



January 2018

Women's participation increased to 33.5 percent in 2013 from 26.1 percent in 2002-2003, but 90.3 percent of them are employed in the informal sector and Women's participation in labor force is lagging behind in the formal sector and urban areas due to a lack of education and skill, according to the report, "Bangladesh Gender Equality Diagnostic of Selected Sectors" that revealed in The National Dissemination Workshop on 30 January, 2018 at a city hotel, jointly organized by BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD) and Asian Development Bank (ADB).

National Women Development Policy 2011 aims to establish gender equality in all spheres of life and National Action Plan has been developed for its implementation. The gender vision of the 7th Five Year Plan will ensure equal opportunities and rights for both women and men; and women will be recognised as equal contributors in economic, social and political developments said Ms. Nasima Begum, ndc, Secretary to the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs during her speech as a Chief Guest.

Mr. Manmohan Parkash, the Country Director of Asian Development Bank (ADB) chaired the inaugural session. Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman, the Executive Director of BIGD delivered the introductory remarks. Professor Md. Akter Mahmud, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Jahangirnagar University and Vice President of Bangladesh Institute of Planners; Dr. Kaniz Siddique, Economist, and Ms. Maheen Sultan, Visiting Fellow of



## Lack of Education and Skill is Lagging Behind the Women's Participation in the Formal Sector

BIGD were the panelists. More than a hundred participants from donor agencies and development organizations engaged in the workshop.

The report was prepared by the Centre for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST), at BIGD, BRAC University, in collaboration with the ADB. The report has analysed the constraints and opportunities for women in the urban development, transport, skills development and in energy sectors, where the realities and priorities for women and men re different. It highlights the key gender issues as well as best practices in the sectors. It also provides guidelines to ensure benefit for both women and men.

Mentioning that the ADB will continue to support the

elimination of gender disparities in primary and secondary education in the country, ADB country director Mr Parkash said the study was conducted to guide the design of gender features of the ADB-supported projects in the sectors including skills, vocational and tertiary education, energy, transport

and urban development and the publication will also be a useful resource for ADB, its partner government agencies and other development partners to achieve the gender objectives and targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## Inequality Increases Due to Government's Lack of Care for Carrying Out Its Responsibility

*Said Prof Dr. Sugata Marjit*

"If inequality is increasing, it is definitely because of the government's lack of care for carrying out its responsibilities. When distribution (of wealth) worsens and we are happy that income has increased, we are cultivating the wrong notion of welfare. But the task of ensuring equal distribution of wealth would be unattainable in countries where governments promoted favouritism or nepotism." Prominent Indian Economist Professor Dr. Sugata Marjit said these at a Talk on Inequality and Distribution-neutral Fiscal Policy - Extending Pareto Principle.

BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University organised the talk on December 22, 2017 at the city. Scholars, social scientists, renowned economists, academic and experts attended the talk.

Prof Marjit, Reserve Bank of India Professor of Industrial Economics at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta and the former Vice Chancellor of Calcutta University said, A government entertains a wrong notion of welfare as long as it stays happy only with income growth and does not care much about rising inequality in society. He suggested that the government should be careful about growing income as the failure to distribute the growing wealth among the poor might only raise inequality.

Dr. Marjit said, Bangladesh is growing because of not everyone is growing, but because some people are growing. He suggested that the greater income group need to bring under more tax.

Prof Marjit said that it was very important to keep the degree of inequality unchanged as otherwise it might lead to unrests that might be detrimental to

international trade and economic change. He told, any major economic change such as growth or international trade is likely to be resisted by people who are adversely affected by them or who seem to be losing out in relation to others and such agitation becomes politically and socially detrimental to the sustenance of such a change. This has been reflected in votes favouring Brexit and in the pattern of political support in recent Presidential elections in the US.

Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Professor, BRAC Business School, BRAC University and a former Governor, Bangladesh Bank, chaired the event. He said, Unequal distribution of wealth was what mainly led Bangladesh revolt against Pakistan and eventually won independence in 1971. He also requested the policy makers to take neutral decision for the sake of reducing inequality.





## Gender and Sexual & Reproductive Health Conference for Young Adults 2018

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018 | DHAKA, BANGLADESH

### BIGD's Visiting Fellow Chaired a Session in a Conference

BIGD's Visiting Fellow Ms. Maheen Sultan chaired a session on "Critical Reflections on Adolescents" in a two days conference titled "Gender and Sexual Reproductive Health Conference 2018 for Young Adults", organized by BRAC James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University. International practitioners and donors from development organizations, agencies and like-minded organizations participated in the conference. In the session, four presentations were made on masculinities, young men

in slums, adolescents' girls, sexual and reproductive health rights and early child marriage. The conference was held in a city hotel on 31st January 2018.

The interactive panels of the Conference included sharing experiences of young people regarding sexuality and relationships, the gendered social norms and expectations and importance of developing life-skills of adolescents, censorship in Sexual and reproductive health and rights education, and understandings of informed consent and choice.

### BIGD's Researcher Presented Paper in International Conference

BIGD's Research Assistant Muhammed Mahabub Rahaman presented a paper titled "A Study on prediction of rainfall using data mining techniques: An evidence of Chittagong district" in an International Conference on Recent Advances in Mathematical and Physical Science (ICRAMPS) on 28 January 2018 at Jahangirnagar University. The conference was organized by the faculty of Mathematical and Physical Science of Jahangirnagar University. ICRAMPS was hosted to provide a unique opportunity for the

professionals, scientists, engineers, educators, researchers and students from all over the world to exchange their scientific ideas, views and thoughts with fellow researchers and participants.

The objectives of this conference contain many aspects not only from the scientific points of view, but also from the view of the gap between developing and developed countries in both scientific and economical aspects.

### Researcher's other activities

- BIGD's Visiting Fellow Ms. Maheen Sultan was a discussant at a workshop titled "Country Gender Assessment of Agriculture and Rural Sector (CGA-ARS): Bangladesh" on 7th January 2018, at a city hotel. The workshop was organized by FAO Bangladesh. The CGA-ARS is mandated by FAO's Policy on Gender Equality. The objective of the CGA-ARS is to reveal critical factors to ensure equality of access to critical agricultural resources, knowledge, opportunity and access.

- Head Gender Cluster & CGST, Ms. Simeen Mahmud and Research Fellow Ms. Lopita Huq participated in the Dissemination Seminar titled "Measuring the Effect of HERrespect: An Intervention Addressing Violence against Female Garment Workers in Four Factories of Bangladesh" on 15th January 2018. The seminar was organized by icddr,b. Professor John David Clemens, Executive Director, icddr,b chaired the seminar. The research findings were presented by Dr. Ruchira Tabassum Naved, Senior Scientist, Universal Health Coverage, Health System and Population Studies Division of icddr,b.

- Ms. Kabita Chowdhury, Ms. Sahida Khondaker, Research Associate; Sufia Khatun and Sanjida Parvin, Research Assistant of BIGD conducted qualitative fieldwork in the slums of Dhaka for the GAGE Urban Study research programme.

## Executive Director's Activities

BIGD's ED Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman had several meetings in January 2018 with a number of distinguished personalities such as prominent academics, policy makers and researchers regarding the research collaborations and other relevant issues of BIGD.

Dr. Rahman had meetings with Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, Chairperson, BRAC; Professor Mustaque Khan, Department of Economics, SOAS; Mr. David Morley, Team Leader, Project Director & Mr. Tirtha Sarathi Sikder, National Coordinator, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), to discuss on Sharique Phase IV; Dr. Nasir Uddin Ahmed, Commissioner, Mr. Atikur Rahman Khan, Director General, Anti Corruption Commission (ACC); Mr. Syed Mushfiq Rahman, Additional Commissioner, Mr. Golam Sarawar, Assistant Commissioner, Dr. Moinul Khan, Director General, Customs Intelligence Division, National Board of Revenue; Dr. Shah Md. Ahsan Habib, Director Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM); Mr. Mohammad Abdur Rob, Joint Director, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics; Mr. Anisur Rahman, Joint Director, Bangladesh Bank; Mr. Farria Naeem,

International Growth Centre; Ms. Mafruza Khan, Director Bangladesh Country Programme, Porticus regarding PRAC Project; Mr. Saiful Bhuiyan, Consultant, Counterpart International; Mr. Bikram Chand, Lead Public Sector Specialist, The World Bank, Delhi Office; Mr. Boshir Ahmed, Consultant; Mr. Imran Matin, Chief Research and Policy Officer, Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA); Ms. Shaheen Anam, Executive Director, Manuser Jonno Foundation; Mr. Shameron Abed, Director, Microfinance, BRAC; Dr. Mohiuddin Alamgir, Consultant, Asian Development Bank; Dr. Sugata Marjit, Former Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University; Md. Mofizul Islam, Secretary, Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division; Ms. Franziska Korn, Resident Representative, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES).

He also had several Skype meetings with Mr. Imran Matin and Ms. Sarah Lyness, Evaluation and Communications Director at the IGC. Dr. Rahman also attended the Certificate Ceremony of the Post Graduate Certificate course on Management of Land Acquisition, Re-settlement and Rehabilitation (MLARR).

## Publications by BIGD Staff

• Daily Prothom Alo: ঢাকায় আবাসন: কতটা সাধের মধ্যে? by Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Senior Research Associate, BIGD, BRAC University on January 6, 2018.

• Daily Prothom Alo: ভাড়াটেরা কতটা নিরাপদ? by Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Senior Research Associate, BIGD, BRAC University on January 21, 2018.



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