

**Ensure Equal Partnership and
Participation of Women in
Family, Society and State
Towards Gender Equality**

Annual Report
2021



Bangladesh Mahila Parishad

Annual Report 2021

**Deepening the Initiatives for Promoting and
Protecting Women’s Human Rights in Bangladesh
(January 2018 – December 2022)**



Bangladesh Mahila Parishad

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Deepening the Initiatives for Promoting and Protecting Women’s Human Rights in Bangladesh (January 2018 – December 2022)

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KEY INFORMATION

Project Title : Deepening the Initiatives for Promoting and Protecting Women’s Human Rights in Bangladesh (January 2018 – December 2022)

Implementing Organization : Bangladesh Mahila Parishad

Project In-Charge : Maleka Banu, General Secretary

Reporting Period : January – December, 2021

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Foreword

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad is a voluntary, right based, non-partisan, national, mass women's organization for promoting and protecting women's human rights in Bangladesh. BMP have a wide network across the country. BMP has been working to establish and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women since 1970 by implementing multi-dimensional plan and program with a holistic approach.

BMP's overarching mission is to establish gender equity through empowerment. It aims to establish democratic, non-communal, equity based rational humane society and state.

Bangladesh celebrated 50 years of its independence in 2021. Along with the over all progress Bangladesh achieved remarkably towards gender quality during this period, Women's movement and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad played a significant role. Still there are some basic challenges and issues to be addressed to reach the ultimate goal towards gender equality, women human rights and equality for all.

BMP succeeded raising status of women in Bangladesh and still struggling to reach the ultimate goal towards gender equality and women human rights. BMP is very much inter connected with the global women's movement.

2021 is the fourth year of implementation of the project "Deepening the Initiatives for Promoting and Protecting Women's Human Rights in Bangladesh (January 2018 – December 2022)." supported by Embassy of Sweden.

During the Covid affected period challenges like alarming rises incidences of VAWG, Lack of Participation and partnership of women in all sphere, Equal rights to property and resources, Discriminatory law prevails. In addition pandemic causes serious challenges in continuing organizational activities due to health risk, health hazard and communication problem particularly in rural area.

The annual report 2021 will reflect the continuous effort of BMP through building capacity, skill and adaptability.

BMP gives priority on livelihood support and awareness raising to follow health guidelines to prevent Covid -19 infection. To ensure rights and gender justice BMP focused its activity on resisting and eliminating VAWG, Implementing law and building new leadership wider gender sensitive society, ensuring rights of the girl child and resist and eliminate child marriage, to promote political empowerment of women and effective participation from local to national level, to reform existing discriminatory personal law and enactment of UFC and new laws for protecting women's human rights. BMP also acted as a watch day to protect the achievement of human rights.

The support from the development partner helped BMP to pursue its mission and cherished objectives during this crisis. Most of the planned programs have been completed.

BMP central committee express heartiest gratitude to the Sweden Embassy for their partnership with valuable support to BMP in order to strengthen women's movement in establishing women's human rights and creating a human right based democratic and gender sensitive just society and state. Sincere thanks and appreciation are due to all the members and supporting staff, particularly the Information Technology (IT) support groups who are working with devotion and sincerity in continuing organizational activities and implementing project activities during this emerging situation due to Covid-19 pandemic.

On behalf of the Central Committee



Maleka Banu

General Secretary

Central Committee, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad

Acronyms and Abbreviations

BMP	: Bangladesh Mahila Parishad
BPFA	: Beijing Platform for Action
CEDAW	: Convention on the elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CRC	: Convention on the Rights of Children
CSW	: Commission on the Status of Women
GO	: Government Organization
GOB	: Government of Bangladesh
IGP	: Inspector General of Police
MDG	: Millennium Development Goal
MOWCA	: Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
NGO	: Non-government Organization
NWDP	: National Women Development Policy
OCC	: One-stop Crisis Centre
SP	: Superintendent of Police
SAC	: Social Action Committee
UFC	: Uniform Family Code
VAWG	: Violence Against Women and Girls
WHR	: Women's Human Rights
IT	: Information Technology
UGC	: University Grant Commission
VSC	: Victim Support Centre
SDG	: Sustainable Development Goal

Executive Summary

Annual Report of 2021 include activities, achievements and impacts from January to December through implementation of the project ‘Deepening the Initiatives for Promoting and Protecting Women’s Human Rights in Bangladesh (January 2018 – December 2022).’ supported by Embassy of Sweden.

In 2021 like the people of other parts of world Bangladesh suffered with the effect of covid-19 pandemic in terms of health, livelihood, unemployment multidimensional poverty, education and overall progress. Still people work hard to come coping with new normal situation. Women and girls of all strata particularly vulnerable and marginalized group faces lots of challenges during this existing pandemic situation. Overall safety issues of women and girl in private and public places were deteriorated. More women and girls became victim of domestic violence, mental violence and sexual violence. Number and dimension of rape incidences including child rape, have shaken the society. Victims of violence (VAWG) were fur fired getting justice. Most the women working in the informal sector lost job and have to face economic crisis. As education and institutions are closed for long days, girls are again confined in the houses engaged in domestic work, subjected to violence and sexual abuse, victims of forced marriage, issues of political empowerment of women and their representation is now under the table. There are lack of proper enforcement of law, lack of democratic practices, incidences of human rights violations. Anti women, anti democratic, communal and fundamentalist force taking the opportunity to act. Some of the hard earned achievement faces backlash due to lack of strong political commitment and accountability.

BMP tried sincerely and professionally to address all those issues through multidimensional programs.

Timely addressing the issues, online programs and activities of the organization draws attention of the relevant stakeholders as a visible and vibrant organization. BMP continued its reputation as advocacy lobby agent for women’s human rights.

As an organization, BMP gave efforts to recover the set back facing internal and external challenges caused by covid pandemic.

As mostly physical distance was to maintain BMP developed online communication procedure to contact and maintain liaison with its branches and members throughout the country and in addition to telephonic and in person communication.

In 2021, the total members of BMP stand at 1,67,258 spreading over 59 districts, 214 Upazila, 1055 paras, 336 unions and 699 villages. The total number of grassroot organizations is 2,334.

During this period, Central organization subcommittee undertook a total no. of 694 programmes throughout the country of which 400 programmes have been carried out by district and grassroot branches while 294 programmes by the central committee. Notably, there had been 14,854 participants in different programmes. At the district and grassroot level the number of participants was 14,615 and the rest 8,446 were from the central.

Through these overall programs BMP has been able to reach its members and men and women of different sections of society through the country. BMP particularly emphasized the young generation towards developing leadership skill.

Resist violence against women is one of the prime focus of BMP's activity the incidences of which was intensified during covid. BMP conducted multidimensional program according to the project.

Statistic obtained from 14th daily newspapers clippings BMP finds out a total of 3,547 incidents of different types of VAWG have occurred in 2021 in different parts of the country of which reported number of rape cases are 572. All these issue are routinely addressed, deputation and memorandum has been 885 submitted to the relevant authority for ensuring gender justice. BMP district branches also communicate directly with the authority. Some positive responses have been noticed.

These monthly statistics (VAWG chart) have been routinely disseminated in the media and other stakeholders. Based on our statistic several reports have been published in the mainstreaming printing media and report have been broadcast in the electronic media throughout the year.

BMP provided (online and offline) legal support to the victims of violence throughout the country. In 2021, BMP provided logistic support for legal activism and capacity building program to district branches. In 2021, a total no. of 100 court cases were dealt by BMP which include both old and the new cases.

After receiving online and offline complaint, BMP's responsible team for ADR (Mediation) resolved the family disputes in presents of two parties.

BMP recovered through mediation and counseling a total of Tk.56,91,000 (Fifty six lakhs ninety one thousand only) (central -23.09.000 Tk.), (district-20,25,000Tk.) and (grassroot-13,57,000Tk.) as dower and maintenance.

During this extraordinary situation in covid-19 crisis, shelter for new residents had been temporally restricted in Rokeya Sadan. When necessary the cases were referred to Victim Support Center (VSC). One new victim referred from another legal aid organization for shelter and stayed here for 10 days. Now there are 7 residents in Rokeya Sadan. They have been provided with food, nutrition, medi-care, clothings, education, training support. Two residents are S.S.C. candidates from Bharoteshawrey Homes, Tangail. They are staying in Rokeya Sadan and joining online class. Other two are suffering from mental disorder and under regular super vision by psychiatrist. 2 residents, students of honors 3rd year of Titumir university college have been provided with 2 laptops for online ICT training of Govt. A2i project. They have been employed of chain shop of their own initiative. One of the resident is working within organization. BMP is conducting court cases for three of the residents, they have been produced in the court when necessary. One resident got verdict of the court in her favor. Rokeya Sadan subcommittee organized 7 online sharing meetings with the residents. When the covid situation will permit, the restriction for giving shelter to Rokeya Sadan would be withdrawn.

Legal Activism:

During this period BMP strongly played its advocacy role on different issues.

Advocacy and Lobby:

A. Law Reform Movement 2021

- Introduction of UFC
- Reform of Women and Children repression prevention Act -2000
- Reform of rape law
- Reform of evidence Act 1872
- Introduction of witness protection law
- Introduction of anti discriminatory law
- Sexual harassment prevention law
- Reform of Hindu family law

- Enforcement and reform of digital security Act 2018
- Introduction of equal inheritance law
- Repeal of special provision of child marriage restrain Act 2017

As a part of law reform movement, BMP did advocacy lobby with ministry of law, justice and parliamentary affairs and Chairman parliamentary standing committee, Law commission, Minister of post, telecommunication Information and technology, State minister of MOWCA and chairman and members parliamentary standing committee, Chairman National human rights commission, Chairman human rights commission, Sabbir Ahmed, Joint Secretary Cabinet division and political leaders, Judicial department , Lawyers, Eminent Civil society members and organizations, Media.

B. Political Empowerment of women

One third representation and effective participation of women in the parliament, local Govt. and political party.

Advocacy done with political party, Election commission, Mayor of Dhaka North City Corporation, Saila Farzana Joint Secretary (Urban Development-2 Branch), Local Govt. Division.

- Full ratification of UNCEDAW
- Implementation and monitoring of gender budget
- National women development policy
- Implementation of national action plan of VAWG
- Communal violence
- Gender sensitive education curriculum from non communal and human rights possible

C. Street activism

Recommendations of different consultation, dialogues, discussions, sharing meeting with different relevant sector of civil society network submitted to Prime Minister's office, Speaker of the parliament, MOWCA, Ministry of law, justice and parliamentary affairs, Ministry of Home affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Local Govt. Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of road and transportation, IGP. Ministry of Social welfare.VC Dhaka university.

BMP also took part in the global campaign against VAWG.

D. Strengthen and Consolidation Capacity of Organization

- Provide Knowledge and skill development Training on women rights issue at all level
- Organizational Training on awareness raising program in the community on women human rights
- Conduct Gender Certificate Course
- Conduct study circles at all levels of the organization
- Paralegal training
- Research

Programs implemented in 2021:

On March 2 and March 12, Central Legal Aid Sub-Committee, organized meetings to review the draft law proposed on Prevention of Violence against Women by the law commission at Anwara Begum, Munira Khan Auditorium with the law reform expert committee of BMP.

A meeting of Complaints Committee of BMP on Prevention of Sexual Harassment was held on April 7, 2021 chaired by Rekha Chowdhury, Vice-president of Central Committee and the member of the Complaints Committee. This

committee also organized a meeting with the staff of central and branch committee on 13 June. A total of 100 including the leaders from central and district branches and staff were present in the meeting.

An online sharing meeting on the Uniform Family Code (UFC) proposed by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad was held with the aim of ensuring equal rights of all citizens, keeping in view the theme 'We want gender equality in establishing universal human rights.' The meeting was chaired by Dr. Fauzia Moslem, president of BMP. A total of 70 were present in the meeting.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organized a rally at Sobhanbag Mosque at Dhanmondi on 28th January demanding prevention and remedy of incidents of rape and other forms of violence against women and children. Acting president of BMP Dr. Fauzia Moslem presided over the program. BMP is continuously raised it's voice incidents of rape and gender based violence. They demanded to strong accountability of state representatives in this regard and also demanded to stop practice of victim-blaming. BMP central committee, City committee members and staff were present in the rally. About 300 including media were present in the rally. Messages of the meeting were reached widely among the general people.

A human Chain was organized in front of High Court on 14th November to against observation given in the judgment of Rape case in Rain tree Hotel. The report of this human chain was published in 9 daily papers like New age, Prothom Alo, Daily Observer, Samakal, Kalerkatha, Jonokantha, etc.

During this reporting period BMP also submitted some recommendations for equal gender justice to the Ministry of Home Affairs, State Minister of Women and Children Affairs.

Recommendations:

1. Medico-legal examinations should be conducted on both the victimized women and children and the accused.
2. All the accused in the rape case have to be brought under the compulsory medical examination.
3. One Stop Crisis Center needs to be enriched through technology and training.
4. Initiatives should be taken to make researchers through training.
5. Initiatives should be taken to enhance the skills of police officers and doctors involved in the investigation of cases.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organized an online Sharing meeting of Digital Security Act 2018: Human Rights of Women on 02 September'21. Dr. Fauzia Moslem, President of BMP chaired the meeting. Honorable Minister of the Ministry Post telecommunications and information technology Mr. Mustafa Jabbar was present as the chief guest. Ms. Nasima Begum NDC, Chairman of National Human Rights Commission was present as the Guest of Honor.

In 2021, from 13-19 October, several communal violence erupted in Choumahani, Rangpur, Begumganj and other places in the country during Durga Puja, the biggest Hindu festival in the country. BMP leaders visited this place. In this incident 2 hindu people were killed, at least over 150 others were injured and at least 80 temples (200 mandapas) were damaged across Bangladesh by mobs, additionally over 100 people injured from various places in several Communal violence .

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organized an online sharing meeting Integrated measures to prevent violence against women and girls with the parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry Of women and child affairs on 14th July, 2021. Meher Afroze Chumki, M.P. who is the chair of this parliamentary Standing Committee. Mr. Abdul Aziz M.P. and Mrs. Shobnam Jahan M.P. who are the member of this committee spoke in this meeting. About 30 people were present in this meeting and the news of this meeting were published in 4 daily and online papers.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organized an online sharing meeting on 'Strong Dhaka City Corporation : role of women councilors' on 21 June 2021. Mr. Atiqul Islam, Meyor of Dhaka North City Corporation, was present as

he chief guest while Dr. Fauzia Moslem, President of BMP, chaired the program. Saila Farzana, Joint Secretary (Urban Development-2 Branch), Local Govt. Division was the special guest.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organized a grand rally on the occasion of its 13th national conference on 30 December. About 2,500 women took part in this rally.

An online discussion meeting on ‘impact of covid-19 on women: upcoming national budget’ was organized on 23rd May, 2021. Dr. Fauzia Moslem, President of BMP chaired the meeting while Dr. Sayema Haque Bidisha Professor, Economics dept, DU and research director of SANEM presented the keynote paper. Selim Raihan Professor, Economics dept, DU and Executive Director of SANEM, Professor Sharmin Neelormi dept Economics, JU, DBC news editor Pranab Saha were discussants in the meeting.

An online press conference was held on 9th June 2021 following declaration of the national budget. BMP expressed its concern over the dropping of gender budget report in the proposed 2021-2022 budget by the ministry. Dr. Fauzia Moslem chaired the program while Sharmin Nilormi Professor, Economics dept. JU and presented the key note paper. Dr. Sayema Haque Bidisha Professor, Economics dept. DU and Dr. Nazneen Ahmed, Senior Research Fellow, took part in discussion in the press conference. The speakers also called upon Government for continuing gender budget for reducing gender discrimination in different fields.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad has started a joint venture to monitor of Gender budget with SANEM. In this regard Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organized 3 meetings with South Asia Networking on Economic Model(SANEM) on 3rd March, 11 March and 2 December. Bangladesh Mahila Parishad is organizing a survey on Child Marriage and its Social Impact. Mahila Parishad organized with the cooperation of SANEM 2 divisional (Rangpur and Rajshahi) FGD with the women of different occupations.

In 2021 the central movement subcommittee was engaged in advocacy and Lobby by expressing serious concern of different incidents of VAWG, incidents against freedom of expression, violation of human rights. BMP submitted memorandums and petitions to concerned authorities demanding neutral investigation and justice for victims. During post COVID-19 pandemic crisis 24 statements and 8 memorandums are issued.

To mark the CEDAW day [3 September] BMP organized an online discussion meeting called ‘Women in Economy and Implementation of CEDAW: Perspectives on National Women’s Development Policy’ was held by the initiative of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad on 5 September. Dr. Fauzia Moslem, President of Central Committee of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, presided over the meeting. Maleka Banu, General Secretary of Central Committee of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad delivered the welcome speech. In the online discussion meeting, 35 people including members of the Central Committee of BMP, representatives from Social Action Committee, journalists and officials of the organization participated. Through Facebook live, more than 1,400 people have viewed this online program.

Twenty-one district committee organized sharing meeting to celebrate CEDAW DAY on 3rd September. Different civil society members were present in these meeting. In these meeting speakers demanded to withdraw reservation on article 2 and 16(1) (c).

An online sharing meeting was organized by SAC to celebrate International Women’s day on 8th March 2021. The slogan of this event was ‘stop violence against women and ensure women leadership to achieve equality.’ President of BMP, Dr Fauzia Moslem presided over the programme. Representatives of different organizations of the SAC took part in the discussion. The speakers spoke on the occasion.

A human chain was organized by SAC in front of National Museum for demanding withdrawal of the recommendation made by the parliamentary committee on Liberation war affairs ministry to exclude female UNO from leading guard of honor to late freedom fighters. This human chain was presided by Dr. Fauzia Moslem, President of BMP.

Social Action Committee (a platform of 64 women, human rights and development organizations) organized an anti-communal gathering on 1st November, 2021 at Central Shahid Minar, Dhaka, The slogan of this Gathering

was Let Protest against Communal Violence. The gathering was presided by Dr. Fauzia Moslem, President of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad. About 250 people were present in this program. A rally was walked out from Shahid Minar to TSC.

To increase awareness among youth on their involvement challenging patriarchy, sharing meetings have been organized in different institute like schools, colleges and universities in different parts of the country. BMP centrally and District branches also organized sharing meetings with young students in different parts of the country. Teachers and students took part in those meetings. Participants expressed their interest on the issues and gave their recommendations. 19 awareness raising meetings with school, college and university teachers and students were held in district branches. About 371 were present in these meeting. 14 discussion meetings on VAWG with school, college and university teachers and students were held in district branches. About 371 were present in these meeting.

On 14th January 2021 Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organized a human chain demanding fair and impartial investigation into rape and murder cases, exemplary punishment for those involved in front of Mastermind School in Dhanmondi. Shima Moslem, joint general secretary, BMP presided over the human chain. BMP members student and teachers of Mastermind School and community people. About 200 approx were present in the human chain.

On 13 February and 15 February 2021 Legal Aid Sub-Committee organized a two-day long online experience sharing meeting for more integrated and to strengthen the social movement against VAWG was held with the leaders of district branches. Participants from 50 district branches (Dhaka, Mymensingh, Sylhet, Chittagong, Barishal, Rangpur, Rajshahi and Khulna divisions) were present. Chaired by president.

On 11 March 2021, a training workshop was organized by Legal Aid Subcommittee with the support of Victim supports center on the proper implementation of several existing Laws to prevent Violence against Women & Children and directives /judgment given by the Hon'ble High Court Division, Supreme Court of Bangladesh. The participants of the workshop were police officers of the Women Support and Investigation Division of Victim Support Center (VSC), Dhaka. The program was held in the auditorium of VSC, Tejgaon, Dhaka. The inaugural session was addressed by Mr. Krishna Pado Roy, BPM- Bar, PPM- Bar, Additional Commissioner of Police, DMP, Dhaka. Dr. Fauzia Moslem, President of BMP was present as special guests. The program was presided over by Ms. Hamida Pervin, PPM, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Women Support & Investigation Division Tejgaon, DMP, Dhaka.

A human chain was held on November 14, 2021 in protest of the patriarchal attitude by the Central Committee of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad to observe the verdict in the rape case of the Raintree Hotel.

On 6 December 2021 at the initiative of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, an sharing meeting was held at Anwara Begum, Munira Khan Auditorium of Central Office with the Indigenous Peoples on the proposed Uniform Family Code. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Fauzia Moslem, President of BMP.

On 6 May 2021, the National Committee against VAWG and Social Anomy and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organized an online press conference demanding neutral investigation and fair trial at the death incident of the girl at Gulshan, Dhaka, and expressed grave concern over the increasing trend of VAWG in COVID-19 pandemic. Justice Nizamul Hoque Nasim, a retired Supreme Court Justice and member of the National Committee chaired the press conference. Advocate Masuda Rehana Begum, Asst. General Secretary of BMP, presented a keynote paper and raised 9-point demand. The Convenor of the National Committee against VAWG and Social Anomy & the President of BMP Dr. Fauzia Moslem. A total of 40 persons including journalists from print and electronic media, the leaders of BMP attended the press conference.

On 1 June 2021, the National Committee against VAWG and Social Anomy arranged an online discussion on the constitution, freedom of the press, and persecution of journalist Rozina Islam. The chairperson of the National Committee Barrister M. Amir-ul Islam moderated the meeting. A written statement was presented by Advocate Masuda Rehana Begum, member of the National Committee and Asst. General Secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP). Dr. Fauzia Moslem, the Convenor of the National Committee against VAWG and Social Anomy & the President of BMP, political scientist Prof. Dr. Rounaq Jahan, Justice Nizamul Haque Nasim, Advocate Sultana

Kamal, Kazi Reazul Hoque, Ajoy Dasgupta, Prof. Dr. Rashid E Mahbub, Farida Yasmin, Bashudeb Dhar, Prof. Dr. Shahnaz Huda, Taslima Yasmin, Sanjib Drong also the members of the National Committee spoke in the meeting. National Committee member Dr. Hameeda Hossain, Ad SMA Sabur, Mahbub Zaman, Prof. Dr. Latifa Shamsuddin, Prof. Dr. Nazmun Nahar, Dr. Shahida Choudhury, Dr. Sanzida Akhter, Dr. Nazneen Ahmed, Shabnam Azim, National Committee member and Vice -President of BMP Rekha Choudhury, General Secretary Maleka Banu, Joint General Secretary Shima Moslem, Finance Secretary Dil Afroz Begum, Legal Aid Secretary Shahana Kabir; Training, Research and Library Secretary Rina Ahmed, International Secretary Rekha Saha among others joined the meeting. A total of 52 persons including journalists from print and electronic media attended the program. Maksud Akhter, Director, Legal Advocacy and Lobby facilitated the meeting.

On 22 August 2021, an online sharing meeting was held at the initiative of the National Committee against VAWG and Social Anomy on the recent arrest of several women, including a film actress. The meeting was chaired by Barrister M. Amir-ul Islam, chairperson of the National Committee against VAWG and Social Anomy.

BMP maintains close network and working relation (bi-lateral as well as multi-lateral) with GO-NGO, Human Rights organization, National Human Rights Commission, UN organization, UN bodies (UN Women, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA), regional and global GNB, global women's movement and Media. BMP is working as a secretariat of Social Action Committee (SAC), a platform of 67 women's rights ,Human rights, NGOs, INGOs, Socio-cultural and Professional organizations. NGO alliance, SDG platform, MOWCA, (SAC is working as advocacy lobby agent for Resisting VAWG and political empowerment of women. BMP enjoys special consultative status with UN ECOSOC since 1997. The Organization remains updated regarding the issues of global women's movement through CSW.

BMP submitted 885 deputation and memorandum to policy makers and concerned authorities. On various occasion BMP did advocacy lobby in multidimensional approach. BMP also did advocacy lobby in the global platform like UNCEDAW Committee, UN Human Rights Council, UN Women, global Girls Not Bride (GNB). During this period BMP organizers and staff participated in different online meeting, virtual consultation and webinar.

Two sharing meeting on 23rd Jan and 13th March 2021 with the action committee to resist social anomy and violence against women and girls in district level. About 96 were present in the meeting.

For skill development, different types of training organized at all level of the organization conducted throughout the year.

With a visionary outlook towards establishing a wider gender sensitive and rational society and extended rights activist group, BMP as a voluntary organization launched program - a three months certificate course on 'Gender, Women Empowerment and Development' since 2011. Due to Covid-19 pandemic crisis, BMP has conduct the certificate course online for 2 months with a revised module. This was a new experience for BMP. BMP has built a bridge between academicians and women, movement. Resource persons of the course are; Teachers from different private and public universities, Research organizations, Human rights organizations and Think tank. The initiative is highly appreciated and well accepted among different stakeholders. 45 students successfully completed 11th Certificate Course in 2021 held by zoom.

To involve school, college and university students and young generation in the women's movement and to work on gender issues BMP central and district branches continuously organized study circles among them. A total no. of 20 study circles were organized by BMP central and district branches. The total number of participants in Dhaka was 583 and in the district branches it were 259. As a result more students have become vocal against sexual harassment and other forms of VAWG and are organizing protest meetings at different places of the country whenever there is an incident. The study circle provided scope and opportunity to the young generation to know about BMP, its activities and got motivation to engage in women rights movement in future. Organizing study circle, young generation are coming out to speak about VAWG, new challenges they are facing and the measures to combat VAWG.

At the initiative of Training, Research and Library Subcommittee BMP organized different study circle with the members of study circle on different issues. University teacher, researcher, working women, students of Dhaka University and study circle members of BMP participated in these programme. They discussed about the entitled topic and gave their opinion.

National Council meeting (Yearly Evaluation and Planning) of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) was held virtually on 31 March and 1 April 2021 highlighting the slogan 'Face the challenges of Covid-19 and advance women's movement.' In inaugural session of national council meeting was joined by Ms. Christine Johansson, Head of Development Cooperation, Charge dé Affairs, Embassy of Sweden and Ms. Shoko Ishikawa, Country representative of UN women Bangladesh as the special guests. Meher Afroz Chumki, President of parliament of MOWCA regrets due to sudden illness. Dr Fauzia Moslem, President of BMP chaired by the meeting. Maleka Banu, General Secretary, BMP briefly described the present situation and activities of BMP. A total of 383 national council members from the central committee and district committees attended two days yearly internal evaluation and planning meeting and contributed to success the meeting. About 480 were present in the meeting. Almost 90 percent participants from 55 districts branches were participated in the meeting.

On the theme '**ensure equal participation of women in family, society and state**' a two-day long 13th National Conference of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad was held on 30th December at Engineers' Institution Auditorium, Ramna and 31st December at BMA Bhaban Auditorium, Press Club, Dhaka. The program was organized by Organization subcommittee, Central Committee of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP). The meeting was presided over by Dr. Fauzia Moslem, President of BMP while Professor Rehman Sobhan, the chairman of the Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD); Honorable Speaker of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury, MP; Christine Johansson, Deputy Head of Mission, Head of Development Co-operation Section, Embassy of Sweden, Bangladesh and Rozina Islam, Special Correspondent, Prothom Alo were special guests. The Inaugural session was conducted by Umme Salma Begum, Organizing Secretary, Central Committee, BMP.

On March 17, 2021, BMP Central Committee organized an online discussion meeting on 'Bangabandhu in Movement Struggle' to mark the 100th birth anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the architect of independent Bangladesh. The meeting was chaired by the President Dr. Fauzia Moslem, Central Committee, BMP. Welcoming remarks were made by Maleka Banu, General Secretary of the organization. Ashfaq Hossain, Dhaka University Professor of History was present as a special guest at the meeting. About 72 were present in the meeting and the Facebook page had about 2,000 viewers.

To mark the 110th birth anniversary of the founder president of BMP legendary figure, eminent activist and advocate of women and human rights poet Sufia Kamal, an online panel discussion was organized on 20th June 2021. In this meeting memorial speech of BMP title 'Sufia Kamal and the Feminist Movement in Bangladesh' was presented. Professor Biswajit Ghosh, Vice-Chancellor Rabindra University was present as memorial speaker. Dr. Fauzia Moslem, president of BMP presided over the meeting.

ToT on paralegal was organized this year a total no. of 14 central and district organizers and staff. 12 paralegal trainings have been conducted by trained trainers in district branches. A total no. of 371 young members participated among them.

On 25 June 2021, an online paralegal training was organized for the organizers of Sylhet District Branch by Central Legal Aid Subcommittee, BMP. The meeting was presided over by Shankari Sen Chowdhury, Vice-President, Sylhet District Branch. A total of 25 organizers, leaders of Munshiganj district branch and central office officials were present in the paralegal training.

During this period as a part of research analysis Bangladesh Mahila Parishad is conducting a survey to find out the comparative perception of men and women about the types of domestic violence against women. The subject of the survey is 'Comparative perceptions of men and women about domestic violence, violence against women and its impact on the prevalence of violence.' With the sincere cooperation of the volunteer organizers of 30 districts

from 51 district branches of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, information will be collected from them by talking directly to grassroots women and men. Information will be collected from a total of 20 people including 14 women and 6 men from each district. In other words, information will be collected from a total of 600 men and women from 30 districts.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the publication subcommittee published and disseminated four issues of the organisation's quarterly bulletin *Mahila Samachar* in 2021. Each of the issues was published 5 thousand copies. In addition to these, the subcommittee published Internal Annual Evaluation and Planning Meeting report in August. In December, the 13th National Conference of BMP was held. On this occasion, the subcommittee published the Central Committee Report (November 2013 – December 2021), memoirs, posters, leaflets, cards, etc. Besides, the publication subcommittee designed and published information, education, and communication materials like posters, leaflets, brochures, booklets, etc. round the year as well as online uses.

Publication subcommittee also distributed *Mahila Samachar* and other publication materials among members of grassroots' and district's branches and central committee of BMP, stakeholders, individuals, and organizations. The bulletin, *Mahila Samachar*, is composed of special features and write-ups by BMP leaders and activists on women's human rights and related fields.

BMP published English and Bangla posters, leaflets, booklet and greetings card and distributed as a part of celebrating International Women's Day, International fortnight and observance of CEDAW day. These poster and leaflet were distributed to different Embassies, Development partners, Social Action Committee, International organization, Civil Society organizations, across the country along with 2,341 grassroot branches of BMP.

Financial management is done according to international financial standard, following SIDA's policy, GoB Financial policy and Rule, Organizational Financial Manual. Zero tolerance policy is followed in this regard.

Financial subcommittee organized its regular monthly and need based meetings during this period (online and Offline). Financial subcommittee organized online training on accounts keeping system, the role of secretaries and staff in implementation of financial management and financial training for Staff with 37 district branches. About 111 were participated in the training program.

During this covid pandemic situation Mobilization of grassroot women was a difficult task. Maintaining social distance, practically it was not possible to organize general members and communicate effectively with grassroot branches. Large no. of organizers was badly affected by health hazard and economic crisis. There was a limitation for adequate IT support.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad: A Brief Organizational Overview

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) through its long journey to protect and promote the women's right has secured its position as the largest voluntary-based mass organization of the women of Bangladesh. BMP has more than 150 thousands members and more than 2,000 grassroots levels committees spreading all over the country. Its members come from all walks of life and consist of urban educated professional women to the rural agricultural workers. The members are young, and aged. They have different economic, social and religious backgrounds. Representing thus almost every segment of the society. The fundamental strength of BMP lies in the committed and compassionate participation of its members who render voluntary services for the organization in establishing women's rights. BMP was established in 1970 under the leadership of Sufia Kamal pioneer of women's movement to work for the emancipation of women and over the years expanded its activities as well as its capacities. BMP is a non-governmental organization in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of UN from 1997.

Mission: BMP's overarching mission is to ensure women's emancipation in Bangladesh through empowerment. BMP is working for gender equality and women's human rights. BMP aims to establish secular, democratic society with equal rights that will enable the women to play their due role in every aspect of life. Over the last forty-five years the organization has achieved remarkable success in promoting the causes of women in Bangladesh at public and private levels. In its relentless pursuit of goals and objectives, BMP has engaged itself in multidimensional and multifarious activities. BMP has got an affiliation with any political parties maintaining voluntary character in all the endeavors. BMP has developed as a unique and broad platform for social movement and mobilization to establish a society that recognize and respect the rights of women.

BMP started its journey just prior to the year of liberation struggle of Bangladesh. For that struggle for democracy is an inherent component of women movement. At the same time BMP believes that Women's right is human right. To achieve a sustainable development goal and establish women human right, access to justice is a pre-requisite and rule of law is to be established. BMP is giving emphasis on a democratic process and institutions supporting rule of law to ensure human rights. Efforts have been made to mainstream gender equality and women human rights into various policy areas.

Core Values: BMP maintains ten core principles in its programmes and functions at all levels - local to national. These core values are the essential and enduring tenets of BMP. They set the tone for BMP's actions and they guide BMP's direction. These principles include: (i) Constitution, (ii) Participatory Approach, (iii) Voluntarism, (iv) Non-partisan Approach, (v) Dynamism, (vi) Transparency, (vii) Commitment, (viii) Equality, (ix) Networking, and (x) Sustainability.

Vision: Establish non-communal, democratic and equity based rational humane society and a state.

Goals: Emancipation of women by establishing gender equality within family, community and in a secular and democratic state where government functions transparently, adheres to rule of law and is accountable to people.

Objectives

- Resist violence against women
- Promote political participation of women.
- Mainstream women issues in development agendas and policies
- Establish BMP as an effective advocacy agent
- Ensure sustainability of BMP.
- Establish equity based society for man & women.

Briefly, BMP's operations have been conducted through 14 units. In addition to various strategic and activity oriented meetings organised by these units, BMP also held regular staff meetings to take stock of completed



activities and discuss future interventions.

Over the years, BMP has adopted a series of strategies to translate its objectives into operation. These include:

Establish a strong women movement to fight the challenges of the 21st century by raising awareness and organising womenfolk

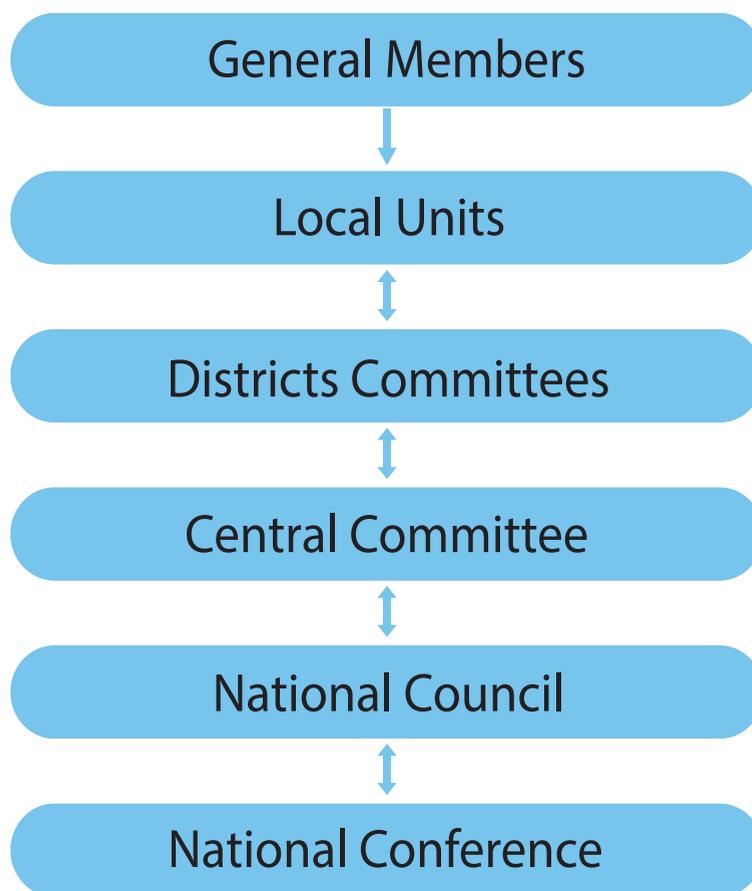
- Enable socio-economic and political environment for women's empowerment
- Build up a strong movement against Violence against Women
- Ensure women's human rights in the light of UN Universal, Human rights Declaration and constitution of Bangladesh, 1972

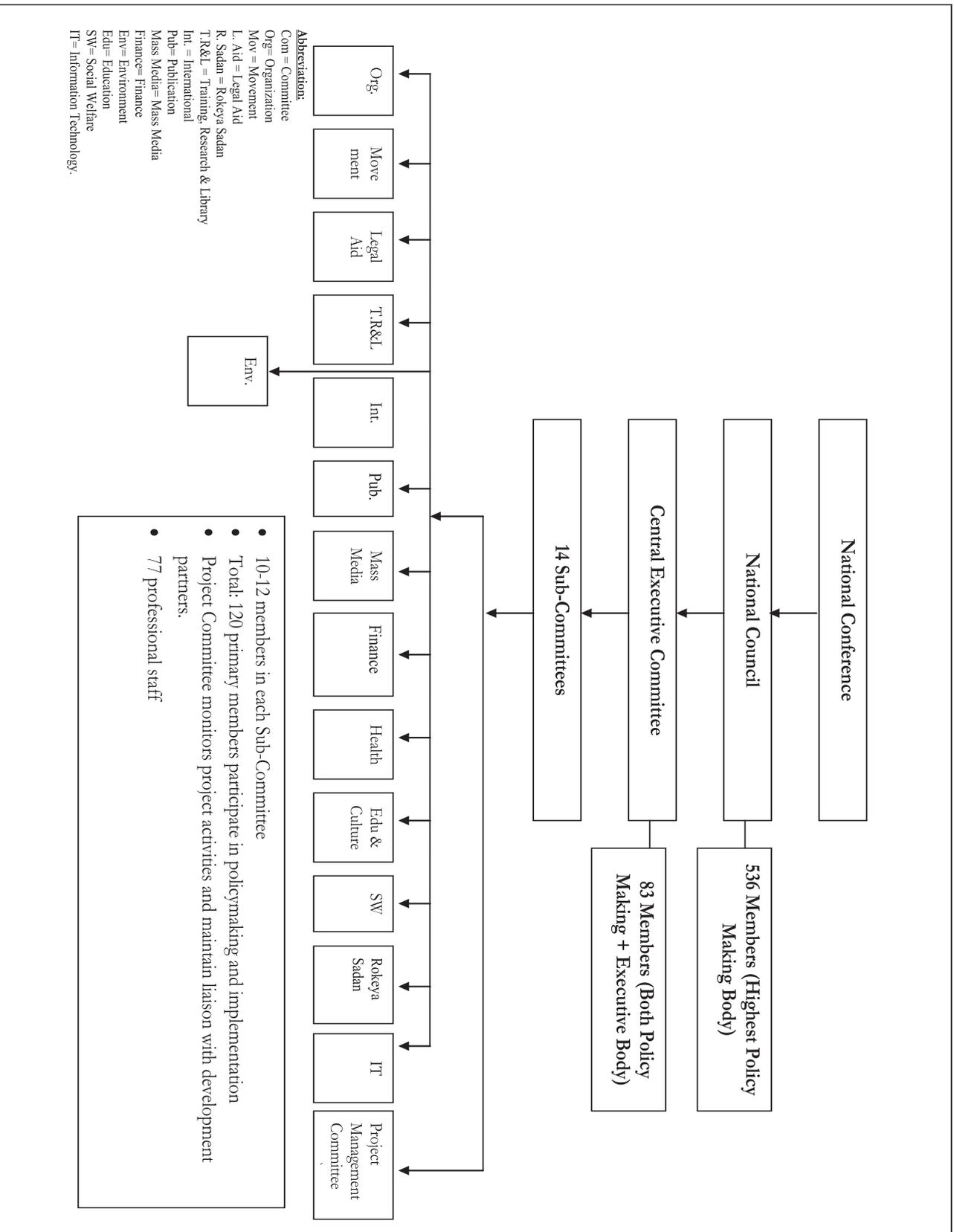
- Build up capacity of the organisation and increasing network
- Strengthen and enhance the organisational capacity of BMP
- Build up movement to raise voice against violence against women and enactment of gender sensitive laws
- Build up network with national, international and regional women's and human rights organisations
- Ensure sustainability of BMP as an institution
- Build up movement for change in the relevant fields such as education, health, information and environment
- Ensure women's citizen rights and equal opportunity
- Build up movement for transparency, accountability, secular and democratic system, and good governance

Structure and Management

BMP has developed an administrative structure to ensure effective implementation of its programmes and activities. It is a combination of efforts made at each level of the structure that facilitates BMP's functioning as a lobbying and advocacy agent. The management of BMP follows an inclusive and flexible system where stakeholders can show their creative and innovative performance towards achieving the goals of our organization.

Structure and Management of BMP





Deepening the Initiatives for Promoting and Protecting Women's Human Rights in Bangladesh (January 2018 – December 2022)

Project Background:

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) is committed to promote democratic, non-communal, equity based rational humane society and state through activities and programmes tailored to gender equality, women's human rights, empowerment of women. BMP is a national voluntary women organization having 63 district branches and 2322 grassroots branches. central office situated in Dhaka. As a continuation of its past activity BMP formulated a forward-looking project for the next five year from January 2018 – December 2022. The title of the new project is 'Deepening the Initiatives for Promoting and Protecting Women's Human Rights in Bangladesh (January 2018 – December 2022).' Going forward BMP needs to take a long-term outlook and identify the scope of this five-year-long project within that longer term outlook. This project has been built on the past achievements, experiences and understanding of challenges on the ground and the challenges one predicts for the future. To achieve a sustainable development goal an establish women human right, rule of law is to be established and access to justice for is a pre-requisite. BMP is giving emphasis on a democratic process and institutions supporting rule of law to ensure human rights. Efforts have been made to mainstream gender equality and women human rights into various policy areas.

Defining the Project:

The institutional vision of BMP as per constitution is to 'Establish a non-communal democratic; equity based human society and a state.' The institutional goal also remain the same that is: Emancipation of women by establishing gender equality within family, community and in a secular and democratic state where government functions transparently, adheres to rule of law and is accountable to people. Within this broader backdrop the project goal is identified as follows:

Project goal: Incrementally contribute in reducing all forms of gender based discriminations in Bangladesh by engendering the post 2015 development agenda and keeping gender equality, women's empowerment and women's human rights at the centre while upholding the basic values of human rights, democracy and good governance.

Purpose: Strengthen Women's Human Right movement, undertake broad spectrum of activities to empower women in all spheres of life, intensify programmes to resist the worst form of discrimination against women that is violence against women.

Objectives:

- Promote and Protect Women's Human Rights Resisting all Forms of Violence Against Women and Girls
- Advocacy Lobby for Women Human Rights and Effective and Meaningful Participation of Women in Political Process and Decision Making Towards Strengthening Democracy and Good Governance.
- Strengthening and Consolidating Capacity of BMP.

Rationale of the Project:

BMP has been relentlessly working towards emancipation of women in Bangladesh for about four and half decades by conducting movements with an aim to establish an equity-based humane social structure. However, it feels that the goal is yet to be achieved in a meaningful manner notwithstanding BMP's belief in, and uncompromising efforts to, empowering women and mainstreaming them in the country's development process. The greatest challenge to women's rights comes from the gender-based power structure in the family, society and state; lack of democratic practice in the political arena as well as other spheres; negative impact of globalisation; and fundamental revivalism. BMP, thus, realises that conducting the activities, envisaged under its mandate, requires substantive professional human resources and adequate funding in addition to contributions and commitment of its voluntary members.

Demand for continuation of BMP's activities in the area of women empowerment also comes in the backdrop of the commitments made by the political parties prior to the 2008 general elections regarding women's reserved seats in the Parliament, legal rights, security and safety, economic opportunities and social rights. Besides, in the context of growing intolerance, confrontational politics, ethnic clashes, increase in incidences of VAW, women's trafficking, rising trend of fundamentalism, and internationalisation of the movement for establishing women's human rights, women forces need to be more conscious, united and gender sensitive.

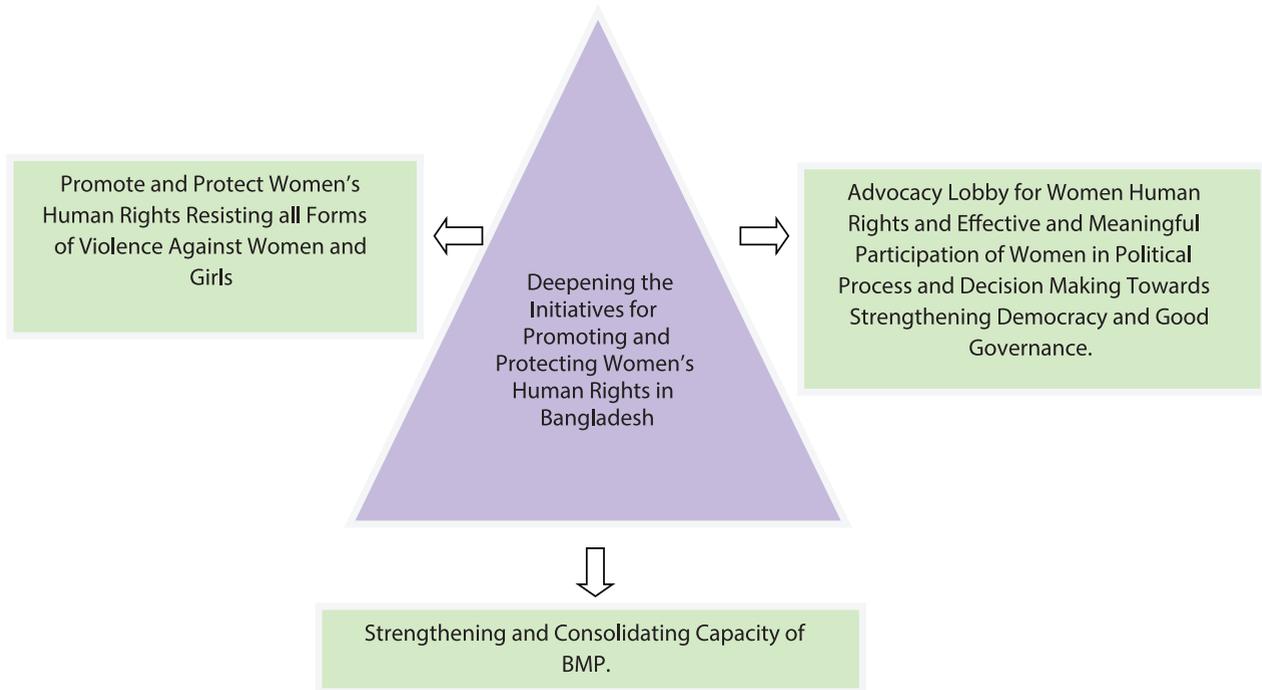
In view of the above, the importance of the project titled Deepening the Initiatives for Promoting and Protecting Women's Human Rights in Bangladesh cannot be overemphasised. As has been noted earlier, the current project is a continuation of the earlier project titled Promotion and Protection of Women's Human Rights. Nevertheless, realising the new and emerging challenges from both internal and external fronts, BMP has brought in a number of modifications and changes in priorities and included some new components for implementation during the current project.

In setting the objectives of the organization BMP rely on SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-bound) principles. The core values guiding decision making of BMP mainly include constitutional provision of gender equality, Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence Against Women (CEDAW; 1981), the Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC; 1990), Vienna Human Rights Declaration (1993), Recommendations of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA; 1995), Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), National Women Development Policy (2008) and mainstreaming of women in the development process. Besides in making decisions BMP also takes into account the Declarations and basic principles of the organizations.

In the context of growing intolerance, confrontational politics, ethnic clashes, increase of inclusive of drug abuse, women's trafficking, rising trend of fundamentalism, militancy and terrorism designed to uproot democratic values inclusive of gender equality and internationalization of the movement for establishing women human rights, women forces need to be more conscious, united and gender sensitive. In view of rich experience and enhanced organizational capability, BMP may contribute substantially toward strengthening progressive movements through its ongoing activities and further expansion. The prevailing scenario is also indicative of the need for continuation of the BMP's project entitled Deepening the Initiatives for Promoting and Protecting of Women's Human Rights for five more years to deepening and promote women human rights and empowerment of women in all spheres of social life.

Project Component

(January -December, 2021)



Activities, Achievements and Impacts under different Components Based on Planned Outputs

Introduction

Bangladesh was also amidst of the global Covid-19 pandemic crisis since 2020 and we are now going through new normal situation. Besides health hazard, it create lots of devastating effects on others deferent sectors like livelihood, employment and others multifarious negative impacts on women life.

As an organization BMP has been survived during this period with the grave loss of it's potential, dedicated leaders, organizers throughout the country. Greater BMP family also became the victim of different crisis of Covid-19. In this context BMP tried to cope with the situation at the earliest. In this context the whole organization faced the situation unitedly with strong mental stamina and tried to cope with the situation confidently.

In this chapter the yearly report will reveal the implementation of planned activities, and emerging works and their its impacts under different components.

Organizational Activities and Achievements

BMP continued to communicate with it branches, general members throughout the country over telephone, using digital devices, online and messengers and also physically.

In 2021, the total members of BMP stand at 1,67,258 spreading over 59 districts, 214 Upazila, 1055 paras, 336 unions and 699 villages. The total number of grassroot organizations is 2,334.

During this period, Central organization subcommittee undertook a total no. of 694 programmes throughout the country of which 400 programmes have been carried out by district and grassroot branches while 294 programmes by the central committee. Notably, there had been 14,854 participants in different programmes. At the district and grassroot level the number of participants was 14,615 and the rest 8,446 were from the central. During the covid period regular online communication procedure has been developed.

Components of the Project

Target and achievements of different sub-components of three major components are discussed below.

Output 1: Promote and Protect Women's Human Rights Resisting all Forms of Violence Against Women and Girls

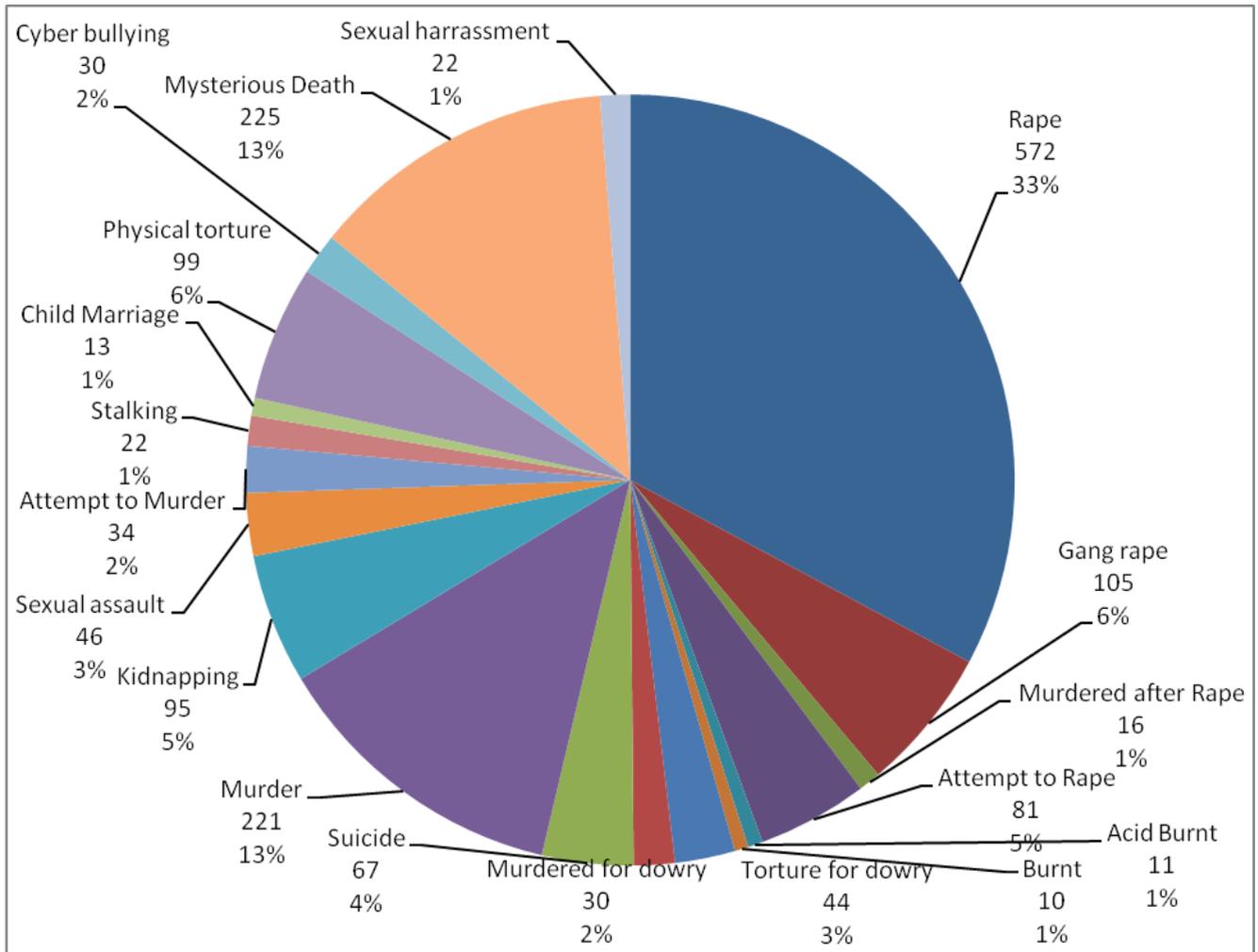
During covid -19 crisis globally incidences of violence against women increases alarming and has been turned by

UN as shadow pandemic. In Bangladesh also the scenario is same, Covid -19 multiplies the no. of violence against VAWG. For evidence based advocacy BMP continued to collect statistic on VAWG based on 14th daily news papers clippings and disseminate it to the media and other stakeholders. Printing and Electronic media often refers this data to its editorial, sub-editorial and reporting to draw attention of the concerned authorities and to raise social awareness to resist VAWG. Thats statistics shows incidences of rape is highest. This gives strengthen and support to the organizational activity towards resisting VAWG. The number of incidents of rape reported in the 14 newspapers was 572, out of which 105 cases constituted gang rape. 16 victims were murder after rape. Additionally there were 81 cases of attempted rape. The number torture for dowry (44), suicide (67), murder (221), Child Marriage (13) is also high.

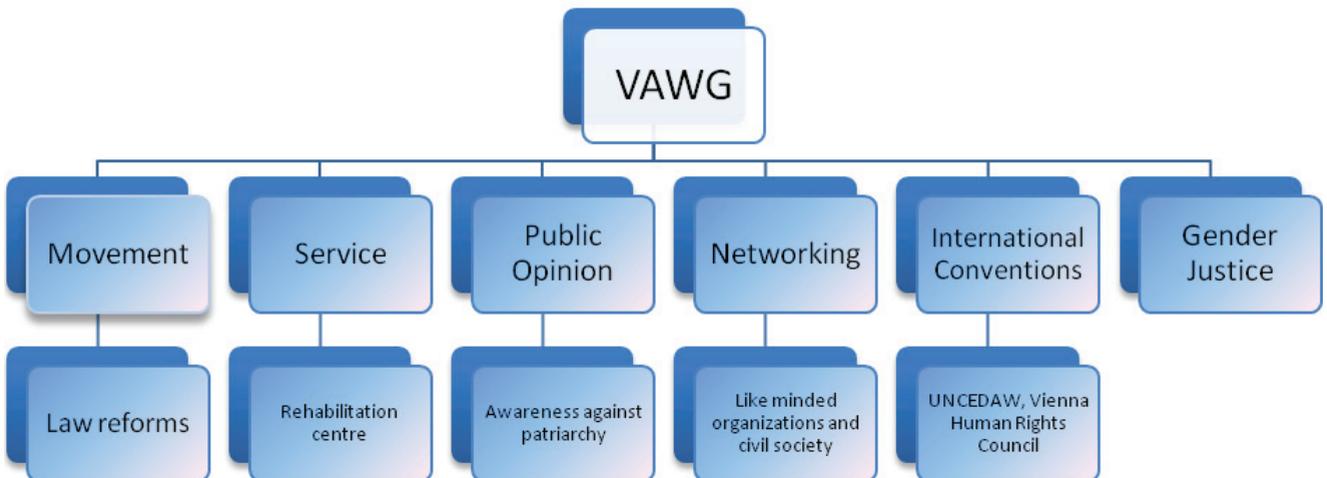
As a result of BMP's sustained effort to build social movement against VAWG. A national committee against VAWG and Social Anomy has been formed with comprising 200 members likely lawyer, doctor, teacher, Rtd. Justice, Judges, economist, politician, civil society members, representatives of socio-cultural organization, representatives of human rights organization, representatives of indigenous people, Marginalized group people, Columnist, Journalist, BMP central committee members and legal aid subcommittee members and staff. During this period the members of the committee raised their voice on different incidences.

Table: Some major categories of VAWG during (Jan-December 2021)

Categories of VAWG	Number of incidents	% of incidents
Rape	1018	28.13
Gang rape	179	4.95
Murdered after Rape	31	.86
Attempt to Rape	155	4.28
Acid Burnt	18	.50
Burnt	13	.36
Torture for dowry	93	2.57
Murdered for dowry	45	1.24
Suicide	121	3.24
Murder	444	12.27
Kidnapping	180	4.97
Sexual assault	95	2.63
Attempt to Murder	87	2.40
Stalking	33	.91
Child Marriage	284	7.85
Physical torture	208	5.75
Cyber bullying	63	1.74
Mysterious Death	427	11.80
Sexual harassment	22	.61
Women and Children Trafficking	42	1.16
Attempt to Child Marriage	43	1.19
Others	18	.50
Total	3547	100



BMP Framework of Actions against VAWG



Law Reform Movement: BMP's initiatives towards Law Reform

1.2: Dissemination of existing laws against VAWG and international human rights convention among relevant stakeholders (One sharing meeting with relevant stakeholders).

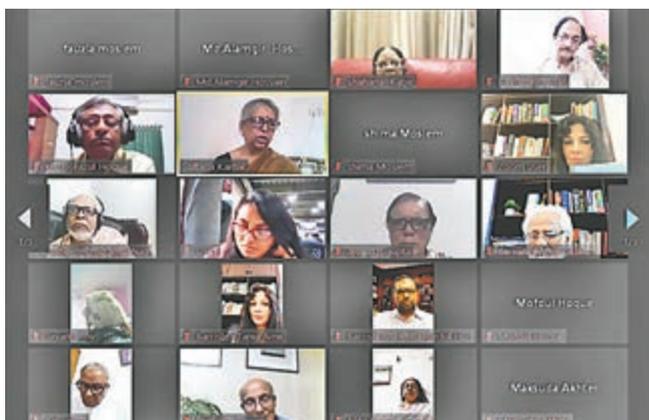
BMP continued its effort to establish gender justice and have taken measures to reform the existing laws where necessary.

On March 2 and March 12, Central Legal Aid Subcommittee, organized meetings to review the draft law proposed on Prevention of Violence against Women by the law commission at Anwara Begum, Munira Khan Auditorium with the law reform expert committee of BMP. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Fauzia Moslem, President of BMP. At the meeting member of the expert law reform committee Zeyad-al-Malum, Adv. SMA Sabur, Dr. Kazi Akhter Hamid, Organization's panel lawyer Barrister A. K. Rashedul Haque, Adv. Amit Dasgupta, Afsana Rashid were present. BMP legal Aid subcommittee officials also were present in the meeting. The meeting were concluded with observations and recommendations which were sent to the law commission.



Meeting with Law Expert Committee

A meeting of Complaints Committee of BMP on Prevention of Sexual Harassment was held on April 7, 2021 chaired by Rekha Chowdhury, Vice-president of Central Committee and the member of the Complaints Committee. The name of the convener of this committee is Adv. Masuda Rehana Begum, Asstt. General secretary of BMP, Members are- Dr. Tania Haque, Professor, Department of Women and Gender Studies, Dhaka University, Mahbuba Akter, Deputy Director, Blast. Legal Advocacy and Lobby director Adv. Maksuda Akhter, Member Secretary of the Committee is Adv. Ram Lal Raha. In the meeting, Maleka Banu, General Secretary of BMP, Dr. Fauzia Moslem, President of BMP participated. Members of the committee spoke on the occasion. This committee also organized a meeting with the staff of central and branch committee on 13 June. A total of 100 including the leaders from central and district branches and staff were present in the meeting.



Online Sharing Meeting on UFC

An online sharing meeting on the Uniform Family Code (UFC) proposed by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad was held with the aim of ensuring the equal rights of all citizens, keeping in view the theme 'We want gender equality in establishing universal human rights.' The meeting was chaired by Dr. Fauzia Moslem, president of BMP. Umme Kulsum, Joint Secretary was present as a special guest on behalf of Golam Sarwar, Honorable Secretary of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. At the meeting, Adv. Masuda Rehana Begum, Joint general secretary Bangladesh Mahila Parishad presented a written statement on the proposed uniform family code. The

constitution maker Barrister M. Amir-ul Islam, human rights activist Adv. Sultana Kamal, Liberation War Museum Trustee Mofidul Haque, prominent lawyer. Shahdin Malik, economist. Devapriya Bhattacharya, President of Bangladesh Puja Udyapan Parishad Milon Kanti Dutta, Journalist Ajay Dasgupta, Basudeb Dhar, Lawyer Barrister Sara Hossain, Barrister Tania Amir, Professor Dr. Shahnaz Huda, Professor. Kaberi Gain, Professor. Jagannath Barua, President of the Bangladesh Christian Association Nirmal Rosario, President of the Hindu Law Reform Council. Moyna Talukder and General Secretary Pulak Ghatak spoke in the meeting, Professor Dalem Chandra Barman, Professor. Sania Tahmina, human rights activist Ranjan Karmakar, Chanchana Chakma, Dr. Fastina Perera, teacher Christine Richardson, Govinda Chandra Mandal, Dr. Chandranath Poddar, Taslima Yasmin, Vice President, BMP Rekha Chowdhury, General Secretary Maleka Banu, BMP, Joint General Secretary Shima Moslem, BMP, Legal Aid Secretary Sahana Kabir, Finance Secretary Dil Afroz Begum, Organization Secretary Umme Salma Begum, Training, Research and Library Secretary Rina Ahmed, International secretary Rekha Saha, Rokeya Sadan secretary Nasreen Mansur, Publication secretary Saraban Tahura, eminent personalities of civil society participated present in the meeting . The meeting was conducted by Adv. Makshuda Akhtar Laily, director legal advocacy and lobby. A total of 70 were present in the meeting.

Achievements on law reform

1. The Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs has promised to repeal Section 155 (4) of the Insulting Evidence Act, 1872 in the Parliament.
2. The government's positive attitude towards reforming discriminatory family laws. Have a positive attitude towards Hindu inheritance law reform.
3. To take initiative of the Law Commission to update the Women and Child Abuse Suppression Act, 2000.
4. National Human Rights Commission has submitted a draft proposal to the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs to enact separate laws to prevent sexual harassment and oppression.

1.4: Observance of the International Fortnight to Resist Violence against Women and Girl (25 November – 10 December) and the World Human Rights Day 2021.

BMP expressed its solidarity to the UN call to observe International Fortnight to Resist Violence against Women and Girl (25 November – 10 December 2021). BMP declared the theme of fortnight 2021 'Stop violence against women & girls, ensure women's equal rights.' BMP organised extensive campaign program against stop violence against women & girls, ensure women's equal rights considering the context of the country.

Activities:

- BMP inaugurated the Fortnight program through different programs countrywide on 25th Nov'21.
- BMP published and distributed-E posters throughout the country against VAWG.
- BMP Broadcasted online different ministries, electronic and printing media, socio-cultural organization to demand equal rights of men and women in property and enactment of Uniform Family Code (UFC) and BMP received positive responses.



Sharing meeting with the representatives of related organizations

- On 25th Nov'21 a Press Conference on VAWG situation was held at Zahur Hossain Chowdhury Auditorium, National Press Club, Dhaka. Journalist (printing and electronic media) were present in the meeting. District and grassroot branches also organized the said program in the same day demanding effective steps towards eliminating on VAWG.
- On 30th Nov'21 a Sharing Meeting with Administration, Different Stakeholders and professionals to Resist Violence against Women and Girl.
- On 25 November – 10 December, 2021: Sharing meeting to grass-root level all over the country demanding reform of discriminatory family laws and equal rights of men & women to property.
- On 6th Dec'21 Sharing meeting with adibasi leaders and youths on reformation of discriminatory family laws and establishing equal rights of men & women to property.
- On 12th Dec'21 Sharing meeting on the issue 'Violence Against Women and Girls & Rape: Violation of Human Rights.'
- On observe the International Fortnight to Resist Violence against Women and Girl (25 November – 10 December) and the World Human Rights Day On 12th Dec'21, a radio show on VAWG has been air on at the joint initiative of BMP and FM Radio .
- BMP sent letters to the concerned Ministries, National Human Rights Commission, City Corporation, Socio-Cultural Institutions, Shilpakala Academy, Different Universities, Electronic Media and Administration to take action on observance of International Fortnight to Resist Violence Against Women and Girls 2021.
- Deputation and Memorandum submitted for speedy trial, including fair and neutral investigation of incidents of rape and sexual harassment to Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Police, Upazilas in the organizational district branches, Officer-in-charge and concerned police officer-in-charge of central and district branches.

Follow-up:

BMP succeeded to sensitize a part of the society to take active role to resist VAWG. BMP maintaining close network with the persons and institutions to uphold their pledge.

1.5: Hold press conference on incidences on VAWG

On 13th January 2021 Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organized a press conference at the Zahur Hossain Chowdhury Auditorium (Conference Lounge) of the National Press Club demanding a fair and impartial investigation of rape and murder case of a schoolgirl at Kalabagan. Acting President Dr. Fauzia Moslem presided over the press conference. Maleka Banu, general secretary, BMP Shima Moslem, joint general secretary, BMP, Adv. Masuda Rehana Begum, Asstt. General secretary, BMP, International Secretary Rekha Saha, Dhaka City Committee leaders, on behalf of the victim's family her father, Al-Amin Ahmed, mother Shahnoori Amin, classmates, journalists and organization officials were present. A total of 55 were present in the press conference.

1.6: Organize discussions on violence against women with school and college students, teachers and youth to discourage violence and harassment against women (Discussion meetings in different school, college and university)

As a part of BMP's strategy to continue inter-generational dialogue, a sharing meeting on Research on sexual violence against women and girls (rape) and the involvement of the younger generation on 3 June 2021. The meeting was organized by Legal Aid subcommittee. More than 100 students from different university could be talked regarding this said issue, A good no. of recommendations came out from the meeting. Participants expressed their interest to do the work.

Decisions of the meeting:

1. Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and the Department of Criminology, Dhaka University will jointly study why young people are being involved in crimes such as sexual violence and rape.
2. This research should be completed by December, 2021.
3. The Chairperson of the Department of Criminology will make arrangements and send the budget for the research activities to Bangladesh Mahila Parishad within a week.
4. The research method will interview young victims of torture, young people who are being tortured, students, literature reviews, experts, police officers, lawyers, helpers.
5. 10 sensational case studies (rape) of 2019-2021 should be specified.

At the initiative of central legal Aid subcommittee, Modhukhali district branch organized a sharing meeting on impact and violence on Women and Girls by the effect of Covid-19 Infection and way forward on 4th April with the student of Rousunnesa girls school premise. About 30 were present in the meeting.

On 23 August 2021, an online sharing meeting held with the young generation on the initiative of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad to enact Uniform Family Code (UFC) to ensure the human rights of all citizens. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Fauzia Moslem, President of Central Committee BMP. Presidium member Basudeb Dhar, Hindu, Buddhist and Christian Unity Council, Nirmal Rosario, President of Bangladesh Christian Association and Madhumita Barua, Vice President of , Women's Unity Council were present in the meeting. About 96 including leaders and officials of the Central Committee, representatives of different communities and representatives of the younger generation were present. The online sharing meeting was broadcasted live on the facebook page of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad. The proposed Uniform Family Code (UFC) was presented by Senior Advocate Dipti Sikder. The meeting was moderated by Sabikun Nahar, Program Officer (Counseling), Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.

Maleka Banu, General Secretary of the organization, said that Bangladesh Mahila Parishad is working for gender equality, women's empowerment and women's human rights. Inequality exists between people in different countries. Although progress has been made in some areas in eliminating inequality, there are still obstacles to ensuring fundamental rights. The organization is working to address the root causes of the problem. When it comes to equality between men and women in the constitution, it is not yet fully certain. Going to work on women's dignity at various grassroots levels, the organization has seen discriminatory family law act as a regulator behind the violence against women. In this situation, the enactment of uniform family code has become necessary today.

Assistant General Secretary Advocate Masuda Rehana Begum said Bangladesh Mahila Parishad is working to ensure the rights of all citizens. Since 1993. The eminent personalities of the country (lawyers, intellectuals) have held meetings with the organizer workers at different levels of the organization and completed the proposal of the Uniform Family Code. Proposals for this uniform family code have been submitted to the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and the Law Commission, including the Hon'ble Prime Minister, at several times, advocating and lobbying for the enactment of this proposal. She said that in order to ensure the rights of all in the 21st century, uniform family code has become the need of the time.

Basudeb Dhar, a prominent journalist and member of the Hindu, Buddhist and Christian Unity Council, who was present as a guest at the meeting, said Prime Minister wanted to give equal rights to Hindu women but many in the Hindu community were not interested. He called on the youth to come forward to persuade the opposition to enact a uniform family code and to continue the movement.

Madhumita Barua, vice-president of Mahila Oikya Parishad, said there was no separate family law for Buddhists. Many in the community were opposed to the enactment of family code. Buddhist women are victims of many discriminations, deprivations and humiliations which are not disclosed. In this situation, if a uniform family code is enacted, equality will come among people of all religions.

Nirmal Rozario, president of the Bangladesh Christian Association, said that women in the Christian community

enjoy many benefits under family law. There are some differences in different family laws. A uniform family code would be helpful for all. He said that for the enactment of this law, meetings with people of different classes and professions, with religious leaders, with political parties should be continued.

Barrister AKM Rashedul Haque, Lawyer, Bangladesh Supreme Court; Kazi Rokhsana Ruma, Cultural activist; Advocate Amit Das Gupta, Lawyer, Bangladesh Supreme Court and Deputy Attorney General, Bangladesh; Advocate, Kakli Mridha, Hindu Marriage register; Dr. Jagannath Barua, Professor, National University; Minu Ching Marma, human rights activist; Advocate Sabina Shipra, Advocate Bangladesh Supreme Court and Pulak Biswas, Young Businessman and North South University Student Sabrina, Noor-e-Tania, Indigenous Young Krishna Priya Murm, Dhrubojyoti Mohant spoke at the meeting.

On 9 September 2021 a meeting on research on sexual violence against women and girls (rape) and the involvement of the younger generation was held. Dr. Fauzia Moslem, president of BMP presided over the meeting. Joint General Secretary Shima Moslem, Joint General Secretary, Asstt. general secretary Adv. Masuda Rehana Begum, Research and training secretary Rina Ahmed, Adv. Makshuda Akhter, Khandaker Farzana Yasmin, Chairperson, Department of Criminology, Dhaka University, Md. Sabbir Ahmed Sohan, Sakia Akhter Rupa, Adv. Dipti Sikder, Adv. Ram Lal Raha, Adv. Fatema Khatun, Afroza Arman, Sabikun Nahar, Sinomay Marma and Md. Alamgir Hossain.

Decisions of the meeting:

- Seven sensational case studies (rape) of 2019-2021 were specified.
- This research activity should be completed by January 2022.
- Copies of BMP's rape-related signature list must be provided for Literature Review.
- A letter should be sent to the district branch to assist in the case study.
- 19 awareness raising meetings with school, college and university teachers and students were held in district branches. About 371 were present in these meeting.
- 14 discussion meetings on VAWG with school, college and university teachers and students were held in district branches. About 371 were present in these meeting.

1.7: Conduct discussion meetings to build awareness at the grassroots level on violence against women

On 14th January 2021 Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organized a human chain demanding for fair and impartial investigation into rape and murder cases, exemplary punishment for those involved in front of Mastermind School in Dhanmondi. Shima Moslem, joint general secretary, BMP presided over the human chain. BMP members student and teachers of Mastermind School and community people. About 200 approx were present in the human chain.

On 13 February and 15 February 2021 Legal Aid Subcommittee organized a two-day long online experience sharing meeting for more integrated and to strengthen the social movement against VAWG was held with the leaders of district branches. Participants from 50 district branches (Dhaka, Mymensingh, Sylhet, Chittagong, Barishal, Rangpur, Rajshahi and Khulna



Rally for demanding justice organized by Dhaka City Committee

divisions) were present. Chaired by president.

On 11 March 2021, a training workshop was organized by Legal Aid Subcommittee with the support of Victim supports center on the proper implementation of several existing Laws to prevent Violence against Women & Children and directives /judgment given by the Hon'ble High Court Division, Supreme Court of Bangladesh. The participants of the workshop were police officers of the Women Support and Investigation Division of Victim Support Center (VSC), Dhaka. The program was held in the auditorium of VSC, Tejgaon, Dhaka. The inaugural session was addressed by Mr. Krishna Pado Roy, BPM- Bar, PPM- Bar, Additional Commissioner of Police, DMP, Dhaka. Dr. Fauzia Moslem, President of BMP was present as special guests. The program was presided over by Ms. Hamida Pervin, PPM, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Women Support & Investigation Division Tejgaon, DMP, Dhaka. Among others Shahana Kabir, Secretary of Legal Aid Subcommittee of BMP, Ms. Laila Ferdousi, Additional Deputy Commissioner, and Ms. Mofela Khatun, Asstt. Commissioner of Police were present in the program. Joint general secretary of Shima Moslem, and Asstt. General Secretary of BMP Adv. Masuda Rehana Begum, delivered the object of the training workshop. Director, Legal Advocacy and Lobby Adv. Maksuda Akhter, Senior lawyer Adv. Ram Lal Raha and Senior lawyer Adv. Dipti Sikder were facilitated the session.

On 25 June 2021, an online paralegal training was organized for the organizers of Sylhet District Branch by Central Legal Aid Subcommittee, BMP. The meeting was presided over by Shankari Sen Chowdhury, Vice-President, Sylhet District Branch. A total of 25 organizers, leaders of Munshiganj district branch and central office officials were present in the paralegal training.

A human chain was held on November 14, 2021 in protest of the patriarchal attitude by the Central Committee of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad to observe the verdict in the rape case of the Raintree Hotel. Among the leaders of the Central Committee of the organization, Vice President Rekha Chowdhury, General Secretary Maleka Banu, Joint General Secretary Shima Moslem, Joint General Secretary Adv. Masuda Rehana Begum, Dhaka Metropolitan General Secretary Rehana Yunus, Legal Advocacy and Lobby Director Adv. Maksuda Akhter Laily, Central Committee spoke in the human chain. Barrister AK Rashedul Haque, Lawyer of Bangladesh Supreme Court was present as the guest speaker. Other leaders of the Central and Dhaka Metropolitan Committees of the organization, journalists of print and electronic media and officials of the organization were also present at the human chain program. The meeting was moderated by Jana Goswami, Advocacy and Lobby Director of the organization.

On 6 December 2021 at the initiative of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, an sharing meeting was held at Anwara Begum, Munira Khan Auditorium of Central Office with the Indigenous Peoples on the proposed Uniform Family Code. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Fauzia Moslem, President of BMP. Maleka Banu, General Secretary of the organization gave a welcome speech at the meeting. Chancana Chakma, Member Secretary of Adivasi Nari Network, Falguni Tripura, Coordinator, Monira Tripura of Bangladesh Youth Forum, Sujaya Ghagra of Kapeng Foundation and Sino Marma, Junior Lawyer of Mahila Parishad discussed at the meeting. Rekha Chowdhury, Vice President of the Central Committee of the organization, Professor Hannana Begum, Lakshi Chakraborty, Legal Aid Secretary Sahana Kabir, Publication Secretary Saraban Tahura, Organization Secretary Umme Salma Begum, Training, Research and Library Secretary and Media Secretary (Acting) Rina Ahmed, International Secretary Rekha Saha, Legal Aid Secretary of Dhaka Metropolitan Committee Shamima Afroz Irene and officials of the organization were present.

1.8: Rehabilitation service for victim of violence in Rokeya Sadan

During this extraordinary situation in covid-19 crisis, shelter for new residents had been temporally restricted in Rokeya Sadan. When necessary the cases were referred to Victim Support Center (VSC). One new victim referred from another legal aid organization for shelter and stayed here for 10 days. Now there are 7 residents in Rokeya Sadan. 2 of them are S.S.C candidates from Bharoteshawrey Homes, Tangail. As their school and hostel are closed, they are staying in Rokeya Sadan and joining online classing. Other two are suffering from mental disorder and

under regular supervision by a psychiatrist. 2 residents, students of honors 3rd year of Titumir university college have been provided with 2 laptops for online ICT training of Govt. A2i project. They have been employed of chain shop of their own initiative. One of the resident is working within organization. During this period Rokeya Sadan subcommittee organized 7 online sharing meetings with the residents. When the covid situation will permit, the restriction for giving shelter to Rokeya Sadan would be withdrawn.

Success : A number of victims of violence has been rehabilitated in the society after receiving training and motivation from Rokeya Sadan. Most of the residents are interested in higher education and giving effort to be economically independent.

Challenge: It may be recalled that the activity of Rokeya Sadan subcommittee is centered around survival of victims. Temporary shelter might help to recovery from physical and mental trauma. Mainstreaming in the social life exploring their potential, building self-esteem is the main task of subcommittee. Rehabilitation of inmates within a acceptable time frame is required to maintain the sound environment is a main challenge.

1.9: Providing support to branches for legal activism (Counseling, Mediation, Investigation for fact finding, Conducting cases, i.e. Lawyers fees, Court fees, etc).

1.10: Provide legal advice to the victim of violence (As per necessity)

Receiving application/petition

BMP central Legal Aid Subcommittee received 81 Complaints/petitions during the reporting period. BMP District branches and grassroot branches received 970 Complaints/petitions. Central Legal Aid subcommittee has given legal aid service to 32 (through online 13) victims of VAWG and BMP District and grassroot branches has given legal aid service to 1004. Necessary communication, advocacy and lobby with govt. and non govt. agencies is continuing. 57 district branches of BMP also giving legal aid service to the victims of VAWG.

BMP is working with VSC, under home ministry, GOB as one of the partner organization at all divisional level and Rangamati as per MoU. One of the BMP's staff lawyer adv. Fatema Khatun has been deployed one day per week to women support and investigation division VSC, Tejgha. Dhaka for giving legal aid support. During this period 17 cases were provided counseling and legal advice. 7 cases from VSC were referred to BMP for alternate dispute regulation. One family dispute has been dissolved. Regular sharing is held with Assistant police commissioner on duty regarding cases. Coordination meeting is held with partner organization and responsible person women support and investigation division. BMP representatives participate in the steering meeting of VSC. BMP also extends its support for providing training on existing laws to the police officers on duty.



BMP leaders provided laptop to the Rokeya Sadan Residents

1.11: Provide assistance and advice to the victims of violence in cases of out of court settlement Mediation (As per necessity)

A total no. 26 mediations have been conducted by BMP Central Legal Aid Subcommittee and 399 by district and grassroots branches. During the reporting period BMP recovered a total of Tk.56,91,000 (Fifty six lakhs ninety one thousand only) (central -23.09.000 Tk.), (district-20,25,000Tk.) and (grassroot-13,57,000Tk.) as dower and maintenance through mediation.

1.12 : Fact finding on VAWG incidents (As per necessity)

Conducting investigation and spot visits

On 7th, and 10th January, a four-member representatives of BMP visited the spot in the incident of rape and murder of a student of Master Mind School in Kalabagan. The representatives spoke the parents of the victim. The representatives reassured them that BMP has always been by the side of the families of the victims and would provide them with necessary assistance including handling of cases. The representatives later met the investigating officer of the case at Kalabagan police station and inquired about the investigation.

On 7th June BMP representative senior lawyer Adv. Dipti Sikder visited the spot in the incident of the dead body of a Dhaka University student named Israt Jahan Tusti (22) of Azimpur Government Staff Quarters published in various media. The representative spoke her friends and classmates of the abused student. For information, they visited to the emergency department and morgue of Dhaka Medical College Hospital and to the student house in Azimpur.

On 26th September 2021 BMP representative Adv. Makshuda Akhtar Laily, Adv. Fatema Khatun visited the spot in the incident of torture and murder of Shishu Mahi Khan, a student of Mirpur Adarsh Vidyaniketan in the capital and participated in a protest rally organized by students-teachers of Mirpur Adarsh Vidyaniketan, Section-6, Thana-Pallabi. and went to seek information.

National Committee against Violence against Women and Girl and Social Anomy has expressed concern and demanded justice in the aftermath of the arrest of several women, including film actress Pari Moni . On 22 August 2021, National Committee against Violence against Women and Girl and Social Anomy organized an online sharing meeting on the recent arrests of several women, including a film actress. The meeting was chaired by Barrister M. Amir-ul Islam Chairperson of the National Committee against Violence against Women and Girl and Social Anomy.

Convener of National Committee against Violence against Women and Girls and Social Anomy and President of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Dr. Fauzia Moslem, Honorable Member of National Committee Justice Nizamul Haque Nasim, Trustee of Liberation War Museum Mofidul Haque, Advocate of Bangladesh Supreme Court Advocate S. M. A. Sabur, human rights activist Advocate Sultana Kamal, former chairman of the National Human Rights Commission Kazi Reazul Haque, journalist Ajay Dasgupta, Sohrab Hasan, Basudeb Dhar, eminent economist Devpriya Bhattacharya, Professor M.M. Akash, Barrister Tania Amir, Indigenous Leader Sanjiva drang, Members of the National Committee addressed the meeting.

Members of the National Committee Violence against Women and Girls and Social Anomy and Vice President of the Central Committee of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Rekha Chowdhury, General Secretary Maleka Banu, Joint General Secretary Shima Moslem, Legal Aid Secretary Sahana Kabir, Finance Secretary Dil Afroz Begum, Organization Secretary Umme Salma Begum, Training-Research and Library Secretary Rina Ahmed, Honorable Member of the National Committee against Violence against Women and Girl and Social Anomy Dr. Sahida Chowdhury, Prof. Dr. Shahnaz Huda, Govinda Chandra Mandal, Barrister AK Rashedul Haque and others were present at the meeting.

Justice Nizamul Haque said in the issue of Pari Moni , an accused is not guilty just by filing a case. No one can be defamed before the trial. In this case, the Digital Security Act has been violated. He called on the people not to be convicted before the trial.

Mofidul Haque, trustee of the Liberation War Museum, said that the actress should get justice from the law and called upon the National Committee against Violence against Women and Girl and Social Anomy to take continuous action to create greater social resistance in such cases.

Human rights activist Advocate Sultana Kamal said that the disrespectful treatment of women was not desirable. She called on the law enforcement agencies to treat the people properly. She strongly condemned the treatment of women and called on the government to stop the incident.

Kazi Reazul Haque, former chairman of the National Human Rights Commission, said the manner in which such incidents were discussed in the mainstream media was highly unreasonable. The human dignity of Pari Moni has been violated here. He expressed his displeasure over the repeated remand of Pari Moni.

Bangladesh Supreme Court Advocate S.M.A. Sabur said that in the case of Pari Moni, an attempt is being made to convict her before the trial. No one can be found guilty before the trial. He called on all to speak out against anti-culture.

The recommendation presented by Advocate Masuda Rehana Begum on behalf of the National Committee said that if there is evidence of any criminal involvement against the accused women, they will be tried in the court. In this case, no one has anything to say, but they should not be harassed as a victim of revenge-

Barrister M. Amir-ul Islam, chairperson of the National Committee against Violence against Women and Girl and Social Anomy and Chairperson of the meeting, said that the real status of women in the society has been presented through the incident of Pari Moni. Equality, human dignity, social justice are not present in our society now. In this way, our Bangladesh is being shortened. He said that we have to work for the establishment of equality, human dignity and social justice as enshrined in the constitution.

The meeting was moderated by Advocate Maksuda Akhtar Laily, Legal Advocacy and Lobby Director of the organization.

1.13: Conducting court cases on behalf of the victim of violence (As per necessity)

As a part of providing legal support for ensuring justice to the victim of violence a total no. of 100 court cases has been conducted by panel lawyer by BMP in the higher court and lawyer court centrally. These cases are under trial. During the reporting period BMP is providing legal support to a sensitive case of a student on rape followed by murder of Dhaka city. Legal Aid subcommittee raised their concern. BMP raised its concern regarding lengthy trial process and decided to conduct a survey to find out the causes of delay. Legal Aid subcommittee organized a sharing meeting with eminent lawyer and academician on 8th May 2021 regarding the issue.

Criminal Petition for Leave to Appeal No. 542 of 2017 is disposed of on by 22 February 2021 at Appellate Division of Bangladesh Supreme Court and Order given in favour of domestic workers Shirin Akter, victim of repression.

1.14 : Provide Medico legal support for victims of violence (As per necessity)

BMP provided support for Medicare to the 2 victims of domestic violence (Tajrin Akter Nodi, Hobiganj and Shirin Akter, Dhaka) and also provided legal assistance to them.

1.15: Client Support (Conveyance & Others) (As per necessity)

During this reporting period BMP provided financial support to the 3 of its clients who are economically vulnerable. The following clients have been received financial support- Victim of VAWG Hasina Banu, family problem, Nilkhat, Dhaka; victim of VAWG Actress Pori Moni, case related papers collected purpose and victim of VAWG Sapna Rani, family problem District, Cumilla.

Output 2: Advocacy Lobby for Women Human Rights and Effective and Meaningful Participation of Women in Political Process and Decision Making Towards Strengthening Democracy and Good Governance.

As a part of movement BMP has been working for advocacy and lobby for ensuring women human rights and effective and meaningful participation of women in political process and decision making towards strengthening democracy and good governance. BMP strongly advocates to include women in the local govt. and women representatives in the national covid management and planning implementation committee.

2.1 Organize press conference to address the current political situation focusing governance and democracy

Rozina Islam, a Senior Female journalist of Daily Prothom Alo, was arrested on the charge of attempting to illegally collect sensitive Govt. Documents and taking photos of them in Secretariat. A press conference (online) was organized by Social Action Committee (a platform of 64 women, human rights and development organizations) on 18th May, 2021 to demand unconditional release of Journalist Rozina Islam. Social Action Committee also demanded to form a investigation committee and to ensure punishment of those persons who were involved with this incident, The president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Dr. Fauzia Moslem was the moderator of the press conference. The Written statement was presented by Shahnaz Sumi, Deputy Director of Bangladesh Nari Progoti Sangha. Among others Rokeya Kabir, Executive Director of Bangladesh Nari Progoti Sangha, Ranjan Karmaker, Executive Director of Steps Towards Development, Barrister Sharmin Akhter, Senior Staff lawyer of BLAST, Ad. Nina Goswami, Director (Program) of Ain O Salish Kendra, Zakia K Hasan, Executive Director of DIPTO, Adv. Salma Ali, President of BNWLA, Kawsar Alam Konok from ADAB and Sanjida Sultana spoke in this conference. Honorable Member of Parliament Shirin Akhter also spoke and protest of this incident. Channel DBC and DIPTO telecasted the program and the news of this press conference were published in Daily Samakal, Kalerkantha and other online papers.

2.2: Organize multiple demonstrations to demand effective and greater political empowerment of women along with strengthening good governance and democracy

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organized a rally at Sobhanbag Mosque at Dhanmondi on 28th January demanding prevention and remedy of incidents of rape and other forms of violence against women and children. Acting president of BMP Dr. Fauzia Moslem presided over the program. Like 2020, in this year 2021 BMP is continuously protesting incidents of rape and gender based violence. They demanded to strong accountability of state representatives in this regard and also demanded to stop practice of victim-blaming. BMP central committee, City committee members and staff were present in the rally. About 300 including media were present in the rally.



Gathering to prevent and remedy the ongoing incidents of violence and rape against women and children

A human Chain was organized in front of High Court on 14th November to protest of Patriarchal observation in the judgment of Rape case in Raintree Hotel. The report of this human chain was published in 9 daily papers like New age, Prothom Alo, Daily Observer, Samakal, Kalerkatha, Jonokantha. etc.

2.3: Organize consultation meetings /advocacy with stakeholders (vulnerable and marginalized women/women migrant worker/media personnel/ to address the different rights of women)

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad is working as a secretariat of Social Action Committee (SAC), a platform of 64 women, human rights, development organizations and socio cultural organization .

An online sharing meeting was organized by SAC to celebrate International Women’s day on 8th March 2021. The slogan of this event was ‘stop violence against women and ensure women leadership to achieve equality.’ President of BMP, Dr. Fauzia Moslem presided over the programme. Representatives of different organizations of the SAC, Rokeya Kabir, Executive director of Bangladesh Nari Progoti Sangha, Shahin Anam, Executive Director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, Rasheda Akhter Khnam ,Vice President of Women for Women, Chandan Lahiri, Program Manager of Steps Towards Development, Mahbuba Akhter, Program Manager of Nagorik Uddag, Morzina Ahmed, Representative from Disable women and a victim of Covid-19 Shahinoor took part in the discussion. The speakers spoke on the occasion.



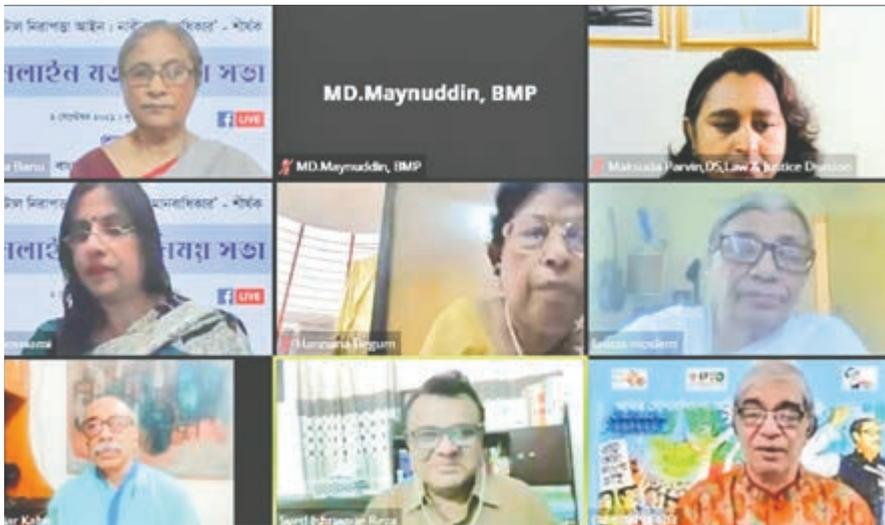
Protest rally against communal violence organized by SAC

A declaration of SAC by Samapika Halder, ADAB was read in front the audience and Zinat ara Huq (We CAN) conducted the meeting. The speakers said violence against women must be eradicated not only through women’s movement but also from political, economic and humanitarian points of view. Live broadcast of the meeting was arranged and viewed all over the country.

A human chain was organized by SAC in front of National Museum for demanding withdrawal of the recommendation made by the parliamentary committee on Liberation war affairs ministry to exclude female UNO from leading guard of honor to late freedom fighters. This human chain was presided by Dr. Fauzia Moslem, President of BMP. The speakers strongly raised their voice against the recommendations and demanded to the Member of Parliament to refrain from making such a decision that would be detrimental to the rights of women achieved through years of struggles, They also added referring to the equal rights of men and women in Article 26 of the constitution. Representatives of different organizations Ain o Salish Kendra, We can, Steps towards Development, Nari Progoti Sangha, IED and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad expressed solidarity with the issue.

Achievement: Due to strong protest and advocacy, standing committee of Liberation war Ministry have withdrawn their said recommendations.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organized an Online Sharing meeting of Digital Security Act 2018: Human Rights of Women on 02 September’21. Dr. Fauzia Moslem, President of the organization chaired the meeting. Honorable Minister of the Ministry Posts telecommunications and information technology Mr. Mustafa Jabbar was present as the chief guest. Ms. Nasima Begum NDC, Chairman of National Human Rights Commission was present as



Mr. Mustafa Jabbar, Minister of Post and Telecommunication is addressing the online meeting on Digital Security Act: Human right of women

the Guest of Honor, Mr. Shahrior Kabir, Writer, Journalist and President of Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, Mr. Ishtiaque Reza, Editor in Chief of Gazi TV and Ms. Maksuda Parveen, Deputy Secretary, Law and Justice division were present as the special guests. The keynote paper was presented by Rekha Chowdhury, Vice President of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Maleka Banu General Secretary of BMP said in her welcome speech that there is gender inequality in Cyber space. With increasing of digital technology women in Cyber world are being subjected to

various forms of violence. The Chief guest Honorable Minister of the Ministry Posts telecommunications and information technology Mr. Mustafa Jabbar said that Digital Security Act 2018 could not play an important role to curb crimes due to some limitations and misapplication of the law in recent times. He also added that there is possible to make necessary amendments to the law. But law enforcement needs to be vigilant in applying the law. He proposed that there should be a separate law to monitor social media. Chairman of National Human Rights Commission, Nasima Begum NDC said in her speech that ongoing cybercrime and bullying against women should be monitored and controlled on social media. The speakers highlighted that no one had been arrested under the digital security act after making violent, obscene and derogatory remarks against women in various digital platforms. President of BMP spoke that social movement on this issue will be continued by BMP, but to reducing misuse of this law Govt. should take responsibility. She also added that proper use of this law is very important to ensure the rights of speech of citizen.

2.4 Undertake wide dissemination of CEDAW and others women’s human rights tools among political parties, policy makers, public representatives, administration, media and civil society

Twenty-one district committee organized sharing meeting to celebrate CEDAW DAY on 3rd September. Different civil society members were present in these meeting. In these meeting speakers demanded to withdraw reservation on article 2 and 16(1) (c).

2.5. Campaign against communalism and religious extremism

In 2021, from 13-19 October, several Communal violence erupted in Choumahani, Rangpur, Begumganj and other places in the country during Durga Puja, the biggest Hindu festival in the country. In this incident 2 hindu people were killed, at least over 150 others were injured and at least 80 temples (200 mandapas) were damaged across Bangladesh by mobs, additionally over 100 people injured from various places in several Communal violence .

Social Action Committee (a platform of 64 women, human rights and development organizations) organized an anti-communal gathering on 1st November, 2021 at Central Shahid Minar, Dhaka, The slogan of this Gathering was ‘Let Protest against Communal Violence.’ The gathering was presided by Dr. Fauzia Moslem, President of

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad. Among others, Representative from MJF, BNPS, Steps Towards Development, Indigenous women Network, BNWLA spoke in the program. The advisor of Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee Justice Shamsuddin Ahmed Manik, Dean of Social Science Faculty of DU Dr. Sadeka Halim, President of Cultural Jote Mr. Golam Kuddus, Politician Mr. Pankaj Bhattacharya, Asif Munir from 71 Generation, Kazal Debnath, Advisor of Hindu, Kristan, Boutha Oikya Parishad expressed their solidarity .

Declaration of this Gathering was presented by Ad Nina Goswami, Director, Ain O Shalish Kendra. The program was conducted by Shahnaz Sumi from BNPS. About 250 people were present in this program. A rally was walked out from Shahid Minar to TSC.

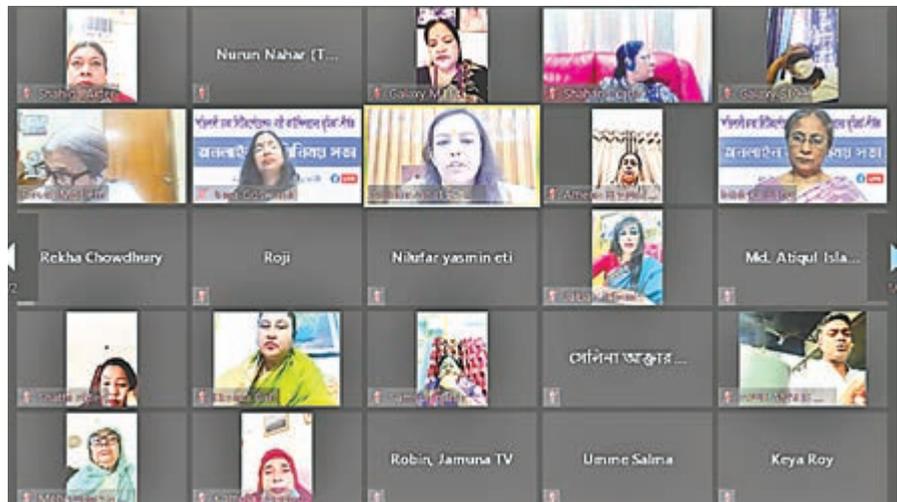
2.7 Undertake advocacy lobby with all stakeholders to ensure direct election in the reserve seats for women in the parliament and increase one third in number women’s one-third presence and effective participation in the constitutional body and all private organizations

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organized an online sharing meeting with the parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry Of women and child affairs on 14th July, 2021. Meher Afroze Chumki M.P who is the chair of this parliamentary Standing Committee. Mr. Abdul Aziz M.P. and Mrs. Shobnam Jahan M.P. who are the member of this committee spoke in this meeting.

About 30 people were present in this meeting and the news of this meeting were published in 4 daily and online papers.

2.9: Organize campaign at the central levels with political leaders, policy makers, election Commission, women MPs, MPs and local govt. representatives to address issues related women’s political empowerment

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organized an online sharing meeting on ‘Strong Dhaka City Corporation: role of women councilors’ on 21st June 2021. Mr Atiqul Islam, Mayor of Dhaka North City Corporation, was present as he chief guest while Dr. Fauzia Moslem, President of BMP chaired the program. Saira Farzana Joint Secretary (Urban Development-2 Branch), Local Govt. Division was the special guest.



Online discussion meeting with Mr. Atiqul Islam mayor of Dhaka North City Corporation and women counselor

Maleka Banu, General Secretary, delivered welcome speech. Among other councilors of Dhaka North City Corporation Shathi Akhter, Zakia Sultana, Kasem Mollah, Hasina Bari and Shikha Chakrabarty spoke in the meeting and mentioned challenges for rendering their duties.

Keynote paper was presented by Rekha Chowdhury, Acting Movement Secretray, Bangladesh Mahila parishad.

Chief Guest Mr Atiqul Huq appreciated the initiative of BMP and pledged to eliminate discrimination in rendering duties of women councilor. He called upon BMP to work with city corporation to launch a campaign to raise public awareness for building Dhaka for safe and suitable city for women of all strata.

Achievement: DNCC Mayor Atiqul Islam proposed to form a working group consisting of representatives from the official of Local Govt. Division, BMP and DNCC which will identify the legal loopholes in order to eliminate the inequalities and barriers in the work of women councilors.

2.11: Organize grand rally demanding women's effective political participation of women

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organized a grand rally on the occasion of its convention on 30 December. About 2500 women took part in this rally.

2.12: Holding pre (around Dec/Jan) and post (June) budget discussion to ensure with government to discuss allocation for women's advancement

An online discussion meeting on 'Impact of Covid-19 on Women: Upcoming National Budget' was organized on 23rd May, 2021. Dr. Fauzia Moslem, President of BMP chaired the meeting while Dr. Sayema Haque Bidisha, Professor, Economics dept, DU and research director of SANEM presented the key note paper.

Selim Raihan, Professor, Economics dept. DU and Executive Director of SANEM, Professor Sharmin Neelormi dept. Economics, JU, DBC news editor Pranab Saha were discussants in the meeting.

Maleka Banu General Secretary of BMP in her welcome speech, highlighted the need of gender budget in the current context. Due to covid-19 crisis the progress already made towards gender equality is now under threat.

Dr. Bidisha, in her keynote paper mentioned that women have been mostly effected in education and health sector due to pandemic, as it increases the dropout rate as well as the rate of child marriage rate alarmingly. She also focused maternal and child health service uptake had fallen by 50% during the pandemic.

Professor Sharmin Neelormi, dept. of economics, JU, in her speech emphasized for giving special attention in the forthcoming budget towards reducing increased gender gap due to covid crisis.

Dr. Selim Raihan, Professor, economics dept, DU and executive director of SANEM said that almost 30 million people including a high number of women had fallen into poverty to the pandemic and livelihood needs of these people to be given importance in the upcoming budget.

DBC news editor Pranab Saha said that many female migrant workers have returned, and they have not been able to find work. The ministry of expatriate's welfare and over-seas employment can put an allocation in their budget to provide various facilities to them.

An online press conference was held on 9th June 2021 following declaration of the national budget. BMP expressed its concern over the dropping of gender budget report in the proposed 2021-2022 budget by the ministry. Dr. Fauzia Moslem chaired the program while Sharmin Nilormi, Professor, Economics dept. JU and presented the key note paper.

Dr. Sayema Haque Bidisha, Professor, Economics dept. DU and Dr. Nazneen Ahmed, Senior Research Fellow, took part in discussion in the press conference.

The speakers also called upon Government for continuing gender budget for reducing gender discrimination in different fields.

2.13: Gender budget monitoring mechanism develop/ impact analysis:

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad has started to work impact analysis of Gender budget. In this regard Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organized 3 meeting with South Asia Networking on Economic Model (SANEM) on 3rd March, 11 March and 2 December, As a part of this work Bangladesh Mahila Parishad is organizing a survey on Child Marriage and its Social Impact. Mahila Parishad organized with the cooperation of SANEM 2 divisional (Rangpur and Rajshahi) FGD with the women of different occupations.

Advocacy and Lobby

Statement and Memorandums: In 2021 the central movement subcommittee was engaged in advocacy and lobby by expressing serious concern of different incidents of VAWG, incidents against freedom of expression, violation of human rights. BMP submitted memorandums and petitions to concerned authorities demanding neutral investigation and justice for victims. During post COVID-19 pandemic crisis 24 statements and 8 memorandums are issued.

District and Grassroot initiatives: During the covid-19 crisis period, District and Grass root branches have organized dialogue, consultation meetings, human chain on different issues for mobilizing public opinion and advocacy. In these programs local representatives, representatives from administration, civil society member, local media person, teachers, member of political party participated.

Output 3: Strengthening and Consolidating Capacity of BMP

3.1: (a) Organize internal annual planning implementation and monitoring review/workshop

National Council meeting (Internal Annual Evaluation and Planning Meeting) of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) was held virtually on 31 March and 1 April 2021 highlighting the slogan 'Face the challenges of Covid-19 and advance women's movement.' In inaugural session of national council meeting was joined by Ms. Christine Johansson, Head of Development Cooperation, Charge dé Affairs, Embassy of Sweden and Ms. Shoko Ishikawa, Country representative of UN women Bangladesh as the special guests. Meher Afroz Chumki, President of parliament of MOWCA regrets due to sudden illness. Dr Fauzia Moslem, President of BMP chaired by the meeting. Maleka Banu, General Secretary, BMP briefly described the present situation and activities of BMP.

As the special guest of the inauguration, Ms. Christine Johansson, Head of Development Cooperation, Charge dé Affairs, Embassy of Sweden appreciated BMP for organizing such an important virtual meeting with the presence of 350 participants from grass-roots level. She said that, the rate of child marriage has been increased due to Covid-19 and the physical and mental health of girls are now at higher risk. She also urged everyone to work together on preventing child marriage as well as other aspects, such as ensuring justice for all, creating equal opportunities at work, and stopping discriminatory practices. We have to protect the human rights of all, we have to do more to establish the human rights of women. She mentioned that, the Swedish government is working in Bangladesh to establish women's human rights and gender equality with priority.

As the Special guest, UN Women country representative Shoko



Ms. Christine Johansson, Head of Development Cooperation, Embassy of Sweden is delivering her speech in National Council Meeting



UN Women country representative Shoko Ishikawa is delivering her speech in National council meeting

Ishikawa focused on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which was adopted 26 years ago in the fourth world conference on women to establish the rights of women and girls. She said that, there has been a lot of progress in women's lives but Covid-19 pandemic has made stagnant all the progresses. Violence against women has been increased, women's participation in the labour force has been decreased, the discriminatory attitude of the society towards women is still prevalent, she added. Ms. Shoko Ishikawa emphasized the importance of ensuring the redistribution of resources and the implementation of women friendly policies, taking into account the current concerns in women and girls human rights issues.

Dr. Fauzia Moslem, President of BMP, concluded the inauguration of the national council meeting by saying, women's position has been changed in 50 years of independence, yet they haven't been able to come out from the conventional image. Although women have

progressed significantly, we are concerned about the ongoing gender-based violence. The culture of impunity, lack of accountability, communal violence— all these have negative impacts on women, she added.

After the inaugural ceremony, first working session of the national council meeting was held which was chaired by Dr Fauzia Moslem, President of BMP. Rehana Yunus, Member of the Central Committee and General Secretary of Dhaka City Committee of BMP, read out the organizational condolence messages (2019-2020) at the session. Adv. Masuda Rehana Begum, Assistant General Secretary of the organization presented the decisions of the central committee meetings during 2019-2020. Maleka Banu, General Secretary of the organization presented a brief report. Finance Secretary Dil Afroz Begum presented the account of income and expenditure of the Central Committee.

At the end of the first working session, second working session was held. Rekha Chowdhury, Vice-president of the Central Committee presided over the session. Commission-based discussions were held in this session. In the first Commission, Shima Moslem, Joint General Secretary of the Central Committee, discussed on 'Practical Working System of the Organization and Skills of the Organizers to Deal with Covid Pandemic'; in the second commission, Advocate Masuda Rehana Begum, Assistant General Secretary of the Central Committee discussed on 'Movement of Preventing Violence against Women and Girls: Review and Future Actions'; 'Advancing women leadership: Establishing Equitable Society and State' was discussed by Maleka Banu, General Secretary of the Central committee in the third commission.

At the end of the discussions, participants were divided in to three groups to bring out recommendations on the discussions of three commissions. Umme Salma Begum, Organizing Secretary of the Central Committee facilitated the session.

A total of 383 national council members from the central committee and district committees attended two days yearly internal evaluation and planning meeting and contributed to success the meeting. About 480 were present in the meeting. Almost 90 percent participants from 55 districts branches were participated in the meeting.

3.1: (b) National Conference (Rally, Commission, Advocacy).

On the theme 'ensure equal participation of women in family, society and state' a two-day long 13th National Conference of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad was held on 30th December at Engineers' Institution Auditorium, Ramna and 31st December at BMA Bhaban Auditorium, Press Club, Dhaka. The program was organized by Organization subcommittee, Central Committee of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP). The meeting was presided over by Dr. Fauzia Moslem, President of BMP while Professor Rehman Sobhan, the chairman of the Center for Policy Dialogue

(CPD); Honorable Speaker of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury, MP; Christine Johansson, Deputy Head of Mission, Head of Development Co-operation Section, Embassy of Sweden, Bangladesh and Rozina Islam, Special Correspondent, Prothom Alo were special guests.

The Inaugural session was conducted by Umme Salma Begum, Organizing Secretary, Central Committee, BMP. The event was divided into three working sessions.

In the Inaugural session Dr. Maleka Banu, General Secretary of BMP, said that in the 51 years of the organization, the golden jubilee of independence has seen the participation of women in all walks of life. But behind it is the rude rhetoric. Recognition and participation of women's work in family, society and state has not been ensured. Cooperation in establishing democracy, good governance and women's human rights cannot be said to be fruitful. Violence against women has risen alarmingly during the covid-19 period. She called upon all the councilors to work in unison to continue the movement's program for the next 50 years considering the overall situation, to create new leadership and to build a humane, democratic society for all by changing the patriarchal attitude towards women.

Professor Rehman Sobhan, in his recorded speech, said a major problem that women in the reserved seats are not elected in direct elections. He said women are now playing a much more active role in the country's economy as an important part of the labor sector, especially in the garment industry. However, many rights of women workers in the readymade garment sector have not been realized yet. They are not getting the necessary facilities yet, he added. Besides, expatriate women workers are being subjected to various forms of exploitation like torture, trafficking and violence. We have to go to them, work for their safety and support. In addition, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad must play a more active role in preventing violence against women, he urged.

Christine Johansson said, it is very important to ensure equal participation of women in the family, society and the state, because in such a society the human rights of men and women are given equal status and the experience, skills and qualifications of everyone are taken into consideration for real development. She called on the organization to continue its work to prevent violence against women and child marriage, which has increased due to covid-19, by identifying the root causes of social norms, cultural values and gender inequality. She noted the importance of grassroots contribution to the success of these programs.

Rozina Islam said, Mahila Parishad has been working for women for 51 years. Women have progressed during this period but women are still lagging behind in family, society and state. In any case of violence, women have to be harassed, their character is questioned.



Professor Rehman Sobhan is delivering his recorded speech in 13th National Conference



Ms. Christine Johansson, Head of Development Cooperation, Embassy of Sweden is delivering her speech in 13th National Conference



Journalist Rozina Islam is delivering her speech in 13th National Conference



Rally for 13th National Conference

She added that in addition to various forms of violence, most women are victims of cyber bullying. In order to deal with violence, women need to be resilient and courageous.

Dr. Fauzia Moslem, president of the organization, said that we are remembering a part of the leadership at every moment when the 13th National Conference is being held. They are not among us. She paid homage to all the late leaders and said that we have to take the path of life forward. In the 52 years of the organization, there are many achievements, progress and also there are challenges. In the midst of various adversities, the self-reliant women who have developed a sense of accomplishment in their respective fields of work today have become a source of inspiration for us as accomplished women. They will take Bangladesh forward in the coming days. However, despite the contribution of women at the center of development, the recognition of women's contribution and participation has not yet come. In order to achieve real development by eliminating violence against women, women must be included in the mainstream of development, state policy must be women-friendly, implementers must be gender sensitive, women must be given equal rights to property, and protection under Article 2 of the CEDAW Charter must be withdrawn.

At the end of the Inaugural session a rally was held. The rally started from the Institute of Engineers, went around Shahbagh and ended in front of the Institute of Engineers.

In the 2nd working session national council members participated in five thematic subjects termed as commissions. They actively participated in the different group, and shared and gave their views, opinions and recommendations for future planning based on their evaluation and identified challenges.

Themes of topics are:

- Impact of covid-19: Challenges of women's movement and Organisation. (Achievements, Actions, Challenges)

- Violence against women and girl child and women's human rights.
- Women's empowerment and good governance-democracy, fundamentalism and communalism.
- Progress and challenges of women in the national economy.
- Leadership in the women's movement and the new generation.

The third session/concluding session of the program was council session. The concluding session was presided over by Laxmi Chakraborty, Vice-President of Central Committee. At the meeting, Marufa Begum general secretary of the Dinajpur district Committee of the organization discussed the issue of amending the constitution. Environment Secretary Parveen Islam read out the general proposal. Laxmi Chakraborty announced the new committee. The committee was formed with 86 members including 3 advisers, 17 vice-presidents, 16 secretaries with Dr. Fauzia Moslem as president and Maleka Banu as general secretary. Shima Moslem, joint general secretary of the organization. A total of 540 counselors were present in the conference.

3.4: Organize field visits from the central to the local level (Field visit for follow up activities/Organizational monitoring meeting.

Central organizing committee arranged 4 online meetings and 1 physically with Savar, Khulna Moulovibazar, Bagherhat and Madaripur accordingly for monitoring their activities on 22nd January, 28th January, 10th April, 26th October and 2nd December 2021 respectively. These meetings aims to interact with members of district branches, and monitor activities. As field visit to the district branches were restricted online monitoring system was introduced. The objective of the meeting was direct communication with the organizers increasing the efficiency of the organizers, reviewing office management, program and budget management. 50 percent were present in the meeting.



Madaripur district conference

3.5: Provide logistics support to implement organizational activities and to strengthen district branch (Office rent and utility bills) for branch

BMP central office provided logistics support (Office rent, utility bills) for branch to implement organizational activities and to strengthen district branch.

3.7: Provide Knowledge and skill development Training to young women organizers at divisional level

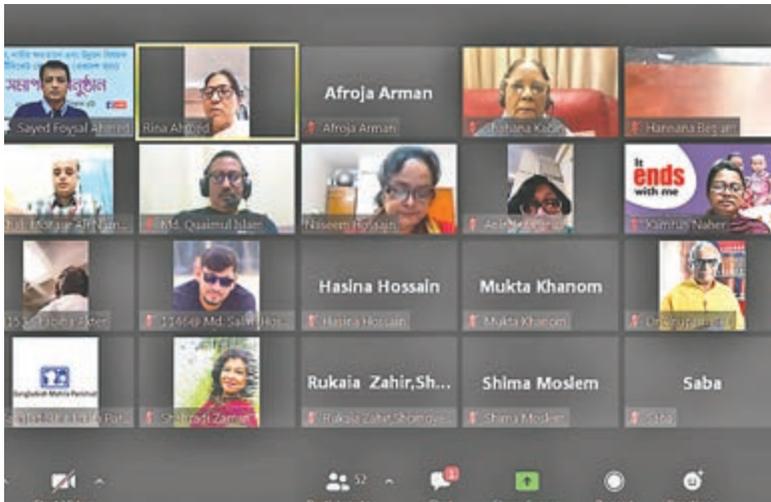
Training, Research and Library sub-committee, BMP has conducted a two-day-long online training entitled 'Awareness and skill development' for divisional young organizers for Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions on 19-20 March 2021. The training sessions were facilitated by central and divisional organizers.

The main focus of discussion were as follows:

- Women’s Movement of the Subcontinent and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.
- Concept on Gender and Women’s empowerment.
- Women’s rights in the existing law and Resistance movement against VAWG: Role of Young organizers.
- UN Initiatives towards establishing Women’s Right and CEDAW.
- Constitution and Declaration of BMP.
- Activities of BMP in the light of Constitution and Declaration and Young organizers.

A total of 83 enthusiastic young organizers from 11 districts took part on this training session.

3.8: Conduct Gender Certificate Course



Closing ceremony of Certificate course

BMP has introduced a three-month-long certificate course on ‘Gender, Women Empowerment and Development’ yearly since 2011. The participants includes: Govt. officer, development worker, human right activist, lawyer, and student. Resource persons includes Academicians, Researchers, Human rights and social activist, Gender specialist, Legal experts. Apart from theoretical classes, group work, panel discussions were included in the course curriculum. The main objective of certificate course is to create and wider gender sensitive society, building bridge between academician and rights activist and which will be helpful to reach the goal of women’s movement at large.

Due to Covid-19 pandemic crisis BMP has conduct the certificate course online for 2 months with a revised module. 11th Certificate Course on Gender, Women’s Empowerment and Development will start on August 12, 2021. This was a new experience for BMP.

This year 45 participants from different sectors successfully completed the course on 6th November 2021 in the certificate giving ceremony.



Online Study Circle

3.9: Conduct study circles at all levels of the organization

Building knowledge and to encourage and involve young generation towards achieving women’s human rights, 20 study circles were organized. In 2021, the numbers of centrally organized study circles were 10 in which 583 young men and women took part. In another part, 10 study circles have been conducted in 5 districts where the numbers of participants were 259.

During this reporting period 2021 as per necessity 22 districts branches organized 41 training programs on awareness and skill development towards empowerment of women where different type of organizers of districts, thanas, para, city, union and village branches, members, youth organizers, grassroots organizers were participated. The total number of participants were 1232.

3.10: Research and publication in history of women movement in Bangladesh

During this period subject based research of the history of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad has been conducted and the report has been prepared. Now it is going on under publishing.

3.11: Dissemination Procure books and journals for BMP's own library

44 books on gender and women empowerment from Ayesha Khanam's personal library (Late President of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad) were donated by her daughter.

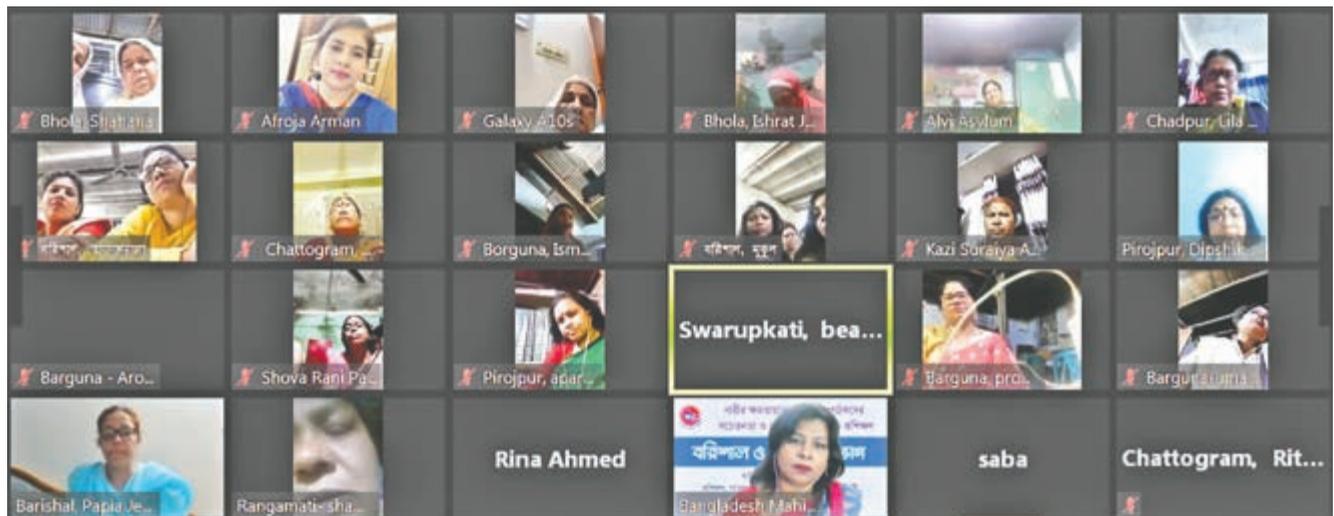
Reference materials also have been stored in the Library usually collected from online and also from others organizers.

3.12 Publish and disseminate national council report, conference report and all other activity reports

In 2021, Publication subcommittee published Internal Annual Evaluation and Planning Meeting report in August. In December, the 13th National Conference of BMP was held. subcommittee published the Central Committee Report (November 2013 – December 2021). The subcommittee also disseminate the materials to the members of the organisation, stakeholders, other organisations and civil society members.

3.13: Awareness raising program in the community on women human rights (Publication, Organizational Training)

On 22nd April 2021 a training program on 'organizational capacity building' was held in Rangamati district branch organized by central organization subcommittee. 19 members participated in the training session. Training program



Online Training with divitional organizers

was carried out as per training modules of the organization.

On 9th August 2021 an online training program on ‘organizational capacity building’ was held in Potuakhali district branch organized by central organization subcommittee. 17 members participated in the training session. Training program was carried out as per training modules of the organization.

On 25th October 2021 an online training program on ‘organizational capacity building’ was held in Bhola district branch organized by central organization subcommittee. 18 members participated in the training session. Training program was carried out as per training modules of the organization.

3.14: Meeting with organizers and general members, Sharing meeting with different section of women, community, grass root man and women (Observe Organizational Month)

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organized an online purnanggo sova on 18th August 2021 with different central committee’s secretaries, divisional organizers, member and staff of organization sub committee The program was presided over by Dr. Fauzia Moslem, President of BMP. A total of 60 participants were present in the meeting.

BMP observed Organizational fortnight (17th Oct-31st Oct) virtually and physically in 2021 to consolidate and strengthen district and grassroots branches. 38 district branches observed this program.

As the part of regular activity, every year BMP observes organizational fortnight. This year BMP central, district and grassroot branches have been taken multifarious programs from (17th Oct-31st Oct) 2021.

Central Programs:

- Membership renew of Central Committee member and National Council member.
- Participation in district branch’s programs. Arrange online organizational training and monitoring for district committee.
- Online sharing meeting with different professionals, Indigenous and young women.

District branch programs:

- Call a special meeting of executive committee to chalk out the programs.
- New members collection and membership renew.
- Maintaining social distance or arrange online district and grassroots branch meeting on the different agendas

3.15 : Sharing meeting with Civil Society

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad completed its 50 years journey on 4th April 2020. Following this BMP has been taken multifarious programs.

1. Organization subcommittee, Training, Research and Library subcommittee and International subcommittee BMP jointly organized an online discussion meeting titled ‘Commitment to Develop Women Leadership and Build an Equitable Future: Thoughts of the Young Generation’ on 10th March’21. This discussion meeting was held live on Bangladesh Mahila Parishad’s Facebook page. Dr. Fauzia Moslem, president, BMP presided over the program. About 45 were present in the online meeting and online viewers were 2500.

2. A virtual program was organized on 30th May 2021 to conclude 50th founding anniversary. The founding trustee of the Liberation War Museum, author, researcher and publisher Mafidul Haque was present and delivered his speech on ‘The 50 years of Mahila Parishad and the future of women’s movement in Bangladesh.’ General Secretary

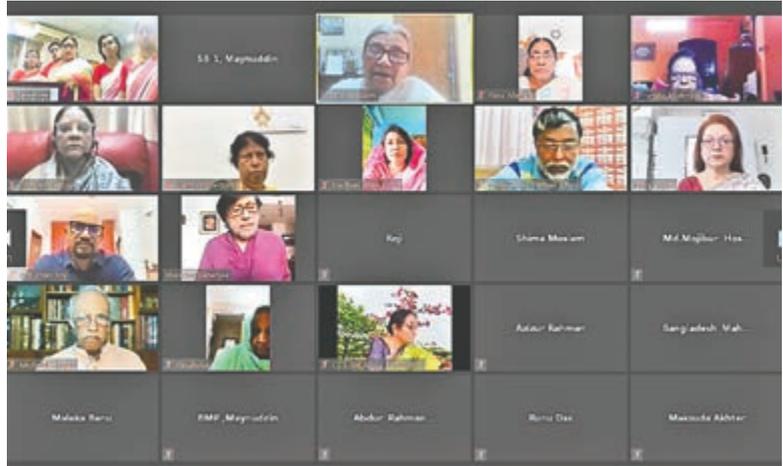
of BMP Maleka Banu gave a welcome speech at the meeting. The program was presided over by Dr. Fauzia Moslem, President of BMP.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad's golden jubilee award was given to its recently passed president Ayesha Khanam. Joint general secretary, Shima Moslem presented short biography of the late president, Ayesha Khanam. Discourse of Urmi Khan, daughter of late president Ayesha Khanam read out by Program Officer Fojila Khatun lata and International Secretary Rekha Saha respectively. Syeda Munira Akher, sister-in-law of Ayesha Khanam, expressed gratitude to Bangladesh Mahila Parishad for felicitating its late president.

A pictorial documentation of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad's five decades journey was shared on slides in this meeting.

The Meeting was closed with concluding remarks of the session by president Dr. Fauzia Moslem. She greeted to all who participated in today's program and consider them as fellows of Women's Human Rights.

About 60 people including leaders of the Central Committee of BMP, members of the Social Action Committee, cultural, personalities, academics, lawyers, representatives of UN Women, journalists and officials of print and electronic media attended in the online meeting.



Closing ceremony of 51st founding anniversary

The program was conducted by Umme Salma Begum, organizing secretary of BMP.

3. On March 17, 2021, BMP Central Committee organized an online discussion meeting on 'Bangabandhu in Movement Struggle' to mark the 100th birth anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the architect of independent Bangladesh. The meeting was chaired by the President Dr. Fauzia Moslem, Central Committee, BMP. Welcoming remarks were made by Maleka Banu, General Secretary of the organization. Ashfaq Hossain, Dhaka University Professor of History was present as a special guest at the meeting. About 72 were present in the meeting and the Facebook page had about 2,000 viewers.

4. To mark the 110th birth anniversary of the founder president of BMP legendary figure, eminent activist and advocate of women and human rights poet Sufia Kamal, an online panel discussion was organized on 20th June 2021. In this meeting memorial speech of BMP title 'Sufia Kamal and the Feminist Movement in Bangladesh' was presented. Professor Biswajit Ghosh, Vice-Chancellor Rabindra University was present as memorial speaker. Dr. Fauzia Moslem, president of BMP presided over the meeting.

3.16: Refreshers Course /Provide leadership training to mid level organizer at divisional level

Training, Research and Library subcommittee of central committee, BMP has conducted a two day long divisional online leadership training program with the district organizers on March 5-6, 2021. A number of 76 participants, most of the new and young district organizers from 11 district branches of Barishal and Chottogram division participated in this training programme. The training focuses on several issues of concern on women's movement and women's human rights.

- The following training sessions were facilitated by central and district organizers.
- Women's Movement and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.

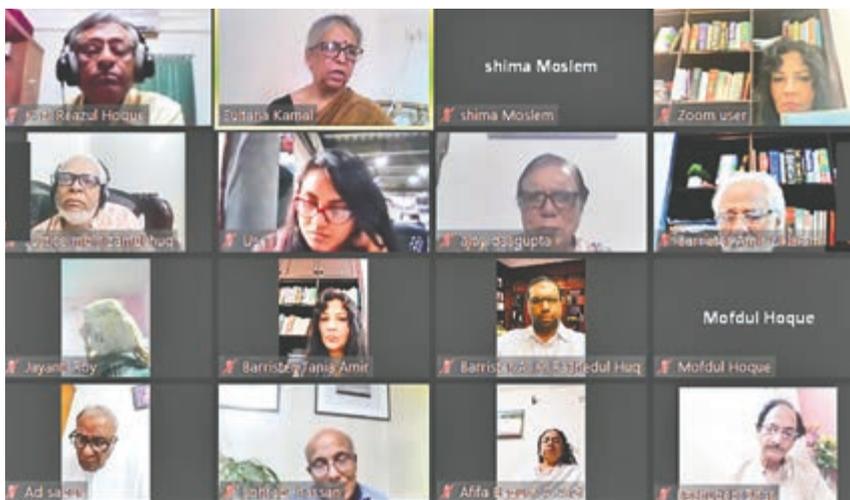
- Concept on Gender and Women's empowerment.
- Women's rights in the existing law and Resistance movement against VAWG.
- UN Initiatives towards establishing Women's Right and CEDAW.
- Movement of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and Way-forward.
- Activities of BMP in the light of constitution and Declaration.
- Practical activities of BMP.

Training curriculum adopted relates to the important on women rights in the context of present social situation of Bangladesh. Topics of the training includes history of feminist movements in the subcontinent and the glorious struggle of BMP, conceptualizing gender, woman empowerment, importance of global concern focusing CEDAW charter to initiate woman rights, constitution and woman rights in conventional law, pragmatic role to prevent violence against women in Bangladesh, BMP's activities to advance the woman movement and constitution of the BMP.

3.18: Update training modules for addressing different needs of the organizers to built their capacity in weak areas

The work of updating the training module has already been completed. Some new topics have been added to the training module and more information has been added to some of the earlier articles. At present the module has been printed in 700 copies and distributed to all districts, trainers and various organizations.

3.19: Conduct training for member of village watch team on violence against women/ Sharing meeting with action committee to resist social anomy and violence against women and girls



On 22nd August an online sharing meeting on the recent arrest of several women, including a film actress

demand. The Convenor of the National Committee against VAWG and Social Anomy & the President of BMP Dr. Fauzia Moslem, Former National Human Rights Commission Chairman and a member of the National Committee Prof. Dr. Mizanur Rahman and Prof. Dr. Rowshan Ara Begum also a member of the National Committee spoke in the press conference. BMP General Secretary Maleka Banu, Joint General Secretary Shima Moslem, Finance Secretary Dil Afroz Begum, Organisation Secretary Umme Salma Begum, Legal Aid Secretary Shahana Kabir;

On 6 May 2021, the National Committee against VAWG and Social Anomy and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organized an online press conference demanding neutral investigation and fair trial at the death incident of the girl at Gulshan, Dhaka, and expressed grave concern over the increasing trend of VAWG in COVID-19 pandemic. Justice Nizamul Hoque Nasim, a retired Supreme Court Justice and member of the National Committee chaired the press conference. Advocate Masuda Rehana Begum, Asst. General Secretary of BMP presented a keynote paper and raised 9-point

Training, Research, and Library Secretary Rina Ahmed, International Secretary Rekha Saha among others joined the press conference. A total of 40 persons including journalists from print and electronic media, the leaders of BMP attended the press conference.

On 1 June 2021, the National Committee against VAWG and Social Anomy arranged an online discussion on the constitution, freedom of the press, and persecution of journalist Rozina Islam. The chairperson of the National Committee Barrister M Amir-ul Islam moderated the meeting. A written statement was presented by Advocate Masuda Rehana Begum, member of the National Committee and Asst. General Secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP). Dr. Fauzia Moslem, the Convenor of the National Committee against VAWG and Social Anomy & the President of BMP, political scientist Prof. Dr. Rounaq Jahan, Justice Nizamul Haque Nasim, Advocate Sultana Kamal, Kazi Reazul Hoque, Ajoy Dasgupta, Prof. Dr. Rashid E Mahbub, Farida Yasmin, Bashudeb Dhar, Prof. Dr. Shahnaz Huda, Taslima Yasmin, Sanjib Drong also the members of the National Committee spoke in the meeting. National Committee member Dr. Hameeda Hossain, Ad SMA Sabur, Mahbub Zaman, Prof. Dr. Latifa Shamsuddin, Prof. Dr. Nazmun Nahar, Dr. Shahida Choudhury, Dr. Sanzida Akhter, Dr. Nazneen Ahmed, Shabnam Azim, National Committee member and Vice-President of BMP Rekha Choudhury, General Secretary Maleka Banu, Joint General Secretary Shima Moslem, Finance Secretary Dil Afroz Begum, Legal Aid Secretary Shahana Kabir; Training, Research, and Library Secretary Rina Ahmed, International Secretary Rekha Saha among others joined the meeting. A total of 52 persons including journalists from print and electronic media attended the program. Maksuda Akhter, Director, Legal Advocacy and Lobby facilitated the meeting.

On 22 August 2021, an online sharing meeting was held at the initiative of the National Committee against VAWG and Social Anomy on the recent arrest of several women, including a film actress. The meeting was chaired by Barrister M. Amir-ul Islam, chairperson of the National Committee against VAWG and Social Anomy. Convener of National Committee against VAWG and Social Anomy and President of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Dr. Fauzia Moslem, Member of National Committee against VAWG and Social Anomy Nizamul Haque Nasim, Trustee of Liberation War Museum Mofidul Haque, Lawyer of Bangladesh Supreme Court Adv. SMA Sabur, Human Rights Activist Adv. Sultana Kamal, Former Chairman of National Human Rights Commission Kazi Reazul Haque, Journalist Ajay Dasgupta, Sohrab Hasan, Basudeb Dhar, Prominent Economist Dr. Devapriya Bhattacharya, Professor M. M. Akash Akash, Barrister Tania Amir, tribal leader Sanjeev Drong spoke on the meeting. Member of the National Committee against VAWG and Social Anomy Asstt. general secretary Adv. Masuda Rehana Begum, vice president Rekha Chowdhury, General Secretary Maleka Banu, Joint General Secretary Shima Moslem, Legal Aid Secretary Sahana Kabir, Finance Secretary Dil Afroz Begum, Organization Secretary Umme Salma Begum, Training Research and Library Secretary Rina Ahmed, Publication Secretary Saraban Tahura were present in the meeting.

Member of the National Committee against VAWG and Social Anomy. Shahida Chowdhury, Professor. Shahnaz Huda, Govinda Chandra Mandal, Barrister AK Rashedul Haque, other members of this committee and journalists of various print and electronic media, officials of the organization and 55 others were present. The meeting was conducted by Legal Advocacy and Lobby Director Adv. Makshuda Akhtar Laily.

Two sharing meeting on 23rd Jan and 13th March 2021 with the action committee to resist social anomy and violence against women and girls in district level. About 96 were present in the meeting.

3.21: Organize client workshop:

On 15th November 2021, a client workshop was held at Sufia Kamal Bhaban auditorium, central office with the client to coordinate the said activities. Dr. Fauzia Moslem, president of BMP presided over the meeting. About 50 were present in the meeting. Some recommendations came out from the meeting.

3.22 : Undertake paralegal training



ToT for district leaders

The Paralegal training has been organized for the organizers for their legal awareness, proving effective support to the victims of VAWG towards ensuring justice at district and grassroots branch levels. During this period, 12 with two online paralegal training were held with the leaders and organizers under the initiative of Central Legal aid subcommittee. The training has helped improving the capacity of organizers for legal activism. About 320 organizers have participated in the training. Paralegal trainings were organized by BMP district branches also. In these training focus has given to include the younger generation.

3.24: Submit deputation and memorandum to concerned law enforcement authorities-

Sl. No.	Authorities	No. of Correspondence	Response
1	Prime Minister	40	Drawing attention for neutral investigation, safety and others has been done.
2	Minister of Home Affairs	117	
3	Minister of Foreign Affairs	1	
4	MOWCA	116	
5	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives-	3	
6	Minister of Education Affairs	1	
7	Ministry of Road and Transport	1	
8	National Human Rights Commission(Chairman)	1	
9	Vice Chancellor	1	
10	Inspector General of Police (IGP)	116	
11	Police Commissioner	15	
12	Deputy Police Commissioner	16	
13	District Commissioner (DC)	152	
14	Superintendent of Police (SP)	142	
15	Officer of In charge (OC)	163	
		Total 885	

Deputation's and Memorandums regarding VAWG are being sent to administrative authorities on the basis of complain or paper clippings on VAWG. Deputations and memorandums regarding different incidents of VAWG have been sent to honorable Prime Minister appealing necessary legal steps for ensuring justice and for safety of the victims. CC have been sent to honorable Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs, honorable State Minister of MOWCA, IGP, Police Commissioner of DMP and SP of concern districts.

885 deputations and memorandums regarding different incidents of VAWG have been sent to honorable Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs appealing necessary legal steps for objective investigation, punishment of the perpetrators, for safety of the victims and to take special and effective measures to prevent violence against women and girls.

Cc have been sent to honorable Minister, Ministry of Education; honorable Minister, Ministry of Social Welfare; honorable State Minister of MOWCA, IGP, DC and SP of concern districts.

Statements: During this reporting period 74 statements on 83 incidences were issued for publicity in the electronic and printing media and Statements were given expressing deep concern and appealing due steps for the punishment of the perpetrators at incidents of VAWG. Most of these statements of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad have been published in the media.

Regarding the above incidents of VAWG, discussion and communication have been done with the leaders of respective district branches of BMP. The District Committee is also keeping in touch with local government, police and administrative authorities to prevent VAWG and monitoring rape incidents and violence.

3.25: Undertake research activities and disseminate the findings on incidents of VAWG

During this period as a part of research analysis Bangladesh Mahila Parishad is conducting a survey to find out the comparative perception of men and women about the types of domestic violence against women. The subject of the survey is 'Comparative perceptions of men and women about domestic violence, violence against women and its impact on the prevalence of violence.' With the sincere cooperation of the volunteer organizers of 30 districts from 51 district branches of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, information will be collected from them by talking directly to grassroots women and men. Information will be collected from a total of 20 people including 14 women and 6 men from each district. In other words, information will be collected from a total of 600 men and women from 30 districts.

Achievement: The survey question paper was e-mailed to 30 district branches on June 27, 2021. Survey data has been collected from the district. Work is currently underway to analyze the survey data and prepare a report.

3.26 Publication and dissemination of quarterly Samachar, organisational bulletin

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the organisation's bulletin Mahila Samachar was delayed to publish in accordance to the estimated time. The publication subcommittee published and disseminated five issues of *Mahila Samachar* in 2021. Among the five issues of Samachar, two issues were July-September 2020 and Oct-December 2020 were published and two were January-March 2021 and April-June 2021 and a special one is under process based on provision. The subcommittee also distributed Mahila Samachar among members of grassroots' and district's branches and central committee of BMP, stakeholders, individuals, and organizations. The bulletin, *Mahila Samachar*, is composed of special features and write-ups by BMP leaders and activists on women's human rights and related fields.

3.27: Publish dissemination tools like posters, leaflets, brochure, booklet, bulletin

The publication subcommittee also designed and published information, education, and communication materials

like posters, leaflets, brochures, booklets, etc. round the year as well as online uses. This year, we published posters and leaflets to create awareness against rape; posters, leaflets, cards and memoir on 13th National Conference. Besides, we published other materials as per demand of the organisation.

BMP published English and Bangla posters, leaflets, booklet and greetings card and distributed as a part of celebrating International Women's Day, International fortnight and observance of CEDAW day. These poster and leaflet were distributed to different Embassies, Development partners, Social Action Committee, International organization, Civil Society organizations, across the country along with 2,341 grassroot branches of BMP.

Health subcommittee activities

BMP renders health services by its members. In this context, BMP health subcommittee took initiative to support them online health services on gynecological and obstetric health services, adolescent health services, reproductive health services, child health services, physical and mental illness by the panel doctors of BMP.

Social welfare subcommittee activities

As a CSO organization BMP support the vulnerable group during natural disaster, covid-19 crisis with the support of BMP members and well wishers and conscience citizens.

Environment subcommittee activities

BMP addresses the issues of challenges of women and girl due to Climate Change in different network platform. Several district branches actively involved in the eco-friendly movement and activities.

Media subcommittee activities

Birth and death anniversary of founding president, poet Sufia Kamal, Sharing meetings with the members of parliamentary standing committee, Generation Equality Forum (International Program), online Certificate course, International women's day, International fortnight day and others program of press release has been sent and in touch with the media and journalists. The news has been collected and stored as online database. At the same time, news of various statements have been collected. It has been seen from the online database that a total of 315 news items have been published from the press release statements of various programs. A total of 17 news of the last National conference was published on 30-31 December and 2 were published in TV channel. Two articles have been published in a local newspaper (Shatabdar Kantha) and an online magazine.

International subcommittee activities

5 September 2021 on the occasion of International CEDAW Day, an online discussion meeting called 'Women in Economy and Implementation of CEDAW: Perspectives on National Women's Development Policy' was held by the initiative of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad. Dr. Fauzia Moslem, President of Central Committee of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, presided over the meeting. Maleka Banu, General Secretary of Central Committee of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad delivered the welcome speech.

Dr. Binayak Sen, Prominent Economist and Director General of Bangladesh Development Research Institute(BIDS); Ferdousi Sultana, Gender and Social Development Expert; Shohel Rana, Program Analyst (Gender and Governance) UN Women Bangladesh; and Rita Nahar, Journalist of Boishakhi Television were present as the guest speakers.

Speakers at the meeting discussed that long years have been passed after the women's rights bill-CEDAW was

signed by Bangladesh Government. But the status of the implementation of CEDAW is not satisfactory. Still, Government is continuing its reservation on articles 2 and 16.1 (c) which are fully consistent with the Constitution of Bangladesh and have become an impediment to women's development and gender equality. Without the accountability of the state mechanisms, full implementation of CEDAW will never be possible.



Dr. Binayak Sen, Prominent Economist and Director General of Bangladesh Development Research Institute(BIDS); Ferdousi Sultana, Gender and Social Development Expert; Shohel Rana, Program Analyst (Gender and Governance) UN Women Bangladesh; and Rita Nahar, Journalist of Boishakhi Television were present as the guest speakers (From Left)

On the other hand, initiatives of the media regarding the implementation of CEDAW are not so visible. The speakers claimed that the government must take effective measures to implement National Women Development Policy within the framework of accountability. Including the 8th Five-Year Plan, there are many good laws for the establishment of gender equality. So, emphasis should be given to the implementation and monitoring. Without ensuring proper monitoring, accountability, budget, and manpower, it is not possible to make sustainable progress for women in the economy, even if there is a woman-friendly policy, they claimed.

Dr. Fawzia Moslem, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, presided over the meeting and delivered her speech. She stated that from the experience of the women's movement it has been observed that establishing rights will be easier if the movement becomes strong. Women's participation in the decision-making process has become vital today. She remarked that the CEDAW implementation movement will be strengthened when different professional movements will be incorporated into the women's movement.

Sathi Chowdhury, General Secretary of Brammanbaria District Branch of the organization presented the key-note paper. She discussed the different sections of CEDAW and the Constitution of Bangladesh from the perspective of women in the economy. Although women have visible contribution in the economy of Bangladesh, still they are facing various obstacles in the way of economic rights and empowerment.

She, in her paper, mentioned that the Corona pandemic poses a new challenge for women. Many women workers have lost their jobs due to the economic downturn. Need urgent state incentives and integrated initiatives to overcome this corona crisis that alarmingly impacted women and girls of Bangladesh. And for the overall

development of women's economic empowerment, full implementation of the CEDAW and National Women's Development Policy is a must.

On behalf of BMP, International Subcommittee member Ferdous Jahan Ratna presented the written proposal at the meeting.

In the online discussion meeting, 35 people including members of the Central Committee of BMP, representatives from Social Action Committee like Acid Survivors Foundation, Awaaz Foundation, Adivasi Nari Network, journalists and officials of the organization participated. Through Facebook live, more than 1400 people have viewed this online program.



CEDAW Day observed at district branches

Rekha Saha, Secretary for International Subcommittee of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad facilitated the online meeting.

Linkage with global women movement

BMP enjoys special consultative status of civil society organization and maintains liaison with Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and UN Women. BMP remains updated through downloading latest information, participating on line discussion, video conferences, submitting written statement, attending CSW session and international events.

On 18 March 2021, a virtual parallel event titled ‘Rape is a crime against Humanity: Impact of Covid-19 pandemic’ was held in CSW65 virtual session by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP). Dr. Fauzia Moslem, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad moderated the session. Besides, Maleka Banu, the General Secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad; Dr. Tania Haque, Professor of Women and Gender Studies, Dhaka University; Anna Minj, Director (Community Empowerment and Integrated Development Programme), BRAC; Shima Moslem, Joint General Secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and Rekha Saha, International Secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad discussed in this session.

At the beginning of the event Maleka Banu, General Secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad presented a keynote paper. Dr. Fauzia Moslem, the president of BMP delivered her speech as moderator of parallel event. She stated that rape is a brutal crime, crime against humanity. Every woman around the world is at risk, regardless of age or condition. Rape is not just a gender issue but a social issue. Everyone must join the movement for the establishment of women’s human rights and change the culture of violence and rape against women.

It is to be mentioned that the 65th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) has been started in New York from March 15, 2021 and this session was till March 26 on the online platform. A total number of 59 members from the central committee and district committees of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad have registered as participants in this session. An affiliated organization of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), BMP organized the online parallel event.

Networking: Communication has been maintaining with various networks, including the Social Action Committee. Networking with different organizations, institutions and individuals have been continued and expanded. BMP working as a secretariat of Social Action Committee since 2001. BMP initiated formation of national action committee and local action committee against VAWG and social anomaly. BMP work with different ministry and its offices: MOWCA and its Directorate, Home Ministry, Ministry of Law, Justice and parliamentary affairs, Planning commission, Ministry of Expatriate and Welfare. BMP has a working relation with national human rights commission.

During this period BMP representatives participated in different virtual and webinar discussion (Skype, Zoom, Google Meet) regarding global COVID-19 crisis and is taking need based steps for BMP.

BMP also maintains network with the organizations of Dalit, Horijan, Indigenous, challenged group. Different religious minority and marginalized group of women.

BMP as an active member of Human Rights Forum, a civil society platform of different women’s human rights and development organization contributed in preparing mid term report on UPR. The forum also raised its voice on different incidents of violation of human rights during this period.

BMP maintains network with UN organization. BMP is being consulted by UN women and other UN organizations for developing UN country strategies towards promoting and protecting women’s Human Rights in Bangladesh. During covid-19 crisis BMP advocated to Gender Monitoring Network (GMN). The endorsed ‘Call for Action on Gender Responsive COVID19 Relief and Response’ by the Gender Monitoring Network has been covered in En-

Prothom Alo and Financial Express. BMP maintains network with CSW and NGO CSW network.

BMP also maintains bi-lateral and multi-lateral working relation with different women's human rights organization to combat VAWG, law reform, Judicial activism.

BMP is a member of Citizens Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh and CSO alliance. BMP also maintain network with different Socio cultural organization and professional organizations (OGSB and others).

Project Management

Project management committee has given effort to render its given responsibility towards monitoring of implementation of planned programs and sound financial status with zero tolerance policy to the financial management. During this unprecedented situation faced by the organization like others BMP project management committee using on line consultation with the sub-committee secretaries re-strategies its implementing plan with approval of central committee of BMP. During this period, project management committee maintains liaison with development partners. Also maintains liaison with NGO affairs bureau. Project management committee is also responsible for financial management, administrative management (human resource management, office management).

Office Management

To ensure effective office management several measures have been taken. Regular morning and monthly staff meeting (20) of the staff were held. During covid-19 crisis an online staff meeting was held in reporting period. Also 6 coordination meeting and 10 half yearly (online and offline) were held in this reporting period.

For effective coordination among the administrative staff and to monitor the administrative /office activities, administrative committee called meeting on administrative matter as well as HRM issues. During covid-19 crisis, 4 online administrative meeting were held.

Due to covid -19 pandemic crisis, BMP central and district offices remain closed for the time being. Administrative notice in this regard were sent and central and district office staff was advised to do roaster office 3 days in a week and rest days office from home. From human resource management department, online communication and staff monitoring was held regularly. During covid -19 crisis period staff took online participation in the policy making of the respective department and implementation of the program. Though central and district offices was remain closed, staff from different department had to go to office when necessary.

Cleanliness maintaining hygienic atmosphere and office security were ensured during covid-19 crisis and monitored by human resource management department. Time to time circulars and notices were sent to staff online with the directives.

Human resource management

Human resource management of BMP is guided by its all policy (human resource policy, gender policy, human rights policy and service rule).

Recruitment

During this reporting period 122 officials have been appointed and 25 officials reigned in different level. Recruitment for other vacant post is withheld due to covid-19 crisis.

For human resource management and logistics specific activities for each component were planned. These are as follows:

Logistics

- Regular Activities;
- Purchase of stationary
- Disbursement of utility bills
- Servicing of electrical appliances, lift, generators, AC etc.
- Maintenance of Auditorium

Introduce New Facilities: — Fire Extinguishing program for BMP’s office building
 — Final preparation of auditorium on 5th floor for use

Maintenance: — Building maintenance
 — Vehicle maintenance

Financial management

Financial management is usually done according to international financial standard, following SIDA’s policy, GoB Financial policy and Rule, Organizational Financial Manual. Zero tolerance policy is followed by BMP. BMP maintains budgetary control over all sorts of expenditures. Variances are also analyzed in a timely manner giving further efforts to Financial Management Process. The Finance and administrative executives of BMP work according to prior planning and the meetings are organized to take account of the activities performed by each individual. Members of the finance sub committee took initiative for financial management capacity building of the organizers and staff of central and district branches. The organization follows the procedure in procuring goods and material.

There is internal control system. The internal audit report system of BMP is not only tracking the activities against targets/ budget and desired performance but also working relentlessly in keeping the centre and branches tie together in harmony.

Financial subcommittee held its regular monthly and need based meetings during covid period (online).

Procurement

BMP follows organizational procurement policy regarding any kind of purchasing.

Information Technology (IT)

During covid-19 crisis, information technology was applied to enhance the communication skill and decision making process within organization and also effective for global networking. As BMP started home office and outdoor programs are restricted to avoid social gathering, so to run virtual programs IT sector took the initiative to run the organizational activity smoothly. Different messenger and face book groups have been created to interact among relevant department. Online communication has been increased, Face book page of BMP has been opened for dissemination, information and messages. Zoom apps has been used for virtual meetings. Decision has been taken to extend necessary IT support to the branches, staffs and members. Administrative group has been formed to operate face book page. Responsibilities have been given to the focal point of the respective department to keep website update.

During the reporting BMP was committed to implement the planned activities in spite of facing practical challenges

Impact of Project Activities

The specific areas of changes perceived as a result of BMP's persistent involvement in women issues through different activities may be identified as follows:

- Social movement is accelerated in resisting violence against women (VAW).
- Networking with other organization extended and strengthen.
- GO/NGO collaboration strengthens and effective working relation improved.
- BMP's statistics and publications are used as reference by media, researchers, and academia.
- Engagement of different professional group in BMP's program enhanced.
- Organization more expanding in the grass root level.
- Group of young leadership developed in all tire of BMP.
- Building Divisional leadership have a positive impact in organizational management.
- Awareness and motivation for volunteerism towards Women Rights Movement increasing in the society
- The multidimensional training program contributing skill development of organizers.
- Through tireless sincere dedicated and transparent effort towards ensuring Women's Humans Right and establishing Secular, Democratic Equity Based Human society created social capital for BMP.
- Effective networking with media.
- Increased relation with UN system.
- Program and financial management skill and professionalism with transparency and accountability is developing among organizers and staff.

Challenges and New Measures

Potential Threats & Future Planning

Suggested Policy Measures

- High prevalence of Violence against Women with New Dimension and Increase magnitude.
- Violation of women's human rights in the society and state is alarming.
- Prevailing patriarchal Value.
- Lengthy, complicated judiciary process is a challenge for access to justice.
- Culture of impunity.
- Gender blind /gender biased Law Enforcing Agency.
- Existing laws not implemented properly.
- Existence of Discriminatory Personal Law (e.g. Right to inherit property and resources).
- Household and Care giving Activities of women are not valued in the national economy.
- Gaps between commitment and political will for implementation of approved policy e.g. still no provision; for direct election and increased number of reserve seat in the Parliament; Reservation for Article-2,16 (1c) of UN CEDAW not yet with drawn.

Under and ineffective representation of women in the parliament and public offices.

- Delay in implementation of approved policy, ineffective and inadequate institutional mechanism.
- Good governance not ensured.
- Lack of democratic practices in the political party.
- Use of religion in politics by religious fundamentalist as well as democratic parties.
- Revivalism of religious fundamentalist group resisting Women Rights and getting support from democratic parties.
- Confrontational politics.
- Lack of security due to violent activities of different sector.
- In adequate Gender segregated data.
- Lack of transparency and accountability of the government within and outside the machinery.

Suggested Policy Measures

Increased Advocacy Lobby for Women Human Rights and Effective and Meaningful Participation of Women in Political Process and Decision Making Towards Strengthening Democracy and Good Governance and Capacity of the organization to address all the challenges in term of advocacy strategy, effective pressure group, increase

leadership and professional skill, consulates strength, sustainability and institutional of the organization, management capacity building.

- New Campaign strategy against culture of VAW with multi-dimensional approach.
- Special effort to be given and develop new strategy for promoting political empowerment of women.
- Building new leadership.
- Involvement of young generation in all level of organization.
- Develop new strategy for advocacy lobby with policymakers.
- Strengthen networking and campaigning in innovative way
- Consolidate the strength of the organization.
- Continued effort for institutionalization and sustainability of the organization.
- Training and Skill development programme with the updated training module.
- Inclusion of Man and young people in the advocacy lobby initiatives.
- Strengthening GO/NGO collaboration.
- Conduct Research Study on status of Women in the society and in different sector.
- New strategy to be developed for full ratification of UN CEDAW effective and enactment of UFC and effective political participation of Women.

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