

Annual Report

2009-2010



Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha

Organizational Profile of BNPS

Vision

A society free from all sorts of discrimination

Mission

Empowerment of women, ethnic and religious minorities to reach the goal of a vibrant society, free from all sorts of discrimination.

Goals

Establishing an enabling environment for the disadvantaged people, particularly women to be able to get organized, exert for demand and ensure access to their rights and quality services for social, political and economic empowerment.

Core Values of the Organization

BNPS has an ideological base with some core values. These are considered as guiding factors that contribute as essential elements to developing all the programs implemented by the organization. BNPS believes development as intervention for social transformation. The followings are the core values of the organization:

Inclusion: BNPS make every effort to include all sections of societies, particularly the disadvantaged and marginalized groups, women, poor and minorities in the development program.

Plurality: BNPS promotes culture of plurality.

Secularism: BNPS believes and encourages secularism in all aspects of social and national level to eradicate disparity and discrimination against any religion and ethnic group.

Core Competencies

- Long experience in women rights movement
- Wider acceptance in the community, civil society, media and donor as a women's rights organization
- An activists nature of work with committed workers
- An organization with the required flexibility and willingness to learn.
- A bottom up approach to work
- National, regional and international networks
- Micro-Macro linkage

Principal Thematic Areas

- Mainstreaming gender and marginalized groups
- Poverty eradication
- Governance
- Promote concept of plural society

Core Programs

The programs of BNPS are encircled around the following three main empowerment areas:

Policy reform interventions and mass awareness

- Reform of the education system
- Reform of the electoral process
- Analysis of the national budget and PRSP
- Mapping the implementation of policies and commitments

Local governance

- Strengthening local government and community level governance through inclusion of marginalized people

Community level awareness, mobilization and livelihood initiatives

- Leadership development through institution building and development education
- Legal awareness and legal aid through referral service
- Financial services to poor women

Strategic Segments

- Advocacy and lobbying
- Networking
- Cultural activism
- Public debate
- Promoting the accountability of duty bearers, policy-makers and other actors

Support Programs

- Monitoring and evaluation
- Training
- Policy research, documentation and publication

Priority empowerment areas through programmatic interventions

Social Empowerment	Economic Empowerment	Political Empowerment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Social mobilization and Institution development◆ Development education◆ Awareness raising on civic and legal rights◆ Making education system gender sensitive◆ Disaster Management and environment development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Capacity and skills development◆ Livelihood improvement and asset building of women◆ Market extension for women and vulnerable segments of the society◆ Gender budget analysis◆ PRSP analysis◆ Increase women's access to public resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Strengthening local government and governance◆ Electoral reform◆ Increasing participation of women in political institutions

Project Implemented (since the inception of BNPS) in relation to the Programmatic Strategic Issues of BNPS

Programmatic Strategic Issues	Relevant Projects	Year of Implementation	Project Donors
Women's Empowerment and its Sustainability	Women's Development	1987 - 1996	ICCO, the Netherlands, CWS, NY, USA
	Study of Women Education in Bangladesh	1995	Heinrich Boll Foundation (HBF) Germany
	Strengthening the Women's Movement in Bangladesh	1997-1998	NORAD
	Socio-Political and Economic Empowerment of Women	1997-1999	ICCO and Christian Aid
	Strengthening the Women Empowerment Process in Bangladesh	1999-2002	ICCO and EZE
	Creating Enabling Environment for Women	1998-2000	SDC
	Empowerment of Women through Greater Access to National Resources	2000-2001	Bangladesh Freedom Foundation
Economic Empowerment and Livelihood Development	Socio Economic and Structural Empowerment of Women	1996-2001	HBF, Germany
	Gender Budgeting: A framework for women empowerment & Social Accountability	15 May 2007 to 30 September 2007	EED, Germany
	Integrated Health Development	1990 to 1996	ODA/ NGO Project
Environment and Disaster Management	Multi Purpose use of Cyclone Shelter	1992-1995	France Embassy
	Reconstruction of House at the Flood affected area	1998-1999	ICCO, Netherlands

	Rehabilitation	1991, 1997	SDC, Netherlands Embassy, CIDA, Proshika and SOH
Political Empowerment	Voter education on Women Issues	1996	The Asia Foundation
	Networking and Advocacy for Legal Rights	1997-1998	The Asia Foundation
	Democracy Education for Effective LEBs	1997-1999	The Asia Foundation
	Election Observation from Gender and Minority Perspective	2001	The Asia Foundation
	Promoting Responsive Governance & Gender Justice Project	2000-2002	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

Advocacy for Political and Economic Empowerment of Women

Last 25 years Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS), one of the leading members of women's movement network, has been working to create environment for women empowerment in Bangladesh such as social, economic and political empowerment. BNPS believes that the economic empowerment is essential for social and political empowerment that will contribute to establish women's rights in the society. Conversely, political empowerment would help the women of the distressed community to enjoy the outcomes of the positive change in overall development. To accelerate these empowerment process BNPS is active in policy advocacy at national and international level. To identify gaps and hinders in the ongoing efforts for political and economic empowerment of women and to support its own advocacy initiatives or to equip women's movement activities with required information, BNPS regularly conducts policy researches, policy analyses, brief studies, fact sheets, briefing papers and other materials. BNPS regularly share findings and information generated by its research works and analyses with stakeholders and policy makers through organizing seminar, workshop, press conference or briefing; TV talk show, publication; writing op-ed in newspaper, submitting memorandum to policy formulation bodies, and organizing social mobilizations when required.

Creating an Environment for Economic Empowerment

National Seminar on Status of Women in the National Budget of Bangladesh

Institute for Environment and Development (IED) in collaboration with Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS) organized a national seminar on entitled "Status of Women in the National Budget of Bangladesh" held on May, 2010. About 120 participants from different ministries of the government, LG representatives, civil society members, women leader, businessmen, development activities, lawyers, political leader & activists, teachers, journalists, think-tanks provided their inputs on the seminar and provided a series of recommendation to make the

budget gender sensitive and can be used as a tool to eradicate discrimination, violence, inequality against all stages of women.



This seminar also identified the major problems of women and recommended that the role of parliament on the issue of budget should be strong, the government should have proper knowledge for the development of budget and bottom up approach that is participatory approach should be followed. They also emphasized on qualitative education, skilled human resources, training for women, maternal health and many issues related to women empowerment and development.

National Seminar on Status of Women in PRSP in Bangladesh

Institute for Environment and Development (IED) in association with BNPS organized National Level seminar on `Status of Women in PRSP in Bangladesh” held on April, 2010. Few major recommendations provided by participants from different sectors were: Bureaucratic process of PRSP formulation should be changed; sex-disaggregated data is required in formulating any policy document; the women issue in the PRSP has come under social inclusion, but gender issue should discussed against each thematic areas; a guideline for policy consultation is necessary; the budget should be developed and allocated sector wise; coordination among ministry and planning commission is necessary; discrimination could be focused more; allocation of more budgets is needed and etc.

The key note paper was presented by Eminent Economist and Consulatant of Ministry of Finance of Government of Bangladesh Dr. Kaniz N. Siddique. The seminar was moderated by eminent women leader, freedom fighter and Executive Director of BNPS Rokeya Kabir.

Press conference demanding women friendly national budget

Demanding women friendly national budget Institute for Environment and Development (IED) and Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS) jointly organized a press conference on 18 May 2010 at VIP Lounge, National Press Club on forthcoming budget. The major demands of the press conference to the Government were assurance of welfare of women; budgetary measures

in addressing gender discrimination; budgetary allocation for women's education, training and skills development and substantial amount for the development of the deprived women. The organizers also demanded tax exemption for the women led entrepreneurs and increasing budgetary allocation for the development of women while establishing a separate and full-fledged Ministry to be dedicated for the women.



The press conference was presided over by Executive Director of BNPS Rokeya Kabir. The key note paper was presented by Shahnaj Shumi, Deputy Director of Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS). Senior research fellow of Bangladesh institute of development studies (BIDS) Dr. Protima Paul Mojumdar, Gender justice and diversity program director of BRAC Ms. Shipa Hafiza, executive director of IED Numan Ahmed Khan and director of BNPS Omor Tareq Chowdhury were also present and gave answers on different questions of the journalists in the event . On the occasion 53 journalists of print media and 7 journalists of electronic media were present.

TV Talk Show on Women Friendly National Budget and Law and Policy

Institute for Environment and Development (IED) and BNPS organized two talk shows on women friendly national budget and on Status of Implementation of Policies and International Commitments related to Women in Bangladesh those were telecasted Desh TV, a private channel on May and June 2010. Both talk shows were moderated by Shaymol Datta, Editor of Bhorer Kagoj.

The talk show on women friendly budget was attended by Rokeya Kabir, freedom fighter and Executive Director of BNPS, eminent economist Dr. Protima Paul Mojumdar, Senior Research Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) and Dr. Fahmida Khatun, Research Fellow, Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD). On the talk show the discussions were about the concept of women friendly national budget, the issue which Government should consider, the effectiveness of the allocated budget, the role of various projects on women empowerment and the initiatives to prepare a proper women friendly budget.

On the talk show on Status of Implementation of Policies and International Commitments related to Women in Bangladesh Rokeya Kabir, Executive Director of BNPS and Dr. Salahuddin M. Aminuzzaman, Faculty member, Department of Public Administration, University of Dhaka were the discussants. The discussions were about the concept on discriminatory 39 laws and policy, essential reforms and changes on national policy and legal structure for women empowerment,

barriers in existing laws for women empowerment, Government initiatives about essential law and policy and for regaining the National women development policy-1997, acceptance of GoB logic for not to withdrawal of its remaining reservations on two article of CEDAW etc.

Campaigning and Advocating for the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Considering the situation of poverty of and discrimination against women and high maternal mortality rate, this campaign focuses on MDG 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women and MDG 5: Improve Maternal Health. The specific objectives of this campaign and advocacy are:

- Gender responsive allocation in all section of national revenue budget is ensured in the national budget from 2011-2012
- By 2011, public opinion and legal environment will be created in favour of reform of inheritance law for equal share of women in family property
- Increased allocation in national budget and comprehensive action plan with adequate allocation is undertaken in upcoming national Five Year Plan 2012 to reduce Maternal Mortality Rate less than 250 in 2015.

This campaign is linked with government and its institutions such as State Minister of Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, Members of Parliament, Project Director, Community Health Clinic Project, Ministry of Health and Family Planning; Civil Society members, NGOs, network, media; UN and Governments of development partner countries.

Media is playing a vital role in this campaign by publishing and broadcasting special reports on campaign issues. Till the reporting period, five women journalists such as Shahnaz Sharmin, Nadira Kiran, Farzana Rupa, Alpha Arzu and Iryn Niazi Manna from two print and three electronic media have been given fellowship to investigate and report on the situation of status on progress to MDG 3 and 5.

A 40 second length TV spot on Maternal Mortality has been produced and aired in Desh TV, a private channel on 8 and 9 May, on the occasion of Mothers Day. The spot conveys the fact of death of 23000 mothers a year in Bangladesh to give birth child and a call of promise in Mother Day to save each mother from death during child birth. The spot has two versions, one to address the Mothers Day and another to broadcast anytime of the year. The general version will be aired through Bangladesh Television and other TV channels from July-August 2010.

Pre-budget seminar to disseminate the findings on the current status

BNPS and Institute for Environment and Development (IED) co-organised a seminar titled 'We Want National Budget to Achieve Millennium Development Goals for Women' as part of an advocacy campaign for a gender responsive national budget to achieve MDG 3 (promote Gender Equality and Empower Women) and MDG 5 (Improve Maternal Health).

The speakers at the seminar said steps should be taken under the national budget to ensure gender equality between men and women in education, and reduce maternal mortality rate, which are among the millennium development goals. They also said the budget should give the women entrepreneurs more chances so that they can come up with new initiatives and have their rights in the wealth. Dr Akbar Ali Khan, former adviser to a caretaker government, said

Bangladesh is lagging behind in women development but he hoped that the government would take initiatives in this regard in the next budget.



Dr. Akbar Ali Khan, the former Adviser of Bangladesh Caretaker Government, is giving his opinion on research findings

Dr. Pratima Paul-Majumder, senior research fellow of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), presented the keynote paper at the seminar. In her paper, she said women's incomes, possessions and capital should be exempted from paying the tax and the commercial organizations run by women should be kept out of the reach of VAT.

Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, state minister for women and children affairs, Meher Afroz Chumki, chairperson of the parliamentary standing committee for women and children affairs, spoke at the seminar as chief guest and special guest respectively. Rokeya Kabir, executive director of the BNPS, presided over the seminar.



Part of the participants of the event.

Pre-Budget Recommendations

BNPS and Institute for Environment and Development (IED) jointly placed their recommendations in a press conference to make the forthcoming national budget gender

sensitive. As a part of BNPS' on going advocacy campaign for gender budgeting this press conference was titled, *We Want Gender-Friendly National Budget*. BNPS executive director Rokeya Kabir, economist Dr. Pratima Paul-Majumder, Ms. Shipa Hafiza (Director, Gender Justice, Diversity and Advocacy of BRAC), and executive director of IED Numan Ahmed Khan addressed the press conference.



A partial view of the program

Organizers urged the government to increase the budgetary allocation for women development from the existing three per cent to seven per cent in the next national budget. Major focus of this year's recommendations was on achieving Millennium Development Goals # 3 and # 5. New allotment for decreasing maternal death at childbirth, including the revitalization of community health clinic, maternal health voucher scheme, awareness building programs and maternity leave for female workers in all sectors were demanded.

Post-Budget Analysis of BNPS: National Budget to Support MDG targets for Women's Advancement

BNPS was arranged a post-budget press conference where BNPS demanded to dedicate 7 percent of GDP in national budget for women's advancement. Despite this common demand from women's movement budget declared a week ago showed only an obscure 4.5 percent allocation for women.

BNPS budget analysis observed that allocation to prevent drop out of girls student at primary level, which is almost two times higher than boys, is also absent in the proposed budget. In spite of highest allocation for education sector the proposed budget failed to fulfill government's commitment to increase the proportion of GDP for education sector from its current level of 2.4 to 6 percent.

A briefing paper presented by Ms. Shahnaz Sumi, deputy director of BNPS circulated in the press conference also mentioned that childhood marriage, lack of awareness, lack of trained birth attendance, major causes of high maternal mortality, related to MDG 5, is also unaddressed in the proposed budget.



Rokeya Kabir, the Executive Director of BNPS is answering a question of a reporter in the press conference

The press conference informed that without taking adequate and proper steps it would be impossible for the government to decrease maternal mortality to 144 and ensure universal access to reproductive health by 2015. The millennium development goal 5 would be impossible to achieve with ensuring the service of trained birth attendants; availability of community clinics, physicians, nurses and medicines.

Creating an Environment for Political Empowerment of Adibashi Women in Chittagong Hill Tract

BNPS has been working for empowerment of adibashi women in Chittagong Hill Tract (CHT) since 1998 after the Peace Treaty was signed. Since then BNPS is fighting to create a sustainable environment for political and economic empowerment of women. Recently BNPS undertook some activities to create sensitization on adibashi issues after latest ethnic violence occurred in February 2010 first in Baghaihat of Rangamati district and second in khagrachori. These incidence mounted tension in the CHT area and became a threat to the implementation of CHT Peace Accord. BNPS with many civil society actors both at local and national level become active to protest the violence against and mount pressure on government to address the causes of such unfortunate incidents.

Round table meeting on Violence in Chittagong Hill Tract:

BNPS organized a round table meeting jointly with five society organizations on March 11, 2009 at Dhaka to protest the incidence of ethnic violence against indigenous people in CHT in February 2009. Co-organizers of this round table meeting of civil and activists were Sampritee Manch (Civil rights group), Sammilito Samajik Andolon (a platform of civil society groups and individual), Kapeng Foundation (indigenous rights activist group), Jogsutro (a media organized), and Institute for Environment and Development (a NGO). Round table discussion was initiated with a briefing presented by Mr. Dipayan Khisa of Kapeng foundation, Dr. Ajoy Roy of Sampritee Manch presided over the meeting while Ms. Rokeya Kabir, Executive Director of BNPS moderated the discussion. To ensure peaceful situation in CHT participants of the round table meeting raised demands of compensation for the victims, punishment of the responsible

persons for killing and vandalism; resolution of land reform with full implementation of CHT Peace Treaty and withdrawal of army camps and termination of army-led "Operation Uttoron. They also demands of removal of settlers from Bagaihat to their original place and ensure legal aid support for the indigenous women.

Public Meeting in Protest of Violence in CHT

BNPS Jointly with platform Against Communalism and Extremism, organized a Public meeting on March 13, 2009 to protest the violence against indigenous community in CHT. Leading social activists from different organizations and profession took part in this gathering and expressed their solidarity with the cause of peace and harmony in CHT. Regarding violence in CHT this meeting was also emphasized for government immediate action to implement of CHT Peace Accord.

Leaflet and TV Talk Show on Indigenous Women and Peace in CHT

A leaflet, Establishment of Indigenous Women's Rights and Ending Violence Against Them can Open the path of Peace and Development in CHT, was developed and distributed by BNPS with the support of Oxfam GB. Thematic idea of the leaflet was drawn from a study on the situation related to indigenous women in CHT. Mr. Mangal Kumar Chakma, an activist of from CHT conducted this study for BNPS. Major findings and recommendations of the study were encapsulated in 14-point demand in the leaflet. 30,000 leaflets were produce and distributed through 27 partners in CHT and other like-minded organizations in rest of the country.

The talk show titled "Dharmio O Jatigoto Sankhaloghu Odhikar" was attended by Professor Dalem Chandra Barman, Department of Peace and conflict of Dhaka University, Mr. Rabindranath Tribedi, Secretary General of Human Rights congress for Bangladesh Minority, and Mr. Numan Ahmed Khan, Executive Director of Oxfam GB partner organization institute for Environment and Development and indigenous people's rights activist. Theirs discussion focused on the equal rights and status of different minority communities and role of political parties, government and society in general to ensure equal treatment of all minority communities in the country.

Grassroots: Where We are Grounded At

BNPS primarily works with grassroots women to establish their rights from the family to the state level. The primary stakeholders are marginalized women in rural areas and urban slums. At present 12000 women in 600 groups are in exists at five centres. BNPS has been working at the national level to bring positive policy and legal reforms and at the community level organizing and mobilizing grassroots people through a variety of programs.

Following activities are being carried out in five working areas to build up women's organizations and develop their leadership capacity for social action and economic activities. Other objectives of the program are: enhance women's participation in local governance and manage their livelihood through acquiring skills and access to market, mobilize community to advance social causes which impact on women's advancement and empowerment.

Planning Exercise at Cluster Level

A Cluster committee is a 10 member's committee consists of 10/12 representatives from 5/7 neighborhood groups. At the present new phase, a new cluster committee is added as one

cluster at Barhatta area has been divided into two. All the 121 cluster committee developed their respective yearly activity plan through a planning exercise facilitated by BNPS Community Organizers.

The development of one year is that joint leadership mentality is developing in them, they are playing strong role in enhancing their rights from society and Union Parisad. They are gradually participating in the developing activities. Their skills have developed to form cluster plan and execute the plans.

Each cluster committee sits at least once in a quarter to review the progress of implementation of their plan. At Netrokona Center, the review meeting is held on monthly basis. In the reporting period, total 535 meeting was organized in five centers.

Leadership training for group and cluster leaders at Centre level

The capacity development of the group and cluster leaders is given emphasis in order to make their collective efforts sustained. One of the objectives of the training is to build capacity of group and cluster members so that they could take decision, execute their plan and carry forward their development and organizing activities by their own.

In reporting period 359 group/cluster leaders obtained leadership development training organised in 5 centers.



A session of leadership development training at Netrokona

Training on Market Extension Education at Group level

Market Extension Education are all those activities which help all the players in the production/marketing chain to become more professional and better informed in particular about each other. It is an intervention, which usually helps resource poor women/households to build their capacity for solving their marketing problems of their produces. In reporting period, 275 women received market education training through five training organised in four centers.

In Swandip centre, market extension group members sold their products in many fairs like, Baishakhi Mela, Disaster and agriculture fair, Victory Day fair organised by government and nongovernmental initiatives. Market extension committees of Chittagong have become able to contact with boutique shops of the city and sell the products.

Lobby meeting/workshop with Market Committee:

In social context of Bangladesh, outer world, particularly the marketplaces are not easy to access for women specifically in rural areas. To make the marketplace women friendly, five meetings have been organized with market committees and business leaders in participation of Market Extension Group members in five centers. The outcomes of this activity are more space and security for women in marketplace, better connection with market committees, business leaders, leaseholders and other traders.

At Netrakona center, the market extension group members invited restaurant owners associations, Becker's association and owners of boutique shops in workshop and perused them to get packet, boxes and dresses produced by women group members.

Entrepreneurship development training

Developing women entrepreneurs is one of the activities to achieve the project objective of women's capacity building for livelihood management. In reporting period, 101 members have received entrepreneurship development training from 8 trainings session at five centers. This training guide the participants on quality of a good entrepreneur, accounts, collecting raw materials, pricing, market system, communications, business decision making etc. As an immediate output of training, participants became more confident to extend their business or to start a new one.



Women members at Chittagong center emerged as boutique entrepreneur

Organizing quaternary meeting of Community Forum

BNPS believes that a strong and active local government system is key to democratic society and balanced development specifically at grassroots level. Unfortunately, local government system is still weak in our country. While BNPS is working for strengthening local government through national level policy advocacy, the PRiME project has established an interface mechanism between people and local government in its working areas through Community Forum.

Community Forum is a social platform of cluster leaders and other local influential sympathizer. The project facilitates these platforms in establishing an enabling environment for women and changing mindset of youth of their community in a collaborative manner. During formation of Community Forum, a balance between women and men, poor, marginal, small and medium income households have been ensured. The Project encourages men members of the households in this groups and platforms. The Forum members meet once in three months. In the reporting period, 120 Community Forum meeting were held in participation of 1050 members.

Different causes of women, poor and communities along with possible interventions are discussed in Community Forum's meeting. Preventing violence against women and mobilizing for improving local public service like health, public health, sanitary, livestock, public works, water supply are most common activities of Community Forums. In the reporting period, the forum members also work for the cluster and groups to access in safety net programs (like VGF card, Widow allowance, elderly allowance) of government and tube-well and sanitary latrine from Union Parisad (Local government entity at grassroots level).

Conducting session on Legal issues and counseling



Counseling session on legal issue, Netrakona

In the reporting period, 5 briefing session on legal aspect of rights and protection of women were held in Netrokona, Dhaka, Barhatta and Chittagong center area. Total participants were 105. In addition women who are deprives from justice and/or victim of unfair and illegal instance getting legal counseling under the project. In the reporting period, 17 women were provided with such legal counseling along with psychosocial service. In the session, the participants get information on laws and their legal rights ensured by state laws, and on how to get justice.

Organizing workshop on emerging issues with Community Leaders/Civil Society groups

At center level, 10 workshops were organised with community Leaders/Civil Society on the issue of Stop violence against women, eve teasing and Climate Change risk on Women.

At Barhatta, Chief Executive Officer of Upazila (sub-district) administration and Inspector of Upazila Police station presented in the workshop on preventing eve teasing and security for girls and women in outer world. They assured necessary steps to prevent such incidents like police petrol in front of girl's schools and colleges, taking charges in police station and creating social awareness.

Organizing Advocacy Governance Training for Community Forum Members

Around 20 Community Forum members in each centers received two days training on Advocacy and Good Governance. Issues discussed in training were concepts and explanation of human rights along with women rights, good governance, responsibilities of different public offices and authorities and methods and strategies of advocacy and campaign to ensure good governance. Each of 5 training sessions ended with an advocacy action plan to be executed by Community Forums

Day Observation

BNPS observed Begum Rokeya day both at nationally in Dhaka and center level at Sandwip. Begum Rokeya was the pioneer of women progress movement in Bangladesh and subcontinent. To commemorate her memory along with recollect her pioneering role and thoughts in advancing the causes of women, BNPS organised Begum Rokeya Memorial Speech held on 23 December at National Museum auditorium, Dhaka. The speech was delivered by eminent writer and columnist Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury.

Besides, BNPS observed International Women's Day both at center and central level at Dhaka. In addition, International Mother Language Day, World HIV/AIDS Day, Bangla new year, International Anticorruption Day, International Human Rights Day, Youth Day, Agriculture Day,

Victory Day, Independence Day were observed at center level by community forums and cluster members.



Observance of International Women's day 2010

Organizing National level rally on right and empowerment issues

Under the above program line, BNPS organised a gathering of school children, teachers and guardians with the Education Minister and women affairs minister of Bangladesh Government by organizing an occasion of Experiences Sharing of a Peace Camp and Certificate Giving Ceremony held on 4 August 2009. BNPS and participants raised the demand for a secular, gender sensitive and life oriented national education policy which is under process of declaration.

Making Education Gender Responsive and preventive to HIV/AIDS

With the goal 'contribute towards making the national education system more effective in addressing the question of gender, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS', Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS) undertook a two-year project "Making Education Gender Responsive and Preventive to HIV AIDS' with the support of Oxfam Novib in March 2009.

On the basis of organization's comparative advantage of having a field office with experienced staffs and close rapport as well as working experience with different stakeholders in two upazillas (sub district) and Dhaka metropolitan city under two districts have been selected to run the project activities. Dhaka and Netrakona district and Barhatta upazilla under Netrakona were selected for the implementation of project activities.

On the basis of geographical location (urban, semi-urban and rural), ownership/management type, and gender-mix (girls, boys or coed) six schools from existing working areas of BNPS have been selected to run the class room-based exercises of the project.

The objectives of this project are:

- A mapping of available education materials (produced by public and private sectors in relation to gender, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS) developed in order to avoid reinventing the wheel and pin pointing the interventions required
- Gender responsive, reproductive health/HIV/AIDS-oriented lesson plans and learning materials developed
- Teaching capacity and knowledge level of selected school teachers, community health workers and BNPS front line staff/volunteers developed
- Students/young women and community people are sensitized on gender inequalities and its impact on reproductive health and HIV/AIDS
- A national consensus built on a reformed education system sensitive to gender, and its impact on reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and poverty.

In the reporting period this project has collected existing materials such as text books of class IV to VIII of National Curriculum of Text Book Board (NCTB) Bangladesh and 50 HIV/AIDS related education and awareness materials of different national and international organizations working in Bangladesh.



Advisory committee members

A two-day staff orientation workshop was organized for all program staff of central office and center offices of Dhaka, Netrakona and Barhatta. After attending this workshop a common understanding on project's goal, objectives, outcomes, activities and implementation steps have developed among the staff; conceptual understanding on gender, reproductive health and HIV AIDS have improved; confidence of the staff to implement the project activities have enhanced and gained confidence to conduct the survey among the target group population. Series of meetings have been conducted with the school authority of all selected schools. During these meeting, objectives of the project, activities and roles and responsibilities of both school authorities and BNPS have been shared clearly. Teachers of different schools pointed out their limitation to participate in the Training of Trainers without government permission. BNPS took the permission from the office of Director General, higher education, for two Netrakona schools and ensured the participation of teachers in the training.

A content analysis report was produced by experts with these collected materials to identify gaps and recommendations were formulated to overcome the possible limitation of the existing materials used by different organizations. This content analysis report was shared with various stakeholders like teachers, journalists, physicians, political parties both at national and local level. After organizing public opinion and gathering further recommendations finally it will be presented in a national level sharing meeting with high level policy makers to influence the government policy to make school text books gender sensitive.

Curriculum development for school student and community member was a major task which was initiated and accomplished in this reporting period. In mid-October 2009, curriculum development task was assigned to an independent consultant who has working experience with leading NGOs and understanding of BNPS programs and values and curriculum/modules were produced by mid-December, 2009 on the basis of nine focus group discussion with community members, students, teachers, health workers, and various government functionaries. Before actual productions all materials were reviewed by the advisory committee members and edited by professions editor. These materials were finalized, printed and supplied to the teachers, health workers in the respective working areas after the trial run in Training of Trainers sessions.

Strategies to implement the project Activities

- The plan of activities have prepared detailed and elaborated
- Regular staff coordination meeting at central office was held to create a common understanding among the team
- District administration was briefed and engaged effectively
- Field visit have made by the central team as and when required.
- All documents and information have disseminated to the center offices in time

Major Challenges and Learning

Since anything related to sex is a taboo in Bangladesh, alertness and sensitivity need to be maintained to discuss HIV/AIDS issues in acceptable manner, especially with the rural people of Bangladesh.

There are a lot of misconceptions even among the staff of BNPS, especially on HIV/AIDS

With some exception, a good number of teachers of target schools feel the need to address gender, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS issues in education curriculum.

So far all work progress indicates that the project activities are in right directions to touch first six milestones.

Staff Capacity Building

Staff capacity building is an important aspect of BNPS program. Ensuring organizational effectiveness and developing staff capacity BNPS has been taken staff development events such as training, workshop and exposure visit. During July 2009 to June 2010 BNPS has been internally organized some training courses and workshops for improving staff knowledge, skill, and attitude funded by ongoing project. The staffs of organization also have attended the

training and workshop organized by the external organization both at home and abroad. The staff development events are given as follows:



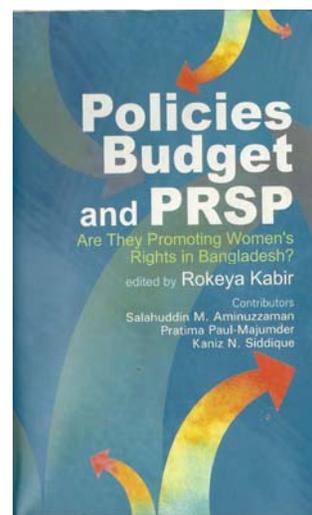
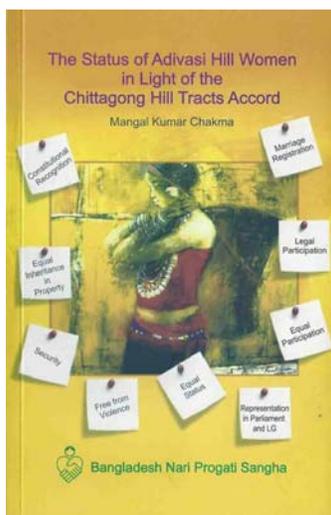
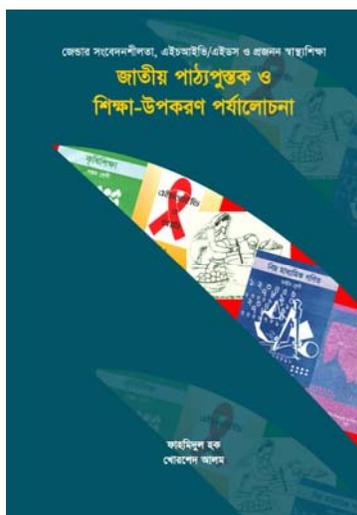
Centrally Organized Training

Venue: BNPS Conference room, Central office, Dhaka

SL.	Name of Training	Batch	Duration	Participant			Facilitator
				Total	Female	Male	
1.	Orientation on Accounts keeping & Financial Management	-	17-18 August 2009	27	11	16	Mr. Jasim Uddin Mallick, Accounts Officer and Abdullah al Mahmud, Internal Auditor, BNPS
2.	Concept on Gender and its relationship to development	1st batch	4-8 January 2010	27	14	13	Team, PROSHIKA
		2nd batch	18-22 January	33	12	21	

			2010				
3.	Training on Trainer TOT	1st batch	1-6 February 2010	26	15	11	Mr. Shariful Haque
		2nd batch	17-22 February, 2010	19	12	7	Consultant, M& E Associates
		3rd batch	23-28 February, 2010	32	21	11	
4.	Accounts & Financial Management	-	09-12 May, 2010	22	09	13	Md. Kardar Rahman & Lawrence Suphal Sarkar External Consultant Mr. Jasim Uddin Mallick, Accounts Officer, BNPS
5.	Organizational Core values	-	23-24 May 2010	31	13	18	Azizur Rahman Khan Asad, Development Consultant
6.	Gender Mainstreaming on Leadership Trajectory	-	27-30 June 2010	28	14	14	Fawzia Khondker Gender Specialist
	Total			245	121	124	

Publications



BNPS has a strong documentation and publication unit. The main purpose of these publications is to promote and disseminate the information related to its various advocacy initiatives. The documents and publications are not only used by BNPS alone, these are also used by many other development agencies, academicians, students, individuals etc. BNPS normally publishes different study reports, books, booklets, journals, posters, leaflets, stickers and other various communication materials. It also maintains its website and a library at its office premises.

List of Publications

Journal	Nari O Progati (Women and Progress), A half-yearly of BNPS, 2 issues	Bangla
Study Report	Policies, Budget and PRSP: Are They Promoting Women's Rights in Bangladesh (Status of Implementation of Policies and International Commitments related to Women in Bangladesh; Status of Women in the National Budget of Bangladesh and Addressing Women's Advancements and Rights Issues in I-PRSP and PRSPs of Bangladesh: The 3 full length studies in one cover)	English
Booklet on Study Report	A Practical Scenario of Gender Sensitivity, HIV/AIDs and Reproductive Health Education based on National Textbooks and other Education Material	Bangla
	The Status of Adivasi Hill Women in Light of the CHT Accord	Bangla and English
	Policies, Budget and PRSP in Bangladesh	Bangla
Report	Women Status in Electoral Process: National Parliamentary	English

	Election 2008	
	Claiming Women's Space in Politics in South Asia	English
Biannual Report	In Quest of Women's Empowerment: From the Grassroots to the National Arena (July 2007-June 2009)	English
Poster	100 Years of International Women's Day	English
Folder	The Significant Progress towards the Political Empowerment of Women: A brief biographical note of the elected MPs of the 9 th parliament of Bangladesh	Bangla
Flyer	MDGs and Important steps should be taken to resist Maternal Mortality	Bangla
Leaflet	Be United to Protect Eve-Teasing	Bangla
	Establishing Rights and Stop Violence against CHT Women Can Open the Door of Development and Peace	Bangla
	Millennium Development Goals for Women	Bangla
Flash Card	A Bundle of 52 Flash Cards on Gender, Reproductive and Sexual Health, Human Rights and HIV/AIDs	Bangla
Billboard	2 Billboards on Reproductive Health, Sexual violence and HIV/AIDs	Bangla
Calendar	Make a quality Bangla Calendar with the urgent message on Gender, Reproductive Role and Health	Bangla
Exercise Khata, Writing Pad, Pen and Folder	These Materials are produced for external use with the issue based messages	Bangla