



নাগরিক সম্মেলন ২০১৭
বাংলাদেশে
এসডিজি বাস্তবায়ন
কাউকে পেছনে রাখা যাবে না
৬ ডিসেম্বর ২০১৭



Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh
এসডিজি বাস্তবায়নে নাগরিক প্ল্যাটফর্ম, বাংলাদেশ

সমান্তরাল অধিবেশন (২)
সামাজিক প্রসঙ্গ

কৃষিবিদ ইনস্টিটিউশন বাংলাদেশ, ঢাকা

SDG & Women Empowerment



Challenges and way forward



Women Empowerment:



- Our understanding of empowerment relies on three systemic units to facilitate growth:
 1. Agency
 2. Structure
 3. Relations



SDG and women

- Girls married before 18, 3/4th of the adolescent population
- Women kept from being economically productive (65% working population of women are unemployed)
- Women and girls dropping out of schools and missing tertiary education
- Women lacking skills in technical areas
- Women facing barriers to career growth in senior public official roles and managers in private companies
- Child-marriage -> disrupted education -> stunted skill development -> limited economic opportunity is a lifelong domino-effect of systemic discrimination
- Some face double-discrimination of being women from religious/ethnic minority or indigenous population or being disabled.



Are women equal partners in development?

Challenges: Violence against women & girls



- Odhikar reports:
 - Rapes (2007-2017): 6647 (Adult: 2525(38%) , children: **3961 (60%)**, unidentified (2%)
 - Killed after rape: 766 (12%), Committed suicide: 75 (1%), Gangrape: (33%)
- Around 75% of women face domestic violence as per the last household survey
- 5,388 cases (reported) of dowry related violence in 10 years where 3097 (57%) were killed, 2070 (38%) injured, and 221 (4%) were suicides.
- Police data: 18,668 rape cases were filed during the last five years and there were only 22 convictions.
- Greater prevalence of rapes committed against children
- One in 10 rapes end in death and a third are gangrapes indicating growing severity of violence committed
- More than half of the dowry-related violence cases reported are after bride's death
- Access to justice (*both* legal and social) is an issue for women
- Tolerance and culture of silence is another factor
- Accountability in enforcement of law is weak

Without justice for women, can we ensure gender equality?

Challenges: Child Marriage

Still...

- 1/3rd of women aged 15-49 are married before age 15
- 3/4th of women aged 20-49 are married before age 18



- Contradictory law regarding child marriage may have detrimental impact on prevalence of child marriage
- Impact of child marriage on development of country is yet to be understood in its entirety.
- Social norms-related causes are primarily not addressed.

**Development fails a generation of girls in child marriage.
Are we doing enough?**

Challenges: Maternal Mortality

- Top 25% in the world with highest Maternal mortality rate
- About 50 per cent of pregnancies occur by the age of 18 years. A third are unplanned.
- Key bottleneck identified by government: Access to professional doctor during delivery
- Women's mobility and decision-making to access health services affect health-seeking behavior
- Adolescent married have not been effectively targeted by the Reproductive and Sexual Health coverage
- Pressure on women to prove fertility is a cause of early pregnancy



Is healthcare development taking into account the social norms aspects?

Challenges: Dignified Work Opportunities for Women



- LFPR: For every 100 males employed, 67 equally capable women are employed in same role
- Prevalent employment in informal sector mean wage gaps and minimum wages are inadequately addressed by regulation.
- Lack of women's ownership over income and assets
- Lack of enabling and dignified working conditions
- Lack of recognition of women's contribution



Is income increase sufficient indicator of women's economic development?

Gender Gap Index 2017

- Overall Rank: **47/144 (Highest in South Asia)**
 - Political Empowerment: **7/144 (5%)**
 - Educational Attainment: 111/144 (77%)
 - Health and Survival: 125/144 (87%)
 - Economic Participation and Opportunity: **129/144 (90%)**
- Learning Opportunity:
 - Maldives closed Educational Attainment gap
 - Sri Lanka closed Health and Survival gap
 - Nepal fastest climber over last decade in every aspect
 - South-Asia is the fastest improving region



Are we complacent about achievements on Gender Equality?

Recommendation



1. Increase investment in girls to secure their rights, moving beyond sectoral investments (eg: Education, livelihoods or child marriage separately)
2. Harness strong political commitment to ending inequities in legal and policy frameworks: Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, and access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws
3. Transforming social norms should be mainstreamed as a particular agenda in development
4. Build institutional mechanisms to ensure answerability of institutions implementing laws on violence against women
5. Institutionalize measurement of SDG indicators in current public and development sector M&E frameworks – Emphasize intangible indicators of underlying causes like Household Decision-Making Index
6. Sensitizing and holding market actors accountable to uphold rights of women in workforce and as consumers.
7. Build strong partnerships with women's movement for inclusion of women's voices. The movements themselves have to be more inclusive and representative



Thank you

