

আন্তর্জাতিক নারী দিবস ২০১২

LGED
Committed to Establish Gender Equity





LCS member, LGED, LGED Website



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Local Government Engineering Department

Observance of International Women's Day 2012

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Documented by:

LGED Gender and Development Forum Publication: March, 2012

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Message



I am very pleased with the documentation of the programmes of LGED in observation of the International Women's Day 2012. LGED organised elaborate programmes to observe IWD in 64 districts and at national level in Dhaka. Theme of the IWD 2012 was relevant with LGED's work, and LGED has its significant contributions to that area. LGED all along has been playing a role of advocate for promoting women's participation in development. To institutionalise gender, LGED has developed its strategy and tools. For achieving gender equality in LGED's projects, women's participation is highly encouraged at all stages of the project cycle.

I am very optimistic and do ensure that LGED will continue its effort to contribute towards women empowerment in days to come with more long-term initiatives in attaining gender equity as their rights, and hopefully this documentation would significantly contribute to that.

Md . Wahidur Rahman Chief Engineer, LGED

Acknowledgement



On behalf of the Gender and Development Forum of LGED, I would like to express my deepest appreciation and sincere thanks to the chief guest, Honorable Minister, Ministry of LGRD&C, Syed Ashraful Islam, MP and special guest Secretary, Local Government Division, Mr Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan for gracing the International Women's Day 2012 observation of LGED by their presence on the occasion. Our sincere thanks to all the Executive Engineers, Senior Assistant Engineers and Upazila Engineers of 64 districts, who organized events to observe the International Women's Day at local levels all over Bangladesh. Our sincere thanks and

appreciation to the LGED Chief Engineer, Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman for his constant guidance and all out support to make the observation done successfully. We are thankful to the headquarter officials and all Project Directors, officers and staff for their hard and collective work in organising the events. Our very special thanks to those who participated in the thematic gallery and the fair which added essence to the events. We express our gratitude and sincere appreciation to all those who attended the events of the day. Our special thanks to different partners, institutions and colleagues for their assistance and co-operation all through the process of the observation.

Finally, our deepest admiration and appreciation goes to the 15 extraordinary women, who have reached the peak of success through their efforts, energy and determination. LGED feels proud of having the scope to support them in their needs.

Syed Mahbubur Rahman Additional Chief Engineer and Secretary LGED Gender Forum

Introduction

The 8th March, the International Women's Day (IWD), has its glorious history emerged through enormous revolutionary events and achievements of women's movements worldwide.

On 8th March,1857 the women workers of sewing factories came out to the streets of New York, USA, protesting against the sub-human environment prevailing in the workplace, minimum wages and daily 12-hour work. Police cracked down on the peaceful procession. After three years of continued protest, on 8th March, 1860 the women workers of the sewing factories became successful to mobilize themselves for establishing their own trade union. In 1899, the first conference of women on anti-war was organised in the Hague, the Netherlands. From 1905 to 1907 a huge number of women actively took part in the struggle against Russian imperialism. Later in 1908, 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding shorter hours of work, better pay and voting rights. To commemorate all those events, different national and International organizations felt the need to mark a day to observe as the International Day. After that feelings, 8th March was declared as the International Women's Day in second International Conference of Working Women in Copenhagen held in 1910.

Later, the United Nations gave recognition to IWD in 1975, and since then every year this day has been being observed under certain theme. The theme for 2012 was - "Connecting Girls, Inspiring Future". Bangladesh started observing the IWD in early 1972 and onwards this day has been being observed by different government departments, development organizations and civil societies with great importance.

IWD was first observed by LGED in 2010. In 2012 the day was observed in a very extended manner under the initiative of Gender & Development Forum of LGED. The day was simultaneously observed at national and at district levels.

The whole gesture to observe the day reflects a deep conviction of LGED for honoring and recognition of women's struggle and contribution towards human progress.

LGED and Women's Empowerment

Till to date, LGED has made significant progress in mainstreaming gender at its central and projects management levels. LGED's rural development activities have created significant scope of employment for destitute rural women through Labour Contracting Society (LCS) ensuring equal opportunities comparing with the men. This has brought a radical change in the lives and livelihoods of rural women. In Small Scale Water Sector Projects of LGED, women are playing important roles in the Water Management Cooperative Associations (WMCA) and its sub-committees. In the urban sector, LGED has made provisions of income generating activities for the poor women through introducing credit and savings schemes. Another approach LGED adopted towards gender equity is the involvement of women in its Project Implementation Committees. LGED is also active in promoting women entrepreneurs by introducing women's section in all rural markets constructed by LGED. Apart from that, involvement of poor fisherwomen in beel resource management initiated by Community Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP) at Sunamganj is a big initiative of LGED towards ensuring women's entitlement in natural resources.

To ensure institutionalisation of gender, LGED put in place a long-term strategy (2008-2015). The strategy is being regularly reviewed to keep it fit to contemporary issues. To carry out that a Gender and Development Forum has been formed. The forum regularly reviews the strategy to keep it contemporary. Over the last two years, more than 17,000 women from villages and urban slums of the country have been trained to be organised, self-employed, and economically self-reliant. These women have successfully got inducted to different social institutions. About 375,800 persondays in infrastructure development and maintenance work have been done alone during 2010-2011. Sector based monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the gender action plan and assessment of its impact has been included in annual development programs and it is being conducted every year. At the local level, the efforts of LGED for meeting the gender needs, provision of separate rooms and toilet facilities for women Union Parishad members in Union Parishad buildings have been introduced. During the last two years, LGED reconstructed 1,260 primary schools and which have ensured a great contribution to increase enrollment and regular attendance of girls in school.

Women's Day Observed

LGED organised a very comprehensive programme to observe the IWD 2012. The programme was organized on 15 March, 2012 and held on the LGED premises in Dhaka. The activities included fair to expose different activities of women from different projects, seminar, video show, thematic photo gallery, and recognition of the best 15 women beneficiaries from rural, water, and urban sectors for their significant achievements to become self-reliant. All the 15 winners were honored with crest, certificate and cash awards. A remarkable event was the launching of a book written by Jahanara Bugum who in 2010 was awarded as the best woman for her outstanding work to achieve economic solvency. The book was about her own struggle in reaching the goal of success in life.





The programme was inaugurated by Minister of LGRD and Cooperative, Syed Ashraful Islam, MP and attended by, among others, the Secretary of LGD, Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan, representatives of development partners and officials from different departments and Institutions of the government of Bangladesh along with community people work in LGED. The Chief Engineer of LGED, Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman chaired the inaugural session.





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Seminar on - "Establishing Gender Equity in LGED"

Highlights of the statement of the Chief Engineer, LGED



LGED since its inception is dedicated to ensure women's increased participation in development opportunities. In 1982 LGED took an organised approach to minimize the gender gap and that has significantly achieved to improve the socioeconomic condition of the women. Women are being provided with enhanced employment through LCS, scope of entrepreneurship development through access to

Micro-credit and market, skill through training, literacy knowledge through functional education, access to natural resources through enrolling them in the Beel fisher Group. From 1995, LGED included women in water management committees and other subcommittees for water resource management. LGED developed a gender strategy in 2002-2007 with a five year action plan. Using the lessons learned from the implementation of the first gender strategy, LGED has developed its second strategy more comprehensively for gender equality for the period of 2008-2015. A Gender and Development Forum of LGED has been formed to facilitate gender mainstreaming within LGED.

A software has been developed to monitor the progress of gender and development activites in LGED. In the rural sector, in 2010-2011, a total of 483,462 women got work by earth and tree plantation activities and 67,929 were trained in different occupations. In the urban sector, 64,137 women have been mobilized under savings groups and provided training in need based alternative livelihoods. In the water sector, 3,870 women have been enrolled as general members of the Water Management Cooperative Association. In 2010-2011, 101 shops have been allocated to women for promoting women entrepreneurs. LGED has also increased the participation of women in the decision making process at all levels of different management committees. In all sectors, women participation is increasing faster. Gender and Development training has been made compulsory to develop awareness of staff about gender needs and to promote a gender enabling environment in project management.

In 2005, ILO, Geneva, conducted a survey on the best practices of gender among 200 organisations, and 25 best practicing organizations/projects were identified. RDP-21, a project of LGED, was one of them. Bangladesh is the 11th member country of the Forum on Gender and Development of ADB, based in Manila. LGED's Chief Engineer represented the country in that forum. Chief Engineer of LGED, Mr Md. Wahidur Rahman categorically remarked that LGED is committed to promote women's equal opportunities in development.

Video Projection

A video show projected on gender vision and the women's activities of LGED. The video was presented in three parts. The first part was about some reflection of IWD's theme 2012 in relation to LGED's interventions, and the second part was a gender equality based social drama. The final part of the video projected different success stories of women in their efforts to become self-reliant and contributing to the development of other fellow women.



Highlights of the Speeches

To mark the IWD, 2012, LGED arranged a seminar titled: "Establishing Gender Equity in LGED" and a day-long fair about the activities of LGED on 15 March 2012. The Minister of LGRD&C Syed Ashraful Islam, MP was Chief Guest of the programme, whereas Secretary LGD Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan and Mrs. Nargis Begum were the special Guests. Chief Engineer of LGED Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman chaired the whole programme.



Minister of LGRD & Cooperatives Syed Ashraful Islam, MP speaking on the occasion He mentioned what the women of our

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country have achieved is not negligible. He added, our leaders are women, judges are women, ministers are women, women are in the parliament, and even women are the members of our arms forces. But he mentioned, it is really apity that women still suffer from many negligences. He said, it is usually noticed that men have a desire to patronize women. It is not bad to patronize them, he added, but that should not do taking them at lower profile and with a negative attitude.

Finally he expressed the hope that the National Women Development Guidelines 2011 would bring equality between men and women in all spheres of people's lives and the system of governance. He appreciated the efforts of LGED to promote gender values in all its activities.

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Secretary, Local Government Division, Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan speaking on the occasion

Speaking on the occasion as a Special Guest The Local Government Division Secretary. Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan said, women are suffering from gender difference in all areas including family, society politics. and He mentioned for women affairs right and development, in 1978

Ministry for Women and Children Affairs was established and in 1984 Directorate of Women was formed. Apart from that, he added, to stop women harassment Dowry Prohibition Act 1980, Women and Children Repression (Special Provisions) Act 2000, Citizenship Act 2009, Domestic Violencee Act 2010 and National Women Development Guidelines 2011 have been introduced. He mentioned with integrated efforts of men and women gender equality can be achieved.



Mrs. Nargis Begum speaking on the occasion

The Special Guest, Mrs. Nargis Begum, said that men have significant roles in empowering women. She mentioned, the empowerment process of women should start from the family first. She added, in employment yet the fair participation of women is not observed. Mrs. Nargis categorically mentioned that

without advancement of women our society cannot be developed properly.

The chairperson of the seminar Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer of LGED in his speech mentioned that LGED being a prime government organization in implementing development programmes follows the National Women Development Guidelines and the policy of the Local Government Division in promoting employments for the women. He said, LGED to ensure equality for the women prepared the Gender Equity Strategy and Action Plan in 2002 and which later has been revised for the period from 2008 to 2015. Apart from that he mentioned a software has been developed dedicated to monitoring the progress of gender related issues and practices.



LGED Chief Engineer, Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman speaking on the occasion

Award for Achievement

On this occasion of IWD 2012, LGED awarded 15 women from rural, urban and water sectors for their outstanding contribution to become self-reliant and motivating others to become financially solvent. In all cases, those poor women had to go through enormous struggles and eventually could shift them to better livings. As financially, socially too they have established them in a position to exercise their rights in the family and the community. A few of them have become the members of local government institutions, are representing their community to development forums and taking the lead in mitigating social injustices in the locality. Each of them are now the driving force not only in their families but for the community people as well to guide them for a better future.



The Minister of LGRD&Cooperative Syed Ashraful Islam MP gave the crest of appreciation to the 15 women and appreciated them for the efforts to bring success in their lives. Along with others, the award giving session was attended by LGD Secretary Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan, Mrs. Nargis Begum, a feminist and Mr. Md. Wahidur Rahman, Chief Engineer, LGED.

Brief introduction to the 15 women won the award of appreciation for becoming self- reliant and contributing to the development of others

- Mollika Rani Das (32) from Char Amanullah, Upazila Subarnochar, Noakhali, once was frustrated and helpless with no resources, handicapped husband and two children; but now is fully confident for better future. She joined LCS under RRMAIDP of LGED in 2007 and that has given her a new life with better housing, own land, domestic resources, financial assets, and certainty to educate her two children.
- Monwara Begum (40) from Lauergar, Upazila Tahirpur, Sunamganj, once was almost rootless, but now has become financially sustainable with assistance from CBRMP-LGED recived since December 2009. Having training she has become a veterinary vaccinator and that has given her a scope of earning of Tk. 17 000 per month. She has built assets of better house, 30 decimal land, , 8 cows, six goats and installed own tube-well. She finds no further uncertainty in her family particularly in education of her children and availability of foods.
- Hira Begum (40) from Mechordia, Upazila Madhukhali, Faridpur having a shop from a market built by RDP-24 of LGED through a provision of women section has changed her livelihood and the life thereby. Now she is a successful entrepreneur with a earning of Tk. 500,000 per year. Her success encouraged other women to rent shop in the market, and they are as well doing well in business a new venture for the rural women.

Emili Rani (35) from Patharghata, Upazila Pathorghata, Barguna has become self-sufficient being a member of LCS for the last 18 years in RRMAIDP-LGED and RDP-16-LGED. The LCS has given her the opportunity to build assets including 70 decimal agricultural lands, better housing, a pond and a good number of livestock. Her family once that had to fight with the poverty , now has no problem in availability of food, to meet the expenses of children's education and other recurring shocks that used to hamper her living.

Shahina Akhter (32) from Upazila Jhenaidaha Sadar, Jhenaidaha getting scope of enrolling herself in LCS and later becoming LCS supervisor could change her life and living. She defended that LCS is a big opportunity for the poor women to become financially self-sufficient and ensuring the equal right along with men in work and earning.

Monwara Begum (47) from Kaliganj, Upazila Kaliganj, Jhenaidaha is a member of SSWRP-LGED's Water Management Cooperative Association where she joined in 2003 and that has brought a big change in her life. She got training in alternative livelihoods, social values, gender development and other basic rights, and which have empowered her largely, and given her a place in the society and made her member of Union Parishad in 2003. Her family is now self-sustained and enjoys a secure future.

- Morium Begum (34) from Gandhabpur, Upazila Lakshmipur Sadar, Laksmipur, is a member of SSWRP-LGED's Water Management Cooperative Association where she joined in 2006. After joining the cooperative she received training in alternative livelihoods, social values, gender development and basic human rights, and which have empowered her and brought economic self-sufficiency to her family. Once the family was landless, now has 0.8 decimal of land, has a pond for fish culture and livestock for rearing, and has a good piece of homestead garden. Morium became a member of Union Parishad as well in 2001.
- Aleya Parvin (50) from Binsara, UpazilaTarash, Sirajganj is a member of SSWRP-LGED's Water Management Cooperative where she joined in 2000 and that has brought a big change in her life. She got training in alternative livelihoods, social values, gender development and basic human rights, and which have empowered her largely financially and socially. She has livestock to rear, runs a home based tailoring shop and those have made her family financially self-sustained and built a secure future.
- Ambia Khatun (40) from Hariadaha, Upazila Gangni, Meherpur is a member of SSWRP-LGED's Water Management Cooperative Association where she joined in 2006 and that has brought a big change in her life. She got training in alternative livelihoods, social values, gender development and basic human rights, and which have empowered her largely, and given her a place in the society. She runs a three-unit broiler farm. Her family is now financially self-sustained and dreams for more other ventures to increase income.

- Shirin Sarker (30) from Talma Tachpara, Upazila Panchagarh Sadar, Panchagarh is a member of SSWRP-LGED's Water Management Cooperative Association where she joined in 2006 and that has brought a big change in her life. She got training in alternative livelihoods, gender development and basic human rights, and which have empowered her largely, and given her a place in the society. She rears livestock, has leased land for improved cultivation and bought 3 acres of land. Her family is now financially self-sustained with a secured future.
- Hasina Begum (35) from Shahjadpur, Sirajganj is a hand loom technician is involved with UGIIP-LGED. She got training in handloom skill and that has increased her income as a skilled technician. The increased income has resulted in her improved living and have brought a certainty in life. She has not only a regular income, she can now save some for future as well.
- Sabina Begum (32) from Brahmanbaria Sadar, Brahmanbaria is involved with STIFPP-2-LGED. She got training in savings and credit, organization building, leadership and other social development activities. She runs a shop and that has increased her family income. The profit she earned has been used to buy land and improved the house. Many women have been encouraged by her and have taken the initiative to run their own business.

- Shiuli Akhter (27) from Jamalpur Sadar, Jamalpur is involved with STIFPP- II-LGED. It has brought a big change in her family. Getting training from the project she could become a tailoring instructor, and that has given her a sustained livelihood. She is happy to get the opportunity to train others that has been contributing to improve the livelihoods of many destitute women.
- Salma Begum (35) from Khulna city slum area is involved with CDC of UPPRP-LGED, initially as a primary member of CDC and later as a leader. Having training from the project Salma is running a tailoring shop and it is giving her an income of around Tk. 2,000/- per month. To Salma, it is a good income that is helping her children's education and meeting other some basic needs.
- Umme Maksuma (28) from Habiganj Sadar, Habiganj is involved in a CDC of UPPRP-LGED getting assistance from the project through her CDC runs a multi-handicrafts business, and she is very successful in her business. She is a role model to other poor women of taking self initiative to become financially solvent. She, by this time, has visited other developing countries to gather knowledge and sharing her experiences on women entrepreneurship development.







A new book titled SHIRI (Ladder) - the story of the real life of Jahanra Begum launched by the Minister



A book written by Jahanar Begum from Sunamganj who is a member of a Credit Group of CBRMP-LGED was launched by the Minister of LGRD&C Syed Ashraful Islam, MP in the IWD 2012 Seminar. The book is a testimony of Jahanara about her past and present, and future aspiration. She had been passing through a very uncertain life being deeply laden with poverty. However, the situation changed by joining her to the CBRMP Credit Organization. With the support of the loan taken from own savings and project credit line, receiving trainings and adopting improved technology delivered by CBRMP, Jahanara

could able to transform her misery into prosperity. A small homestead nursery that she had started with the support of CBRMP in 2004 built her a wealth of a few acres

of land, a pond, better house and a good amount of savings by 2009. She is a role model for many destitute women who as well have brought changes in their lives being influenced by Jahanara's activities and inspiration. In IWD 2010, was awarded for her Jahanara outstanding achievement to making her family self-sustained and for encouraging others towards the same. She, commented on the occasion launching her book, "The reward that I Minister of LGRD&C Syed Ashraful Islam, MP launching the book



got in 2010 from LGED at national level encouraged me to write this book. Which is not a story, but a tale of a struggle to become successful and it might be an inspiration for others".

Fair to Demonstrate Women's Activites in LGED Projects

A fair was arranged to mark the occasion. A total of 11 projects attended the fair. The stalls displayed the projects' activities in a form of miniature models, through photographs, graphs and charts, books and brochures, beneficiaries' products and by video show. All stalls were represented by concerned women officials and in many cases by project beneficiaries. The LGRD & Cooperative Minister Syed Ashraful Islam with LGD Secretary Mr. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan visited all the stalls and discussed with the staff and took enormous interest in women's works of LGED's projects.









Photo Gallery: Development of Girls and Better Prospects for Future

On the IWD 2012 LGED arranged a Photo Gallery on the development activities of different projects of LGED based on the theme "Development of Girls and Better Prospects for Future". A total of 10 projects participated in the Photo Gallery and displayed their activities. The gallery reflected the women's innovative involvement in various productive formal and informal activities.



Audience



Media Coverage

News Taiday

Friday March 16, 2012

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Seminar on gender equity held at LGED



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Call to ensure gender equity

Observance of IWD in Districts

LGED observed IWD 2012 in 64 districts along with the national level programme in Dhaka. To observe the day under the leadership of concerned Executive Engineers every districts brought out rallies and arranged discussion sessions on the theme of the IWD 2012.



















The way forward...

LGED is committed to promote women's equality in all spheres. It has its strategy for that with short and long term interventions. The strategy is being continuously reviewed by a Gender Forum dedicated to monitoring and implementing the gender strategy and action plan of LGED. The theme of this year was very significant and it is aligned with LGED's strategic options. LGED is engaged to increase the provisions and scopes to create opportunities for the girls and women in terms of their increased access to school, market, work and other civic facilities for their advancement. Through this seminar and other activities to mark the IWD, LGED has shared and learned different views and that will be materialized to strengthen the strategy to work for women's empowerment towards establishing the rights of equal share of them in all development opportunities.

Gender disaggregated statistical presentation of a few key programmes of LGED for women empowerment and development

Programme	Progress			
	Female	Male	Total	Women Participation (in %
RURAL			1	
Earth work, Tree Palntaion	483,462	27,610	511,072	95
High Variety of Agriculture Technology Adoption	5683	104	5787	98
Allocation of Shops for women	101	-	101	100
Members of savings scheme	26,595	7130	33,725	79
Training	67929	24930	92859	73
Gender and Development Training	2121	7138	9259	23
URBAN		21/		
Block grant	12473	166	12639	99
Agricultural Support	13422	36	13458	100
Savings Member	64137	1014	65151	98
Micro-credit	50451	1284	51735	98
Training	22353	5480	27833	80
Gender and Development Training	1326	746	2072	64
WATER Resource	diam'r.			
General member of WMCA	3870	13635	17505	22
Member of WMCA Executive Committee	180	360	540	33
Employment Generation	1152	3398	4550	25
Training	1488	5756	7649	19
Gender and Development Training	810	927	1737	47

Source: LGED Progress Report 2011

"Connecting Girls, Inspiring Future"

কিশোরী তরুণী বালিকা মিলাও হাত ; গড়ে ভোলো সমৃদ্ধ ভবিষ্যৎ

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