

Process of Empowerment

2006

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad

KEY INFORMATION

Project Title : **Promotion & Protection of Women's Human Rights in Bangladesh**

Implementing Organization : **Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP)**

Project In-charge : **Ms. Ayesha Khanam (General Secretary)**

Reporting Period : **January – December, 2006**

Reporting Date : **29 March 2007**

Foreword

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad's (BMP) annual report draws from a concerted and rigorous process of analysis of the dynamics of gender development and obstruction of rights of women and marginalized group of the society. The annual report brings the vision of equality, citizenship and justice and shapes that vision with clear, directed interventions that are principled on ensuring rights of women and victim of violence.

In its evolution as a women development organization, BMP has shifted towards a rights based approach in keeping with a growing body of knowledge and experience on the structural causes of women's rights. BMP seeks to consolidate and strengthen its approach by way of addressing the rights of women politically, economically and socially. Moreover the current strategy of the project recognises global policies, processes and projects through which national strategies affirms its linkages with BMP. In doing so BMP articulates the need to question the rights of women its challenges and shape policies that are firmly centred on the vision and aspiration of women in Bangladesh.

The report is largely collective output and drawn on the participation of stakeholders. This report captures the input from grassroots to the national level members-national networks and coalitions, NGOs (local, national and international), activists, government officials, politicians and most importantly the members of BMP. We hope that this report will serve as a contribution to the process of encouraging a greater role for all BMP constituents in tracking change and progress towards a more equitable, just and accountable society.

On behalf of Central Committee

Ayesha Khanam

General Secretary

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad

Executive Summary

The Annual Report presents the progress of BMP's activities during the Financial Year (FY) 2006. During the year, BMP has adapted various long term and short term strategies which have looked to empower women in Bangladesh especially the rural areas. The annual report starts off with a background description of BMP's operational strategy its intentions and principles of engagement for the cause of women's rights. Before the analysis of the year's activities this Annual Report will also try to shed light on the role of CEDAW and its application by BMP in Bangladesh. To achieve this end, the report will look at a brief history of CEDAW and its relationship with Bangladesh. Consequently it will also be highlighted as to how BMP has integrated the CEDAW principles into their yearly activities.

BMP has been actively involved in various national level advocacy issues this year. Highlights would include various workshops, press conferences, seminars, rallies and discussions revolving around key women's rights issues. The issues to gain focus in 2006 have been - Increase of the number of women's seats in the Parliament, Workshop on Women's role in the media, A press conference for the **demanding the arrest of Fotowabaj Mufti from Sunamganj** etc. Other than the above mentioned issues, this annual report also describes a selection of case studies where BMP have shown an active role in providing resistance to violence against women, legal and medical aid to victims and their families along with national level lobbying. This section of the report provides a detailed view of how BMP deals with severe cases of VAW such as murder, rape and dowry killings. The extensive natures of BMP's networking abilities have also been highlighted.

For the year 2006 BMP had an extensive plan of activities which are based on their core activity plan. BMP have been working on the issues of Resisting Violence Against Women, Political Empowerment of Women, Intensified Networking for promoting Women's rights, Lobbying and Advocacy and Capacity Building of BMP, since its inception. These five components will be looked at in detail. The Findings and Analysis component of the report will look into each component by the basis of the Targets set and their actual achievement. This will allow a critical review of the strengths and weaknesses of the organization, which in effect will allow future recommendations to be set in order to increase efficiency. The annual report will conclude with assessment of unexpected outcomes and limitations and thus provide a reference point for future activities of BMP.

Table of Contents

Acronyms and Glossary	Pg. 7
1. Introduction	Pg. 8
1.1 Background	Pg. 10
1.2 Central Executive Committee Strategy	Pg. 11
1.3 BMP and its Administrative and Program Components	Pg. 11
1.4 Purpose and Objectives of the Annual Report	Pg. 13
2. International Women's Rights, CEDAW and Bangladesh	Pg. 13
2.1 BMP and CEDAW	Pg. 15
2.2 Social Action Committee	Pg. 17
3. Highlights of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad in the Media	Pg. 21
4. Findings and Analysis for Jan-Dec 2006	Pg. 23
4.1 Component 1: Violence Against Women is Resisted	Pg. 23
4.2 Component 2: Political Empowerment of Women is Promoted	Pg. 26
4.3 Component 3: Women's Human Rights Movement is Accelerated through Intensified Networking	Pg. 28
4.4 Component 4: Establishing BMP as a Lobbying and Advocacy Group	Pg. 30
4.5 Component 5: Capacity Building of BMP	Pg. 34
5. Case Studies	Pg. 38
6. Conclusion: Unexpected Outcomes, Justification of Targets not Reached	Pg. 45
Annex 1: BMP's 7 tiered framework of operations	
Annex 2: List of Publications by BMP	
Annex 3: List of Activities for 2006	
Annex 4: List of Legal Aid activities 2005-2006	
Annex 5: Chart of VAW (Jan'06 -Dec'06)	

Acronyms and Glossary

BMP:	Bangladesh Mahila Parishad
Jatiya Parishad:	National Council
Fatwa:	Religious ruling under Islamic Law
GOB:	Government of Bangladesh
Zilla Committee:	District Level Committee
Thana Committee:	Committee under the Zillas. Used to referred to as Upazlla previously
CEDAW:	Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CRC:	Convention on the Rights of the Children
NWD:	National Women Development
VAW:	Violence against Women

1. Introduction

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad is a national voluntary organization that strives to bring about gender equity through advocating women's rights in Bangladesh. BMP is established on the ideology and goal which suggests that an ideal democratic society can be achieved through the harmonious relationship between men and women where both have equal rights and privileges which are not only respected but also protected by the state. To this end BMP has been incorporating a multi faceted strategy that looks to empower women and bring them into the forefront of society so that they can achieve gender equity. BMP also adheres to the international advocacy of women's rights and social development movements throughout history. BMP was formed during the liberation war of 1971 where the concept of freedom, liberty and equality first emerged among the people of Bangladesh.

Therefore the organization has acted as an agent of social change that not only empowers women from the context of national empowerment but also empowers them due to the momentum of international women's rights on a global scale. BMP works among all women in the country irrespective of class, race or religious background. The organization believes that the current status of women has been brought about by the patriarchal system of the country's society. This clearly separated the notion that it is not men but the societal system, which forces women into a disadvantaged position. Therefore BMP believes that society should be forced to see how it has put women into the current position. It is this reality that pushes BMP to work side by side with male society, civil society and the government to bring about the recognition of women's rights.

BMP has been working towards a mass national level women's rights movement which looks to bring about the constitutional recognition of women's right so that women all over Bangladesh can be free from oppression and discrimination and have the due recognition to be citizens of the state. BMP is a non-partisan organization that does not act or cater to any political parties to voice out its demands or use the organization as a platform for the party. BMP's activities benefit all women in Bangladesh. It was established on 4 April, 1970. For the last two decades BMP has been working to achieve women's human rights, ensure women's participation in all areas of sustainable development, and for women's economic, political, legal and social empowerment. BMP is the largest women's organization in Bangladesh, with nearly 150,000 members, representing all the social strata. Women over 16 years, who believe in women's emancipation and are willing to work for women's empowerment, are eligible for membership. BMP has a broad based organizational network comprising of 59 branches and 500 local units spread throughout the country.

The key features of BMP's work are: (1) Close networking with mass-based popular organization and political parties, (2) continuing linkage with the thoughts of the mainstream social and women's movement both at the national and international level, (3) ability to articulate and politicise women's needs and concerns both at the grass-roots and national level, (4) taking a visible and leading role in the movement for resisting fundamentalism, political authoritarianism and violence against women in all forms including those resulting from fatwa, (5) initiating and maintaining an active role in uniting women in the movement for achieving specific goals. At the same time, BMP maintains a close and smooth working relationship with GOB. It was registered with the Ministry of Social Welfare in 1978 and with the NGO Affairs Bureau in 1992. BMP owns the building in which the office premises and the shelter for battered women are located. BMP is built on ten assumptions that form the background of all of BMP's activities:

1. Following of Declaration and Core Organizational Principles
2. Participatory Planning and Implementation of all Organizational Activities.
3. Voluntary Participation by all Members
4. Non-partisan approach
5. Progressive and Development Oriented Stance
6. Ensuring Transparency and Accountability
7. Solidarity Towards the Cause of Gender Development
8. Decentralized and Democratic Approach
9. Networking with Like Minded Individuals, Organizations and Other Bodies
10. Capacity Building of the Organization through Stable Financial Management in order to Achieve Sustainability as a Progressive Organization

The following is a list of the methods that BMP incorporates in order to carry out its activities:

1. Advocacy and Lobbying
2. Mobilizing Public Opinion
3. Meetings and Protests
4. Compilation and Formulation of Demands
5. Forums and Discussions
6. Workshops
7. Training
8. Communication and Broadcasting
9. Publication and Documentation
10. Research and Data collection, Analysis and Distribution

1.1 Background

BMP has a very formal organizational framework. This framework is the foundation and the guiding principle for all of its implementation strategies. The organizational framework incorporates all of BMP's branch offices in coordination with a central head office. The guiding principles of the organization are upheld by primarily the role of the general secretary, assistant general secretary, organization secretary and other key members. The central committee management revolves around the planned directive of the National Council and the National Conference.

National Council: This is the highest policy making body of BMP.

National Conference: The level where all zilla level representatives are allowed to voice their opinions in the policy and decision making process. This National Conference is held after every 3 years. Between two National Conferences, yearly Council meetings hold regularly and thus represent a very democratic and decentralized approach towards actual policy formulation.

Central Committee: This committee is the primary agency through which the policies of the National Council and National Conference are implemented. It is also the agency that has the right to make decisions between two meetings of the National Council

District Committee : The work plan that is designed by the Central Committee is passed on to the District Committee for implementation.

Thana Committee : This committee under the District Committee's directive organizes the implementation of BMP's activities through the branch committees.

Primary Branch

Committee : This is the committee where all the work of BMP is implemented to the actual target beneficiaries.

1.2 Central Executive Committee Strategy

Under the approval of the National Council the detailed activities of BMP are implemented by the policy making body of organization, the central executive committee. The committee meets once a month and is accountable to the National Council for all its decisions. The National Council meets once a year whereas a national conference is held once every three years. The local units deal issues and concerns of the grass root levels, whereas policy decisions are considered by the central executive committee, the national council and/or the national conference.

1.3 BMP and its Administrative and Program Components

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad

Program Component:

BMP has planned to increase its institutional and professional development within the organization so that professionally skilled work forces could be engaged in implementing projects more effectively and efficiently. BMP has human resource (HR) and logistic support plans in the program budget which will be implemented throughout the project period. Some of the achievements have been mentioned below:

Technical Assistance:

A Chartered Account firm has assisted BMP to improve its management system through technical assistance. The firm helped with regards to the management of financial, administrative, HR issues. In addition to this they also assisted with training activities in order to implement a strong policy and system guideline. So far a manual draft policy for finance, accounting, HR and internal audit has been made.

Recruitment:

BMP has recruited ten program executives for branches. They are to primarily oversee the development of branch management. Apart from the ten recruits an investigative officer, media and relation officer, training and research officer, senior accountant and accountant were hired.

BMP advertised in the national dailies in order to recruit employees for the positions mentioned above. The candidates had to face an interview with a board of experts and an aptitude test.

Accounting Practices:

BMP has given more emphasis to complete all accounting functions on time so that the information will be available to management for decisions to be made. BMP has already achieved most of the recommendations made

by an external auditor to overcome problems and it is understood that the remaining recommendations will be followed by year end.

Financial Governance:

BMP has a formal finance committee comprising of some CC members and accounts personnel. 6 meetings were conducted during the period of January to June 2006. Jobs are allocated for the finance and administrative executives who are responsible for achieving targets.

HR Management:

The organization believes in having a strong, skilled and disciplined workforce to implement projects. During the reporting period BMP arranged monthly staff meetings to coordinate staff members and their activities.

Gender Policy

Gender policy has been updated through a collective participatory process from May '06. Several meetings were held on this regard where

- Previous policy and program has been updated
- Analytical study of the policy has been made
- The program has been analysed
- Brain storming session was held
- Finally the policy has finalised on 11.11.06

Procurement and Others:

BMP has a purchase committee to deal with procurements. Computers and other fixed assets have been purchased as per need of projects during the reporting period. Branches were given support for telecommunication and other needs. It has been planned that branches will be provided with computers and printers as their capacity development needs arise.

1.4 Purpose and Objectives of the Annual Report

This report presents the progress of BMP's activities during 2006. The notion of women's rights in contemporary development discourse had gathered its roots originally within the perimeter of universal human rights. From this vantage point it can be ascertained that various circumstances that tend to affect human rights in some way or another have a significant impact on the rights of women. BMP's foundation is built on the cornerstone of this very

same theoretical premise of women's human rights. Throughout the period under review BMP has been involved in various activities that have tried to promote the rights of women in Bangladesh. The following is a detailed description of BMP's performance in terms of achievements of desired outputs within the prescribed period.

2. International Women's Rights, CEDAW and Bangladesh

Background and International Context

During the last two decades, many global initiatives had been taken to promote and enforce women's rights. They include the Declaration of the Decade for Women (1975-85), the adoption of the Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1979 (ratified by Bangladesh in 1984), four World Conferences on Women, the adoption by consensus of the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies (1985), and the Beijing Platform for Action (1995). In spite of all these initiatives, progress in the achievement of women's rights has been slow world-wide.

When the assessment of the implementation of the forward-looking strategies was carried out for the Fourth World Conference on Women, it was acknowledged that a decade after Nairobi, equality between and men has not been achieved. The Fourth World Conference on Women has brought fresh commitment to the realization of women's equal rights. This conference again emphasized that State actions at national level in fulfilling their obligations to women have yet to be systematically monitored and used as a base by women for advocacy.

CEDAW defines discrimination against women as “any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality with men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedom, in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.” (Article 1)

Also worldwide there is increasing recognition of the prevalence and magnitude of violence against women. It is increasingly seen as a violation of women's rights and a barrier to women enjoyment of other rights. Gender-based violence is a form of discrimination that seriously inhibits women's ability to enjoy rights and freedoms on a basis of equality with men “Gender-based violence, which impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of human rights and fundamental freedoms under general international law or under human rights conventions, is discrimination within the meaning of article 1 of the Convention.” (CEDAW GR 19, para 7)

“The definition of discrimination includes gender-based violence, that is, violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately. It includes acts that inflict physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty. Gender-based violence may breach specific provisions of the Convention, regardless of whether those provisions expressly mention violence”. (CEDAW GR 19, para 6)

By ratifying the Convention, the Bangladesh Government binds itself to implementing its provisions. Article Two on State obligations states that “ State parties condemn discrimination against women in all its forms, agree to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating discrimination against women”. This includes abolishing all existing laws, customs and regulations that are discriminatory, establishing legal protection for women's rights, and taking “appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women by any person, organization or enterprise.

The platform of action elaborates on a number of strategic objectives and actions to address certain critical areas of concern. Moreover, the Platform has delineated institutional arrangements that lay down guidelines for government action and accountability. The Platform also sees a role for non-governmental and grass-roots organizations in creating a social, economic, political and intellectual climate necessary for change. Such organizations also play a key role in monitoring the implementation of the Platform for Action and the action taken by governments to achieve equality between men and women (IWRRAW, Concept paper, 1998).

2.1 BMP and CEDAW

BMP is one such organization who believes that women’s empowerment can be achieved by lobbying, advocacy, capacity building and resisting VAW. From this vantage point BMP has organized various activities programs, workshops, consultations and discussions, which have coalesced and pushed towards establishing women’s rights. BMP adheres to the principles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (**CEDAW**), adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly and the **Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)**, adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 44/25 on 20th of November 1989. In its organizational stride BMP supports these theoretical aspirations of human rights and child rights in all their activities. BMP also understands the need for a participatory democracy and the foundation of good governance in order to protect the rights of the poor and marginalized, as a result the need to promote good governance and human rights are a vital aspect of all of BMP’s undertakings.

BMP as an organization came into existence on the 4th of April 1970. BMP was formally registered in April 1976 under the Societies Act 1860 and with the NGO Affairs Bureau in the November of 1992. It is primarily a member

based organization which follows a strict participatory method of organization. From the management team of the organization to the executive committee along with all members of the grass root level contribute in the planning, designing, implementing of all of BMP's activities. It operates through seven administrative levels. Each of these levels has a defined set of tasks. Similar to a structural functionalist approach each administrative level integrates with the next to form a logical framework for the entire organization. Generally girls and women aged 16 years and above from any religious/ethnic/socio economic background can be eligible for membership. BMP hopes to attract more proactive women in order to strengthen the organization through diversity in membership. The following is a list of the various areas of intervention by BMP:

- Providing support through rehabilitation centres
- Providing legal aid and movements to establish women's human rights
- Implementing income generating initiatives
- Research and training
- Awareness through mass media and networking
- Advocacy and lobbying for various issues such as health, environment and social welfare
- Publication and library facilities

BMP hopes to integrate concerns and issues pertaining towards women's rights into the mainstream development agenda. 2006 has been a year riddled with political instability, religious extremism and weakening of government agencies. Throughout this tumultuous year BMP has still managed to move forward with their various activities and in many occasions have crossed various thematic borders in order to achieve their goals. In the same token it should also be mentioned that BMP has been struggling to meet various deadlines due to the various hartals, blockades and government interventions. It should be mentioned that the amendment of the National Women Development Policy '97 has created various obstacles towards BMP's advancement in ensuring women's human rights. One of the highlights of BMP's activities as published in the Daily Star (29/8/06) was a press conference organized by Samajik Protirodh Committee where the General Secretary of BMP in her deliberation urged political parties to include the gender in their election manifestos. The women's rights activists at the press conference reiterated their demand for restoration of the National Women Development '97 without any change. BMP further stated that the NWD Policy '97 paved the way for women's development as representatives from women's and human rights organization worked together in preparing the policy. They have argued that the coalition government brought about radical changes in the policy in 2004. This was done without any discussion in the ministerial meeting and related committees. BMP's statement also focused on the fact that key terms such as 'equal rights', 'equal

partnership' and 'equal dignity' were purposefully left out from the revised policy in 2004. This had led to barriers to be formed once again against establishing women's rights.

Social Action Committee

The Social Action Committee came about from the changing political situation of 2001. BMP realized that during the time a strong platform was required to bring about and strengthen the current voice on women's rights issues. To achieve this end various women's rights and human rights organizations as well as development agencies came into collaboration to form a unified platform. The central committee of BMP approached the directors of the various organizations and on the basis of their dynamic and flexible approach decided to advance towards a platform through dialogue and discussion. The dialogues and discussions which were exchanged between BMP and the like minded organizations revolved around identifying the key issues regarding women's rights during the time (example: the issue of women's rights violations of minority women in 2001).

The principle issue was to sensitize the government, the state and society over the violation of rights of women and girl children in Bangladesh. This platform went on to bring about the empowerment of women through its various activities which included: demanding number of women's seats in parliament, lobbying and advocacy for holding direct elections as well as mobilizing the political empowerment of all women in Bangladesh.

The platform was also involved in building awareness regarding women's rights as well as drafting recommendations to the government. A continual effort was made by the platform through various dialogue sharing discussions and issuance of statements with political parties and government agencies. One of the principle steps which were taken by the social action committee was in 2006 where along with BMP the social action committee demanded the reestablishment of the 1997 of the National Women Development Policy (NWDP) which had been drastically changed. It has to be mentioned that BMP protested against the doctored women's development policy and demanded the rightful reestablishment of the '97 policy through various multi faceted movements. At the same time BMP facilitated the movement which intended to bring about the political empowerment of women in the grassroots level (Union Parishad level). In order to reestablish the 1997 NWDP a demand statement was presented to the then Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and the leader of the opposition of the National Parliament Sheikh Hasina. Along with the 14 party coalition and Dr. Kamal Hossain the platform presented the demand statement which consisted of four key demands:

- To bring about direct elections for the reserved seats for women in parliament
- To reestablish the 1997 NWDP
- To stop violence on a national scale and to prevent discrimination of women's rights and its elimination
- To bring about the empowerment of women's seats at the grassroots level where elected women officials would have increased funds and decision making authority; to bring about the issue of political empowerment of women through the rightful division of responsibilities among commissioners

It was centrally decided that the social action committee will need to have branch offices in the various zilas where the networking women and human rights organizations had their programs. Once these branch extensions of the social action committee were established it was their responsibility to carry out various programs and activities concerning women's rights issues. This eventually brought about a united and consistent effort through the social action committee on a national scale which integrated the state government and the civil society towards political empowerment of women. This intention which is now a national scale reality is growing in strength to strength with each passing day.

BMP as an organization as well as being the secretariat of the social action committee were actively involved regarding these demands in 2006. During 2006 the International Women's Day was celebrated through this united platform 'The social action committee' on the 8th of March. Through the 8th of March collaboration the social action committee, which was comprised of a coalition of 42 like minded rights based organizations, gained credibility as well as recognition on a mass scale. What this shows is that the social action committee has jointly come together year after year showing inherent solidarity for the greater cause as well as the strength in a common ideology. The social action committee is built on the strength of all its parts. This shows that each organization within the committee has held true to their beliefs and has proven themselves through responsible decision making, competence, transparency and accountability. BMP have demonstrated and contributed to the social action committee since its inception with their commendable flexible and dynamic approach. The platform has come a long way and still shows great promise to develop and progress. In the future good governance and democratic participation along with political empowerment of women will make this platform to be stronger to carry the cause of women's rights.

The following is a list of some of the activities of the social action committee:

- Compilation and presentation of demand statement
- Dialogue and discussion with political parties, civil societies and government agencies
- Press conference and rallies to bring about the implementation of the high court order against fatwa

- 700 grassroots representatives from 33 organizations in 6 groups, took part in the national convention 2006 whose intention was to demand the reestablishment of the 1997 NWDP

The following is a summary of the recommendations which came out from the group work of the convention:

- To bring about the reestablishment of the 1997 NWDP without any conditions and changes
- Demanding all political parties and coalitions to not only the 1997 NWDP but to integrate it into their election manifesto as well as bring about its unconditional implementation into the national agenda.
- Through the legal amendment of the constitution equal distribution of resources should be ensured without any prejudice based on gender, ethnicity, religion, race or creed.
- Equality is the cornerstone of women's empowerment. This word cannot be excluded from the national agenda because its exclusion will automatically lead to violation of women's rights
- A clear guideline has to be established for all economic and development activities which will integrate women's issues as well as bring about their views into the decision making process before implementation
- The reserved women's seats in the parliament should be allowed to have direct elections the numbers of seats have to be increased by 1/3rd which is equal to 100 seats. This rule has to be made to last for three terms.
- 30% participation has to be ensured in all political parties, legal divisions, parliament, executive divisions, cultural sector and sport sector
- To ensure equal authority and responsibility for all women representatives at the unison parishad level, pouroshobha city corporation and elected commissioners and members of all government agencies
- At the ward level responsibilities and securities need to be distributed equally for all development initiatives among elected women officials. Furthermore women representatives at the local government level shall receive equal honorariums and salaries as their male counterparts.
- In all development and economic programs disabled women will be required to be integrated into the mainstream process along with mainstreaming disabled women the following services should also be provided; which include child care services, day care centres in the workplace and sheltering health and entertainment facilities for all old, handicapped and disabled women and children.

3. Highlights of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad in the Media

The following stories in the national dailies are some of the highlights of BMP's activities for the year 2006: -

Daily Star, 24 December 2006, "Increase Seats for Women in JS for Political Empowerment". In a workshop speakers called for increasing the number of reserved for women in parliament from 45 to 100 to ensure political empowerment. Speakers further emphasised that the seats should not be fixed for any particular constituency rather they must rotate in turn among all 300 constituencies. The workshop was entitled 'Democratic State, Women's Political Empowerment and Role of Media'. It was organized by BMP at BIAM auditorium in the Dhaka. Barrister Sara Hossain focused on different verdicts of the high court during previous governments and expressed her concern over its current state of affairs. She further added 'Movement for Protecting the Independence of Judiciary' is not only the lawyers' movement but also the movement of everybody. *Bhorer Kagoj*, 21 December 2006, "Demand for the arrest of Foteyabaj Mufti from Sunamganj". This press conference was organized in the national press club where women's rights activist Ayesha Khanum read out a written demand. The press briefing emphasised the announcement of all Fotowabaji to be illegal. Furthermore a demand was made to arrest Mufti Abdus Sobhan from Nayapara village in Sunamganj and sentence him to exemplary punishment for conducting Foteyabaj in the area.

There were various steps for good governance and democratic system and BMP gave its effort for its pre planned activities regarding this issue. At the same time BMP tried to meet the need of the then practical situation. BMP as a dynamic organization always try to act in a flexible way such as on the basis of free, fair transparent elections system BMP participated in the rallies of United Women's Movement (Peshajibi Nari Samaj) with the demand of independent election commission and for free, fair and neutral election. *Samakal*, 8 December 2006, Demanding Eve Teasing to be a Criminal Offence. BMP organized a dialog with youth representatives especially students from schools colleges and universities. In this discussion various problems regarding the ill effects of eve teasing were discussed openly. Cases were depicted where young women were forced to commit suicide due to incessant eve teasing in their neighbourhoods. BMP believes that through open dialog and discussions regarding sensitive social issues among the youth would lead to solutions to these problems. *Daily Star*, 27 November 2006, Vow to Establish Equal Rights for Women. The Samajik Protirodh Committee at the National Press Club organized the meeting in observance of the seventh death anniversary of Sufia Kamal, the founding president of BMP. Various journalists, political activists and woman activists were present in the occasion. Participants reminisced over the experiences of the poet Sufia Kamal and of those associated with her. It was observed that BMP has made considerable advancements in enhancing women's rights as the poet envisioned. *Janakantha*, 6 November 2006 Findings of BMP's Report: Over 500 Rapes in the past 5 Years. In the past 5 years the country has seen 5225 rape cases of which 3323 were inflicted by individuals and 932 were gang rape cases. 46% of these rape cases have taken place in

the Upazila level. Findings also suggest that girls from the ages 11 to 15 were the largest numbers of victims. The report was entitled 'Dhorshon Chitro 2000 – 2004' published by BMP.

4. Findings and Analysis for Jan-Dec 2006

4.1 Component 1: Violence Against Women is Resisted

Target Description: Support provided to branches - 59 branches for legal activism and basic support to 40 branches in the 1st year

Achievement and Analysis: The branches were provided with logistic and legal support throughout the entire year of 2006. With the financial support these individual branches were able continue their legal aid activities with increased efficiency and affectivity. Moreover due to the in depth coverage of the respective areas each branch office has also gained more familiarity with the various situations and concerns surrounding legal activism against violence on women.

40 branches in the first year were provided with logistic support through which they were able to continue and manage their organizational responsibilities with due precision and professionalism. As a result these 40 branches gained real relationships through their communication with the mass people. With the institutional and technical support provided the branch offices are further strengthened in resisting violence against women. This continual support has been the cornerstone of BMPs agenda in restricting gender abuse and violence.

Target Description: Provided Legal Support to Victims of Violence. Estimated target 18 cases per year at the central level.

Achievement and Analysis: For the period January to June '06, fifteen cases received legal support and for the following July to December period ten legal support provisions were provided to the victims of violence. Among these total 25 cases, 20 were filed in the lower court and were tried in the high court.

Target description: Provide counselling (25 at central, 300 at branch and 800 at grassroots levels)

Achievement and Analysis: A total of 181 counselling's held at the central level and 1164 counselling's were held at the branch or grass root level for the period January to June 2006. In the remaining part of the year 138 counselling's were held at the central level and 900 in branch/grassroots level. In achieving their target for providing counselling, BMP has surpassed both of its target number of counselling in the central and the branch/grassroots level. One of the underlying reasons for this would be increase in awareness and acceptance among the women communities along with the male members of the society on a mass scale.

Target description: Provide mediation (25 at central, 25 at branch and 75 at grassroots levels each)

Achievement and Analysis: For the first half of the year 54 mediations were held at the central level. Whereas 526 were held at the branch/grassroots level. For the remaining part of the year 26 mediations were held at the central level and 334 at branch/grassroots level. Similarly to the acceptance in counselling BMPs mediation activities have also gained mass people support in the various central branch and grassroots hearings.

Target description: Provide Medicare for victims of violence

Achievement and Analysis: For the period January to June 2006, 7 victims of violence were provided with Medicare facilities. The following names are the recipients of these facilities with the corresponding nature of violent experiences.

- Jaheda Begum, victim of Acid burn of Dhaka
- Dilruba Akhter, UP member, victim of Acid burn of Kishoreganj
- Meneka, victim of Gang rape of Gaibandha committed suicide afterwards
- Shamoli Rani Nandi, psychological patient of Satkhira
- Sharmin Akhter, victim of dowry of Munshiganj
- Naima Khondoker, victim of kidnapping of Dhaka
- Manju Begum, victim of domestic violence of Dhaka

Target description: Conduct investigation and spot visits (25/ year)

Achievement and Analysis: 20 investigations were made in the first half the year followed by 12 investigations in the 2nd half of the year. It can be seen that women who are facing violence in the community level are starting to respond to the various support mechanisms offered but BMP. BMP has shown that in a sensitive issue like investigation it has surpassed its target considerable.

Target description: Provide food & health service to the inmates of shelter home (Rokeya Sadan.)

Achievement and Analysis: For the period January to June 2006 a total of 22 inmates and for July – Dec 2006 18 inmates were provided with basic shelter, food, education and health service in Rokeya Sadan (RS). 22 inmates were provided shelter during this period and as this is a rotational process some of the inmates were rehabilitated during this period. In January '06 there were 23 inmates, in March'06 21, in May'06 24 and in June'06 21. This pattern of support shows that the RS has not only provided the initial support required for rehabilitation but it also has the base strength to bring the victims back into mainstream society through continual care and supervision.

Target description: Provide clothing, toiletries & utilities for inmates

Achievement and Analysis: The inmates were provided with clothing and toiletries to maintain personal hygiene and better living conditions. On the occasion of Eid Ul Azha inmates were provided with festive attires and other amenities. They were also provided with warm clothing for the coming winter season.

Target description: Conduct counselling & provide education, recreation tour, IG & job facilitation

Achievement and Analysis: for the period of January to June 2006 counselling and education was provided to all inmates. A recreational tour was planned and designed during this period and was expected to be held y December 2006. In the second half of the year the tour was made to Sonargaon with all the inmates in September. Furthermore three counselling were held during this period. The first of which was held in the central office and the other two were held in BIRDEM and Mukti Clinic respectively. Prof. Dr. Anwara Syed Haque and Dr. Jhunu Samsunnahar presided over the counselling sessions. A sharing was held on 24.04.06 at the central office between the members of Rokeya Sadan Unit and the inmates. Sristi (a retail outlet) is functioning with handicrafts, home made food products & spices for income generation.

Target description: Conduct skill development training for inmates and others

Achievement and Analysis: In the first period of the year skill development training was conducted for the inmates. The trainings were basically given on skills that would lead to income generation such as boutiques, sewing, drawing and music training.

4.2 Component 2: Political Empowerment of Women is Promoted

Target Description: Promote mainstreaming of women in electoral politics (5 women/year)

Achievement and Analysis: BMP is looking to promote women participation in electoral politics during the election period at the local government level.

Target Description: Training workshop to conduct mainstreaming of women in electoral politics

Achievement and Analysis: This is scheduled for the first part of the period January to June 2007 which falls under the 3rd year year of the current operation strategy for this project of BMP.

Target Description: Conduct national level workshop on experiences and self-assessment about the activities of UP/ Pouroshava members

Achievement and Analysis: For the period January to June 2006 a 2-day long workshop on experiences and assessment of the activities of UP/Pouroshava members was held on 3-4 Feb 2006 at BIAM Auditorium. Furthermore national level workshops played a very integral role in creating political support for the cause of women representation. The workshop entitled "Strong Local Government: A Major Step for Establishing Democratic State" was held with around 300 women representatives of local government. Speakers at the workshop demanded equal participation of women and their empowerment in Local Government to strengthen it. They mentioned that male representatives of local government are not cooperating with their women counter part in development activities. The women representatives had very little authority and their remuneration is also quite low compared to the male representatives instead of their equal participation in local government.

Target Description: Conduct exchange of views/ dialogue/ roundtable/ meeting/ discussions/ workshops (divisional level)

Achievement and Analysis: In the first half of the year a 2-day divisional workshop was held in Barisal CARITAS for UP & Pouroshova members on 21-22 April 2006 to increase and encourage women's participation in politics. A workshop entitled "From Grassroots to Parliament: Equal Participation in Decision Making Process " was held in Barisal on 21-22 April, 2006. 110 representatives from 7 different branches of Barisal division (Barguna, Bhola, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Swarupkathi, Jhalokathi and Kaukhali) participated in the workshop. 6 recommendations came up from the group work of the workshop, which includes:

- Restoration of National Women Development Policy '97
- Local government to cooperate with the elected women members in the development work of their respective constituency
- Equal share of power distribution among the elected male and female UP members

- Direct election system to be established instead of selection system
- Prevailing fundamentalism and terrorist activities throughout the country to be prohibited
- Women who have displayed honesty and sensitivity towards gender issues are to be elected through the direct election system.

Target Description: Conduct exchange of views/ dialogue/ roundtable meeting/ discussion

Achievement and Analysis: A roundtable was held on 3rd June '06 at CIRDAP auditorium demanding the restoration of Changed National Women Development Policy '97. The speakers in the round table said the NWDP '97 was prepared in the light of Beijing Plus Ten conference and Convention on the Elimination of All Sorts of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) document, which were helpful for the advancement of women in the country. The amendment is political and it has been changed only to serve the interest of a particular political party with certain political ideologies. They called upon all other political parties to come forward along with women rights organizations to resist the amendment.

Presided over by BMP President, the meeting was addressed among others by its General Secretary & Movement Secretary, leaders of different political parties, economist, and lawyers, representative of different women & human rights organization and members of civil society.

4.3 Component 3: Women's Human Rights Movement Accelerated Through Intensified Networking

Target Description: Organize sharing meetings for networking with NGOs/ women's rights/ human rights organization/ media and civil society (local, regional & global experiences dissemination, develop strategies lobby advocacy)

Achievement and Analysis: It was decided in the first half of the year the target would be achieved in December 2006. A sharing on the Gender Review 2006 was held on 18.11.2006. Sharing on the Gender Review of BMP held in 2006 was held on 18.11.2006 at the Central Office with the Executive Committee members. 14 members expressed their views on the issue

Target Description: Conduct motivational programs for men and women at grassroots level for raising awareness on WTHR issue (5 programs/year)

Achievement and Analysis: 2 motivational programs were held during the first half of the year. 2 more programs were held in the second half. Four motivational programs were held in Barguna and Swarupkathi on 7 and 8 April 2006, in Kalmakanda on 26.12.06 and in Pirojpur on 26.8.06. In Barguna the numbers of participants were 15 while in Swarupkathi 22. In Kalmakanda the numbers were 67 and in Pirojpur 52 men and women participated in the program. They vowed to work for the establishment of women's human rights in the country.

Target Description: Conduct awareness raising programs for adolescent health and reproductive right of young girls and women at school/ college and university level (6 programs/year)

Achievement and Analysis: BMP arranged a discussion on Safe Motherhood: Women Empowerment at CIRDP auditorium on 28.5.2006. Similar program were also held in Sunamganj, Barisal, Pirojpur, Kumarkhali, Modhukhali, Rangpur, Tangail, Rajbari, Natore, Mymensingh, Bagerhat and Narayanganj. Programs on awareness raising on adolescent health and reproductive rights was held on 5.3.2006 at UCEP School, Mirpur, Dhaka. Branches being imbued with the central program arranged similar programs in their respective areas to create awareness among the young girls and women of schools and colleges regarding the same issues. The areas were Rangpur, Sunamganj, Modhukhali, Faridpur, Kalmakanda, Pirojpur and Mymensingh. The speakers in the discussion criticized the government and the opposition for not observing the International Day for Women Health not event with a statement. They mentioned that the maternal mortality rate is still high in Bangladesh among the neighboring countries. About 13,000 mothers died of complexity during giving birth to children each year in our country. They opined that Bangladesh needs commitment to reduce the maternal mortality through strengthening its efforts at the District, Thana and Union level. The participants demanded frequent such programs in their areas, which help them to gather experience in this regard.

4.4 Component 4: Establishing BMP as a Lobbying and Advocacy Agent:

Target Description: Conduct meeting, human chain, rallies/ press conference for establishing constitutional rights of women (4 events/year)

Achievement and Analysis: Programs were held in the second half of the year. Human chains were held in Rajbari on 3.8.2006 in front of Press Club, in Dinajpur on 2.9.2006 in front of Press Club and in Kumarkhali on 24.7. 2006 in Kumarkhali Bus stand. In all the places people from all walks of life including the civil society members, students, teachers, lawyers and BMP representatives enthusiastically participated in the programs to establish the constitutional rights of women.

Target Description: Conduct exchange of views for situation analysis of CEDAW implementation (1 in central, 3 in branches)

Achievement and Analysis: In the first half of the year, views were exchanged for CEDAW implementation in Kurigram on 29.6.2006 and in Bagerhat on 8.6.2006. A seminar was held on a seminar on the situation analysis of implementation of UNCEDAW in Bangladesh held on 03.09.2006 at the CIRDAP auditorium

Target Description: Organize women's rally at division level for resisting violence and establishing constitutional rights

Achievement and Analysis A rally demanding the establishment of constitutional rights and to resist VAW was held on 21.07. 2006 in Savar. The rally consisted of 125 participants included general members, organizers and central members of Savar branch of BMP. The large number of people in the rally suggested that the rally was both popular and necessary at the division level. Cases of violence and violation of constitutional rights at the divisional level has always been a major focus of BMP therefore this rally denotes an increasing acceptance regarding this issue.

Target Description: Conduct seminars/workshops/press conferences/rallies on VAW, UFC & Law Reform

Achievement and Analysis: A press conference was held on 03.11.'06 at the Conference room of National Press Club. In the conference 85 participants were present including 48 journalists from different printing and electronic media were present the conference expressed deep concern on the increasing rate of Fatwa and VAW and female children.

Target Description: Organize roundtable discussion/lobbying for reform of legislative system, introduction and improvement of medico-legal system, etc (1 program at central)

Achievement and Analysis: Sharing on the reformation of Citizenship Act with the members of civil society was held on 19.07.2006 at CIRDAP auditorium. The members of civil society discussed on the recommendations regarding the Citizenship Act. A total of 125 participants were participated in the sharing.

Target Description: Submit deputation & memorandum to concerned law enforcement authorities.

Achievement and Analysis: In the first half of the year from January to June 2006, 552 memorandums and 3131 deputations were sent to the concerned law enforcement authorities. 354 memorandums and 1175 deputations were sent to the concerned law enforcing agencies during July to December 2006.

Target Description: Conduct workshop for journalist for media professional

Achievement and Analysis: A workshop entitled “Democratic State, Women’s Political Empowerment and Role of Media” was held on 23.12.2006 at BIAM auditorium. 88 journalists participated in the day long program with 19 journalists from different branches of Dhaka division. Being grouped in 4 groups the participants participated in the group work and deliberately placed their suggestions in different issues

Target Description: Organize dialogue/ exchange of views on the report with editors and news editors (1 program at central level)

Achievement and Analysis: A day long seminar was held on fundamentalism is the main hindrance to human rights on 23.01.2006 at the National Press Club. The speakers in the seminar identified the present political trend and social inequality as hindrances to human rights and said that both the major political parties have been using religion to achieve political gains. The seminar was attended by 109 participants including representatives of women and human rights organizations, professors of Dhaka University and elites of the city. In a written speech BMP representative demanded restoration of the Constitution of 1972, a ban on religion based political parties and immediate trial of bomb attackers. BMP representative further mentioned that not only Muslim women but also the Ethnic minority groups are affected by fundamentalists.

The speakers said that a culture of fear has been created in the country through violence in the name of religion, which makes people inactive and urged the politicians to protect the country from the situation. They hailed the role of journalists who are continuing their relentless efforts to protect human rights in this condition.

Target Description: Conduct exchange of views on the report with producers of electronic media (1 program at central level)

Achievement and Analysis: A sharing was held on 9.10.06 at the VIP Lounge of the National Press Club. The sharing entitled Call of BMP to the women and the people of the country regarding the ensuing 9th Parliamentary election was held at the VIP Lounge of National Press Club. A total of 98 participants including chief reporter, senior reporter and photo journalists of different printing and electronic media participated in the sharing

Target Description: Conduct study circle (12/ year)

Achievement and Analysis: Six study circles were conducted each in the two halves of 2006. The circles discussed on selected issues and open discussion as well. Young women of different local units of Dhaka took part in the circles. They are motivated and afterwards being imbued with the activities of BMP participated in various programs, enthusiastically. Besides, central office, different branches has already started conducting study circles involving their young members.

Target Description: Produce & exhibit TV spots/ publish special supplement in national dailies on Political Empowerment

Achievement and Analysis: TV spots to be produced and exhibited by Dec '06. Special supplement on political empowerment in national dailies has published by BMP representatives. The articles were published in different national dailies on Political Empowerment by BMP representative:

- Economic self sufficiency is the main condition for women empowerment on 17.1.2006.
- Tomorrow's Bangladesh: Perspective Women on 12.2.2006.
- Establish women's equal participation in every tier for running the government on 18.3.2006.

4.5 Component 5: Capacity Building of BMP

Target Description: Conduct legal literacy training for young women

Achievement and Analysis: A total of 200 participants and 6 teachers were present in the training.

Target Description: Conduct legal aid training at branch level

Achievement and Analysis: 18 training programs were held. Training programs were held in Narayanganj, Munshiganj Sunamganj, Moulovi Bazar, Gazipur, Kapashia, Dhaka City, Chittagong, Rangamati, Cox's Bazar, Norsingdi, Muktagasa, Netrokona, Nilphamari, Gaibandha, Rangpur, Jhalokathi and Swarupkathi.

Target Description: Conduct Village Watch Committee training (10 persons/training, 1 training/year)

Achievement and Analysis: Training of Village Watch Committee was held in Belabo on 22.09.2006. 30 participants including members both junior and senior and representatives of civil society were present. The age structure of the participants were made up of a combination of youth and experience in order to bring about a comprehensive watch committee which can understand the need of the future without compromising core values and principle of the past.

Target Description: Conduct training for mid-level organizers at divisional level

Achievement and Analysis: 2-day training for mid-level organizers at divisional level was held in Dinajpur on 1 & 2 September 2006. The 2- day awareness and capacity building training for the mid-level organizers for Rajshahi division was participated by 54 district and thana organizers of 8 districts of the division.

Target Description: Technical assistance

Achievement and Analysis: M.A Quader Kabir & Co been appointed for Technical Assistance on Finance and Management of BMP since February 2006 for 1 year. Technical Assistant, M.A Quader Kabir & Co. has submitted 4 Manuals to BMP. These are: Accounting Manual, Financial Governance Manual, Human Resource Policy & Internal Audit Manual.

Target Description: Conduct national & branch level basic training for young women

Achievement and Analysis: A 2- day basic training for young women was held on 1 & 2 December 2006 at Barisal. 48 young organizers from 8 districts of Barisal division participated in the training. They participated in a group work and presented their recommendations.

Target Description: Conduct training on organizational capacity building (12 training in 2nd year, 25 persons/training)

Achievement and Analysis: 2 trainings for organizational capacity building were conducted in the first half of 2006. 9 training sessions were held for awareness raising and capacity build up of the branch organizers from July to December 2006. Capacity building training were provided to the members of Rangamati and Kalmakanda on 6 & 13 of May '06 respectively. Jhenaidah on 8.7.2006, Nilphamari on 22.07.2006, Bagerhat on 29.07.2006, Kishoreganj on 18.08.2006 , Tongi on 23.09.2006, Dhaka City on 7.7.2006, Tangail on 4.8.2006 and Norsingdi & Narayanganj on 22.12.2006. Central BMP representatives were the resource persons. The participants were facilitated with practical methods of capacity building training.

Target Description: Provide local travel cost for organizational tour

Achievement and Analysis: Provided local travel cost for organizational tour during January to June 2006. During January to June 2006 BMP central representatives conducted 18 tours to different branches The branches are Gazipur, Kishoreganj, Mymensingh, Barguna , Swarupkathi, Norsingdi, Kapashia Rangamati , Netrokona , Chandina , Brahmanbaria, Kalmakanda , Tangail , Rajbari , Muktagasa , Khulna and Kumarkhali. In the second half of the year another 12 tours were made during this period in Magura, Jessore, Jhenaidah, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Nilphamari, Rangpur, Bagerhat, Manikganj, Karimganj, Jhalokathi and Pabna.

Target Description: Conduct staff skill development training on Computer/ Introducing MIS (15 persons in 2nd year)

Achievement and Analysis: 15 staff members were provided with computer training by the end of 2006. Program executives of 10 different branches were provided with Computer training from 11- 20 Dec'06 in two phases. They were provided with the basic knowledge MS-Word, MS-Excel, Power Point and other computing skills.

Target Description: Purchase Computer, UPS, Stabilizer for central & branch offices (32 by year end);

Purchase of Printer for central & branches (27 by year end);

Achievement and Analysis: Purchased by year-end.

Target Description: Maintenance of Generator & Fuel; Purchase of furniture & fixture

Achievement and Analysis: Generator maintenance is continuing. Chairs, tables and intercom telephone were purchased in 2006.

Target Description: Telecommunication cost for branch offices

Achievement and Analysis: Branches are providing with telecommunication costs for their offices. 42 branches were provided with telecommunication costs for their offices.

Target Description: Conduct internal annual planning, reviews/workshop (1 program/year)

Achievement and Analysis: Internal Annual Planning done on 9th and 10th December 2006. The 2-day Internal Planning Review Workshop was participated by 246 organizers from 37 branches of BMP. Group work was held for the recommendations of the branch organizers.

Target Description: Establish linkages with GOs/NGOs & local initiatives to promote economic empowerment (skill development training on designing, food processing, handicraft for job facilitation for women)

Achievement and Analysis: Linkages were established with Rajshahi & Barisal branch for the job facilitation of women for their economic empowerment.

Target Description: Publish BMP's activities on resisting VAW & on UFC

Achievement and Analysis: Activities on UFC were published.

Target Description: Publish Mahila Samachar (4 issues/year)

Achievement and Analysis: 4 issues (Jan '06 -Mar '06), (Apr '06-June'06), (July'06-Sept'06) and (Oct'06-Dec'06) has been published.

Target Description: Distribute Mahila Samachar

Achievement and Analysis: 4 issues of Mahila Samachar were published and distributed among the branches accordingly.

Target Description: Publish Annual Rreport in Bengali

Achievement and Analysis: Annual Report in Bengali has been published and distributed among the branch representatives on 9 & 10 December 2006. The Annual Report was distributed to the 59 branches of BMP.

Target Description: Print posters (4 per year), leaflets (3 per year)

Achievement and Analysis: 3 issues of posters on CEDAW day, International Women's day and International Fortnight to Resist VAW were published during July – December 2006. 2 issues of leaflets on Founding Anniversary of BMP and ensuing 9th Parliamentary election were published. The posters and leaflets were distributed to the branches, embassies, different NGO's, W&HR organizations and to the members of civil society.

Target Description: Print reports and materials (Training)

Achievement and Analysis: Report on Training of Trainers (TOT) published.

5. Case Studies

Name: Rita

Age: 12

Nature of VAW: Violence – Victim of Rape by Traffic Police

Location: Shabujbagh, Dhaka

Rita came to Dhaka from Mymensingh to work as a domestic aid in a household. Due to the excessive nature of tasks and incessant domestic abuse she was forced to run away from the house. She intended to take a bus and go back to her hometown. At Jatrabari intersection in Dhaka a traffic police by the name of Md. Azadul Islam (constable # 19507) of Shabujbagh Thana promised Rita that he would help get the right bus home. Instead he manipulated her to go into his own house where she was kept for a week against her will and was abused physically, mentally and sexually. She was the victim of repeated rape and violence and Azadul Islam threatened to kill her if she revealed anything. Out of fear and desperation Rita stopped eating that led to further deterioration of her health and mental stability. The Ahmedbagh branch of BMP was the first to hear of Rita's plight. They rescued her from that house and brought her to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where she was admitted immediately due to her grave condition. Later she was treated at the One Stop Crisis Centre. Rita filed a case after her recovery under Article 9(1) of the Women and Children Discrimination Act (amended 2003). Furthermore a letter was sent to the Prime Minister urging her to take immediate action to ensure justice. The copies of the letter were also sent out to the Home Minister, the Inspector General of Police, DC, SP, ADC and the Officer in Charge. Upon meeting the Inspector General of Police, a demand note for due punishment of the officer concerned was presented. Upon hearing the news Rita's mother came to the Dhaka BMP office where she requested legal aid support from BMP.

After her release from the OCC Rita was to be taken to the BMP shelter on Rokeya Sadan though due notification of concerned authorities. The court disallowed Rita to be taken to the BMP shelter and ordered her to be sent to the government shelter. BMP lawyers appealed the decision of the court and finally managed to get Rita to stay at the BMP shelter. A divisional investigation is currently being carried against the offender under BMP's request. BMP have actively provided support to the investigation furthermore BMP members have given crucial support in the rescue of the victim also ensuring the witnesses give due testimonies in support of the investigation.

A complaint has been lodged at the end of the investigation. The offender has been missing since the onset of investigation. BMP is continually sending out advertisements in the national dailies to find him. At present Rita is residing at Rokeya Sadan. She is being provided with regular counselling which is helping her regain her mental stability. She is also studying with the other victims of violence residing in Rokeya Sadan. The place is also providing her with basic skill raining in block, batik, printing and sewing to empower her in this second phase of her life.

Name: Sharmin

Age: 4

Nature of VAW: Murder

Location: Pallabi, Dhaka

Sharmin a four year old girl was killed by two people for her gold earrings and chain. Arzoo and Shumon brought Sharmin into their room and took the earring the chain from her. At this point Sharmin began to cry that led Arzoo and Shumo to kill her. They put the dead body inside a sack and tied it with a brick, throwing it into a marsh near their slum. Later on people residing their discovered the child's body inside the sack from the water. Consequently Sharmin's father Md. Abul Kalam filed a case under Act 302/201/34. The case was filed on 13th August 2006, case number 27, Pallabi Thana. The very same day police arrested Arzoo and Shumon from the slum where later on they confessed to their crime that was officially testified.

BMP led an immediate investigation and sent a letter to the Chief Advisor of the caretaker government requesting immediate intervention into this issue. Copies of the letter were also sent to the adviser of the Home Ministry, Inspector General of Police, DC, SP and the Officer in Charge.

The criminals threatened the victim's family from making a GD entry. The family was facilitated by BMP in order to carry the task. A lawyer was also assigned for this case to provide legal support. At present both criminals are in prison.

Name: Farzana Akhter Mitu

Age: Unknown

Nature of VAW: Murder due to non-payment of dowry

Location: Shyampur

Farzana married Masum in 2000. Her father provided furniture and other domestic articles as well as 3 'horis' of gold. After the marriage Masum demanded one lac taka from his father in law in order to go abroad. The pressure was primarily on Farzana. Eventually her father came up with 70,000 taka in order to meet Masum's demand. Instead of going abroad Masum spent this money frivolously. It was further revealed that Masum did not provide sufficient money for his household requirements and throughout the course of their marriage Masum and his family physically and mentally abused Farzana under the pretence of various excuses.

Masum demanded 2 lac taka from Farzana's family in order to do business. This new demand resulted in a Salish where it was decided that Masum would receive 1 lac taka from his father in law. The remaining amount was not going to be paid. This led to the onset of more physical violence on Farzana. She was then thrown back into her father's house. It was decided that Masum will also live in his father in law's house and this led to Masum's family coming to the house and demanding the rest of the money. The onslaught of verbal and physical abuse in the house escalated to dangerous heights when finally one day Masum and his companions strangled and eventually killed Farzana. The murder took place on the 17th of May 2006.

This led to Farzana's father to lodge a case under the Women and Children Discrimination Act Article 11(Kha)/30 at the Shyampur Thana. The case number is 35 dated 25th May 2006.

BMP carried out an immediate investigation and sent out a letter to the Home Minister's office and also to the Inspector General's office, ADC, DC and Officer in Charge. A lawyer was appointed to look after the case.

At present the investigative officer has presented a charge sheet against the offender.

Name: Zeba Khatun

Age: Unknown

Nature of VAW: Murder due to non-payment of dowry

Location: Keraniganj

Zeba married Dr. Md. Mashiur Rahman of Abdullahpur Village. The doctor opened a dental care clinic for which he demanded 3 lac taka from Zeba's family. Thinking of their sister's well being, Zeba's brothers paid Mashiur Rahman a sum of 2.5 lac taka. As time went by Zeba's mother in law Rabeya Khatun, sisters in law Jahanara and Shamima along with the doctor himself physically and mentally abused Zeba. Last year Zeba was sent to her brothers and was told not to return unless she could provide the money from her family. It should also be noted that the doctor did not take care of his wife or his one and a half year old daughter. On the 26th of March 2006 the doctor along with this mother and sisters and other people went to Zeba's house and forcefully took her back to Mugarchor (her husband's house). On the 27th of March 2006 the doctor along with his family began to beat his wife repeatedly. Around 10pm he tried to dispose of the dead body. The neighbours came to know of this incident and called Zeba's brother.

Her brother Md. Enayet Hussain formally lodged a case on the 28th of March 2006 in the Keraniganj Thana under the Women and Children Discrimination Act Article 11(Ka)/30 against all the people mentioned above. The case number is 28.

BMP carried out an immediate investigation and sent out a letter to the Prime Minister and Home Minister and also to the Inspector General's office, ADC, SP, DC and Officer in Charge. A lawyer was appointed to look after the case.

At present the investigative officer has presented a charge sheet against Dr. Md. Mashiur Rahman. This led to dissatisfaction among the plaintiff and a complaint was lodged leading to a re-investigation of the legal framework of the case.

Name: Sahara Hossain Nisha

Age: Unknown

Nature of VAW: Murder due to non-payment of dowry

Location: Khilgaon, Dhaka

Kamrul Islam Prince married Sahara Hossain Nisha without the consent of Nisha's parents. He was a resident of Khilgaon. Later Nisha's family accepted the marriage and with great festivity celebrated the wedding. Kamrul Islam started to demand large amounts of money from his in-laws. Sometime later Kamrul Islam demanded 5 lac taka from Nisha's father. This resulted on immense mental pressure on Nisha and resulted to various quarrels amongst the married couple. Her father refused to pay this money and as a result on the 3rd of November 2006, Kamrul Islam (age 22), his father, mother and uncle planned and brought about Nisha's demise.

After the murder Kamrul Islam notified the police about the incident at the police station. The police immediately arrested the Kamrul Islam, his parents and his uncle and notified Nisha's father about the incident.

Nisha's mother lodged a case on the same day at the Khilgaon Thana under the Women and Children Discrimination Act Article 11(Ka)/30. The case number is 9.

BMP carried out an immediate investigation and sent out a letter to the to the Inspector General's office, ADC, DC and Officer in Charge. A lawyer was appointed to look after the case.

BMP also helped the GD entry by the family as they were facing threats from the offenders.

The post mortem report has revealed that it was definitely a murder. The case has been officially lodged and is in due process at the moment.

Name: Fatema

Age: 26

Nature of VAW: Gang Rape and Murder

Location: Pallabi, Dhaka

Fatema used to reside in Pallabi and was a student of the homeopathic medical college in the area. She was also a private tutor. One afternoon on her way to a private tuition local known miscreants kidnapped her due to a previous grudge. Habibur Rahman is one of the known local miscreants who along with his friends took Fatema into an abandoned building where she was gang raped and then burnt to death. The police recovered the body and later on Fatema's mother Almida Khatun lodged a case in the Pallabi Thana against the 22 suspected criminals.

Fatema's mother lodged a case on the 12th of March 2004 at the Pallabi Thana.

After the investigation charge sheets were filed against 14 of the 22 suspects.

A protest rally was organized by BMP Dhaka centrally demanding justice against the atrocity.

In fear of the suspected criminals the victim's family did not attend the protest. The protest was vociferously participated by the local community members.

A letter was sent out requesting security and justice for the victim's family to the Prime Minister including the Inspector General's office, ADC, SP, DC and Officer in Charge. A lawyer was appointed to look after the case.

BMP also assisted the GD entry by the family as they were facing threats from the offenders. Upon meeting the Inspector General of Police, a demand note for due punishment of the offenders concerned was presented. The case was then transferred to the detective branch for closer investigation. The charge sheet was further appealed against by the families as they felt dissatisfied. The case was also pushed for a quicker tribunal.

Centrally BMP was present on the day of the case and helped in facilitating the procedure. Habibur Rahman, Mujibur Rahman and Nazrul were sentenced to death. They were also fined by the sum of 10,000 taka per head. BMP filed an appeal for due punishment to the released criminals against the high court criminal mis-case. The sentenced criminals reappealed against the death penalty at the high court. Amendment of the death sentence through the state was also filed as a case under the high court death reference.

For all the above-mentioned cases BMP has been used as a vehicle of legal representation. To this end lawyers have been appointed by the organization solely for this matter. The verdict of the high court regarding this matter is still pending.

Impact Analysis

An Impact Analysis of BMP's activities has been recently conducted by the Royal Norwegian Embassy. This review of BMP on gender portfolio was carried out during 13-14 February 2006 with a view to (i) understand the level of acceptability that BMP has so far been able to establish among the stakeholders through its activities, and (ii) identify areas where support needs to be strengthened to increase the impact of activities, carried out by BMP, focusing on gender equality and women's human rights. Suggestions emanating from the impact analysis urged BMP to ensure more extensive collaboration with the local government and CSOs for lobbying and advocacy purposes. Moreover, it was also noted that BMP had been able to achieve more than the set targets, and that the organisation should now focus more on qualitative improvement of its works, strengthen its research base, and develop quality tools for evaluation and monitoring as well as modern and participatory office management system.

The team recommended for involvement of men in various ways and at various levels for building strategic alliances as force to combat violence against women. They also recommended for a need to improve process documentation and reporting of results.

Development Partner's Views

Royal Norwegian Embassy (RNE) as sole donor for the core programme activities confirmed the strength of BMP in advocacy and lobbying and its success in featuring frequently cases as front-page news. They also stressed the importance of more co-ordination of actions to combat violence against women. It is regretted that sometime the activist organizations are blamed instead of asking their support for broad co-ordination. RNE pointed at the importance of collaboration with the Social Action Committee for wider linkage nationwide.

6: Conclusion – Justification for Targets not reached/constraints

BMP in 2006 has completed a detailed set of activities revolving around their key areas intervention, namely: awareness building, networking, resisting VAW, political empowerment of women and capacity building.

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All branches were provided with institutional and technical support to carry out the process of resisting violence against women in Bangladesh. In expecting 18 cases to be the target number of cases to be filed against offenders, BMP achieved this target by filing 25 cases. Furthermore BMP conducted 1164 counseling's which crossed their initial target of 1125. BMP also successfully provided mediation, shelter home facilities and Medicare to many of their direct victim beneficiaries during the year.

BMP successfully conducted and organized a 2-day long workshop on experiences and assessment of the activities of UP/Pouroshava members on 3-4 Feb 2006 at BIAM Auditorium. This workshop facilitated strongly in creating a

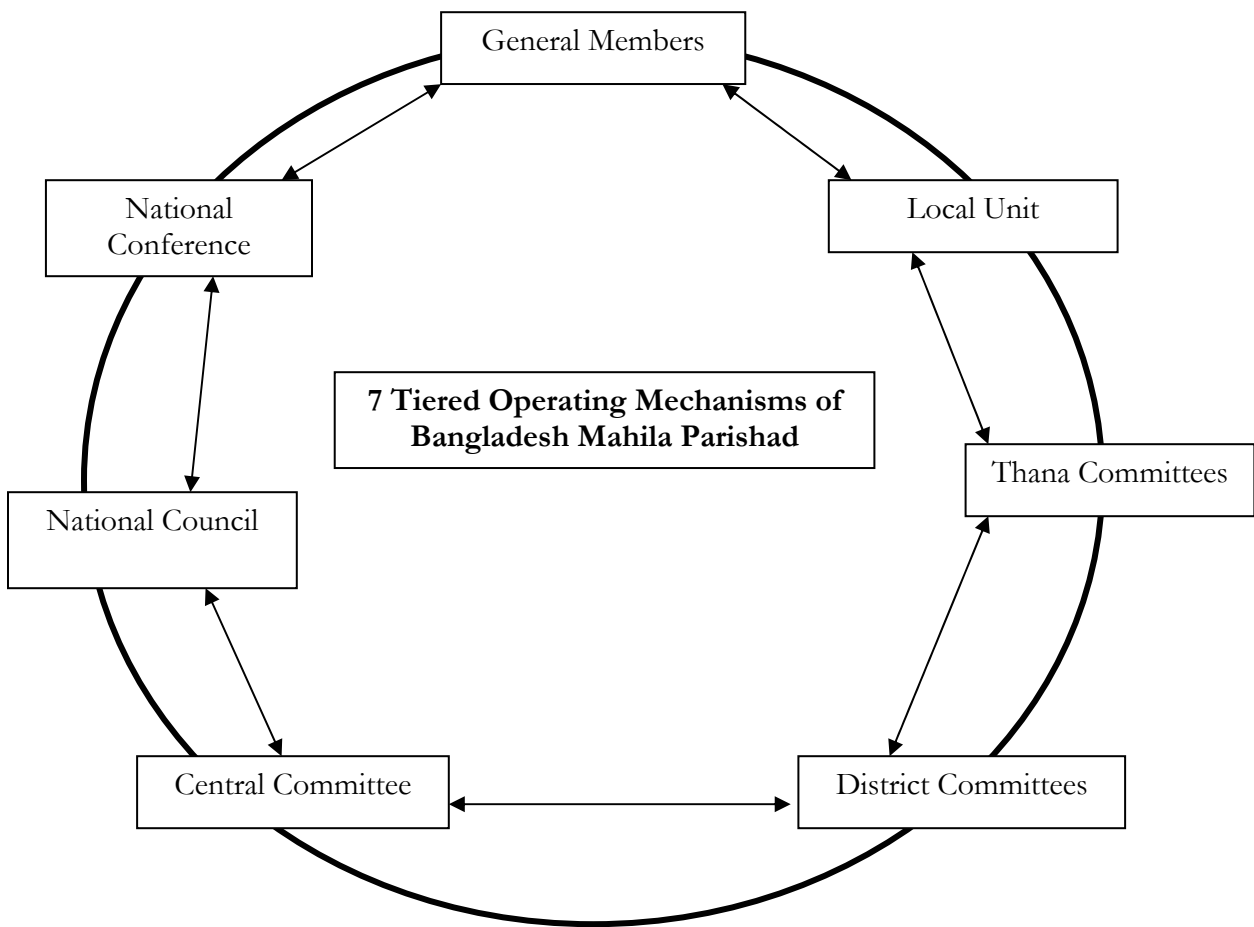
mass political support for the cause of women representation. The workshop was entitled "Strong Local Government: A Major Step for Establishing Democratic State" and was participated by 300 women representatives of local government. One of BMPs focus had been to advocate the reestablishment of NWDP '97 to achieve this end BMP had organized various discussions, roundtable meetings, issuance of demand statements etc. BMP also emphasized the increase in the number of women's seats in the National Parliament during the 2006 financial year.

BMP also actively participated in conducting motivational programs for men and women at grassroots level for raising awareness on WHR issues as well as dialogue sharing and awareness raising programs with adolescent women's groups. In terms of International networking, BMP has emphasized the importance of CEDAW in the national agenda. For this cause BMP has integrated their development agenda with other women's groups and organizations. The creation of these linkages has helped to maintain the pressure for recognition of current women's rights issues. The formation and implementation of the Social Action Committee is a clear example of BMPs networking capacity in the past year.

An investigative look at each of these components will reveal that BMP has managed to achieve most of their goals and on some occasions have even crossed them. It has been a tumultuous political year. Deadlines, organizational strategies, communication and transport have all been riddled by Oborodhs, hartals and blockages. Throughout this extreme circumstance BMP's staff and most importantly their beneficiaries have persevered with great effort in meeting the demands of the yearly activities. On some occasions compromises and cutbacks have been made especially in regard to procurement and organizational capacity building. Yet it has to be commended that BMP has led an active role in lobbying and advocacy regarding the then caretaker government and election issue. This instability of the governance mechanism has been of the fundamental reasons behind BMPs inability to reach some of their deadlines especially in field level.

It can be thus said in conclusion that Bangladesh Mahila Parishad has the ability to sustain their organizational focus through the eye of political instability and oppression. With the continual diligence and dedication of each individual member and their staff, BMP feels that through the years to come the cause for women can and will be fought for till equality has been achieved.

Annex 1: BMP Structure of Operations



Annex 2: List of Publications of BMP from October 2005 – November 2006

1. Union Parisad Development and Planning Review 2006
2. 2006 Training of Trainers Strategy Outline
3. Seminar Documentation for ‘Moulobad Manobidikarer Ontoray’
4. Research Report on Rape Cases from 2002 – 2004
5. Four Bulletins on Women’s Issues published
 - July – September 2005
 - October 2005 – 2006
 - April – June 2006
 - July – September 2006
6. General Secretary’s Documentation of National Council Conference
7. Manual for Union Parisad’s Paralegal and Legal Aid Training, June 2006
8. Annual Report June – December 2005 (English Publication)
9. Posters for 8th March totalling 15,000 copies
10. 3rd September CEDAW Day Commemoration Posters, 15000 copies
11. Stop Violence Against Women and Human Rights Day Commemoration Posters, 25000 copies
12. Leaflet regarding 36th Anniversary Declaration: 3000 copies
13. Leaflets regarding 9th National Parliamentary Election: 50

Annex 3: List of activities for 2006 in format

Component-1: Violence against Women is resisted

SI #	Target	Achievement of Target (Jan-June '06)	Achievement of Target (July-Dec '06)	Analyse / Assessment
1.1	Provide support to branches:			
1.1.1	Providing support to 50 branches for legal activism	Branches are provided with logistic support	Branches are provided with logistic support	With the financial support branches are able to continue their legal aid activities more effectively and efficiently and they became familiar in their respective areas with these activities.
1.1.2	Provide support to branches (40 branches in 1 st yr.)	Branches are provided with logistic support	Branches are provided with logistic support	Branches are able to continue and manage their organizational activities more methodically and efficiently and they are able to communicate mass people.
1.2	Provide legal support to victims of violence (18 cases/ yr. at central level)	15 legal support were provided to the victims of violence	10 legal support were provided to the victims of violence during the period	Among the 25 cases 20 were filled in the Lower Court and 5 in High Court. See Annexure for the case number
1.2.1	Purchase of one 4 wheel drive vehicle	Already purchased in 2005		
1.2.2	Maintenance of Car + Fuel	Fuel and maintenance of vehicle is continuing		
1.2.3	Purchase of Digital Camera	Purchased in 2005		Cannon Power shot A 3.2 Mega Pixel.
1.3	Provide counselling and mediation service :			
1.3.1	Provide counselling (25 at central, 300 at branch and 800 at grassroots levels)	181 counseling were held at Central level and at branch / grassroots level the number were 1164	138 counseling were held at Central level and at branch / grassroots level the number were 900	
1.3.2	Provide mediation (25 at central, 25 at branch and 75 at grassroots levels)	54 mediation were held at Central level,	26 mediation were held at Central level, while at branch / grassroots	

SI #	Target	Achievement of Target (Jan-June '06)	Achievement of Target (July-Dec '06)	Analyse / Assessment
	each	while at branch / grassroots level the number were 526	level the number were - 334	
1.4	Provide medicare for victims of violence	7 number of victims of violence were provided with Medicare facilities during the period		*Jaheda Begum, victim of Acid burn of Dhaka *Dilruba Akhter, UP member, victim of Acid burn of Kishoreganj *Meneka, victim of Gang rape of Gaibandha committed suicide afterwards *Shamoli Rani Nandi, psychological patient of Satkhira *Sharmin Akhter, victim of dowry of Munshiganj *Naima Khondoker, victim of kidnapping of Dhaka *Manju Begum, victim of domestic violence of Dhaka
1.5	Conduct investigation and spot visits (25/ year)	20 investigations were made during the period	12 investigations were made during the period	
1.6	Provide shelter & rehabilitation to victims of violence (30 persons):			
1.6.1	Provide food & health service to the inmates of shelter home (R.S.)	22 inmates were provided shelter, food, education and health service in Rokeya Sadan during this period	18 inmates were provided shelter, food, education and health service in Rokeya Sadan during this period	22 inmates were provided shelter during this period and as because it is a rotational process; some of the inmates were rehabilitated during the period. In Jan '06 there were 23 inmates, in Feb '06 the number were 23, in Mar '06 21, in Apr '06 21, in May '06 24, in June '06 21, in July '06 20, and from August-December '06 there were 18 inmates.
1.6.2	Furniture & fixture for shelter home (R.S.)	Purchased		2 ceiling fans were purchased for shelter home during the period.
1.6.3	Provide clothing, toiletries & utilities for inmates	The inmates were provided with clothing and necessary toiletries	The inmates were provided with winter clothes and dresses for Eid-ul- Azha festival	The inmates were provided with clothing twice a year (once at festival time and the other for regular use) and toiletries as and when necessary.
1.6.4	Conduct counseling & provide education, recreation tour, IG & job facilitation	Counseling and education were provided to the inmates. Recreation tour will be held by	Recreation tour was made to Sonargaon with the inmates in September'06	3 counseling were held during this period. Among them 1 was in the central office on 1/3/06 and the other 2 were in BIRDEM and Mukti Clinic on 6/3/06 and on 27/5/06 respectively. The

SI #	Target	Achievement of Target (Jan-June '06)	Achievement of Target (July-Dec '06)	Analyse / Assessment
		Dec '06		counseling were made by Prof. Dr. Anwara Syed Haque and Dr. Jhunu Shamsunnahar. Besides, a sharing was held on 24.04.06 at the central office between the members of Rokeya Sadan Unit and the inmates. Sristi is functioning with handicrafts, home made food products & spices for income generating.
1.6.5	Conduct skill development training for inmates and others	Skill development training was conducted for the inmates		In addition to education the inmates were provided with block - boutique, sewing, drawing and music training for their skill development.

Component-2: Political Empowerment of Women is promoted

SI #	Target	Achievement of Target (Jan-June '06)	Achievement of Target (July-Dec'06)	Analyse/ Assessment
2.1	Promote mainstreaming of women in electoral politics (5 women/year)	To be promoted		The women members and supporters of BMP will be promoted during election period (Local Government)
2.2	Conduct workshop for elected women members of UP's/ Pouroshava's:			
2.2.1	Training workshop to conduct mainstreaming of women in electoral politics	Scheduled for 3 rd year, 2007		
2.2.2	Conduct national level workshop on experiences and self assessment about the activities of UP/ Pouroshava members	A 2-day long workshop on experiences and assessment of the activities of UP/Pouroshava members was held on 3-4 Feb 2006 at BIAM Auditorium.		The workshop entitled "Strong Local Government: A Major Steps for Establishing Democratic State" was held with around 300 women representatives of local government. Speakers at the workshop demanded equal participation of women and their empowerment in Local Government to strengthen it. They mentioned that male representatives of local government are not cooperating with their women counter part

SI #	Target	Achievement of Target (Jan-June '06)	Achievement of Target (July-Dec'06)	Analyse/ Assessment
				in development activities. The women representatives had very little authority and their remuneration is also quite low compared to the male representatives instead of their equal participation in local government.
2.3	Carryout advocacy and lobby for political empowerment and increase women's participation in politics:			
2.3.1	Conduct exchange of views/ dialogue/ roundtable/ meeting/ discussions/ workshops (divisional level)	A 2-day divisional workshop was held in Barisal CARITAS for UP & Pouroshova members on 21-22 April 2006 to increase and encourage women's participation in politics.		A workshop entitled "From Grassroots to Parliament: Equal Participation in Decision Making Process " was held in Barisal on 21-22 April, 2006.110 representatives from 7 different branches of Barisal division (Barguna, Bhola, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Swarupkathi, Jhalokathi and Kaukhali) participated in the workshop. 6 recommendations were come up from the group work of the workshop, which includes Restoration of National Women Development Policy'97, Local government to be cooperate with the elected women members in the development work of their respective Constituency, Equal share of power distribution among the elected male and female UP members, Direct election system to be established instead of selection system, Prevailing fundamentalism and terrorist activities throughout the country to be prohibited and Educated, honest and aware women to be elected in the Parliament through introducing the direct election system. The participants participated in the workshop, enthusiastically.
2.3.2	Conduct exchange of views/ dialogue/	A roundtable was held on 3 rd June '06 at CIRDAP		The speakers in the round table said the NWDP '97 was

SI #	Target	Achievement of Target (Jan-June '06)	Achievement of Target (July-Dec'06)	Analyse/ Assessment
	roundtable meeting/ discussion	auditorium demanding the restoration of Changed National Women Development Policy '97		prepared in the light of Beijing Plus Ten conference and Convention on the Elimination of All Sorts of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) document, which were helpful for the advancement of women in the country. The amendment is political and it has been changed only to serve the interest of a particular political party with certain political ideology. They called upon all other political parties to come forward along with women rights organizations to resist the amendment. Presided over by BMP President, the meeting was addressed among others by its General Secretary & Movement Secretary, leaders of different political parties, economist, lawyers, representative of different women & human rights organization and members of civil society.

Component-3: Women's Human Rights Movement is accelerated through intensified networking

SI #	Target	Achievement of Target (Jan-June '06)	Achievement of Target (July-Dec'06)	Analyse/ Assessment
3.1	Organize sharing meetings for networking with NGOs/ women's rights/ human rights organization/ media and civil society (local, regional & global experiences dissemination, develop strategies lobby advocacy)	To be held by Dec '06	A sharing on the Gender Review 2006 was held on 18.11.2006	Sharing on the Gender Review of BMP held in 2006 was held on 18.11.2006 at the Central Office with the Executive Committee members. 14 members expressed their views on the issue
3.2	Conduct motivational programs for men and women at grassroots level for raising awareness on WHR issue (5 programs/year)	2 motivational programs were held during this period	2 motivational programs were held during this period	The 4 motivational programs were held in Barguna and Swarupkathi on 7 and 8 April, 2006, in Kalmakanda on 26.12.'06 and in Pirojpur on 26.8.'06. In Barguna the number of participants were 15 while in Swarupkathi 22. In Kalmakanda the number were 67 and in Pirojpur 52 men and women

SI #	Target	Achievement of Target (Jan-June '06)	Achievement of Target (July-Dec'06)	Analyse/ Assessment
				participated in the program. They vowed to work for the establishment of women's human rights in the country.
3.3	Conduct awareness raising programs for adolescent health and reproductive right of young girls and women at school/ college and university level(6 programs/year)	BMP arranged a discussion on Safe Motherhood: Women Empowerment at CIRDAP auditorium on 28.5.2006. Similar program were also held in Sunamganj, Barisal, Pirojpur, Kumarkhali, Modhukhali, Rangpur, Tangail, Rajbari, Natore, Mymensingh, Bagerhat and Narayanganj. Programs on awareness raising on adolescent health and reproductive rights was held on 5.3.2006 at UCEP School, Mirpur, Dhaka. Branches being imbued with the central program arranged similar programs in their respective areas to create awareness among the young girls and women of schools and colleges regarding the same issues. The areas were Rangpur, Sunamganj, Modhukhali, Faridpur, Kalmakanda, Pirojpur and Mymensingh.		The speakers in the discussion criticized the government and the opposition for not observing the International Day for Women Health not event with a statement. They mentioned that the maternal mortality rate is still high in Bangladesh among the neighboring countries. About 13,000 mothers died of complexity during giving birth to children each year in our country. They opined that Bangladesh needs commitment to reduce the maternal mortality through strengthening its efforts at the District, Thana and Union level. The participants demanded frequent such programs in their areas, which help them to gather experience in this regard.
3.4	Conduct exchange of views on professional problems faced women journalists	Scheduled for 3 rd year, 2007		
3.5	Reproduct of (text) resource materials/ copying	Reproduction of the Constitution of BMP is in process.	Reproduction of Suicide, a research report is in process.	

Component-4: BMP is established as a lobby and advocacy agent

SI #	Target	Achievement of Target (Jan-June '06)	Achievement of Target (July-Dec'06)	Analyse/ Assessment
4.1	Carryout advocacy on Political Empowerment, UFC, CEDAW & access to justice to enhance democratic process and ensure gender equality:			
4.1.1	Conduct meeting, human chain, rallies/ press conference for establishing constitutional rights of women (4 events/yr)	To be held by Dec '06	Human chains were held in Rajbari on 3.8.2006 in front of Press Club, in Dinajpur on 2.9.'06 in front of Press Club and in Kumarkhali on 24.7.'06 in Kumarkhali Bus stand	In all the places people from all walks of life including the civil society members, students, teachers, lawyers and BMP representatives enthusiastically participated in the programs to establish the constitutional rights of women
4.1.2	Conduct exchange of views for situation analysis of CEDAW implementation (1 in central, 3 in branches)	Exchange of views for CEDAW implementation were held in Kurigram on 29.6.2006 and in Bagerhat on 8.6.2006	A seminar on the situation analysis of implementation of UNCEDAW in Bangladesh was held on 03.09.2006 at CIRDAP auditorium	1 program at central level and other 1 at branch level to be held by Dec '06 Eminent teacher of law department of Dhaka University, Dr. Nusrat Ameen read the keynote paper in the seminar held at central level on 3.9.'06. The paper mentioned the objectives of CEDAW, and also mentioned that the initiatives taken by different ministries, obstacles, to implement state of family violence, social violence and legal aid access to women
4.1.3	Conduct research study on the implementation of the ratified articles of CEDAW & developed future strategies	Scheduled for 3 rd year, 2007		
4.1.4	Organized women's rally at division level for resisting violence and establishing constitutional rights	To be held by Dec '06	A rally demanding the establishment of constitutional rights and to resist VAW was held on 21.07.'06 in Savar	The rally consisting of 125 participants included general members, organizers and central members of Savar branch of BMP
4.1.5	Conduct seminar/workshop/press conference/rally on VAW, UFC& Law reform	To be conducted by Dec '06	A press conference was held on 03.11.'06 at the Conference room of National Press	In the conference 85 participants were present including 48 journalists from different printing and electronic media were present The conference expressed deep

SI #	Target	Achievement of Target (Jan-June '06)	Achievement of Target (July-Dec'06)	Analyse/ Assessment
			Club.	concern on the increasing rate of Fatwa and VAW and girl child
4.1.6	Organize roundtable discussion/lobbying for reform of legislative system, introduction and improvement of medico-legal system, etc (1 program at central)	To be organized by Dec '06	Sharing on the reformation of Citizenship Act with the members of civil society was held on 19.07.2006 at CIRDAP auditorium	The members of civil society discussed on the recommendations regarding the Citizenship Act. A total of 125 participants were participated in the sharing
4.1.7	Conduct sharing of experiences on legal activism with branch leaders	Scheduled for 4 th year 2008		
4.2	Submit deputation & memorandum to concerned law enforcement authorities	552 nos. of memorandum and 3131 nos. of deputation were sent to the concerned law enforcement authorities	354 nos. of memorandum and 1175 nos. of deputation were sent to the concerned law enforcing agencies during July-Dec'06	Memorandum and deputations were submitted to the concerned law enforcement authorities regarding the issues of violence against women, which were collected from the paper clippings of 12 National dailies, information from different branches and persons. Moreover, we often received information from the administration regarding issues of VAW.
4.3	Organized national rallies	----- -----		To be held in 2007
4.4	Conduct advocacy/ lobby with media professional on women's human rights issue:			
4.4.1	Conduct workshop for journalist for media professional	To be completed by Dec '06	A workshop entitled "Democratic state, women's political empowerment and role of media" was held on 23.12.2006 at BIAM auditorium	The day long workshop was participated by 88 journalists from 19 journalists from different branches of Dhaka division. Being grouped in 4 groups the participants participated in the group work and deliberately placed their suggestions in different issues

SI #	Target	Achievement of Target (Jan-June '06)	Achievement of Target (July-Dec'06)	Analyse/ Assessment
4.4.2	Organize dialogue/ exchange of views on the report with editors and news editors (1 program at central level)	A day long seminar was held on fundamentalism is the main hindrance to human rights on 23.01. 2006 at the National Press Club		The speakers in the seminar identified the present political trend and social inequality as hindrances to human rights and said that both the major political parties have been using religion to achieve political gains. The seminar was attended by 109 participants including representatives of women and human rights organizations, professors of Dhaka University and elites of the city. In a written speech BMP representative demanded restoration of the Constitution of 1972, a ban on religion based political parties and immediate trial of bomb attackers. BMP representative further mentioned that not only Muslim women but also the Ethnic minority groups are affected by fundamentalists. The speakers said that a culture of fear has been created in the country through violence in the name of religion, which makes people inactive and urged the politicians to protect the country from the situation. They hailed the role of journalists who are continuing their relentless efforts to protect human rights in this condition.
4.4.3	Conduct exchange of views on the report with producers of electronic media (1 program at central level)	Scheduled to be held by Dec '06	A sharing was held on 9.10.'06 at the VIP Lounge	The sharing entitled Call of BMP to the women and the people of the country regarding the ensuing 9 th Parliamentary election was held at the VIP Lounge of National Press Club. A total of 98 participants including chief reporter, senior reporter and photo journalists of different printing and electronic media participated in the sharing
4.4.5	Conduct study circle (12/ year)	6 study circle were conducted during this period	6 study circle were conducted during this period	6 study circles were conducted on 27.01.2006, 17.02.2006, 25.02.2006, 17.03.2006, 22.04.06, 27.05.06 & 24.06.06 respectively. The circles discussed on selected issues and open discussion as well.

SI #	Target	Achievement of Target (Jan-June '06)	Achievement of Target (July-Dec'06)	Analyse/ Assessment
				Young women of different local units of Dhaka took part in the circles. They are motivated and afterwards being imbued with the activities of BMP participated in various programs, enthusiastically. Besides, central office, different branches has already started conducting study circles involving their young members.
4.5	Produce & exhibit TV spots/ publish special supplement in national dailies on Political Empowerment	TV spots to be produced and exhibited by Dec '06. Special supplement on political empowerment in national dailies has published by BMP representatives		The articles were published in different national dailies on Political Empowerment by BMP representative: - Economic self sufficiency is the main condition for women empowerment on 17.1.2006. - Tomorrow's Bangladesh: Perspective Women on 12.2.2006. - Establish women's equal participation in every tier for running the government on 18.3.2006.

Component-5: Capacity building of BMP is achieved

SI #	Target	Achievement of Target (Jan-June '06)	Achievement of Target (Jan-June '06)	Analyse/ Assessment
5.1	Conduct capacity building & skill development training at central and branch level			
5.1.1	Conduct legal literacy training for young women	Scheduled to be held in Aug '06 in Rajshahi University branch	Legal literacy training program was held on 8.08.'06 in the Central Office	28 young members of different local units of Dhaka were present in the training
5.1.2	Conduct legal aid training at branch level (18 training in 2 nd year)	Scheduled to be completed by Dec '06	18 training programs were held	Training programs were held in Narayanganj, Munshiganj, Sunamganj, Moulavi Bazar, Gazipur, Kapashia, Dhaka City, Chittagong, Rangamati, Cox's Bazar, Narsingdi, Muktagasa, Netrokona, Nilphamari, Gaibandha, Rangpur, Jhalokathi and Swarupkathi
5.1.3	Conduct Village Watch Committee training (10 persons/training, 1 training/year)	To be held in Sept '06	Training of Village Watch Committee was held in Belabo on 22.09.'06	30 participants including members both junior and senior and representative of civil society were present
5.1.4	Conduct national level training workshop on leadership building	Scheduled for 3 rd year, 2007		
5.1.5	Conduct training for mid-level organizers at divisional level	A 2-day training for mid-level organizers at divisional level is scheduled to be held in Dinajpur on 18 & 19 August, 2006	2-day training for mid-level organizers at divisional level was held in Dinajpur on 1 & 2 Sept'06	The 2- day awareness and capacity building training for the mid-level organizers for Rajshahi division was participated by 54 district and thana organizers of 8 districts of the division
5.1.6	Technical assistance	M.A Quader Kabir		Technical

SI #	Target	Achievement of Target (Jan-June '06)	Achievement of Target (Jan-June '06)	Analyse/ Assessment
		& Co has been appointed for Technical Assistance on Finance and Management of BMP since Feb '06 for 1 year.		Assistant, M.A Quader Kabir & Co. has submitted 4 Manuals to BMP. These are: Accounting Manual, Financial Governance Manual, Human Resource Policy & Internal Audit Manual
5.17	Conduct national & branch levels basic training for young women	Scheduled to be completed by Dec '06	A 2- day basic training for young women was held on 1 & 2 Dec '06 at Barisal	48 young organizers from 8 districts of Barisal division participated in the training. They participated in a group work and presented their recommendations
5.1.8	Provide BMP branch representatives in 3 rd party course			
5.1.9	Collect resource materials for training and research	Scheduled for 3 rd year, 2007.		
5.1.10	Conduct training on organizational capacity building (12 training in 2nd year, 25 persons/training)	2 training for organizational capacity building were conducted.	9 training were held for awareness raising and capacity build up of the branch organizers	Capacity building training were provided to the members of Rangamati and Kalmakanda on 6 & 13 of May '06 respectively. Jhenaidah on 8.7.'06, Nilphamari on 22.07.'06, Bagerhat on 29.07.'06, Kishoreganj on 18.08.'06, Tongi on 23.09.'06, Dhaka City on 7.7.'06, Tangail on 4.8.'06 and Norsingdi & Narayanganj on 22.12.'06 rganizers Central BMP representatives were

SI #	Target	Achievement of Target (Jan-June '06)	Achievement of Target (Jan-June '06)	Analyse/ Assessment
				the resource persons. The participants were facilitated with practical methods of capacity building training.
5.1.11	Provide local travel cost for organizational tour	Travel costs were provided for the organizational tour in different branches.	Another 12 tours were made during this period in Magura, Jessore, Jhenaidah, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Nilphamari, Rangpur, Bagerhat, Manikganj, Karimganj, Jhalokathi and Pabna	During Jan-June'06 BMP central representatives conducted 18 tours to different branches. The branches are Gazipur, Kishoreganj, Mymensingh, Barguna, Swarupkathi, Norsingdi, Kapashia, Rangamati, Netrokona, Chandina, Brahmanbaria, Kalmakanda, Tangail, Rajbari, Muktagasa, Khulna and Kumarkhali
5.2	Conduct staff skill development training on Computer/ Introducing MIS (15 persons in 2nd year)	To be completed by Dec '06	15 staff were provided with Computer training	Program executives of 10 different branches were provided with Computer training from 11- 20 Dec'06 in two phases. They were provided with the basic knowledge of MS-Word, MS-Excel, Power Point &
5.2.1	Purchase Computer+UPS+Stabilizer for central & branch (32 for 2nd year)	To be purchased by Dec '06	Purchased	
5.2.2	Purchase of Printer for central & branches (27 in 2nd year)	To be purchased by Dec '06	Purchased	
	Purchase of Laptop	Already purchased in 2006		
	Purchase of Scanner	Already purchased in 2006		

SI #	Target	Achievement of Target (Jan-June '06)	Achievement of Target (Jan-June '06)	Analyse/ Assessment
	Purchase of Generator	Already purchased in 2006		
	Maintenance of Generator & Fuel	Maintenance and buying of fuel for Generator is continuing	Maintenance is continuing.	
	Purchase of Multimedia Projector	Already purchased in 2006		
	Purchase of OHP	Already purchased in 2006		
5.2.3	Purchase of furniture & fixture	Purchasing of furniture and fixture is continuing		9 chairs, 6 tables and 1 intercom telephone set were purchased during the period
5.2.4	Telecommunication cost for branch offices	Branches are providing with telecommunication costs for their offices	Branches are providing with telecommunication costs for their offices	42 branches were provided with telecommunication costs for their offices
5.2.5	Purchase of Photocopiers (2 nos.)	Already purchased in 2006		
5.2.6	Maintenance of Copiers and Computers	Maintenance of copiers and computers are continuing	Maintenance of copiers and computers are continuing	
5.2.7	Courier and postage	Courier and postage costs are continuing	Courier & postage is continuing in a regular basis	
5.3	Conduct training/ workshop on financial management (1 training)	Scheduled to be held in 3rd year, 2007		
5.4	Organize internal annual planning, implementation and monitoring review/workshops			
5.4.1	Conduct internal annual planning,	Internal Annual	Internal	The 2-day Internal

SI #	Target	Achievement of Target (Jan-June '06)	Achievement of Target (Jan-June '06)	Analyse/ Assessment
	reviews/workshop (1 program/year)	Planning to be conducted by Dec '06	Annual Planning was held on 9 & 10 Dec'06 at BIAM	Planning Review Workshop was participated by 246 organizers from 37 branches of BMP. Group work was held for the recommendations of the branch organizers.
5.5	Establish linkages with GOs/NGOs & local initiatives to promote economic empowerment (skill development training on designing, food processing, handicraft for job facilitation for women)	Linkages were established.	Linkages were established.	Linkages were established with Rajshahi & Barisal branch for the job facilitation of women for their economic empowerment.
5.6	Publication & documentation			
5.6.1	Publish BMP's activities on resisting VAW & on UFC		BMP's activities on UFC was published	
5.6.2	Report on monitoring supervision and organizational efficiency	To be completed by Dec '06	Report on monitoring supervision and organizational efficiency is in process	
5.6.3	Publish Mahila Samachar (4 issues/year)	Published		1 issue (Jan '06 - Mar '06) has published and the next issue (Apr '06- June '06) is in process and about to publish, shortly
5.6.4	Distribute Mahila Samachar	Distributed	3 issues of Mahila Samachar were published and the Oct-Dec'06 issue will be publish shortly	The published Mahila Samachar is distributed among the branches accordingly
5.6.5	Publish English Bulletin	Scheduled for 3 rd year, 2007		

Sl #	Target	Achievement of Target (Jan-June '06)	Achievement of Target (Jan-June '06)	Analyse/ Assessment
5.6.6	Collect, compile, process & analyse of data & printing of Annual Report		Annual Report is in process and	
5.6.7	Collect, compile & analyse of data & printing of Internal Pre Evaluation Report	Scheduled for 4 th year, 2008		
5.6.8	Publish Annual report in Bengali	Annual Report in Bengali will be published by Dec '06	Annual Report in Bengali has published and distributed among the branch representatives on 9 & 10 Dec'06	The Annual Report was distributed to the 59 branches of BMP
5.6.9	Publish history of participation of women in the liberation war (2 nd year)	Scheduled for 4 th year, 2008		
5.6.10	Collect, compile and publish information on women issues addressed in newspapers & electronic media	Continuous process		Information from 12 National Dailies on women issues are collecting and compiling
5.6.11	Print posters (4 per year), leaflets (3 per year)		3 issues of posters on CEDAW day, International Women's day and International Fortnight to Resist VAW were published. 2 issues of leaflets on Founding Anniversary of BMP and ensuing 9 th	The posters and leaflets were distributed to the branches, Embassies, different NGO's, W&HR organizations and to the members of civil society

SI #	Target	Achievement of Target (Jan-June '06)	Achievement of Target (Jan-June '06)	Analyse/ Assessment
			Parliamentary election were published	
5.6.12	Print reports and materials (Training)		Report on TOT published	
5.6.13	Document BMP's activities concerning women's political empowerment	Scheduled for 3 rd year, 2007		
5.6.14	Develop Web Page	Developed		

Annex 4: List of Legal Aid activities for 2006

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Legal Aid Upo-Parishad Centrally Committee

Work plan and Implementation Chart, Jan-Dec 2006 of the Centrally Legal Aid Upo-Parishad

No.	Activity	Scope	Centrally Strategy	Implementation
1.	Logistic Support for Legal Aid Upo-Parishad	50 Zillas	Integrating Activity at the Zilla level	Completed
2.	Receiving Complaints/ Provision of Legal Advice	Centrally-25 Zilla-300 Grassroot-800	Centrally-At least 25	Total Counselling-364 Legal Advice-51 Direct Complaint-313
3.	Salish and negotiation	Centrally-25 Zilla-25 Grassroot-75	Centrally-At least 25	Through 89 salishes a total of 1784500 taka was obtained in case of alimony settlements
4.	Investigation/Spot visits	25	Centrally-At least 25	36
5.	Sharing meeting	Need based	Centrally 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rokeya Sadan Victims ▪ Students of KU ▪ Students of RU ▪ Civil Society ▪ Lawyers of Zilla Panel (One behalf of the International Stop Discrimination Against Women 2006, a sharing meeting was organized regarding eve teasing with youth participants)	All activities were successfully completed
6.	Training – Para-legal Training Village Watch Team Training Training for youths on Women Discrimination	Centrally- 18 Centrally-1 Centrally-1	18 at the Zilla Branch Belabo Branch Centrally	18 completed Completed Completed
7.	Workshop	Centrally-1	Centrally	Not completed
8.	Lobby/petition	Need based	Central and zilla level based on need	Petition-1, lobby-97 (statement and others)
9.	Press conference	Need based	Centrally	3 were held

10.	Deputation and Memorandum	Need based	Centrally	Prime Minister-175, Home Minister- 355, Other Ministries-56, IGP-415, DC-1628, SP/Upo-Police Commissioner-1634, OC-1645.
11.	Publication of Descriptive Proposal for Uniform Family Code	Central (Bengali and English)	Centrally	Bengali version has been printed, English version is expected to be completed by 2007
12.	Documentary for Stop Violence Against Women	Centrally-1	Centrally	Waiting for funding
13.	Fighting of Legal Cases	18 new cases have been lodged at the Central level	Centrally-at least 18 cases	Total-107 New-28
14.	Health care for victims	Central-2	Centrally-at least 2	7
15.	Participation in” International Stop Violence Against Women”	Once	Sticker, Poster, press conferences, sharing meetings and human chain	All of the tasks have been completed