the society and to provide better options to women to ensure their participation in private and public life. Revised National Policy for Advancement of Women has been declared in 2008.

National Action Plan for Advancement of Women

Following the Beijing PFA, the NAP was prepared and approved by the Government in 1997. A mainstreaming approach was adopted in formulating the NAP. The NAP includes the recommendations of 15 line ministries/divisions specifying objectives, indicators, resources, time limit, and activities to be undertaken.

The NAP emphasizes the strategy of mainstreaming women's development in all government policies and programs by sectorized ministries and agencies.

Fifth Five-Year Plan (1997-2002) and PRSP

The Macro Chapter on Women's Development in the Fifth Five-Year Plan and PRSP has endorsed mainstreaming as the strategy for women's development. The Plan recognized the roles of all sectors in mainstreaming women's development and emphasized the policy and advocacy roles of MOWCA. The Macro and Micro Chapters on Women's Development of the Plan stressed the importance of implementing the National Policy and the NAP for Advancement of Women.

National Council for Women Development

At the first meeting (1997) the National Policy for Advancement of Women and the NAP were approved. In order to make the NCWD effective, a monitoring and evaluation committee has been set up headed by the Minister of MOWCA. Its function is to monitor the implementation progress of sectorized WID plans and submit quarterly reports to the NCWD. This is a working committee composed of high government officials from line ministries including the IMED, the Planning Commission, and members of the civil society. As the highest policy-making body for women's development, the NCWD provides policy guidance to all sectors and monitors implementation of critical policy decisions relating to women's issues and development.

Ministry of Women and Children Affairs

Bangladesh is one of the few countries to have a separate Ministry of Women's Affairs. At present it consists of the Ministry itself and three implementing agencies: the Department of Women's Affairs (DWA), Jatiya Mohila Sangstha (National Women's Council), and Shishu (Children's) Academy. Department of Women's Affairs (DWA) is implementing different Social Safety Net activities for ultra poor women and income generating activities for women. On the other hand, six cells are working to prevent violence against women in 6 divisional cities. To prevent trafficking of women and Children, women and children trafficking prevention committee is working in each district and upzilla.

WID Focal Points

Since the Fourth Five-Year Plan, all sectors and ministries have been responsible for incorporating WID concerns into their programs. The WID focal point is a unique mechanism to ensure that gender concerns are included in the policies, plans, and programs of all line ministries. For this purpose, an officer with the rank of joint secretary/joint chief has been designated as the WID focal point in all line ministries. For coordinating sectorized activities and monitoring implementation of the NAP, MOWCA organizes regular coordination meetings with WID focal points. For coordinating all types of women development works, WID committee is in every district and Upazilla.

Parliamentary Standing Committee on MOWCA

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on MOWCA is composed of Members of Parliament who are responsible for raising and discussing all issues concerning MOWCA. MOWCA is responsible for making regular reports to this committee on the progress made on women's advancement and the steps taken in this direction.

Women's Development Implementation and Evaluation Committee

This committee was formed to monitor implementation of the NAP by different sectors. This committee is headed by the minister of the MOWCA. The members of the committee are the joint secretary/joint chief of different ministries, heads of implementing agencies of the MOWCA, and representatives of civil society

Bilateral and Multilateral Agencies and Women's Programs

In Bangladesh, almost all international development agencies have women's programs. Generally these agencies have either a bilateral or multilateral agreement with the Government of Bangladesh. They provide aid and assistance and also help in the formulation of policies in close cooperation and coordination with the Government, NGOs, civil society, research and women's groups, etc. They also have a donor consortium where the country's performance is reviewed and the major policy thrust is decided and the aid is sanctioned. Donors also liaise with each other and with their national partners in a donors' liaison committee. In addition to ADB, the major multilateral bodies include the UN System, the World Bank, and the European Community. Major bilateral aid agencies include the Canadian International Development Agency, Japan International Cooperation Agency, United States Agency for International Development, Danish International Development Assistance, Department for International Development UK, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, etc.

Overall, donor agencies have exerted a positive influence by helping to bring the gender issue closer to the top of Bangladesh's development agenda.

5. Target group and goals

5.1 Target group

The target group of the programme development is first and foremost women and men in rural Bangladesh. The participating organizations' staff is also targeted in order to facilitate the programme development process.

5.2 Programme development; goals, results and activities

Vision

The vision of the programme development is to create an enabling environment to ensure an effective and functional programme with start 2012.

Goals/Results

1. To engage the targeted women and men in the development process
2. To develop the capacity of the staff to facilitate and develop the programme
3. To create the programme documents with active participation of the targeted women and men.
4. To create a sustainable and strong programme system including coordination, transparency and accountability.

Activities

- 1.1 To have introductory meetings with targeted women and men
- 1.2 Arrange workshops with the target group

- 2.1 Arrange introductory meeting for management staff on the programme development process
- 2.2 Arrange training for the staff
- 2.3 Arrange exchange visits for the staff

- 3.1 To develop the programme documents including LFA and Monitoring and reporting systems
- 3.2 Conduct Baseline

- 4.1 Develop Steering Committee and the organizational frames for the programme
- 4.2 To set the secretariat of the programme
- 4.3 To develop management and coordination policy and strategy

6. Presentation of participating organizations

6.1 Nijera Kori (NK)

Since Nijera Kori's inception in 1980 the overreaching goal is a society free from oppression and deprivation through the establishment of the fundamental rights of people. NK seeks to build the capacity of landless groups of women and men to make claims on public resources, including social services and credit, and to make the government more accountable to the poor in its delivery of these services. Gender inequality remains central to Nijera Kori's understanding of poverty and social injustice and to its efforts to combat these.

Human capabilities refers to the potential that people have for living the lives they want, of achieving valued ways of "being and doing". NK represents one of those organizations in Bangladesh that has defined its agenda from its inception in terms of building the **collective capabilities** of poor women and men to claim their rights as citizens.

To attain greater equity between women and men at family and community level for landless group members, the NK philosophy is that through collective organizing the landless can gain strength to assert their rights and escape poverty.

The organization has a total of 293,746 group members including 154,853 female members from 161,679 landless rural families. It covers in 1,375 villages, 174 unions, 40 upazillas and 17 districts of Bangladesh.

6.2 Sabalamby Unnayan Samity (SUS)

Sabalamby Unnayan Samity (SUS) is working by keeping the vision 'People live and work in a harmonious society' since 1986. Goal of SUS is 'Deprived people enjoy a better livelihood and have involvement in improving their lives. The organization has been registered under social welfare department and NGO affairs bureau in 1986 and 1990 respectively.

SUS is working with an integrated and rights based approach over the last 24 years and evolved into a multi facet development organization. Since inception, SUS is working with poor and underprivileged people by creating employment opportunities, raising awareness, ensuring health and education, rights and governance, keeping friendly environment through different diversified interventions with a view to eradicate societal deprivation, discrimination and inequality.

SUS has now 26 field offices in 21 upazila of Netrakona, Sunamgonj, Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Sherpur and Kishoreganj districts.

6.3 Thanapara Swallows Development Society (TSDS)

The Thanapara Swallows Development Society started in 1972 to help the war affected people who lost their near and dear during 1971. From the beginning till now Thanapara Swallows work to empower the women and children among the vulnerable poor and through that it can bring change the women and children situation in the family as well s in the society.

Thanapara Swallows is register under The Society act and NGO Affair Bureau 2001 and before that the organization worked under The Swallows India Bangladesh section since 1972. Thanapara Swallows is implementing 9 different programmes like Formal and Non Formal education, Income Generation thought Fair Trade, Prevention of Domestic Violence, Women Law education, Agriculture Right, Arsenic mitigation and other.

We work in 2 different Upazilla (Charghat and Bagha) under Rajshahi district. Some of the activity is run by donor funded and some of the activity is run independently.

7. The gender situation in the specific working areas

7.1 Various areas - NK

Continuous exposure of women to all sorts of violence and disparities, deprivation of their basic rights and discouraging them to participate in political, economic and social life are the salient features of the problem. There is a strong need for awareness building for both men and women regarding women's rights including mobility, employment, reproductive health rights, asset-building in the Nijera Kori Project areas. Here, some major problems involving women-folk in our country are mentioned below:

- inequalities in terms of class, gender, land and other resource concentration;
- social and religious norms which undermine human rights, particularly inheritance rights for women and empowerments;
- hard and stringent practices of patriarchal values and norms in family, community as well as society.
- widespread violence against women such as dowry, divorce, rape, acid throwing, trafficking, insecurity in conflicting areas like char and industrial shrimp aquaculture areas;
- elite/rich people control over access to public resources and services like education and health;
- social hierarchies in terms of class, kinship and gender;
- lack of women participation and representation at local and national bodies;
- widespread rent-seeing and corruption in access to resources and services;
- widespread patronage systems, creating adverse dependencies, which undermine solidarities amongst the poor;

Besides, the conflicting situation in Nijera Kori areas often turns out to be deplorable for women and girls living there. Because, Nijera Kori is fighting against the industrial shrimp aquaculture and struggling for land rights in coastal areas of Khulna and Noakhali since 1980s and it has experienced a huge violence against women and girls. Therefore, NK will focus on this conflicting situation of women and girls in these areas which will sustain to achieve gender equality.

Women are in a relentless vulnerable position in Bangladesh. Particularly in conflict torn and inaccessible remote rural areas women face awful constraints in different domestic activities and basic services and NK is working devotedly in these areas. Since these areas are not easily accessible,

one can move around only by foot or by using boat. In this areas High school, health centers and UNO office, agriculture, fisheries, police station, court, etc are far away from their habitat. As a result it is extremely difficult for them to have an access to these services. In addition, usually women are involved in various time consuming works, i.e. for household works they have to collect water from a distant area. Hence these prolonged activities generate dreadful burden for women.

7.2 Netrokona – SUS

In Netrokona, patriarchal attitude highly dominate the society and gender discrimination is visible at community levels. Most of the women are dependent on men throughout their lives, from father through husband to son. Women and young girls are more disadvantaged than men in their access to education, health care and financial assets. There has been considerable improvement in female educational provision in recent years, particularly at primary level, but overall enrolment is far short of universal and a gender gap persists. Very few girls participate in secondary or vocational, technical and higher education. Traditionally, women were often discouraged from participating in public life. Usually men mediate women's space in social, economic, political and legal institutions. Women are mainly recognized only for their reproductive role. Men's authority over women is reinforced by pervasive gender-based violence.

Early marriage, dowry customs and polygamy are major factors in the continuation of domestic violence against women. Laws that have been passed against these practices have proven difficult to enforce, especially in rural areas where traditions and family laws tend to govern social life.

Gender-based violence outside the home includes sexual harassment, assaults, rapes and acid attacks. Revenge by a rejected suitor and land disputes are common causes for acid attacks against women. Insufficient shelters for victims of abuse have led the government to hold women who file complaints in safe custody, usually in prison. This custody frequently results in further abuses, hence discouraging the filing of complaints by other women. Despite women's growing role in agriculture, there is evidence that social and customary practices virtually exclude women from any hope of direct access to land.

Mobility of women, particularly in rural areas, forces her to depend on male relatives for any entrepreneurial activities. The wage differential by gender is widest in nonagricultural employment, in both rural and urban areas. In agriculture, the most notable feature is the very marked and distinctive seasonal variation in women's wages.

Higher proportions of female than male-headed households fall into the categories of ultra and extreme poverty and the disparity widens the more severe the level of poverty.

They are disadvantaged economically by their brokered access to markets through males, and their inability to participate in local political, social and legal institutions. They are also more subject to physical insecurity and violence.

There is a generous quota system for women's representation in official public bodies. But quotas are not generally met and where they are, the women are regarded as token appointees and adapt a passive role in the bodies concerned.

7.3 Rajshahi –TSDS

Thanapara Swallows has been implementing two different program for women right one is Domestic Violence Prevention Program and Women law education Program both are supported by Bangladesh women layer Association. Woman law Education program has been closed from last January and Domestic violence prevention activity is going on.

During implementing this program we got an experience that this is one of the big problem in Bangladesh. There are so many problems like early marriage, Divorce, polygamy, Boy Receive Dourly from girls parent, So many Domestic violence happen in the family but do not get legal support, Acid through to girl. Girls are treated differently in the family, out side family Educational institute, political platform and every place where women move. In Bangladesh women do not get equal share from their parent property and any asset own by parent. Muslim women are not allowed to pray in the mosque even they can not go inside the mosque. Only few place in Bangladesh where women have separate place in the mosque to pray. So many women get divorce but they do not get Moharana which they should have got legally from her husband if any case if couple get divorce. In the family women are fully responsible to prepare food, take care children, wash cloth, take care domestic cattle, take care any crop is harvested and brought to home. There is no work sharing mentality has been develop in Bangladesh. In the rural are this scenario even wars. In the rural are male do not think that female as any right to decide any thing for family, when children get marriage father has 100% responsibility to decide where he will give marriage to his san or daughter.

In our area early marriage is one of the big problems for that reason girl does not get possibility to get higher education or can not be involve with any income generation activity.

Our area is boarder to India and lot of people is involved with smuggling business. Some time boarder is tight and business dose not go well then those people migrate to other part of Bangladesh and do not take care of their wife or children for that reason there is lot of women who has husband but do not taken care by husband.

8. Organogram

The programme development will be made by the tree organizations with support from The Swallows India Bangladesh.

The secretariat will act on behalf on the programme and be coordination the process. The secretariat has the financial responsibility for the meetings, workshops and salaries. The secretariat will also plan and arrange the workshops/ meetings with support from the Swallows as well as have the coordinating role of reporting. Nijera Kori will be the secretariat during the programme development.

The organizations will implement the process in their respective area and are responsible for the full project cycle together with the target group.

The Swallows role in the programme development is facilitate the development, provide information, develop capacity building, and be the crucial link between Sweden and Bangladesh. It will also be coordinating application processes and have the overall reporting responsibility.

9. Time plan

2010	
August/ September	Develop the frames of the programme
October	
November	Introductory meeting with target group
December	
2011	
January	Programme meeting LFA workshop/ Baseline meeting
February	Conduct Baseline
March	Programme meeting LFA workshop Deadline Proposal 2012
April	
May	
June	Programme meeting Management workshop
July	Develop monitoring and reporting system
August	
September	Programme meeting Exchange visits
October	Sharing workshop on teaching methods
November	
December	Programme meeting

10. Budget

Activity	Total target	Unit cost (BDT)	Budget (BDT)	SEK
Programme meetings	5 meetings			
Workshops	5 meetings (LFA, monitoring, baseline)			
Field trips	6			
Baseline	3			
Audit	1 (secretariat)			
Staff				
Coordinator Secretariat	1 person à 50%			
Project Coordinators	3 persons à 25 %			
Accountant	1 person 10 %			

Secretariat				
Programme management costs				
Total				