

## **Women Empowerment in Family Life of Bangladesh: An Analytical Study**

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**Abstract:** Power is the most vital element and everyone expect to be the most powerful man in this world. It empowers the men and women to move freely, to take decision, control over resources and become a self-reliant in family and social life. Women are the most important part of family because they play vital role to rear up and bring up of a human child. So, it should empower them properly for the wellbeing for family life. However, this study conducted to identify the real picture of women's empowerment in family life in Bangladesh. It also tried to explore the role of background characteristics of women regarding women's empowerment. Current study is narrative and qualitative manner and based on Bangladesh Demographic and Household survey data. But secondary data also helps to make this study meaningful and informative on the concerning issue. However, study found that women are enough self-esteem and not using the freedom of mobility still now in the family life of Bangladesh. They are treated as weaker segment of society as well as in family. Study also found that they have not enough right to take participation in all kinds of decision in family life. It seems that they are not enough intellectual and foresight power for taking a good decision. Study also explored that women have not sufficient power to take control over family resources which constraint the practice of women's empowerment.

**Key Words:** Bangladesh, Family life, Power, Well being, Women's empowerment.

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Empowerment is a burning issue in the recent times all over the globe. It is an essential for the achievement of sustainable development (UN, 2019). To achieve the sustainable goals, it must be ensure the equal participation in all spheres of life. The full participation and partnership of both women and men is required in productive and reproductive life, including shared responsibilities for the care and nurturing of children and maintaining the household. The past three decades have witnessed a steadily increasing awareness of the need to empower women through measures to increase social, economic and political equity, and broader access to fundamental human rights, improvements in nutrition, basic health and education. Despite worldwide evidence of the low levels of female participation in social, educational, economic and political spheres, there is still a tendency to see it as a real problem only in a limited number of countries (Khanom, 2013). Moreover, it is process of discovering the potentiality of human being which is mostly found inherently. It also discovers the unrevealed power and makes strength to take decision in life (Moser, 2005). But in the recent times, empowerment has been being used to empower of women. Women are the most vulnerable group in the society because they are identified as a weak segment of people. They are always neglected by the different people at different level such as in society, family, and personal life. Family is a nuclear institution in society and it bring up and rear up of human child. It gives opportunity to live together for both male and female legally accepted and supported by the state and the society (MacIver and Page, 1959). Moreover, it is a more or less durable association of husband and wife with or without children or of a man or woman alone, with children (Ogburn and Nimkoff, 1947). It is also treated as the most important place for human being above on this surface. Family life is most important stage for women and most of the cases women are being oppressed and dominated in family by their family associates and others in Bangladesh (Mahmud et al, 2012). These oppressions and dominations make disempowered and discriminated the women not only in Bangladesh but also it is seen all over the world.

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While the world has achieved progress towards women's empowerment, women and girls continue to suffer discrimination and violence in every part of the world. It is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. If we ensure the true empowerment of the women by preventing or reducing violence or inequality in the family or society, this world becomes the safest place for them. Unfortunately, at the current time, 1 in 5 women and girls between the ages of 15-49 have reported experiencing physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner within a 12-month period and 49 countries currently have no laws protecting women from domestic violence. Progress is occurring regarding harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation, which has declined by 30% in the past decade, but there is still much work to be done to completely eliminate such practices (UN, 2019). Providing women and girls with equal access to education, health care, decent work, and representation in political and economic decision-making processes will fuel sustainable economies and benefit societies and humanity at large. Regrettably, it is observed that most of the countries do not ensure the rights and do not provide these opportunities to the women and as consequence; they are being treated as vulnerable group and remain disempowered (Khanom, 2013). They are being deprived of many rights like property, equal wages, smooth conjugal rights, and family violence also. Study also found that globally, women are just 13 per cent of agricultural land holders. Women in Northern Africa hold less than one in five paid jobs in the non-agricultural sector. The proportion of women in paid employment outside the agriculture sector has increased from 35 per cent in 1990 to 41 per cent in 2015. In 18 countries, husbands can legally prevent their wives from working; in 39 countries, daughters and sons do not have equal inheritance rights; and 49 countries lack laws protecting women from domestic violence. One in five women and girls, including 19 per cent of women and girls aged 15 to 49, have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner within the last 12 months. Yet, 49 countries have no laws that specifically protect women from such violence (UN, 2019). Implementing new legal frameworks regarding female equality in the workplace and the eradication of harmful practices targeted at women is crucial to ending the gender-based discrimination prevalent in many countries around the world. In this paper, it is tried to explore the actual situation of women empowerment regarding four indicators such as self-esteem, participation in decision making, freedom of mobility, and control over resources in family life in Bangladesh.

## II. METHODOLOGY

This paper is wholly formed and typed on the basis of narrative manner. In this paper, mixed method approach has been used to know the current situation of women empowerment in family life in the specific four factors. Mainly BDHS data have been used to conduct this study with the help of various types of books, journal articles, reports regarding women empowerment in family life in this study.

**Objectives:** The major objective of this paper is to explore the current status of women empowerment in family life of Bangladesh. More specifically this paper has been conducted (a) to explore the self esteem of the women in family life of Bangladesh, (b) to know the participation of women in decision making process of family matter of Bangladesh, (c) to reveal the freedom of mobility of women outside of home of Bangladesh, and (d) to identify the ability of women in controlling over own earnings of Bangladesh.

## III. THEORETICAL DISCUSSION

**Women's Empowerment:** The term 'Empowerment' has become a widely used word in the social sciences in the last decade across a broad variety of disciplines (Lincoln, Travers, Ackers, & Wilkinson, 2002). The concept of empowerment is conceived as the idea of power, because empowerment is closely related to changing power in gaining, expending, diminishing, and losing (Page & Czuba, 1999). Traditionally, power was understood as an isolated entity and a zero sum, as it is usually possessed at the expense of others (Lips, 1991; Weber, 1946). Recently, power has been understood as shared because it can actually strengthen while being shared with others (Kreisberg, 1992). It is conceived as "a multi-dimensional social process that helps people gain control over their lives" (Page & Czuba, 1999). Cheater (1999) argues that traditionally disempowered groups gain influence when power relates to economic development. In the same angel of explanation, Friedmann (1992) argues that people in need can alleviate their poverty by mobilizing themselves for political participation on a broader scale. He also argues that poverty is seen here as a form of social, political, psychological disempowerment and when people be out of poverty then it can be identified as empowerment. Williams *et al.*, (1994) argue that the power is at the root of the term empowerment. He also argue that power include some aspects such as firstly, *power over*: This power involves an either/or relationship of domination/subordination; secondly, *power to*: This power relates to having decision-making authority, power to solve problems and can be creative and enabling; thirdly, *power with*: This power involves people organizing with a common purpose; and fourthly, *power within*: This power refers to self-confidence, self-awareness and assertiveness. It relates to how can individuals can recognize through analyzing their experience how power

operates in their lives, and gain the confidence to act to influence and change. It is found that power construct empowerment and empowerment is "to authorize or delegate or give legal power to someone" (cited in Conger and Kanungo, 1988).

Similarly, it is found in many organizations identified women's empowerment as some issues such as fully participation (Human Development Report, 1995), challenging oppression and inequality (Oxfam, 1995), not replaceable (Akhtar 1992 quoted in Batliwala 1993) and, bottom-up process and cannot be bestowed from the top down (Rowlands, 1995). One definition of women's empowerment is "an expansion in the range of potential choices available to women so that actual outcomes reflect the particular set of choices which the women value." (Kabeer, 2001). Women empowerment is the process of exploring and strengthening the potential power of women to take decision and lead an independence life (Moser, 2005). In the same ideas is expressed by Mahmud et al., (2012) and they define women's empowerment as the process which increases women's autonomy and freedom. Basu and Koolwal (2005) explain women's empowerment as freedom of women in every step of life. According to their views, women's empowerment leads the women to increased exposure to violence, women's increased role in decision-making and may lead to some freedoms being curtailed. Finally, it can be concluded that women's empowerment is the process of becoming self-esteem, right to control of resources, right to decision making, and freedom of mobility (Presser and Sen cited in Mahmud et al., 2012).

**Women's Empowerment in Family life:** Empowerment and autonomy are essential for the achievement of sustainable development. The full participation and partnership of both women and men is required in productive and reproductive life, including shared responsibilities for the care and nurturing of children and maintaining the household. The past three decades have witnessed a steadily increasing awareness of the need to empower women through measures to increase social, economic and political equity, and broader access to fundamental human rights, improvements in nutrition, basic health and education. Despite worldwide evidence of the low levels of female participation in social, educational, economic and political spheres, there is still a tendency to see it as a real problem only in a limited number of countries. The reality is that no country in the world no matter how advanced has achieved true gender equality, as measured by comparable decision making power, equal opportunity for education and advancement and equal participation and status in all walks of human endeavour. The purpose with this book is to find out the impacts of women's empowerment on family life (Khanom, 2013). Moreover, it is seen that entire nations, businesses, communities and groups can benefit from the implementation of programs and policies that adopt the notion of women empowerment (Deneulin and Lila, 2009). Women's empowerment is one of the main procedural concerns when addressing human rights and development. The Human Development and Capability Approach, the Millennium Development Goals, and other credible approaches point to women's empowerment and participation as a necessary step if a country is to overcome the obstacles associated with poverty and development (UNO, 2000).

Women's empowerment in family life means women gets empowerment in all aspects of her family life. It includes self-esteem, participation in decision making, freedom of mobilization, and control of resources in family life (Mahmud, et al., 2012). Self-esteem is a judgment of oneself as well as an attitude toward the self and it encompasses beliefs about oneself (Hewitt, 2009). Self-esteem in family life of women also reflects their overall subjective emotional evaluation of their own worth. Self-esteem of women in family life also means what they think about themselves and it is the positive or negative evaluations of them as in how they feel about it Smith and Mackie (2007). It measures with some aspects such as the thinking of a wife's beating is justified when she burns the food, she neglects the children, she argues with husband, she talks to other men, she wastes husband's money, and he goes out without telling husband (Mahmud et al., 2012). On the other hand, participation in decision making of women in family life indicates that women have rights to take part at any decisions regarding his family life. The BDHS (2014) report reveals women's participation include four types of decisions such as their own health care, major household purchases, their child's health care, and visits to their family or relatives. The decision could be in buying furniture, buying livestock, spending family savings, taking a loan, treatment for sick children, visiting doctor for self, working outside home, visiting father's home, having more children, using family planning (Mahmud et al., 2012). Family planning is the most important factor for the empowerment of women in family life while David Cameron says in 2012 "When a woman is prevented from choosing when to have children, it is not just a violation of her human rights. It can fundamentally compromise her chances in life and the opportunities for her children. Without access to family planning, pregnancy will often come far too early" (David Cameron, 2012). On the other side, freedom of mobility indicates that women have the rights to move outside freely. It also reflects in taking part in tour, picnic or get together with friends and neighbours with or without husband permission. It also includes the right to visit friends outside the village and visit hospital or clinic in or outside village (Mahmud et al., 2012). Control over resources indicates that have the right to be owner and controller of resources in family life. In family, a few women have the right to be the owner of wealth or resources (BDHS, 2014). Control over resources in family is an inevitable factor for

empowerment of women. Control over resources in family life indicates that women have money she can spend as she wishes (Mahmud et al., 2012). And finally, control over resources is very important because of women vulnerability in family life. In the case of Bangladesh, it is seen that after husband's death, women would be dependent on either his sons or daughter or other relatives and most of the times they are neglected by them.

#### **IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

Empowerment provides the power and ability the women's control over household resources and environment. The ability of women to make decisions that affect the personal circumstances of their own lives is an essential aspect of empowerment and serves as an important contributor to women's overall welfare. To assess currently married women's decision-making autonomy, the 2014 BDHS collected information on women's participation in four types of decisions such as own health care, major household purchases, their child's health care, and visits to their family or relatives. BDHS (2014) report shows the percent distribution of currently married women age 15-49 by the person in the household who usually makes decisions concerning these matters. It also shows that just over half of women make each of the four types of decisions jointly with their husbands. About three in ten currently married women reported that their husbands are the main decision-makers about their health care, major household purchases, and visits to family or relatives. Women have more said in decisions related to their children's health care while 16 percent reported that they mainly make these decisions, and 17 percent reported that their husbands mainly make these decisions. Few women (8 percent) make decisions about major household purchases alone compared with 28 percent whose husbands mainly make purchasing decisions. Ten percent of women reported that someone else makes such decisions and a higher percentage than for women's own decision-making about household purchases. Overall, women's decision-making power for all four specified issues has increased since 2007 (NIPORT et al. 2009; NIPORT et al. 2013; BDHS, 2014). But this increasing picture is not enough because of women serious vulnerability in family life in Bangladesh. However, the real picture of women's empowerment in family life in according to self-esteem, participation in decision making, freedom of mobility, and control over resources have been discussed as follow;

##### **Self-esteem: Attitudes toward wife beating**

There are many serious and critical problems that women have been facing in at family level of Bangladesh but the most serious problem is violence. Violence has various forms such as domestic violence, family violence, and social violence. Women are commonly faces domestic and family violence in Bangladesh through different forms of torturing and oppression such as beating, depriving, forced rape, and sexual harassment and wife beating is the most common problem of women in family life (BDHS, 2014). The nature and extent of violence makes it as an internationally recognized issue for women's disempowerment (Akand and Shamim 1995 and Ameen 2005). In Bangladesh, an estimated three in every five women experience violence including physical or sexual violence (Naved and Amin, ed. 2013). One of the most common forms of violence against women worldwide is abuse by the husband or partner (Heise et al. 1999). The BDHS (2014) report shows the percentage of ever-married women age 15-49 who agree that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife for specific reasons, by background characteristics. Twenty-eight percent of women agree that a husband is justified in beating his wife for at least one of the reasons listed. In addition, the most widely accepted reason for wife beating among women in Bangladesh is arguing with her husband (20 percent), followed by neglecting the children (15 percent). Fourteen percent of women agree that going out without telling her husband is a justifiable reason for a husband to beat his wife. Seven percent of women agree that refusing to have sexual intercourse is an acceptable reason for a husband to beat his wife, and 4 percent of women agree that a husband is justified in beating his wife if she burns the food. Moreover, it is found that the agreement with at least one reason for wife beating varies little by age or marital status. Women who are employed and are paid in cash (29 percent), reside in urban areas (25 percent), reside in Dhaka (24 percent), have completed secondary or higher education (16 percent), and are in households in the highest wealth quintile (19 percent) are less likely than most other women to agree with at least one reason for wife beating. This result is supported by the 2007 BDHS results, which found that having little education, living in rural areas, having multiple marriages, and having limited access to wealth are strongly and positively associated with experiencing all kinds of domestic violence on the part of women (NIPORT et al. 2009; Naved and Amin, ed. 2013). Finally, it is seen that majority of the women are being beaten by husband or other family members or victim of domestic violence. So, it can be summarized that most of the women have not proper self-esteem due to lack of proper education, to be rural people, multiple marriages and limited control over resources which indicate the low level of women's empowerment in family life in Bangladesh.

##### **Participation in decision making: Decisions in four main aspects**

The BDHS (2014) report presents results for the four specific types of decisions, namely women's own health care, making major household purchases, child's health care, and visits to the woman's family or

relatives. However, the report includes two summary indicators: the proportion of women involved in making all four decisions and the proportion not involved in making any of the four decisions. BDHS (2014) report shows that about three in five currently married women participate in each of the four types of decision, either alone or jointly with their husbands. Forty-four percent participate in all four decisions, and 16 percent do not participate in any of the decisions. Moreover, compared with women who have children, women with no children are less likely to participate in all four household decisions (10% compared with 46% or higher). Urban women are more likely to participate in all four decisions than rural women (47% vs 42%). When it tried to see division wise participation rate, it is found that Sylhet has the lowest proportion of women who participate in all four decisions (33%) and the highest percentage of women who do not participate in any of the four types of decisions (24%). Women's participation in decision-making does not vary greatly by education or wealth, although women who have completed secondary or higher education (46%) and women in the highest wealth quintile (47%) are most likely to participate in all four decisions. Overall, it is seen that the number of decisions that a woman makes by herself or jointly with her husband is positively related to women's empowerment and reflects the degree of control women are able to exercise in areas that affect their lives and environments. BDHS (2014) report shows the percent distribution of currently married women according to the number of decisions in which they participate. Forty-four percent of currently married women participate in all four household decisions such as women's own health care, making major household purchases, child health care, and visits to her family or relatives and 16 percent participate in none. So, it can be concluded that most of the women have not right in four specific decisions such as own health care, major house hold purchases, and child health care which hamper the women in getting empowerment in family life in Bangladesh.

#### **Freedom of mobility: Rights to the movement**

Freedom of movement outside the home is an important indicator of women's autonomy and empowerment. Bangladesh embraces a traditional culture with patriarchal values secluding women from the outside world and from men, popularly known as "purdah." This is particularly true in rural areas. The BDHS (2014) report tried to explore by asking the married women whether they go to a health center or hospital or, if they do not go, whether they can go alone or with their young children to a health center or hospital. Report shows that 70 percent of women said that they go alone or with their young children to a health center or hospital, and 10 percent of women who do not go to a health center or hospital said that they can go to these health facilities alone or with their children. Comparison of data shows that in 2014 a higher proportion of women reported going alone or with children to a health center or a hospital (BDHS-2007, BDHS-2011, and BDHS-2014). Consequently, fewer women now report constraints in going to a health center or hospital, either alone or with their children (NIPORT et al. 2009, 2013). Moreover, report also shows the proportion of women who go to a health center or a hospital alone or with children increases with age, from 43 percent of women age 15-19 to 80 percent of women age 35-39, while the proportion of women who cannot go alone or accompanied by their children decreases with age, from 41 percent among women age 15-19 to 16 percent among women age 45-49. Urban women, women with three or four children, women who have completed a secondary or higher level of education, and women in the highest wealth quintile are more likely than their counterparts to go to a health facility, either alone or with their children. Rural women and women in Sylhet are more likely to be among those who cannot go to a health facility alone or accompanied by their young children (BDHS, 2014). So, it may be summarized that women have not available rights to visits outside home or village or cities alone which limit the women's empowerment in family life in Bangladesh.

#### **Control over resources: Control over own earnings**

Control over their earnings of women in family life is the most vital factor to measure the empowerment of women in family life. BDHS (2014) report shows the percent distribution of currently married women who received cash earnings in the past 12 months, according to the person who mainly decides about the use of their earnings. Thirty two percent of currently married women who earn cash reported that they themselves mainly decide how their cash earnings are used; 54 percent reported that they decide jointly with their husbands, and 13 percent reported that their husbands alone decide how their earnings are used. A very low percentage of women reported that other people participate in the decision on how their earnings are used. Women age 45-49 are less likely to make their own decisions about how to use their earnings than their younger counterparts (28 percent compared with 34 percent of women age 15-19). However, as age increases, women are more likely to make decisions jointly with their husbands. Women with lower parity are more likely to make decisions about their earnings alone compared with women with higher parity, while women with higher parity are more likely to make decisions jointly with their husbands. In addition, when it tries to reveal the rate of decision making and control over resources under geographical area wise, it is found that urban women are more likely than rural women to make decisions themselves about spending their earnings (39 percent versus 29

percent). As expected, rural women are more likely than urban women to report that their husbands alone make decisions about the use of their earnings (14% vs 10%).

However, when it tries to see the divisional rate of control over earnings of women in family life, BDHS (2014) found that the proportion of employed women who mainly decide by themselves about the use of their earnings ranges from 45 percent in Barisal to 20 percent in Rangpur, and joint decision-making ranges from 41 percent in Barisal to 61 percent in Rangpur. The 2014 BDHS data provide consistent findings about women of Barisal and Rangpur. If a woman decides alone about her earnings, she is less likely to report joint decision-making, and vice versa. The proportion of women who reported that decisions about their earnings are made mainly by their husbands ranges from 10 percent in Dhaka to 17 percent in Rajshahi. Moreover, when it tries to explore the rate of women's decision-making power about their earnings increases with their level of education and household wealth, it is seen that forty-three percent of women who have completed secondary or higher education mainly make the decision by themselves on how to use the money they earn compared with 28 percent of women with no education. Women with no education and those who completed primary school are more likely than other women to decide jointly with their husbands (56 % and 58% respectively) about the use of their earnings. Forty-one percent of women in the highest wealth quintile mainly decide by themselves about the use of their earnings compared with 23 percent of women in the lowest wealth quintile. So, it can be concluded that women have a few rights to take control over their own resources including own earnings, family earnings, family resources and wealth, and other earnings and resources which restrict women's empowerment in family life in Bangladesh.

### **Core Findings**

Women empowerment is an important term to refer the status of women in all spheres of life. It may be in social, economical, cultural, and political at any level like family, society, and community. All the level of life, family is the most important place which gives human child to bring up, and make him a complete human being in the society. So, if there are any problems in family, it can be very adverse effect on its members. The adverse effects can be deprivation, negligence, unequal treated, or discrimination which is the result of violence and powerlessness of women in family life. As a consequence, women are made disempowered and led a disrespected life in the family or in the society. It is observed that this scenery is found in different indicators of empowerment process for example, self-esteem, participation in decision making, freedom of mobility, and control over resources in family life. These indicators are the key factors to measure the status of empowerment of women in family life in our society. If one or more indicator is not fulfill the requirements, then it will be called there have not empowerment. Moreover, study also found some reasons of disempowering the women in our society for instance lack of self esteem, low rate participation in decision making, lack of liberty, and restricted rights over resources. This paper have tried to reveal the actual picture of empowerment of women in family life in the light of self-esteem in attitudes toward wife beating, participation in decision making in decisions in four main aspects, freedom of mobility in rights to the movement, and control over resources in control over own earnings. It is seen that wife beating in recent days in Bangladesh is decreased than before and people are more aware of about their own rights regarding facing physical violence in family life. Violence is not fully absence but the ratio of victims are quite low than past time in our family and social life. Despite of this progressive situation, major portion of the rural women still are being beaten by their husband or other family associates. Sometimes father in law or mother in law or brother or sister in law beat the newly married women for reasons. These reasons are demand or hand cash money, demanding on home appliances, properties, lands, and mismatch between bride and other family associates. These violated situations make the disempowered and they are obliged to lead a sufferings life in family and society. Study also revealed that women are hardly found in decision making process on family matters and they are restricted to enter into in taking the decision on various family issues like child conceived, child rearing, children schooling, and spending the money in family interests. Although in urban areas or educated families in rural areas in Bangladesh, this situation has been changing but in many cases it remains stable and regrettable. most of the cases in rural areas, women are confined of keeping aloof from decision making process due to some reasons such as cultural lag or cultural barriers, religious misunderstanding or mislead by leading person in family or society, lack of proper education system, poverty, and fear about physical assaults. Study also explored that many of the cases, lack of participation in decision making process restrict or confined of mobility in or out of home. Women are compelled to move liberally and they cannot go alone outside of home or market places in the society. Sometimes they have to go to the shopping places by the permission of husband with someone even they cannot go to the hospital without family permission. Moreover, women in family life are deprived of their legal rights to control over resources either achieved or ascribed resources. It is found that major portion of the women have no right over their own earnings and properties. Sometimes, they cannot take a decision in savings and buying new land or properties alone or without the permission of husband. In rural areas, women are deprived of their own rights over resources and as a result they lead a life of great sufferings. Finally, it can be summed up that

despite of some positive changes in women life; they still remain lag behind than male person in family and disempowered.

## V. CONCLUSION

Women's empowerment is very important phenomena in the recent period of times. It gives power and makes strength through the discovering of inner potentiality and quality of women. It helps women to be a self-esteem and dignified living in the family and in the society. It also helps women to take participation in decision making of life including personal and family life. However, control over resources is another important factor to measure women empowerment in family life. The power of the freedom of mobility to visits outside of village and visits clinics and hospital singly and without the permission of husband or others family members are treated as women's empowerment. But it is regret thing is that it is not acceptable in many case in Bangladesh still now. The patriarchy oriented family constraint the utilization of power of women either in family or social life in Bangladesh. It is found that most of the cases in Bangladesh, women in family life are deprived from their rights and lead an unbearable life which a sign of less empowerment of women in family life. It seems that women are the weaker part of the society and they are not eligible for using the power in family and social life and sometimes their human rights are violated by family members or other persons. But it is a matter of hope is that this attitude toward women has been changing due to the intervention of government and NGOs. In spite of Government and NGO's initiatives, the initiatives from family and social movement is essential to give empowerment of women and to ensure women's self-esteem, freedom of mobility, participation in decision making, and control over resources in family life.

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## VI. APPENDIX

**Table 1.0: control over women's cash earnings**

Percent distribution of currently married women age 15-49 who received cash earnings for employment in the 12 months preceding the survey by person who decides how wife's cash earnings are used, according to background characteristics, Bangladesh 2014							
Person who decides how the wife's cash earnings are used:							
Background characteristic	Mainly wife	Wife and husband jointly	Husband mainly	Other	Missing	Total	Number of employed women with cash earnings
<b>Age</b>							
15-19	34.1	44.0	18.9	2.9	0.2	100.0	310
20-24	29.9	53.2	14.8	1.6	0.6	100.0	796
25-29	33.6	52.3	12.2	1.4	0.5	100.0	1045
30-34	33.2	54.1	12.1	0.0	0.7	100.0	1079
35-39	31.9	54.9	12.5	0.0	0.6	100.0	781
40-44	31.4	55.7	12.0	0.1	0.9	100.0	715
45-49	27.5	58.7	12.9	0.0	0.8	100.0	517
<b>Number of Living Children</b>							
0	33.8	51.0	12.0	3.1	0.0	100.0	360
1-2	32.4	52.6	13.5	0.9	0.6	100.0	2753
3-4	31.8	54.6	12.6	0.0	0.9	100.0	1702
5+	26.8	60.4	12.9	0.0	0.0	100.0	427
<b>Residence</b>							
Urban	39.1	50.1	10.1	0.3	0.4	100.0	1426
Rural	29.1	55.2	14.1	0.9	0.7	100.0	3815
<b>Division</b>							
Barisal	44.9	40.8	13.3	0.5	0.4	100.0	282
Chittagong	34.8	50.5	12.7	1.0	0.9	100.0	749
Dhaka	31.7	56.4	9.8	0.9	0.2	100.0	2014
Khulna	36.5	46.3	16.0	0.6	0.5	100.0	532
Rajshahi	27.8	54.4	16.8	0.5	0.4	100.0	796
Rangpur	20.3	61.3	15.8	0.4	2.1	100.0	689
Sylhet	37.2	48.5	14.1	0.0	0.2	100.0	179
<b>Education</b>							
No education	27.8	56.3	15.3	0.2	0.4	100.0	1514
Primary incomplete	30.4	53.3	14.1	0.8	1.4	100.0	1101
Primary complete	29.7	58.4	10.9	0.6	0.5	100.0	632
Secondary incomplete	33.4	50.5	14.7	1.1	0.3	100.0	1384
Secondary complete or higher	43.3	51.1	4.0	1.1	0.5	100.0	610
<b>Wealth quintile</b>							
Lowest	23.1	58.7	16.7	0.8	0.7	100.0	1127



Second	25.8	57.8	15.7	0.1	0.6	100.0	1146
Middle	33.2	53.5	12.1	0.7	0.4	100.0	1050
Fourth	39.1	47.9	11.0	1.0	0.9	100.0	1078
Highest	40.6	49.7	8.3	0.9	0.5	100.0	841
<b>total</b>	<b>31.8</b>	<b>53.8</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5242</b>

1. Primary complete is defined as completing grade 5
  2. Secondary complete is defined as completing grade 10
- Source:** Bangladesh Demographic and Household Survey, 2014.

<b>Table 2.0: women's participation in decision making by background characteristics</b>							
Percentage of currently married women age 15-49 who usually make specific decisions either by themselves or jointly with their husband, by background characteristics, Bangladesh 2014							
Specific decisions:							
Background characteristic	Woman's own health care	Making major household purchases	Child health care	Visits to her family or relatives	All four decisions	None of the four decisions	Number of women
<b>Age</b>							
15-19	48.9	40.9	39.9	43.6	21.4	33.3	1984
20-24	60.7	53.5	62.3	55.6	36.7	20.5	3166
25-29	66.9	63.5	73.7	64.1	45.8	14.3	3249
30-34	69.9	68.4	78.0	69.4	50.6	10.8	2919
35-39	72.0	70.5	81.4	70.4	53.6	9.7	2153
40-44	69.2	67.3	77.2	68.6	50.0	11.8	1874
45-49	64.7	65.2	76.2	67.7	46.5	12.9	1512
<b>Employment (last 12 months)</b>							
Not employed	62.6	57.9	67.6	60.7	41.5	18.2	11072
Employed for cash	70.1	68.6	74.9	67.2	48.2	11.4	5242
Employed not for cash	60.7	59.3	68.9	59.0	39.9	17.3	535
<b>Number of Living Children</b>							
0	49.8	41.0	13.7	44.2	9.8	35.6	1707
1-2	66.0	61.9	74.9	63.0	46.0	15.0	8948
3-4	67.9	67.7	78.7	68.8	50.1	11.3	4901
5+	64.8	69.6	76.2	61.9	46.7	16.1	1302
<b>Residence</b>							
Urban	68.6	67.3	72.7	68.9	46.8	12.5	4709
Rural	63.4	58.9	68.8	60.3	42.3	17.5	12149
<b>Division</b>							
Barisal	56.3	53.1	66.4	58.4	36.3	20.4	1051
Chittagong	68.4	61.8	70.8	62.9	48.2	17.8	3121
Dhaka	69.1	66.4	74.5	68.8	49.3	12.4	5857
Khulna	59.5	57.0	64.0	58.1	37.1	19.1	1729
Rajshahi	64.0	60.1	68.8	61.6	39.8	15.1	2007
Rangpur	62.7	62.3	68.4	58.7	39.1	15.6	1946
Sylhet	54.5	47.8	60.6	50.7	32.7	24.2	1147
<b>Education</b>							
No education	65.5	63.9	73.9	66.0	47.1	14.5	3949
Primary incomplete	63.4	62.6	72.0	61.5	43.2	15.3	3032
Primary complete	65.9	62.2	69.6	62.9	44.1	15.0	1884
Secondary incomplete	62.8	57.3	66.8	59.4	40.2	18.6	5477
Secondary complete or higher	69.1	63.5	68.2	66.0	45.6	15.0	2516
<b>Wealth quintile</b>							
Lowest	60.8	58.2	69.7	60.2	41.5	18.1	3097
Second	63.3	60.8	68.7	61.1	43.5	16.8	3223
Middle	64.4	61.5	70.0	61.9	43.4	16.7	3394

Fourth	65.8	60.3	68.2	61.7	41.9	16.1	3556
Highest	69.2	65.1	72.8	68.1	47.3	13.2	3587
<b>total</b>	64.8	61.3	69.9	62.7	43.6	16.1	16858

Note: total includes 15 women with missing information on employment in the past 12 months.

1. Primary complete is defined as completing grade 5
2. Secondary complete is defined as completing grade 10

Source: Bangladesh Demographic and Household Survey, 2014.

<b>Table 3.0: Freedom of movement</b>						
Percent distribution of currently married women age 15-49 by freedom of movement to go to a hospital or health center, according to background characteristics, Bangladesh 2014						
Person who decides how the wife's cash earnings are used:						
Background characteristic	Go alone or with children to health center or hospital	Do not go to health center or hospital		Other	Total	Number of women
		Can go alone or with children	Cannot go alone or with children			
<b>Age</b>						
15-19	43.1	14.5	40.6	1.6	100.0	1984
20-24	64.4	11.7	23.0	0.8	100.0	3166
25-29	73.8	8.8	16.9	0.5	100.0	2149
30-34	77.5	9.4	12.7	0.4	100.0	2919
35-39	79.6	7.6	12.5	0.2	100.0	2153
40-44	78.2	9.4	42.3	0.1	100.0	1874
45-49	75.1	8.1	16.4	0.4	100.0	1512
<b>Number of Living Children</b>						
0	38.2	15.1	44.0	2.5	100.0	1707
1-2	72.6	10.4	16.7	0.4	100.0	8948
3-4	76.5	8.4	14.7	0.3	100.0	4901
5+	74.5	6.6	18.6	0.3	100.0	1302
<b>Residence</b>						
Urban	74.7	9.0	15.7	0.6	100.0	4709
Rural	68.7	10.4	20.3	0.6	100.0	12149
<b>Division</b>						
Barisal	76.4	7.8	14.8	0.9	100.0	1051
Chittagong	68.0	9.9	21.3	0.7	100.0	3121
Dhaka	70.9	9.1	19.7	0.3	100.0	5857
Khulna	72.1	9.6	17.9	0.3	100.0	1729
Rajshahi	69.5	12.8	17.0	0.8	100.0	2007
Rangpur	72.6	11.3	15.7	0.5	100.0	1946
Sylhet	64.3	10.3	23.9	1.6	100.0	1147
<b>Education</b>						
No education	73.3	8.0	18.3	0.3	100.0	3949
Primary incomplete	70.2	8.5	21.0	0.3	100.0	3032
Primary complete	70.4	10.2	18.6	0.8	100.0	1884
Secondary incomplete	68.2	10.8	20.2	0.7	100.0	5477
Secondary complete or higher	70.7	13.0	15.5	0.7	100.0	2516
<b>Wealth quintile</b>						
Lowest	68.8	8.3	22.4	0.5	100.0	3097
Second	68.7	10.7	20.1	0.5	100.0	3223
Middle	70.1	10.7	18.4	0.8	100.0	3394
Fourth	70.6	10.4	18.1	0.6	100.0	3556
Highest	73.1	9.8	16.7	0.5	100.0	3587
<b>total</b>	70.4	10.0	19.0	0.6	100.0	16858

1. Primary complete is defined as completing grade 5
2. Secondary complete is defined as completing grade 10

Source: Bangladesh Demographic and Household Survey, 2014.

<b>Table 4.0: Women's attitude toward wife beating</b>							
Percentage of ever-married women age 15-49 who agree that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife for specific reasons, by background characteristics, Bangladesh 2014							
Husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife if she:							
Background characteristic	Burns the food	Argues with him	Goes out without telling him	Neglects the children	Refuses to have sexual intercourse with him	Percentage who agree with at least one specified reason	Number
<b>Age</b>							
15-19	4.0	20.3	15.2	14.1	5.6	28.8	2029
20-24	3.4	19.4	13.0	14.9	6.1	27.3	3224
25-29	4.1	19.9	12.7	14.5	6.9	28.1	3390
30-34	4.1	18.7	14.8	15.0	7.8	27.4	3047
35-39	5.0	21.0	15.6	15.1	8.2	29.0	2315
40-44	4.6	20.5	15.5	14.7	8.0	29.1	2098
45-49	5.9	20.7	15.8	16.6	8.3	29.6	1766
<b>Employment (last 12 months)</b>							
Not employed	4.1	19.5	14.2	14.5	6.7	28.0	11506
Employed for cash	4.7	20.6	14.9	15.6	8.0	28.8	5781
Employed not for cash	5.3	21.4	15.3	16.5	8.2	29.2	565
<b>Number of Living Children</b>							
0	3.0	18.0	13.2	12.4	5.8	26.3	1814
1-2	3.8	19.0	13.5	14.5	6.6	27.1	9478
3-4	5.3	20.9	15.4	15.5	8.1	29.6	5180
5+	6.2	25.3	18.5	18.9	9.6	33.9	1391
<b>Marital Status</b>							
Married or living together	4.2	19.8	14.1	14.7	7.0	28.1	16858
Divorced/separated/widowed	6.7	21.8	20.3	18.8	10.9	32.2	1005
<b>Residence</b>							
Urban	2.8	17.1	12.2	13.1	5.8	24.8	5047
Rural	4.9	21.1	15.3	15.6	7.85	29.6	12816
<b>Division</b>							
Barisal	7.7	22.8	21.1	21.7	10.4	35.9	1111
Chittagong	4.7	21.6	13.8	16.4	8.2	29.6	3301
Dhaka	3.7	16.0	12.8	12.1	5.3	23.8	6223
Khulna	4.0	21.2	14.5	15.7	8.0	29.5	1838
Rajshahi	3.5	25.5	17.5	15.4	8.7	33.6	2103
Rangpur	4.3	17.8	12.5	18.8	6.7	25.9	2056
Sylhet	5.6	24.7	16.3	15.3	8.2	33.8	1232
<b>Education</b>							
No education	6.8	24.4	16.9	16.9	10.2	33.0	4455
Primary incomplete	6.0	22.8	17.8	17.8	9.5	32.5	3223
Primary complete	4.4	21.5	16.3	16.3	8.0	30.5	1985
Secondary incomplete	2.9	19.0	14.2	14.2	5.5	26.9	5628
Secondary complete or higher	1.0	9.4	8.4	8.4	2.2	16.1	2571
<b>Wealth quintile</b>							
Lowest	7.4	24.2	18.0	18.0	11.3	34.3	3359
Second	5.4	24.3	17.1	17.1	9.4	33.1	3408
Middle	4.4	20.0	14.7	14.7	6.5	28.0	3560
Fourth	3.4	20.1	15.4	15.4	6.2	28.2	3758
Highest	1.5	12.0	9.9	9.9	3.2	18.9	3778
<b>total</b>	4.3	19.9	14.9	14.9	7.2	28.3	17863

1. Primary complete is defined as completing grade 5
  2. Secondary complete is defined as completing grade 10
- Source:** Bangladesh Demographic and Household Survey, 2014.