

# **Towards a Gender Sensitive Just Society**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2014**



**Bangladesh Mahila Parishad**

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# **PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS IN BANGLADESH**

## **Table of Contents**

*Key Information*

*Acronyms and Abbreviations*

*Executive Summary*

## **Chapter I: Bangladesh Mahila Parishad: A Brief Organizational Overview**

Introduction

Core Values

Vision

Goals

Objectives

Operational modalities

Structure and Management

## **Chapter II: Promotion and Protection of Women's Human Rights in Bangladesh**

Project background

Rationale of the Project

Goal, Purpose and Outputs of the Project

## **Chapter III: Achievements in 2014 Based on Planned Outputs**

Component One: Accelerating social movements against VAW

Areas of interventions

Planned outputs

Actual outputs

Component Two: Strengthening political empowerment of women

Areas of interventions

Planned outputs

Actual outputs

Component Three: Intensifying women's human rights movements

Areas of interventions

Planned outputs

Actual outputs

Component Four: Effective functioning A Lobby and Advocacy Agent

Areas of interventions

Planned outputs

Actual outputs

Component Five: Improving organizational capacity

Areas of interventions

Planned outputs

Actual outputs

#### **Chapter IV: Interventions beyond Planned Outputs**

Framework conditions

Identifying the gaps between planned and actual outputs

Unplanned activities

#### **Chapter V: Evaluating the Impact of BMP Programmes and Activities**

Mainstreaming women's contribution in society

Strengthening the voice of anti-communal forces

Civil society engagement

Networking

Empowerment and capacity building

Government and societal response and recognition

Strong sense of voluntarism in the society

Institutional sustainability and efficiency

#### **Chapter VI: Dynamics, Challenges and Suggested Measures**

Political threats

Societal dynamics

Global dynamics

Organisational challenges

Suggested measures

#### **References**

#### **Annexes**

## **KEY INFORMATION**

**Project Title** : **PROMOTION AND PROTECTION  
OF WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS IN  
BANGLADESH**

**Implementing Organisation** : **BANGLADESH MAHILA  
PARISHAD (BMP)**

**Project In-charge** : **Dr. Maleka Banu  
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**Reporting Period** : **JANUARY – DECEMBER, 2014**

**Reporting Date** : **April 2015**

## Preface

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad a right based voluntary activist organization working for more than last four decades to establish a just and empowered womenfolk's of the country by mainstreaming them in the development process of the country. The vision is to establish a secular, democratic, equity based society and state. The primary goal is "women's emancipation through empowerment" BMP's endeavors are continuing efforts and goal accomplishment relies on the voluntarism of the organizers. The year of 2014 is the fifth year of implementation of the project "Promotion and protection of women's human rights of Bangladesh".

Each year the annual report provides an opportunity to reflect the purpose and how effectively BMP have performed, what differences have made and what plans have for the future. Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) is committed to promote and protect women's human rights in the society with utmost commitment, sincerity and dedication. BMP continues to work for women in a challenging environment where women suffer from widespread social, legal, political and economic discrimination and repression. BMP implemented its planned programmes and activities in 2014 with noteworthy achievements in key areas of interventions. The annual report 2014 reflects on the activities of BMP and focuses on the impact of the project and its activities in the larger society.

The major issues highlighted in the operations of BMP during January-December 2014 include resisting all forms of VAW, creating social awareness, providing legal aid to victims, effective representation and participation of women in politics, increasing capacity of networking with policy makers and development partners, functioning as lobby and advocacy of women, law reforms movement, introducing gender budgeting, creating awareness about women health rights, and waging an effective social movements for women's human rights. BMP gave emphasis addressing the emergins issues & challenges faced by the Youngers generations, women working in different sector & marginalized group. Through capacity building of the organization BMP has been able to consolidate strength during this period. The organization also has been able to ensure transparency, accountability and efficiency in financial management and accounting procedure.

As organization BMP faces challenges emanating from internal and external sources which often pose hurdles to implement the planned activities and strategies. The evolving socioeconomic and political condition in the country and organizational resource constraints always matter for the performance of BMP. However, BMP has made every effort with its full capacity and sincerity to achieve the targets during the period under review.

We express heartiest gratitude to the Royal Norwegian Embassy for their partnership with valuable support to BMP in order to strengthen Women's Movement in establishing women's human rights and creating a gender sensitive just society towards Bangladesh . BMP would like to thank all members and supporting staff for their continuous sincere committed effort and engagement to achieve its goal.

## Acronyms and Abbreviations

<b>BIDS</b>	: Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies
<b>BPFA</b>	: Beijing Platform for Action
<b>BMP</b>	: Bangladesh Mahila Parishad
<b>BSMMU</b>	: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University
<b>CEDAW</b>	: Convention on the elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
<b>CPB</b>	: Communist Party of Bangladesh
<b>CPD</b>	: Centre for Policy Dialogue
<b>CRC</b>	: Convention on the Rights of Children
<b>CSW</b>	: Commission on the Status of Women
<b>ECOSOC</b>	: Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
<b>GO</b>	: Government Organisation
<b>GoB</b>	: Government of Bangladesh
<b>ICT</b>	: International Crimes Tribunal
<b>IGA</b>	: Income Generating Activities
<b>IGP</b>	: Inspector General of Police
<b>IWRAW</b>	: International Women's Rights Action Watch
<b>LFA</b>	: Log Frame Analysis
<b>LGI</b>	: Local Government Initiative
<b>MDG</b>	: Millennium Development Goal
<b>MFA</b>	: Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<b>MoWCA</b>	: Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
<b>NGO</b>	: Non-government Organisation
<b>NPA</b>	: National Plan of Action
<b>NWDP</b>	: National Women Development Plan
<b>RNE</b>	: Royal Norwegian Embassy
<b>SAC</b>	: Social Action Committee
<b>ToT</b>	: Training of Trainers
<b>UFC</b>	: Uniform Family Code
<b>UN</b>	: United Nations
<b>UP</b>	: Union Parishad
<b>UNCEDAW</b>	: UN Convention on the elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
<b>UNDP</b>	: United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNICEF</b>	: United Nations Children's Emergency Fund
<b>VAW</b>	: Violence Against Women
<b>VSC</b>	: Victim Support Centre
<b>WHR</b>	: Women's Human Rights

## **Executive Summary**

Remarkable programmes of Women is visible in almost every sphere in Bangladesh. Women's movement of Bangladesh made significant contribution towards women advancement in socio-economic context of the country and attain recognition from national and Global community. Persistent gender equality is still remaining as a thread to achieve sustainable goal.

The year of 2014 is the fifth year of implementation of the project titled "Promotion and Protection of Women Human Rights in Bangladesh" supported by the Royal Norwegian Embassy. BMP achieved notable success in 2014 in pursuing its goals, objectives and vision for promoting and protecting women's human rights in the challenging societal context of Bangladesh in the back drop of patriarchal mindset, rise of fundamentalism and conservative forces and limited real democratic practices. The Annual Report 2014 reflects on the activities of BMP and focuses on the impact of the activities in the society.

The different components of BMP activities and programmes reflect a wide variety of interventions that the organisation is committed to implement. The total number of implemented programmes in 2014 was 1157 and the number of participants in the programmes was 38884. It may be noted that in 2014 BMP had special organizational achievements in three areas. First, it has established effective interactions with women of different sections of society. Second, it has developed leadership capacity at the district level which has been playing an important role in expanding and consolidating organisation. Third, BMP has formed a group of enterprising and dedicated members and activists at the grassroots and district levels who will provide leadership in future.

The impact of programmes and activities related to its organization has been immense as reflected in its growing strength and visibility in the society. BMP has been benefited both internally and externally through its organizational programmes and activities. Internally, BMP is now almost properly equipped in programme management. The grassroots representation of BMP has sharply increased over the years. The number of organizers with leadership capacities has increased at grassroots, district and divisional levels. Women from different professional and socio-economic backgrounds in the society have been showing more interests about BMP. Externally, BMP has achieved confidence and recognition of government and non-governmental actors both at national and international levels as an organization committed and capable to achieve women's human rights. It has acquired a distinct entity in the society through its, secular and mass orientation based on volunteerism.

Violence against women (VAW) is still considered the biggest impediment to establish women's human rights in Bangladesh. BMP has developed a multi-pronged framework of its interventions to resist VAW. The number, extent and magnitude of VAW are still alarming in the society. According to BMP's database, 4654 incidents of VAW took place in 2014. The largest number of victims of VAW during this period was related to murder (898). Rape related violence (666), stalking and death related to stalking (465), dowry related violence (431), and suicide (341). It shows that the trends and frequency of VAW have remained in a shocking situation.

Under this scenario BMP's multi sectoral interventions through legal aid was critical to alleviate the sufferings of women.

In 2014, the Legal Aid Unit of BMP achieved significant success in implementing programmes and activities exceeding the project target. BMP provided logistic support for legal activism to district branches. In 2014, a total of 1085 cases were administered by BMP, 193 at central, 892 at district and grassroots level and 26 as new cases. In 2014 the court delivered several verdicts in favor of victims of VAW in cases moved by BMP. The organization has drafted the case history of these successful legal battles. With a target of 300 recipients of counseling, the organization served 1501 clients in 2014 at central, district and grassroots levels. Similarly, BMP achieved enormous success in mediation and handling complaints. In 2014 BMP received 1,825 petitions of complaints against the target of 950. Similarly, BMP provided mediation services to 862 cases against the target of 500. Notably, BMP realized dower and maintenance costs through mediation at the amount of Tk. 15,17,700 at the central level and Tk. 88,11,000 from the district branches in 2014.

BMP focuses on reformation of personal law, discriminatory laws against minority communities, marginalized and physically and mentally challenged people and enactment of new laws upholding their rights. The Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) Bill was passed in the Parliament on September 10, 2014 with a provision of bringing the DNA test process under a legal framework. BMP has submitted recommendations on the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2014 State Minister, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs on 22 December, 2014.

Rokeya Sadan as an integral part of legal activism playing a crucial role for supporting women and girl child victims of violence and other injustice 26 victims were given shelter in Sadan during this period and multidimensional initiatives taken to rehabilitate them in the mainstreaming social life and ensure justice.

As part of its continuous endeavor to empower women politically and increase effective participations in the decision making process, BMP as an advocacy lobby organization focuses on a number of interventions. For strengthening political empowerment of women BMP organized two major advocacy and lobby programmes in the year 2014. BMP collected 78501 signatures for introducing of direct election in the reserved seats and re-demarcation of parliamentary constituency. It organized a sharing meeting on “Introduction of Direct election in women reserved seats, increase one-third number of the reserved seats and nomination 33% women by political party” on 18th November, 2014 at CIRDAP auditorium.

BMP continuing multidimensional effort in promoting women in politics and decision making process. BMP supported four organizers contested the Upazila Vice-Chairman post in (logistic and moral support). Twenty nine BMP organizers won the election. BMP also noticed that there is growing no. of women in decision making positions in administration, judiciary, law enforcing agencies, peacekeeping missions, banks and corporate sectors during this period in 2014.

BMP continued its strong advocacy and lobbying role for introducing gender responsive budget in Bangladesh this year also. Govt. declared national budget in this fiscal year where 40 ministry submitted their emerging gender responsive budget focusing gender dimension. In 2014 two meetings were organized at the central level in 2014. These meetings focused on gender sensitive budget allocation and its implementation, where BMP activists, political party leaders, government representatives, civil society members, media persons and people from several other professional backgrounds participated in the dissemination. District branches also organize sharing meeting in civil society and different stake holder. BMP emphasized to develop indicator for monitoring the implementation the commitment made by different ministry. BMP also made policy intervention in the mid term budgeting framework and engendering 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> fifth year plan.

In 2014 BMP remained engaged in pushing the agenda of women's human rights as reflected. BMP promotes women health rights through improvement of women reproductive and sexual health in Bangladesh. BMP and Obstacle and Gynecological Society of Bangladesh Jointly observed Safe Motherhood Day with the theme of 'Let us ensure safe motherhood' on 28th May 2014 at Central Sahid Minar. A total of 25 districts successfully organized meetings on the occasion of Safe Maternal Health. They organized discussion meetings and rallies in order to promote the issue of women's reproductive and sexual health rights. Besides, meetings were held to motivate female and adolescent reproductive health in different educational institutions and central office.

BMP contributing its movement for full ratification and implementation of CEDAW . BMP did strong advocacy lobby independently and jointly with policy makers and relevant ministries for withdrawal of reserving article 2 and 16(1C). BMP continuing its effort to use CEDAW as a Women Human Rights tool within and out side organization . BMP launched movement for domestication of CEDAW, share views with lawyers. BMP in central and district branches organized programmes to observe CEDAW Day to exchange views on implementation of CEDAW. BMP also published poster on CEDAW demanding "Stop all kinds of violence against women and girl children ensure equal rights of women and men on property and resources" and disseminated through of the country.

It has effectively acted as an agent of lobby and advocacy forum to sensitize the state and non-state agencies and organizations about women issues and concerns. In 2014 BMP, as part of its unremitting endeavour, submitted 2508 deputation and memoranda on incidents of VAW to the concerned authorities in Bangladesh, including Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of home Affairs, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Inspector General of police and various other government and law enforcement agencies. BMP also issued letters to its district branches in order to take necessary steps at the local levels.

Under the leadership of BMP, the Social Action Committee (SAC, the platform of 67 women, human rights and development organisations) jointly undertook programmes central and locally in 2014 in order to establish women rights, to resist VAW, to raise awareness among ordinary people irrespective of gender, and to ensure women empowerment. The SAC spirit has created voices of women at national and local level.

BMP constantly promotes gender sensitivity in policy making at every level in Bangladesh. In its role as advocacy and lobby agent, BMP has been able to address three critical areas. First, the organization addressed the patriarchy in all of its programmes. It advocated for gender sensitivity in education policy of the country while it took initiatives to change the traditional image of women in media. It has vigorously advocated for inclusion of gender issue in the training programmes of public representatives and Government officials. BMP organizers were included as resource persons in those training programmes. Gender factor was also highlighted in cultural programmes; campaign programmes; publications and such as poster, leaflet, sticker, broadcasting TV spot.

BMP upheld the cause of human rights in its programmes and activities. The organization is in active the network of Human Rights Forum (UPR) and National Human Rights Commission. It expresses deep concern over the violation of human rights in home and abroad. It condemned all sorts of gross violence in war and conflicts.

BMP organized different programmes protesting several incidents of communal attacks were held in different parts of the country. BMP and BRAC jointly organized six divisional programmes against attack on minority community where representatives of administration, law enforcing agency ,civil society, socio cultural organization, human rights organization,

development organization participated and formed action committee. BMP worked for promoting good governance and democracy through effective participation of the women members in the parliament and empowering grassroots women and local government women representatives. It advocates for inclusion of at least one-third women in all Constitutional bodies. It focused on proper and independent functioning of Human Rights Commission, Election Commission and Anti-corruption Commission. BMP was engaged in the movement for establishing rule of law and ensuring transparency and accountability of all public representatives and public offices. It also monitored state obligations towards fulfilment of National and Global commitments and highlighted the need for practicing democratic culture in all political institutions. On several occasions (organized either by BMP or others (GO/NGO/CSO), during this period, BMP had dialogue with State Minister, MOWCA; Parliament Standing Committee, Finance Minister, Law, Justice and Parliament Affairs, Home Minister, Education Minister, Attorney General, IGP, PP/APP, Directorate, MOWCA, Parliament Standing Committees, LGRD Chairman.

BMP regularly monitored the news published on women in the newspapers of Bangladesh, the Legal Aid Subcommittee of BMP regularly collected and preserved the relevant news clippings from 15 renowned newspapers. The trend of violence against school-going female students has drastically increased in the society. BMP organised sharing meetings at the local levels with the active participation of journalists, lawyers, teachers, human rights activists, local elite personals and elected representatives.

During the year 2014, the period covered in the report, BMP published 4 issues of the Mahila Samacher, the quarterly journal brought out by the organization. The issues were published on October-December, 2014, January-March, 2014, April-June, 2014, and July-September 2014 respectively. A total of 10000 copies of each issue of Mahila Samacher were published and distributed 9490 copies among the organizational network and organizations. A total of 1700 copies of Journal were published also.

BMP through its central and district branches implemented the following programmes in association with the Social Action Committee-Celebration of International Women's Day on 8th March, 2014, mass gathering Organized on 7th September, 2014 at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh. The slogan of the gathering was "Uphold Human Rights. Establish Independent, Democratic Society".

BMP has been part of GO-NGO collaboration and effectively Networking with other organizations and media. It received media support and pro-active role of media in its activities. More importantly, BMP members were nominated in different committees of ministry and other government offices centrally and locally such as National Women Development Council, Anti Human trafficking act Implementation Committee, Acid Control Committee, Law drafting committee / Complain Committee against Sexual Harassment of UGC/Update NWDC, Informal Sharing Committee to Update NWDC, Informal Sharing on 6th Five Year Plan, BMDC, Local Level Steering Committee, Health Ministry and TIB and anti corruption Commission in different Districts. BMP members and staff participating different district network for sharing their views and give opinion on relevant issues.

The continuing programmes and activities of BMP towards women's human rights have contributed to establish and maintain strong networks with various local, national and international organizations. The GO-NGO collaboration has been strengthened and become visible in drafting laws, running VSC, OCC, implementing multi-sectoral programme against

VAW, contributing in NWDP and National Action Plan, preparing training module and conducting training on domestic violence act. It has also positive impact networking with the Parliament Secretariat and CSW, UNCEDAW, IWRAW, and UN-WOMEN. The activities in this component have strengthened civil society engagement in different programmes of BMP. It engages legal experts in law reforms, panel lawyers in mediation and case filing, academics in training programme for capacity building, artists in cultural activities, medical professionals in health awareness programme, financial experts in financial capacity building and others. To this end, BMP representatives participated in a number of events organized by GOs, NGOs, civil society organizations (CSOs), and think tanks.

With the slogan “There is no alternative to professional skills for facing the challenges of 21st century’ BMP celebrated 44th founding anniversary on 18 April, 2014 at Engineers Institution, Dhaka.

The Memorial Lecture on Poet Begum Sufia Kamal was held on 20 June 2014 at Auditorium of Bangla Academy, Dhaka to celebrate 103rd birth anniversary of Poet Sufia Kamal. This memorial lecture was planned to reflect on the contribution of Poet Begum Sufia Kamal, a pioneer in women emancipation movement and founder of BMP.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad arranged a sharing meeting with Indigenous women on 11th February 2014 at the Sufia Kamal auditorium. A total of 27 participants attended the program. BMP organised a two-day long National Council Meeting (Internal Annual Planning Implementation and Monitoring Review Meeting) at the Fars Hotel & Resorts, Dhaka on 14-15 November, 2014. The meeting evaluated the performance of the organization in the last one-year. The Council Meeting extensively discussed several aspects of organization and put forward recommendations to strengthen its performance.

In 2014 BMP mobilized its organizational support to establish strong networks among its grassroots, divisional and central units. The organization has undertaken numerous programmes towards strengthening the capacity of both rural and urban people associated with BMP. Another significant aspect of this particular activity is to assess the capacity of the organizers to arrange and run different programmes at different levels of the organization. As part of activities of organizational month declared in September in 2014, BMP organized sharing meetings with its general members, membership collection and renewal programmes, organizational trainings, and women farmers’ gathering and meeting. BMP successfully implemented organizational tours. BMP sent a greeting cards to all its general member (22000). Central, divisional and organizational of BMP did intensive tour in different branches through all its district and grassroots branches.

The sustainability of the organization and movement depends on capacity of the organizers and building up of new leadership as women rights activists. To this end, BMP conducted training workshops, Trainers’ Training (ToT) Programme, Refreshers Course from central to grassroots level in a planned and sustained way. Study circles for young generation were regularly held where participants discussed, debated and raised issue related to gender equality, human rights, history of women’s movement, biography of pioneers of women movement and ways of mitigation of emerging challenges. Participants of study circle , joined to take role in BMP setting programme.

At the initiative of the Training, Research and Library Sub-Committee, BMP has introduced three months certificate course yearly titled “Gender, Women Empowerment and Development”. In this year fourth course was held at Sufia Kamal Auditorium central office of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad from 22 August 2014-20 December 2014. The course was participated by 26 students from different sector of the society which includes NGO workers,

social activists, professionals, Govt. Officer, Student and staff of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad etc. A major achievement of the Certificate Course is generating high enthusiasm among the participants about gender issues and concerns. Participants can learn how gender factor is factored in traditional development paradigm, human rights framework and women movement. It may be mentioned that BMP gives special emphasis on organizing young women of different professional groups, women farmers, indigenous women and marginalized groups of women through all its branches.

During this period 20 Paralegal training sessions were held to improve the capacity of organizers for legal activism. About 735 organizers have participated in these trainings held in different parts of the country. It has contributed to improve skills in coordination between local and central organizers to resist VAW. This training program were conducted by organizers and staff lawyers.

Divisional Paralegal training for the leaders (TOT) was held on 23-24, May 2014 at Karitas Auditorium, Sagordi, Barishal. Through initiative of the Central Legal Aid Sub Committee of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad the TOT Program was organized by Barishal district Branch. A total of 38 organizers from the districts of Barishal, pirojpur, patuakhali, jhalkathi, Barguna, Kaukhali, Bhola& Sharupkathi joined the TOT. It created a considerable degree of interests and enthusiasm among the participants about training and thus improving the skills of district and grassroots leaders. A total number of 53 persons attended the Program.

The BMP Legal Aid Sub-Committee organized training for young women to improve legal literacy for their involvement in activity related resistance of VAW. In 2014 BMP organized one training program as planned on 28th December 2014 at the Sufia Kamal Bhaban Auditorium. A total of 70 participants including 37 young women attend the program. The program has been able to involve young women with resistance movement of BMP against VAW.

The organization has been able to organize 5 motivational programs in 2014 that played an important role to motivate the people both at central and grass-roots levels. These programs made mass people aware of resistance of VAW movement and also keeping continuation of awareness building activity through discussion meetings.

BMP organized six sharing meetings with young students in different parts of the country including Dhaka in order to raise their awareness about different forms of violence against women especially on sexual harassment. There were a total of 596 teachers and students male and female who took part in these programs that contributed to raise their awareness about VAW and its resistance

BMP follows zero tolerance policy on the issues relating to transparency and accountability in running the organization. It strives to achieve highest level of efficiency, transparency, and accountability in financial management as well as programme management. In order to strengthen financial management capacity of the organization, central orientation programmes, divisional training workshops, and financial management trainings in the branches were organized in 2014. BMP took several measures for proper management of the project in a co-coordinated and transparent way. Memoranda of understanding were signed between central committee and district branches to support the branch activities. Branches were identified for giving support to enhance their management capacities. Regular follow ups were done in coordinated way by project management committee, finance committee, organizational committee and also other sub-committees. Internal control mechanism was developed and implemented within the organization.

BMP was significantly involved in the unplanned activities in 2014 demonstrating both achievements and impacts on socio-political and cultural spheres in Bangladesh. These include areas such as social welfare, human resource development, collaboration with development partners, and staff development. A remarkable feature of BMP's interventions in 2014 was its focus on anti-communalism and anti-fundamentalism programmes and activities. BMP organized several programmes mostly in the forms of rallies, processions, human chains and seminars to protest against the rise of communal, fundamentalist and anti-state forces in the country. BMP has made huge strides to mainstream women's contribution in national economy, which has largely remained unnoticed and unrecognized. BMP mobilized women in the society for establishing their rights control their own earn. In this regard, BMP organized programmes and activities involving women farmers, women garments workers, indigenous women and women entrepreneurs in small and medium scale industries in Bangladesh.

Transparency and accountability with commitment towards planned programs and financial management was the central issue of BMP which has been reflected in the report. BMP is committed to achieve the goal addressing emerging challenges and increasing the capacity of organization and organizers.

# Chapter I

## **Bangladesh Mahila Parishad: A Brief Organisational Overview**

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) is engaged in a struggle for women's equality, liberation, and empowerment, situated within a larger political vision demonstrated in its commitment to independence struggle's secular thinking, Bengali nationalism, democracy and a society established on equality between women and men. It also assumes that women movement in Bangladesh has been enriched from ideas and thoughts on women's emancipation in this subcontinent, social reform, social progress, philosophy of peace, equality and humanity, anti-colonialism, anti-war movement, liberation struggle, lives of women organizers and leaders and sense of patriotism. BMP was established in 1970 as a civil society organization under the leadership of late Poet Sufia Kamal in order to advance rights of women in Bangladesh. BMP has emerged as the pioneer of women's struggle to establish a just society in Bangladesh where all forms of gender disparity will cease to exist. Over the last forty years and more, the organization has achieved remarkable success in promoting the causes of women in Bangladesh at public and private levels. In its relentless pursuit of goals and objectives, BMP has engaged in multidimensional and multifarious programmes and activities through maintaining its non-political and non-profit character in all endeavours as envisaged in its constitution. Gradually, BMP has developed as a unique and great platform for social movement and mobilization for promoting and protecting rights of women.

### **Core Values**

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

### **Vision**

Establish non-communal, democratic, equity-based society and state

### **Goals**

**Broad Goal:** *Women's emancipation through empowerment*

### **Specific Goals:**

- Emancipation of women from discrimination, deprivation, exploitation and backwardness and subjugation
- Establishment of gender equality in family, society and state
- Establishment of secular democratic society based on good governance

### **Objectives**

- Promote equity-based gender sensitised family, society and state
- Promote peace and democracy

- Protect and promote women's human rights
- Resist violence against women
- Promote activism targeted towards eliminating gender discrimination
- Promote judicial activism
- Encourage women's participation in the political process
- Conduct activities for poverty alleviation and economic empowerment of women
- Ensure tangible participation of women in development process
- Flourish women's inherent qualification and latent talents
- Eliminate obstacles to women development and empowerment

### **Operational Modalities**

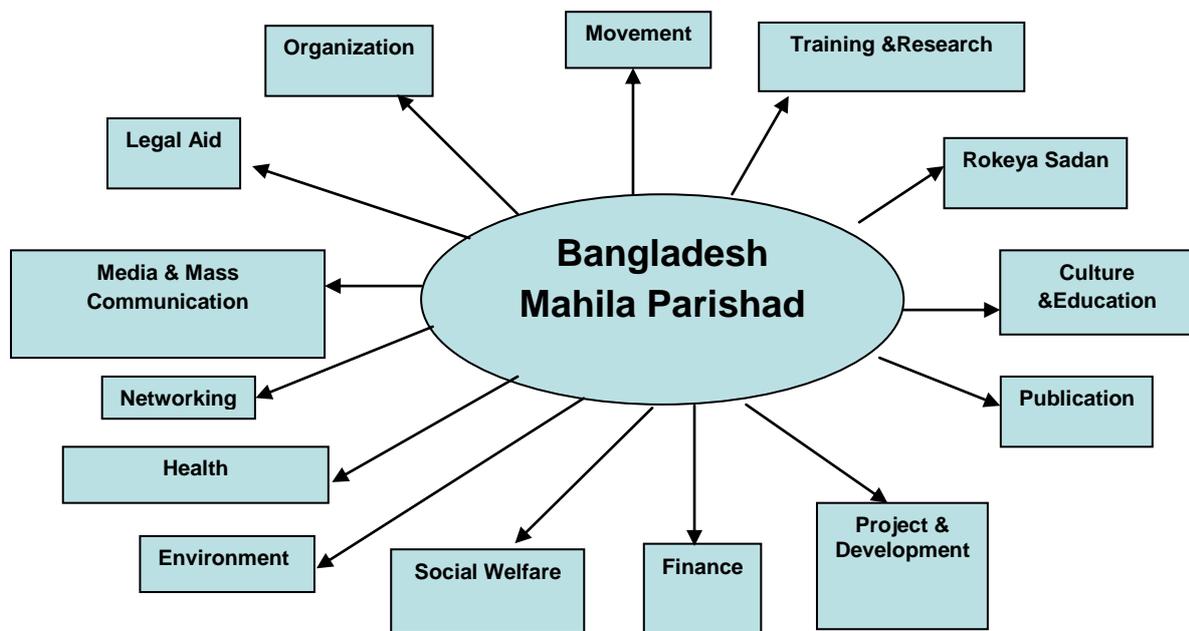
Over the years, BMP has adopted a series of strategies to translate its objectives into operation. These include:

- Establish a strong women movement to fight the challenges of the 21st century by raising awareness and organising womenfolk
- Enable socio-economic and political environment for women's empowerment
- Build up a strong movement against Violence against Women
- Ensure women's human rights in the light of UN Universal, Human rights Declaration and constitution of Bangladesh, 1972
- Build up capacity of the organisation and increasing network
- Strengthen and enhance the organisational capacity of BMP
- Build up movement to raise voice against violence against women and enactment of gender sensitive laws
- Build up network with national, international and regional women's and human rights organisations
- Ensure sustainability of BMP as an institution
- Build up movement for change in the relevant fields such as education, health, information and environment
- Ensure women's citizen rights and equal opportunity
- Build up movement for transparency, accountability, secular and democratic system, and good governance

Briefly, BMP's operations over the last four decades have been conducted through 14 units (Figure 1.1). In addition to various strategic and activity oriented meetings organised by these units, BMP also held regular staff meetings from 2011 to take stock of completed activities and discuss future interventions.

**Figure 1.1**

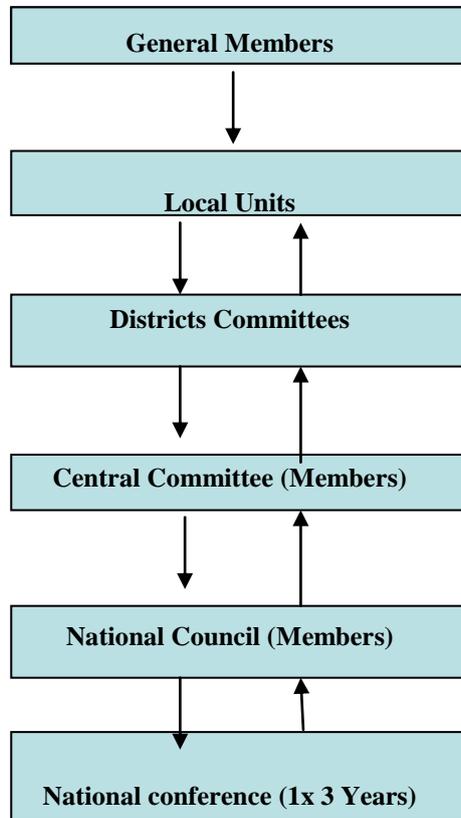
**BMP's Operational Modalities**



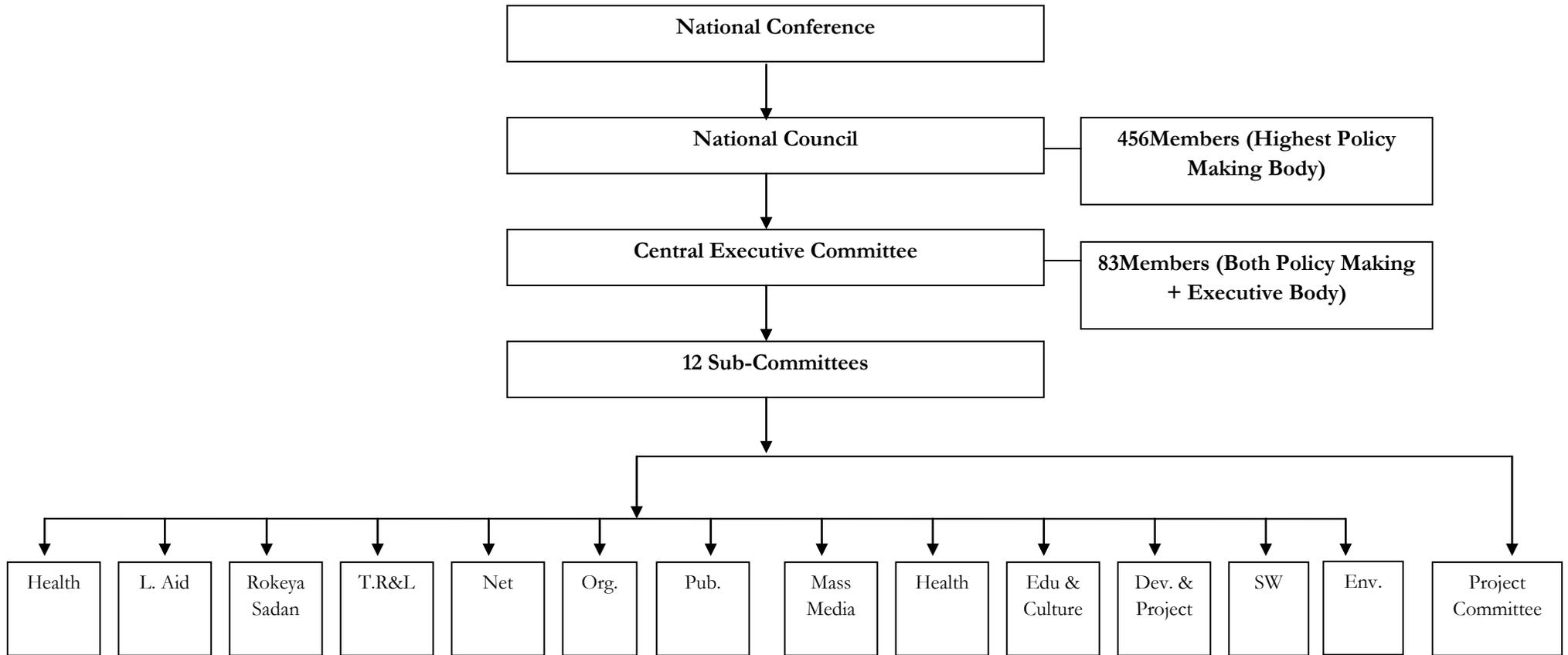
**Structure and Management**

BMP has developed an administrative structure comprising of seven layers to ensure effective implementation of its programmes and activities (Figure 1.2). It is a combination of efforts made at each level of the structure that facilitates BMP's functioning as a lobbying and advocacy agent. The management of BMP follows an inclusive and flexible system where stakeholders can show their creative and innovative performance towards achieving the goals of our organization.

**Figure 1.2**  
**Structure and Management of BMP**



## Organizational Chart



**Abbreviation:**

- Mov = Movement
- Com = Committee
- L. Aid = Legal Aid
- R. Sadan = Rokeya Sadan
- T.R&L = Training, Research & Library
- Net = Networking
- Org= Organization
- Pub= Publication
- Env= Environment
- Edu= Education
- Dev= Development
- SW= Social Welfare

10-12 members in each Sub-Committee  
 Total: 120 primary members participate in policy making and implementation  
 Project Committee monitors project activities and maintain liaison with development partners  
 43 + 120 = 163 central office volunteers  
 77 professional staff

## **Chapter II**

### **Promotion and Protection of Women's Human Rights in Bangladesh**

#### ***II.1 Project Background***

The issue of promotion and protection of women's human rights constitutes a critical national agenda in Bangladesh for its prosperity and advancement. The emergence of the country as an independent nation in 1971 provided a renewed opportunity to forge new initiatives for changing women's conditions in Bangladesh. Consequently, the Bangladesh society, being characterized by patriarchal society with concomitant norms and values has been undergoing significant changes in the values systems pertaining to women human rights. While the Constitution of Bangladesh grants equal rights to women in all spheres of the state and of public life, they are discriminated against and ignorant of their rights, resulting in women's low status in dignity, power, employment, income, assets, access to information and justice. Hence, empowering women is essential for reducing systematic discrimination against them in all spheres and strata and for achieving meaningful development of the country.

The core agenda of BMP as focused on "Promotion and Protection of Women's Human Rights" has been extremely effective in addressing issues of deprivation, discrimination and sufferings of women in Bangladesh. Members and activists being the major force of organizational dynamism, BMP pursued the policy of enhancing the membership strength of the organization. Women aged 16 years and above belonging to any status/occupation/religion having commitment to women's emancipation are eligible for membership.

The general members of the BMP constitute its central focus. Meanwhile, BMP could enhance its membership, programmes and the extent of operations. It is a non-political organization working for the cause of women of all strata leading to the development of Bangladesh as a whole. It has a glorious history of association with progressive movements toward emancipation of women from the clutches of gender disparity rooted in the traditional norms and values. The organization has a long experience of movements, lobbying, networking and other kind of activities for the protection and promotion of women's human rights.

BMP could mobilize human, financial, technical and other resources to enhance its organizational capacity for materializing its short-term and long-term plans. In the process of executing the plan, the organization maintains dynamism as demanded by the changing external environmental forces. The cardinal principles guiding the organizational behaviour include transparency, accountability and well-defined authority and responsibility at various echelons of administrative hierarchy. The organization encourages and practices openness in its working strategy and approach. There is no gap between the declared objectives and actual plan of action. The organization believes in creating equal opportunity to use the physical and intellectual potential of all men and women. BMP is trying hard to ensure equal access of men and women to information, income, asset and justice.

In planning and implementing all its activities, BMP follows participatory approach. Members at grassroots level to executive committee participate in designing, implementing and monitoring activities. Need-based planning is done with local level participation of women.

Cumulative effects of accumulated rich experience of women organizers, leaders and activists at various levels could bring forth positive impact on women empowerment in local government bodies, governing bodies of educational institutions as well as representation of women nominations in the local bodies and parliament elections. The organization could also create an enabling environment for women to work in various government and non-government services.

The role of BMP has been crucial in the context of promotion of human rights on one end, and fundamentalist backed terrorist activities on a global scale on the other end. The fundamentalist forces, like other parts of Asia and Africa, gained considerable influence in Bangladesh in the recent past. The roots of fundamentalism spread almost all spheres of the society. Toward combating fundamentalist forces opposing women human rights and free movement of women, BMP undertook both proactive and reactive measures.

BMP, through its comprehensive programmes, could achieve significant progress in creating a base of movement for establishing women human rights and empowerment, but there is a long way to move to achieve its goal of gender equality. Sustainability of the efforts made so far would depend on continuation and expansion of the existing plans and programmes.

## ***II.2 Rationale of the Project***

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

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

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

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

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

### ***II.3 Goal, Purpose and Outputs of the Project***

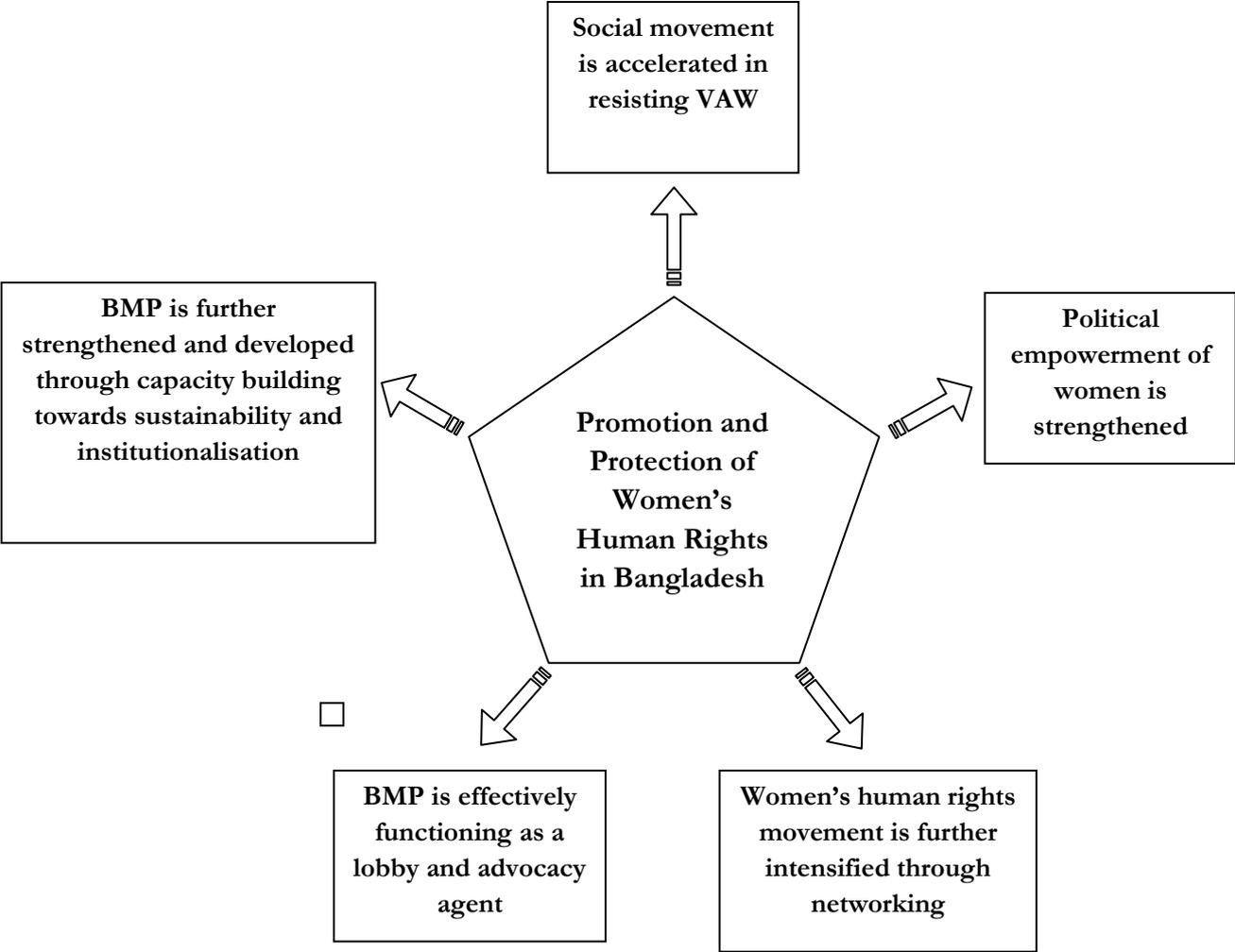
**Goal:** To reduce gender inequality through women's increased participation and uphold women's dignity in the broader political, administrative and social context.

**Purpose:** Strengthen and intensify Women's Human Rights movement and consolidate the social movement to empower women and initiate programme intervention to resist any form of violence against women.

#### **Outputs**

1. Social movement is accelerated in resisting VAW
2. Political empowerment of women is strengthened
3. Women's human rights movement is further intensified through networking
4. BMP is effectively functioning as a lobby and advocacy agent
5. BMP is further strengthened/developed through capacity building towards sustainability and institutionalization

**Figure 2.1**  
**Project Components/Outputs (January-December, 2014)**



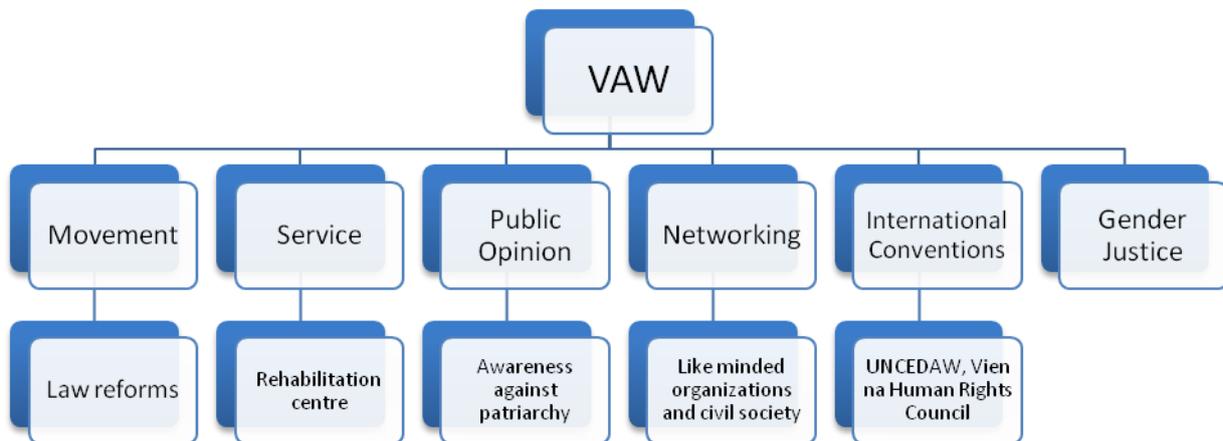
### Chapter III: Achievements in 2014 Based on Planned Outputs

BMP pursued its goals, objectives and vision with utmost sincerity as a pioneer and leading organization for promoting and protecting women’s human rights in Bangladesh. The actions and strategies applied in this regard demonstrate quite effective and adequate to attain planned outputs. The different components of BMP activities and programmes reflect a wide variety of interventions that the organization is committed to implement. This chapter presents the component-wise achievements of BMP during the timeframe of January-December, 2014.

#### III.1 Output 1: Accelerating Social Movements against VAW

Violence against Women (VAW) is a common occurrence in most societies whether the violence is physical or mental. It is amongst the most serious threats to overall development and progress in Bangladesh. VAW is a critical area of intervention of BMP. The organisation also considers it a major threat to basic framework of women’s human rights in Bangladesh. The trends and frequency of VAW in Bangladesh clearly suggest that more initiatives that are effective are required to mitigate the sufferings of women. As a key component of strategy, BMP successfully accelerated the social movements against VAW so that the life and livelihoods of women become get better and safer. Several areas of interventions in accelerating social movements against VAW have been conceived and implemented with an aim to generate specific outputs.

Figure 3.1: BMP Framework of Actions against VAW



#### *Trends and frequency of VAW*

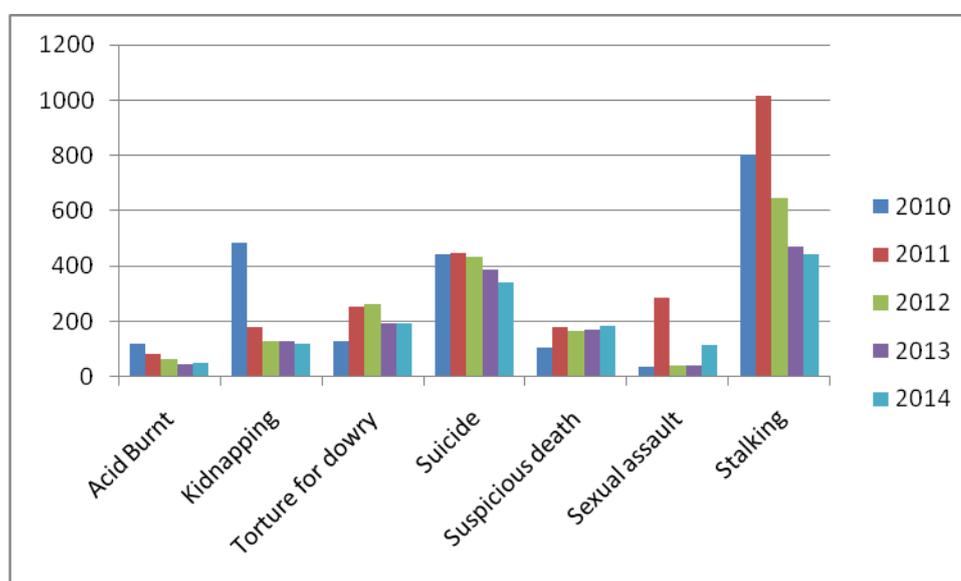
The trends and frequency of VAW clearly suggest that it remains as the biggest obstacle to establish women’s human rights at home and outside. According to BMP’s database, 4654 incidents of VAW took place during January-December 2014. The largest number of victims of VAW during this period belongs to murder (898), whereas rape related violence (666), stalking and death related to stalking (465), dowry related violence (431), and suicide (341) followed the order.

**Table 3.1: VAW by some major categories during 2010-2014**

Categories of VAW	Year								
	2010	2011	Change in %	2012	Change in %	2013	Change in %	2014	Change in %
Acid Burnt	118	81	- 31.36	66	- 18.52	46	-30.3	51	10.8
Kidnapping	485	181	- 62.68	129	- 28.73	131	1.5	118	-9.9
Torture for dowry	128	254	98.44	263	3.54	194	-26.2	195	0.5
Suicide	441	449	1.81	435	- 3.12	386	-11.2	341	-11.6
Suspicious death	105	180	71.43	165	- 8.33	172	4.2	183	6.3
Sexual assault	37	287	675.68	41	- 85.71	40	-2.44	116	190
Stalking	801	1014	29.96	645	- 38.04	470	-27.1	444	5.5

Source: BMP Database

**Figure 3.2: VAW by major categories, 2010-2014**



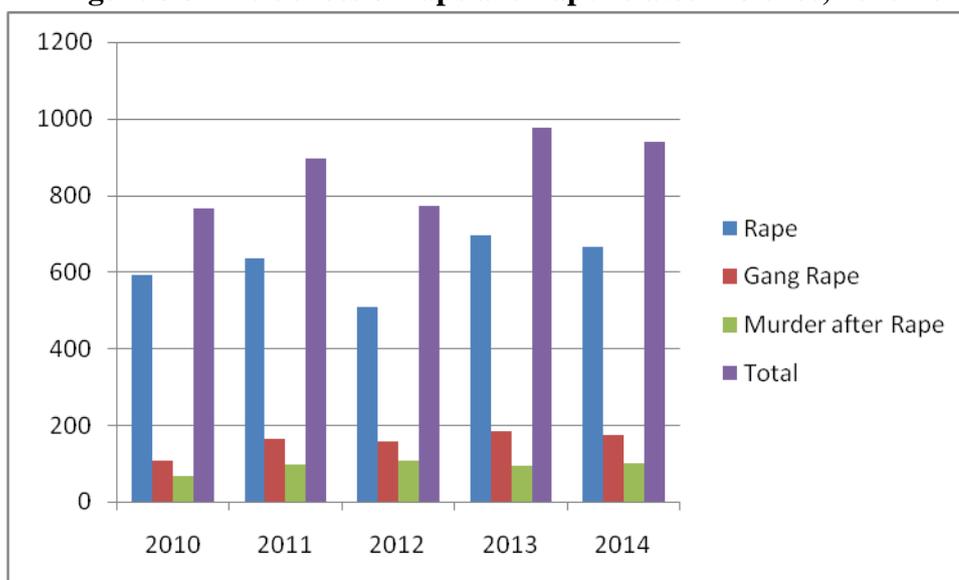
Source: BMP Database

**Table 3.2: Frequency of rape incidences during 2010-2014**

Categories of Rape	Year								
	2010	2011	Change in %	2012	Change in %	2013	Change in %	2014	Change in %
Rape	593	635	7.08	508	- 20.00	696	37.0	666	-4.3
Gang Rape	107	165	54.21	157	- 4.85	185	17.8	174	-5.9
Murder after Rape	66	96	45.45	106	10.42	94	-11.3	99	5.3
Total	766	896	16.97	771	- 13.95	975	26.5	939	3.6

Source: BMP Database

**Figure 3.3: Incidences of rape and rape related violence, 2010-2014**



Source: BMP Database

**Table 3.3: Status of Achievements in Accelerating Social Movement to Resist VAW**

SL.	Areas of Intervention	Activities		Status (%)
		Planned	Actual	
1.1.1	Providing support to <i>branches</i> for legal activism (Counseling, Mediation, Investigation for the fact-finding, Conducting cases, i.e. Lawyers fees, Court fees etc.)	Logistic support to all branches by the Legal Aid Sub-committee	Implemented	Achieved
1.1.2	Provide Legal support to victims of violence	Central: 100 District: 120	Central: 193 (Old:167, New: 26) District and Grassroots: 892 (Old: 734, New: 158)	Achieved
1.1.3	Public Interest Litigation (PIL)	As Per Necessity	1	Achieved
1.1.4	Provide counseling	Central: 50 District: 200 Grassroots: 50	Central: 114 District: 1043 Grassroots: 344	Achieved
1.1.5	Application/Petition Received & responses	Central: 150 District: 550 Grassroots: 250	Central: 221 District: 1115 Grassroots: 549	Achieved
1.1.6	Mediation	Central: 50		Achieved

SL.	Areas of Intervention	Activities		Status (%)
		Planned	Actual	
		District: 250 Grassroots: 200	Central: 77 District: 453 Grassroots: 332 Resolved: 36 Unresolved: 41 Follow Up: 27	
1.1.7	Provide Medicare for victims of violence	Central: at least 10 persons	19 persons	Achieved
1.1.8	Support to Victim (Complain received, conveyance and others)	As per necessity	23 persons	Done
1.1.9	Client workshop	3	(1) Date: 30.01.2014 Venue: Sufia Kamal auditorium. Attendees 74 among these client 43 (2) Date: 05.05.2014 Venue: Sufia Kamal auditorium. Attendees 79 among these client 52 (3) Date: 10.11.2014 Venue: Sufia Kamal auditorium. Attendees 80 among these client 47	100%
1.1.10	Conduct Investigation and spot visits	Minimum 25	28	Achived
1.1.11	Sharing experience with district leaders about legal activism	1	Date: 22.08.2014, Venue: Fars Hotel & Resort Ltd., Purana Paltan, Dhaka Attendanc e: 167	100%
1.1.12	Round Table/ Lobby with concern authorities	1	Date: 12.04.2014 Venue: CIRDAP Auditorium Attendance: 167	100%
1.1.13		2	5 1.	100%

SL.	Areas of Intervention	Activities		Status (%)
		Planned	Actual	
	Press Conference		Date: 25.02.2014 Venue: Sufia Kamal auditorium 2. Date: 22.06.2014 Venue: National Press Club Auditorium 3. Date: 30.09.2014 Venue: National Press Club Auditorium 4. Date: 15.10.2014 Venue: Press Club Auditorium, Tangail. 5. Date: 24.11.2014 Venue: National Press Club Auditorium	
1.1.14	Policy Intervention Programme, Advocacy Lobby and Partnership with GO, and NGOs	1	2	Achieved
1.1.15	Solidarity Activity with international VAW resistance Programme	Fortnight Program:1	Observed on 25 <sup>th</sup> November 2014-10 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	100%
1.2.1	Foods for residents of shelter home (Rokeya Sadan)	As required upto 30 person	17 persons New inclusion: 9 persons Total: 26	Achieved
1.2.2	Clothing (yearly)-School uniform, dress for home use and festivals	3 times in a year	Purchases from own fund and also collection from well wishers	Achieved
1.2.4	Rehabilitation	As prepared	3 persons	Done
1.2.4	Education (Formal and Non formal)	As required	a.3 person took formal education from school b.2 person took preparation to get admission in school c. 1 person took preparation for examination d. 2 person took	Achieved

SL.	Areas of Intervention	Activities		Status (%)
		Planned	Actual	
			formal education from Open University	
1.2.4	Cutting and sewing	As required	2 persons completed successfully 3 persons in training	Achieved
1.2.4	Music	Lesson music	8 person took lesson from music teacher	Achieved
1.2.5.	Medical help	Regular check up and treatment	1 3 days medical check up by medical officer	100%
1.2.6.	Counseling	As required	36 person participated individual and 12 counseling	100%
1.2.7	Rokeya Sadan Office Management	1 meeting in each month	10meeting held in this year	83%
1.2.10	Sharing meeting	Bimonthly	4 general meetings held in this year	100%
1.2.11	Furniture and Fixtures for Sadan		One freeze	
1.2.12	Cultural Program	01	Cultural program was organized to celebrate Rokeya Sadan's 28 <sup>th</sup> anniversary  A gala cultural Program was arranged on that occasion. Kazi Riazul Haque, Member of Human Right commission as chief guest on the occasion. Invited guests admire the Cultural Program conducted by the inmates of Rokey Sadan.	Achieved
1.2.15	Rokeya Sadan related publication			
1.2.16	Repair and Maintenance of Sadan	Repair and Maintenance of electrical, sanitary		Done

SL.	Areas of Intervention	Activities		Status (%)
		Planned	Actual	
		and other work		

### ***III.1.i. Details of area specific interventions under output 1***

#### ***1.1.1 Providing support to branches for legal activism***

BMP Legal Aid Subcommittee provided logistic support to all district branches in 2014.

#### ***1.1.2 Providing legal support to victims of violence***

The role of legal aid has always been critical to mitigate the situations faced by women, given the increasing number of cases of VAW. BMP consistently provides legal support to victims of violence throughout the country. In fact, the major strength of BMP is that women confronting violence at both public and private sphere can depend on legal aid services. In it's2014, a total of 1085 cases were dealt by BMP against the targets of 100 at central and 120 at district levels. In 2014 out of the 1085 cases 193 were at central, 892at district and grassroots levels.

**Case 1**  
**Verdict of Court with a Case History**  
Chapa Rani Bhowmik (Murder)

Chapa Rani Bhowmik, a sugar mill worker, was killed in Madhukhali under Faridpur district on October 26, 2010. The case details indicate Debashish Saha Rony used to stalk and harass Chapa Rani's daughter. When she complained to Modhukhali Upazila chairman, Chapa Rani's family was threatened with death. Then Rony crushed Chapa Rani in front of the warehouse of Faridpur sugar mill by driving his motorcycle over her. The victim's brother Arun Bhowmik filed a case with Modhukhali Police Station after Chapa Rani's murder. BMP provided legal support in this case.

On 9 July 2014 the Honorable Court delivered a verdict in favour of the plaintiff. Rony, the man who crushed Chapa Rani with his motorbike for protesting her daughter's abuse at Faridpur, has been sentenced to death. Rony was also fined Tk 10,000.

Chapa Rani's husband Swapan Kumar Biswas expressed satisfaction over the verdict.

It may be mentioned that the number of cases sought legal support from BMP is higher than the targets set by the organization. BMP succeeded in ensuring justice for victims of VAW in many cases. The court delivered several verdicts/orders in favour of the victims in 2014. Two cases have been briefly introduced in this section.

**Case 2**  
**Verdict of Court with a Case History**  
 Fahmida Akhter Nazma (a case of murder)

In July 7, 2014 a Dhaka court gave life imprisonment to a physician and his extramarital partner for killing his wife in the capital's Mirpur six years ago. The lifers-Dr Tozammel Hossain and his partner Shamsunnahar alias Nargis-killed the woman for trying to hinder their relationship. Police recovered the body of Fahmida Akhter Nazma the physician's wife, from the bathroom of her residence in Mirpur-2 on July 7, 2008, after her husband informed police of having returned home to find her dead. Her face was burnt, legs fractured, tendons of the legs severed, and hands tied behind the back. Hon'ble Judge of the District and Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka handed down the sentence in presence of the lifers. The victim's brother, Mehedi Hasan, had filed the murder case.

BMP provided legal support in this case.

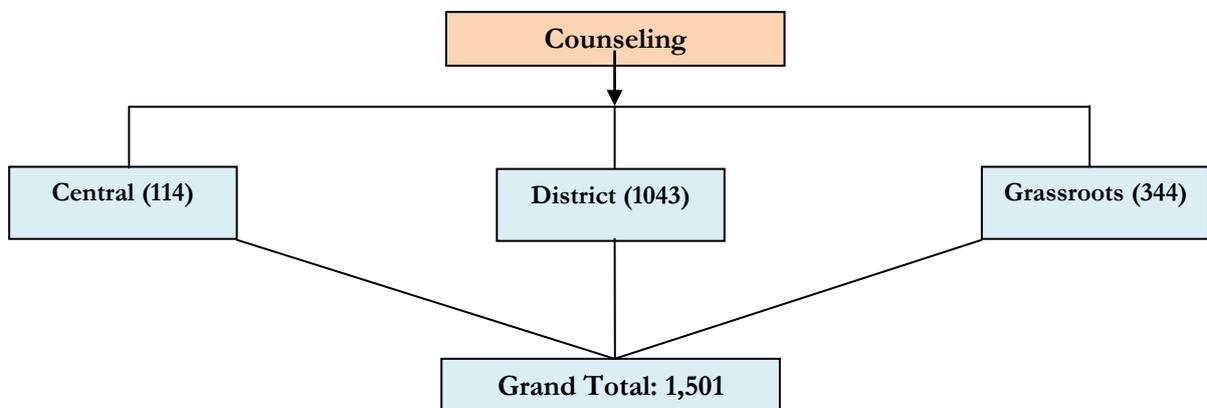
**1.1.3 Undertaking activities concerning Public Interest Litigation (PIL)**

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad has set its aim to operate Public Interest Litigation as per necessity.

**1.1.4 Providing counseling**

Counseling is a major activity of BMP to face the scourge of VAW. Victims of violence often seek the support of the organization to conduct counseling. With a target of 300 recipients of counseling, the organization was able to serve 1,501 clients in 2014 at central, district, and grassroots levels. Male clients have also been seeking legal advice side by side women. As a result, efficiency and credibility of legal aid were enhanced.

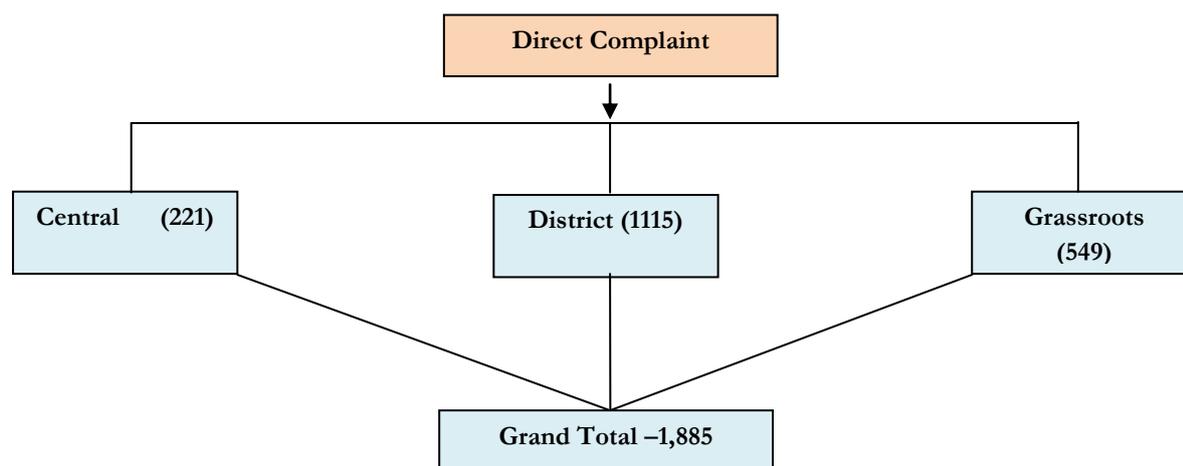
**Figure 3.4: Counseling Services Provided by BMP in 2014**



### 1.1.5 Receiving application/petition

The Legal Unit of BMP received a large number of applications/petitions in 2014. The number of complaints received was 1,885 at the central, district and grassroots levels which surpassed the planned targets in a big margin. Women are becoming active in seeking legal remedies for their sufferings in the society.

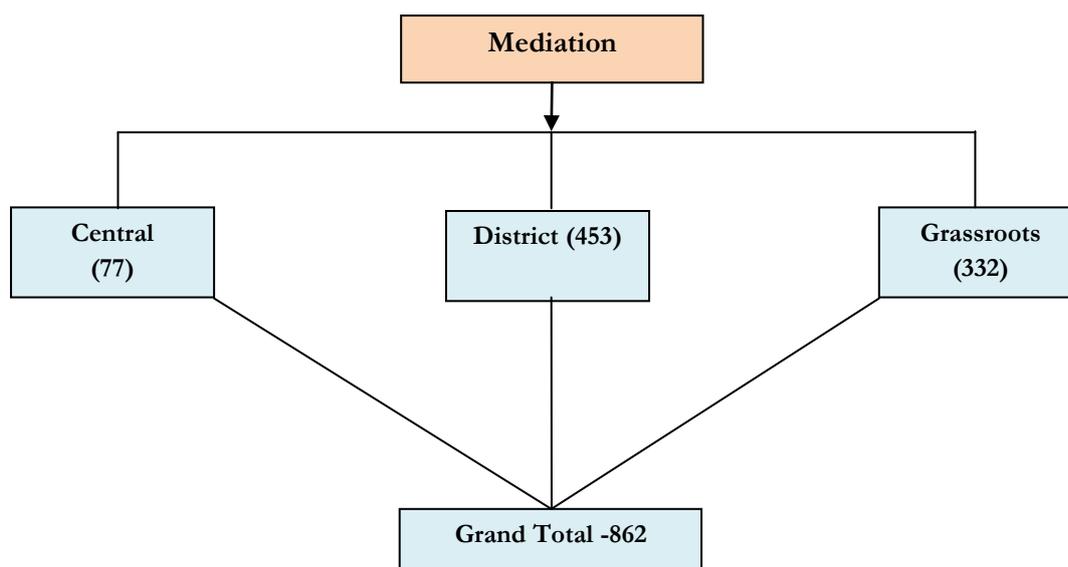
**Figure 3.5: Complaints Received by BMP in 2014**



### 1.1.6 Providing mediation services

Mediation services have been very useful to the victims of violence. There have been a total of 862 cases received mediation services at central, district and grassroots levels from the Legal Unit of BMP. It may be mentioned that BMP pulled in a total of Tk. 1,03,28700 as dowry and maintenance through mediation at the central level, which is higher than the previous year. The public representatives have also witnessed the impartial mediation process and praised this activity.

**Figure 3.6: Mediation Services Provided by BMP in 2014**



### 1.1.7 Providing Medicare for victims of violence

BMP provided Medicare facilities to 19 victims of violence in 2014. Medicare facilities were given to women and children suffered from different kinds of violence such as rape, acid burnt torture and domestic violence.

**Table 3.4: Recipients of Medicare Facilities in 2014**

Sl. No.	Name & address of victims	Type of violence	Remarks
1.	Afroza Begum, Gaibandha.	Attempt to Burnt alive for dowry	Being provided legal support by district branches.
2.	Anowara Begum Dhaka.	School student Emon killing	Being provided legal support.
3.	Nazma Begum and Sumiya Akter Rajani, Tangail.	Stabbed for dowry	Being provided legal support through district branch.
4.	Arpona Debi, Dhaka.	Torture for Dowry	Being provided legal support by district branch
5.	Jharna Akter, Dhaka	Torture for Dowry	Sent letter for peaceful settlement
6.	Bilkis Begum, Dhaka.	Physical and mental torture	Sent letter for peaceful settlement
7.	Laila Begum, Dhaka.	Spousal support	Provided reminder to maintain the conditions of salish
8.	Irin Akter, Dhaka.	Physical and mental torture	Resolved
9.	Fuljan, Gazipur	Family violence	Being provided legal support
10.	Riya Akter, Dhaka.	Physical and mental torture	Being provided legal support
11.	Afroza Khatun, Tangail.	Attempt to murder	Preparing to file case
12.	Nargis Akter, Noakhali.	Attempt to Burnt alive for dowry	Being provided legal support by district branches.
13.	Shefali, Dhaka	Torture for Dowry	Being provided legal support
14.	Laila, Dhaka	Spousal support	Solved through mediation
15.	Lucky Akter, Dhaka.	Maid servant torture	Previous Shelter receiver from Rokeya Sadan

16.	Nupur Akter, Dhaka	Rape	Being provided legal support
17.	Lovely Begum, Dhaka	Family dispute	Solved through mediation
18.	Rojina Akter, Dhaka	Family dispute	Sent letter for peaceful settlement
19.	Abdur Rashid Tuku, Father Ratna Akter, Tangail	Rape	Being provided legal support by district branches.

### ***1.1.8 Providing support to victims***

Since it's launching in 2009 the Victim Support has been playing a significant role in mitigating sufferings of women from different backdrops – physical torture, domestic violence, child marriage, demands for dowry etc. In 2014, a total of twenty three women/girls received financial support as transport conveyance and other related costs. With this support it was possible to contact with the court and lawyers' chambers as needed. It was also possible to ensure timely presence of witnesses in the court during case hearings. Table provides details about the victims.

**Table 3.5: Recipients of Victim Support, 2014**

Sl. No.	Name	Type of Violence	Remarks
1	Sulekha Parvenn (mother of acid burn victim Moni), Dhaka	Acid burn	Being provided legal support by district branch
2	Shilpi Begum, Dhaka	Rape	Being provided legal support
3	Abdul Khalek, Barisal	Witness of School student Emon killing	Being provided legal support
4	Asma Begum, Kishorganj	Maid servant torture	Being provided legal support
5	Priya Akter, Narayanganj	Maid servant torture	Being provided legal support
6	Rozina, Savar	Family dispute	Sent letter for peaceful settlement
7	Doli Khatun, Chuadanga	Rape	Being provided legal support
8	Monower Hossain, Dinajpur	Hot water burn	Being provided legal support by district branch
9	Rahima Begum, Tangail	Rape	Being provided legal support by district branch
10	Parul Akter, Dhaka	Family dispute	Sent letter for peaceful settlement
11	Hasina Banu, Dhaka	Family dispute	Resolved
12	Jura Mia (victim's father), Dhaka	Murder for dowry	Being provided legal support
13	Asma Begum, Kishorganj	Maid servant torture	Being provided legal support
14	Priya Akter, Narayanganj	Maid servant torture	Being provided legal support
15	Chunnu Sheikh (victim's uncle), Faridpur	Murder	Being provided legal support
16	Iva Sarkar, Dhaka	Minority torture	Support
17	Sumona Begum, Dhaka	Family violence	Conducted Shalish
18	Suma Khatun, Dhaka	Family violence	Sent letter for peaceful settlement
19	Runa Begum (victim's mother), Faridpur	Murder after rape	Being provided legal support by district branch
20	Rashida Begum, Dhaka	Rape	Shelter in Rokeya Sadan
21	Sokhina Begum, Narayanganj	Family violence	Trying to resolve
22	Monowera Monu, Dhaka	Family violence	Sent letter for peaceful settlement
23	Abdul Ali (victim's father), Kishorganj	Murder after rape	Being provided legal support by district branch

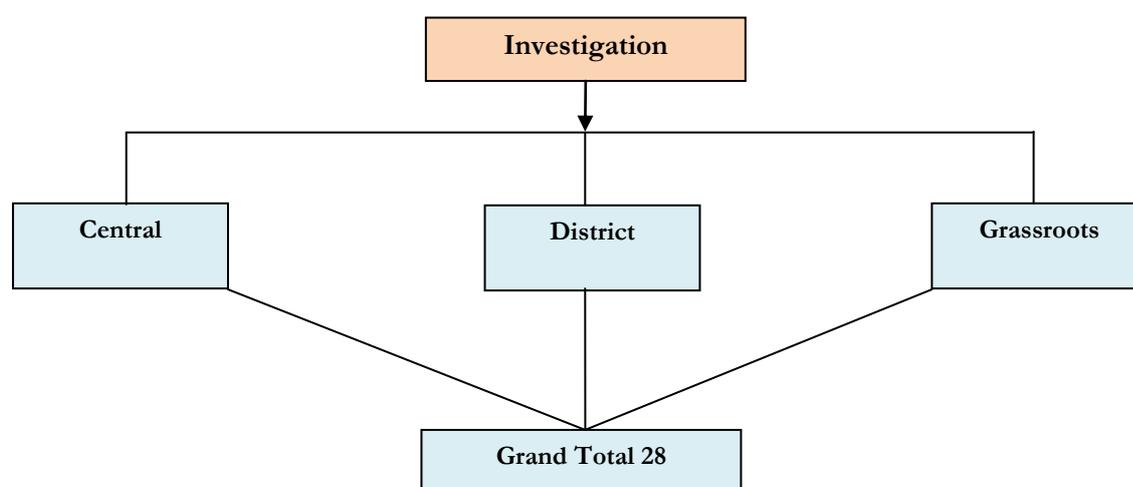
### ***1.1.9 Organizing client workshop***

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organized three client workshops on 30 January, 05 May and 10 November in this year 2013 at Sufia Kamal Bhaban located at the central office. In this workshop a total number of 233 clients and family members, leaders and staff to panel lawyers, lawyers and staff lawyers at the central office were present. Clients participated and shared their views with BMP. The Victims of VAW who received support from BMP shared their experiences and opinion regarding BMP's legal help. BMP members and lawyers gave patient hearing and stated the status of their cases. BMP reiterated their commitment towards victims. The key achievement of client workshops is reducing frustration of victims through exchange of views and finding ways to remove problems.

### ***1.1.10 Conducting investigation and spot visits***

BMP successfully conducted investigations and spot visits in the year 2014. BMP completed 28 investigations and spot visits either by its own initiative or in response to the complaints relating to incidences of women repression throughout the country during this period. It has contributed to make all the people aware of legal remedies.

**Figure 3.7: Number of Investigations Conducted by BMP in 2014**



### ***1.1.11 Sharing Experience with district leaders about legal activism***

BMP organized a meeting to share experiences and challenges with district leaders about legal activism during this period. There were 167 participants in the meeting. The main thrust of this meeting was to develop skill and strategy in resisting violence against women in light of experiences all over the country.

Recommendations for Legal Aid Activities are-

- take initiatives to publish/broadcast on media of all sorts of activities of legal aid sub-committee;
- awareness building for men and women at grass root level about violence against women;

- integrating men and young generation in resisting violence against women;
- decentralizing organization to grass root level;
- extend movement based activities at local level of BMP;
- conduct monthly sharing meeting with the students of school and college for awareness building against sexual harassment and stalking;
- specific law must have to enacted to stop sexual harassment and stalking;

### **Victim Support Centre**

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad is working with Bangladesh Police in partnership to run victim support centre at Dhaka and Rangamati District. BMP is also committed to work as an active partner organization to run victim support centre of other divisions which is now under process. This is a positive experience of GO/NGO partnership towards ensuring women's Human Rights. One nominated Lawyer from BMP render services to victim support centre weekly. BMP also gave temporary shelter in Rokeya Sadan and provide legal and all other support to the victim if necessary.

#### ***1.1.12 Round Table/Lobby with concerned authorities***

On 12 April 2014, BMP organized a Roundtable/lobby with concerned government authorities, justices, lawyers, doctors, journalists, teachers and other professional about combating VAW. BMP representatives and aforesaid participants exchanged their views and expressed their intention to combat VAW through personal and institutional level. The program was attended by 167 persons.

A discussion meeting with Judges, Administration, Advocates, Doctors , Journalist, Civil Society & Private Sector so on arranging to balance and accelerate activities to resist violence against women was held on 12, April 2014 at CIRDAP Auditorium, Dhaka. The discussion meeting was organized by Central Legal Aid Sub Committee of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad. A total number of 166 participants were actively attended the discussion meeting. The program was chaired by Ayesha Khanam, President, Central Committee of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.

The Chief Guest was A.B.M Khairul Haq, Honorable Chairman, Law Commission; Special Guest was Mr. Tarik-Uk-Islam, Secretary of Ministry of Women & Child Affairs of People 's Republic of Bangladesh.

Shorab Hossain, Joint Editor, The Daily Prothom Alo, Pronob Saha, News Editor(output) ATN News, Dr. Meghla Sarkar, Associate Professor, National Mental Health Institute, Dhaka, Advocate Zead-Al-malum, Prosecutor, International Crimes Tribunal, Dr. Turin Afrooz, Prosecutor, International Crimes Tribunal, Dr. Sharif Akhtaruzzaman, National Technical Advisor, National Forensic DNA profiling Laboratory, Forensic Medicine, Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Umme Owara, Assistant Professor, Law Department, Jagannath University, Shamima Begum, Assistant Deputy Police Commissioner, Gulshan Zone, DMP, Dhaka were present in the discussion meeting.

The Discussion Meeting was conducted by Adv. Maksuda Akhter, Director Advocacy & Lobby, Central Legal Aid Sub Committee of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.

#### ***1.1.13 Press conference***

The Legal Aid Unit of BMP organized five press conferences in 2014. The first press conference was held on 25 February 2014 regarding Child Marriage Restraint Act 2013 (draft) at the Sufia Kamal Bhaban Auditorium, Dhaka. Fifty persons including 10 journalists were present in the conference. The second press conference was held on 22 July 2014 on combat increasing VAW at National Press club Auditorium. Hundred eighteen persons including 18 journalists were present in the conference. The third press conference was held on 30 September 2014 at National Press Club auditorium regarding Child Marriage Restraint Act 2014. Hundred eight persons including 60 journalists were present in the conference. The fourth press conference was organized with presence of central leaders of Tangail district branch to protest against the incident of violence against women in Tangail on 15 October, 2014 at Tangail Press Club. It was alleged that four members of a family, including a mother and her three daughters, were burnt alive as stalkers allegedly set fire on the house at Mirzapur upazila in Tangail. In the conference a total thirty persons including 10 journalists were present. The fifth press conference was held on 24 November 2014 at the National Press Club Auditorium. The Press Conference was organized to observe the International Fortnight to Resist of VAW and Universal Human Rights Day 2014. On this occasion, 110 persons including 49 journalists were present.

**Table 3.6: Press Conferences on Legal Aid in 2014**

SL.	Date	Venue	Theme	Outcome
1.	25.02.2014	Sufia Kamal Bhaban Auditorium, Dhaka	Child Marriage Restraint Act 2013	BMP leaders, employees, district leaders and journalist from different print and electronic media were present at the conference who declared their claims and recommendations at the press conference, which received extensive media coverage
2.		National Press Club Auditorium, Dhaka	Combat increasing VAW	BMP leaders, employees, district leaders and journalist from different print and electronic media were present at the conference who declared their claims and recommendations at the press conference, which received extensive media coverage
3	30.09.2014	National Press Club auditorium	Child Marriage Restraint Act 2013	BMP leaders, employees, district leaders and journalist from different print and electronic media were present at the conference who declared their claims and recommendations at the press conference, which received extensive media coverage
4	15.10.2014	Tangail Press Club	Burnt alive as stalkers allegedly set fire on the house at Mirzapur upazila	BMP leaders, employees and different media journalists expressed the need to prevent violence against women including rape, gang rape, sexual harassment

			in Tangail.	at urgent basis and highlighted the on concerted effort towards success
5	24.11.2014	National Press Club auditorium	Universal Human Rights Day, Resist VAW 2013 & Fortnight	BMP & journalist leaders emphasized equal rights and women empowerment.

#### 1.1.14 Policy Intervention Programme, Advocacy Lobby and Partnership with GO, NGOs

BMP organized two meetings for policy intervention and partnership with GO and NGOs. The meetings were held on 22 January and 7 December in the year 2014. The recommendations submitted to the government on behalf of BMP.

**Table 3.7: Lobbying with private and public bodies**

Date	Venue	Theme	Lobby With
22.01.2014	Begum Sufia Kamal Auditorium	Law Reform and others	GO, NGO, Civil Society Discussion Meeting with Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliament Affairs; Expert Committee on Law Reform, Members of Civil Society and District branches leaders of BMP.
07.12.2014	CIRDAP Auditorium		

#### Law Reform Initiatives of BMP

As a continuation of its past role BMP has remained vocal through its active and proactive roles in the movement of law reforms in 2014. Government, administration and different women human rights organizations and development organizations have considered BMP as an organization and a force of law reforming, new law drafting, and a strong voice in the sphere of women rights. This is a foremost aspect of the achievements of BMP in Bangladesh. The law reform initiatives of BMP are the signature interventions in the society where legal system suffers from myriad of limitations and discriminations in terms of gender and marginalized communities. It is a fact that BMP has a significant contribution to all laws enacted after the Independence of Bangladesh. Between 1980 and 2014 BMP was either proposer of new laws or author of draft laws or a leading advocate to all women related laws in Bangladesh. Particularly, since 2008 BMP has remained vocal through its active and proactive roles in the movement for human rights and law reforms.

##### Law Reform Movement

BMP continued Sustained move towards reforming existing law, particularly discriminatory personal law. BMP the move also include to reform discriminatory law and enactment of new law upholding their rights.

##### *Child Marriage Restraint Act*

The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs drafted the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2013 (Draft) and sent BMP for opinion. BMP has submitted recommendations on the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2013 State Minister, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs on 22.01.2014.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) considered the draft 'Child Marriage Restraint Act 2013' only empowered the class I magistrate to try any case. BMP recommended that the family court be given the power to settle any dispute involving child marriage in the revised law for better adjudication. If the same authority is invested in the family court, it would settle the case more judiciously because it is familiar with the ins and outs. BMP also suggest that the law be called "Minor Marriage Restraint Act 2013".

According to the Child Act 2013, everyone below 18 is a child. But the marriageable age is 21 for men and 18 for women. A man aged 20 is not a child but also not eligible for marriage as per the Bangladeshi law. So to erase all confusion, BMP opt to use the term 'minor' instead of child. The BMP also opposed a section that calls for dissolution of the child marriage. The society is not yet ready for such a drastic measure. BMP recommended that the child be taken to a shelter or kept with her parents until she becomes adult while the guardians provide the follow-ups to court regularly.

#### *Elimination of Discrimination Act, 2014 (Draft)*

Recently the Law Commission has prepared the Elimination of Discrimination Act, 2014 (Draft) and sent BMP for opinion. BMP has sent recommendations on the draft Elimination of Discrimination Act, 2014 to the Chairman, Law Commission. BMP also took initiatives to disseminate Domestic violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010 and it's Rules 2013 through training program among organizers of BMP. BMP is now working all over the country to implement the said law.

#### *Universal Periodic Review (UPR)*

BMP as an active member of Human Rights Forum, a civil society platform of different women's human rights and development organization contributed in preparing UPR 2013 followup. On behalf of BMP, President Ayesha Khanam performed as a member of steering committee of Human Rights Forum of Bangladesh. BMP prepared Women Humans Rights Chapter of the report and gave recommendations. BMP always remains careful about authenticity and credibility of report and intervened on the draft report when felt necessary. BMP central and district representatives also participated in the different activities organized by National Human Rights Commission.

#### *Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) Act*

The Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) Bill was passed in the Parliament on September 10, 2014 with a provision of bringing the DNA test process under a legal framework. With the enactment of the law, the DNA test process will be brought under a legal framework as the country's existing laws do not have the provision for DNA profiling. Besides, it would help framing related laws regarding DNA collection and analysis, DNA profile management, establishing forensic DNA laboratories and a national DNA database for detecting criminals, identifying relations between two or more persons and also decomposed bodies. The objective of the bill says that the DNA profiling is important for detecting criminals accused of major offences like rape, murder, determining fatherhood, motherhood and sibling relationship and also identifying decomposed bodies. The organization has been demanding to the government for repealing some provisions of the draft Act.

### ***1.1.15 Solidarity activities with international VAW resistance***

As a voluntary mass women organization, BMP has been working relentlessly towards upholding women's human rights by engaging itself into multidimensional activities. BMP expresses full solidarity with both national and international enterprises in resisting VAW. As a continuation of its endeavour, BMP carried out a number of activities during 25 November – 10 December 2014 in observance of the International Fortnight Prevention of Violence against Women. Different activities were carried out from the central to grassroots level. BMP published and distributed posters, leaflets, and stickers throughout the country to the Social Action Committee (SAC), other women and human rights organizations, academic institutions including department of women and gender studies of university Dhaka, government agencies including relevant Ministries, various Parliamentary Committees, and Members of the Parliament. It should be noted that Bangladesh Mahila Parishad is the Secretariat of Social Action Committee. Besides, TV Spots, to create awareness on violence against women, waste-casted on TV channels during the fortnight. The main theme of this fortnight was 'Oppression of Women and Girl Child should be Resisted and Eliminated'.

**Table 3.8: International Fortnight to Resist VAW**

SL.	Date	Venue	Event
1.	24.11.2014	Conference Lounge, National Press Club Auditorium, Dhaka	Press Conference
2.	25.11.2014	Oporajeyo Bangla, University of Dhaka	Rally and Pot Gan (jointly organized with department of women gender studies)
3.	27.11.2014	Senate building	Dialogue
4.	02.12.2014	R C Majumder Auditorium	Sharing Meeting (jointly organized with department of women gender studies)
5.	03.12.2014	In front of National Press Club	Human chain
6.	04.12.2014	R C Majumder Auditorium	Dialogue (jointly organized with department of women gender studies)
7.	07.12.2014	CIRDAP Auditorium	Experience sharing meeting with the representatives of VSC, OSCC and Women Police Network

### ***1.2.1-1.2.15 Rokeya Sadan***

Rokeya Sadan has emerged as an essential platform of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad against VAW. BMP runs Rokeya Sadan as an inseparable part of legal activism. Women and girl children victims of violence are being given safe shelter in Rokeya Sadan and provided with food, education, nutrition, income generating training, legal assistance, psychological counseling, and entertainment facilities. Measures are taken to impart education to Sadan residents, both formal and non-formal education, as per their needs and are provided a house tutor. As an integral part of legal activism, women and girl child victims of violence are being given temporary shelter in Rokeya Sadan. During the reporting period 26 victims were given shelter in Sadan of which nine are new comers. They were referred from police custody, branches of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and individuals members of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad. All of them have been provided with proper food and nutrition, clothing and other stuff, Medicare facilities, counselling services, education, skill development training, and recreation facilities. Residents have to follow rules and regulations of Rokeya Sadan, approved by central committee. House Tutors have been provided for the students getting

formal (3) and non-formal (6) education. One music teacher has also remained engaged for children who are interested in music. One Medical Officer visits Rokeya Sadan thrice a week; one clinical psychologist comes for individual and group counseling once a week and on an emergency basis. One is getting Income generating training. For recreation and entertainment there are provision of reading books, magazines and, playing indoor games and watch television and yearly study tour, picnic.

Rokeya Sadan is supervised by Rokeya Sadan sub Committee that meets once formally every month. One full time superintendent and one Administrative officer assist them for management of Rokeya Sadan. Four formal sharing meeting arranged with the residents of Rokeya Sadan and sub-committee where both the parties shared experiences, expectation, and problems. Follow up steps taken accordingly. Besides, informal sharing with the residents and responsible members met routinely on an emergency basis to solve the emerging and crucial problems. Legal Aid unit also shares with individual resident about the status of their legal cases. Resident of Rokeya Sadan also attends in different public programs.

The 28<sup>th</sup> Founding Anniversary of Rokeya Sadan was observed on 19<sup>th</sup> February at Sufia Kamal Auditorium. A gala Cultural Program was arranged on that occasion. Kazi Riazul Haque, Member of Human Right commission as chief guest on the occasion. Invited guests admire the cultural program conducted by Rokey Sadan.

As in previous year there is story of success in training program during the reporting year. In this year two residents of Sadan successfully qualified the Secondary school certificate examination. One of them got admitted in Music College. Her performance in college is very encouraging. This year also one resident got admitted in higher secondary level after passing secondary school certificate examination. Another one successfully passed JSC. Scope of education other than general schooling has been explored. Two residents who have dropped their schooling as result of violence has been admitted is Open University program.

Two residents have been rehabilitated by supplying sewing machines. The environment of Rokeya Sadan has been improved by continuous effort of management team. Inmates have been inspired with education and cultural activities. Plan has adopted so that every resident can participate in all activities including cultural activities.

Rokeya Sadan has become well known as a symbol of shelter home amongst the human rights activist. A number of victim of violence has been rehabilitated with courage in the society received training and motivation from Rokeya Sadan. To build up as an ideal shelter home many steps to be taken in future. It is to be remembered that Rokeya Sadan is not only humanitarian service centre, it is protest against VAW.

## Output 2: Strengthening Political Empowerment of Women

As part of its continuous endeavour to empower women politically and increase their participations in the decision making process, BMP focuses on a number of interventions. It believes that political empowerment of women is a critical requirement for advancement of women in the society. In this connection, the contribution of BMP has been a major boost to strengthen political empowerment of women. It is assumed that without equal and effective participation of women in political arena, there cannot be a meaningful change in rights and status of women in our society. BMP has identified it as the second most important component of its actions and programmes. Like previous years, BMP undertook multidimensional programmes and activities in the year 2013 towards achieving political, economic and social empowerment of women in Bangladesh.

**Table 3.9**  
**Output 2: Status of Achievements in Strengthening Political Empowerment of Women, 2014**

Sl	Areas of intervention	Activities		Achievement Status
		Planned	Actual	
2.1.1	Carry out advocacy and lobby for political empowerment of women and increase women's participation at the decision making levels (Political Party leaders/women leaders/MPs/ Civil Society members / HR organizations) Sharing Meeting/ Roundtable Discussion/ press conference / Human Chain/ Street Movement/ Lobby	2	3	Achieved
2.1.2	Sharing Meeting/ Roundtable Discussion/ Press conference / Human Chain/ Street Movement/ Lobby Grass root Level:	10 Districts	10	Achieved
2.1.4	Carryout lobby and advocacy for Gender Budgeting	Meeting/ discussion Central level: 1	2	Achieved
2.1.5	Carryout lobby and Advocacy for gender budgeting at grassroots level	10 District	21 District	Achieved
2.1.7	Promotion of Political empowerment of women and increase women's participation at the decision making levels through alliance networking (Social action committee). Submission of memorandum / Sharing Meeting/ Round table Discussion / Press Conference/ Human chain/ Street movement / lobby/ National convention – Submission of Memorandum/ Sharing Meeting/ Round table Discussion / Press Conference/ Human Chain/ Street Movement / Lobby/ National Convention)	a) Central Level: 2 b) Grass root level: 10	Central: 1 Grassroots: 10	Achieved

Sl	Areas of intervention	Activities		Achievement Status
		Planned	Actual	
2.1.8	Promote Women in Electoral Process – Poster, leaflet, campaign and logistic support (at all levels).	As per necessity	Out of 74 members of BMP 29 won in Upazila Parishadelection held in 2014.	Achieved

### ***III.2.i. Details of area specific interventions under output 2***

#### ***2.1.1: Advocacy and lobby for political empowerment of women and increase women’s participation at the decision-making levels***

As part of its continuous endeavour to empower women politically and increase their participations in the decision making process, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad has organised two major advocacy and lobby programs in the year 2014. Bangladesh Mahila Parishad collected 78501 signatures for introducing of direct election in the reserved seats and ré-demarcation of parliamentary constituency. From the movement sub-committee a notice was circulated to all branches of BMP for collecting signature of women on this issue. BMP submitted these signatures to the Honourable Prime Minister, Speaker of 10th National parliament, Deputy Leader of National Parliament, Chairman of the Standing Committee, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organized a sharing meeting on “Introduction of Direct election in women reserved seats, increase one- third number of the reserved seats and nomination 33% women by political party” on 18th November, 2014 at CIRDAP auditorium. Mr. Mahuz Anam, Editor, The Daily Star and Prof. Abdul Mannan, Former Vice Chancellor, University of Chittagong were present as the chief guests while Ayesha Khanam, President of the organization chaired the meeting. Welcome speech was delivered by Rakhi Das Purkaystha, Acting General Secretary, BMP. She said in her speech that number of the female voters increased significantly but women’s participation in policy making and political empowerment remained insignificant. The Statement from Bangladesh Mahila Parishad was presented by Jana Goswami, Program Director, Advocacy and lobby.

The speakers demanded that every political party nominate minimum 33 percent women among the total candidates for the election. They also called for introduction of direct election in women reserved seats and increasing one- third of total seats.

Special guest Mahfuz Anam said that women voters to have be united and refrain from voting the candidates who do not work for women empowerment. He also recommended BMP to include young generation through social networking sites. Former VC, CU said that till now most of the female voters cast their vote according to wish of their husband. He emphasized the need for enhancing women’s participation in election as voters.

President Bangladesh Mahila Parishad said that “we cannot expect positive changes in the women’s rights movement if a female MP of one constituency is assigned to a completely different constituency of which she has no knowledge. In this situation women cannot

contribute much to the society. She blamed a lack of political will to overcome hindrance to women's political empowerment.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressing concern with regard to increase one-third in number of the reserve seats (for women) in the parliament and direct election.

### ***2.1.2 Activities at Grassroots Level***

As per plan of the project BMP organized sharing meeting/roundtable discussions/press conference/human chain/street movement/lobby in the districts of Munshiganj, Mymensingh, Kishorganj, Kurigram, Kumarkhali, Khulna, Netrokona, Chittagong and Brahmanbaria in 2014. The key objective of these activities was to enhance political empowerment and to increase women's participation in decision-making process. By highlighting issues surrounding governance, policy and human rights, these activities pointed to various ways in which women can be integrated into the democratization process. The lasting impact of women's increased mobilization and participation will ultimately be seen at the level of the individual as women everywhere gain a heightened consciousness and come to believe in the possibility of transformation.

### ***2.1.4 Carry out advocacy and lobby for gender budgeting***

Gender budgeting is considered a major tool for achieving the goal of women empowerment of women. BMP maintained its strong advocacy and lobbying role in 2014 for introducing gender budgeting in Bangladesh. In this connection, two meetings were organised in 2014 at the central level, which were successful in achieving the goals.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organized a discussion meeting on "Gender responsive budget implementation and monitoring" at the CIRDAP, Auditorium, on 23rd April 2014. Dr. Binayak Sen, Director, Research, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), was present in the meeting as the Special Guest. Dr. Khondokar Asraful Munim, Associate Professor, Economics Department, Jahangirnagar University and Dr. Mohammad Helal Uddin, Assistant Professor, Economics Department, Dhaka University were the Panel discussants.

Sharmind Nilormi, Associate Professor, Jahangirnagar University presented the key note paper. She mentioned in her key note paper that almost all the ministries in their reports had mentioned the number of gender responsive projects they took. In the paper, it was shown that relative allocation for women targeted programmes in the ADP such as the secondary school stipend had declined sharply in the last nine years. The Special Guest Dr. Binayak Sen said the cooperation between labour and women rights movements had to be strengthened to realize common demands. He also mentioned about Rana Plaza collapse incidence which killed thousand of workers mostly women and emphasized the need for workplace safety. Ayesha Khanam, President of Mahila Parishad emphasized on requirement of a concrete mechanism to implementing and monitoring gender responsive budget that form by different ministries.

The news was covered by 6 print media (*Prothom Alo, Daily Star, Sangbad, Samakal, New Age and Independent*) and 3 electronic media (Channel 71, Gazi TV and SA TV). A total of 110 participants were present at the meeting including BMP central committee members, different sub-committee members, social activists and media staffs.

A post-budget Discussion Meeting on “National Budget (2014-15) Expectation and Reality: Initiatives for Reducing Discrimination towards Women Empowerment” was held on 22 June, 2014 at the CIRDAP auditorium.

This discussion meeting was chaired by Ayesha Khanam, President, BMP. Eminent economist and Professor, Economics department, Dhaka University M.M.Akash was the Special Guest. Senior Vice President of Women chamber of Commerce and Industries Hasina Newaz and Dr. Mohammad Helal Uddin, Associate Professor, Economics Department, Dhaka University were present as the Panel discussants.

Sharmin Nilormi, Associate Professor, Jahangirnagar University presented the key note paper. Maleka Banu, General Secretary Bangladesh Mahila Parishad delivered the welcome speech. Kazi Sufia Akhter, Movement Secretary conducted the meeting. Among others the organizers of BMP, representatives from different organizations, representatives from print and electronic media were present at the meeting.

In this meeting the discussants expressed their different views on allocation and proper utilization in the national budget for women development and women empowerment. General Secretary Maleka Banu said that the philosophy of the national budget should be reflected on non-communal, humanitarian, male-female equity based society and state.

The special guest M.M Akash said that now many renowned economists appreciated for the development of Bangladesh. He said that the main causes of reducing the poverty level are the increase of wage at rural level and reducing the dependency on one earning member. President Ayesha Khanam said that we discuss on gender budget in the perspective of total budget but there is no discussion on the budget allocation for vulnerable people and adibashi people. She gave emphasis on monitoring and evaluation of allocation and utilization of the budget.

The event was covered by 6 print media (*Samakal, Prothom Alo, Janakantha, Ittefaq, New Age, and Sangbad*) and 6 electronic media (Somoy, Desh TV, ATN, SA TV, Independent Television, and Radio 89.6). The recommendations of this meeting were sent to the Honourable Minister, Ministry of Finance.

### ***2.1.5 Carryout lobby and advocacy for gender budgeting at the grassroots level***

A total of 21 district branches organised pre-budget discussion meetings, where BMP activists, political party leaders, government representatives, civil society members, media persons and people from several other professional backgrounds were present. All the programme reports were later sent to BMP central office.

**Table 3.10: Grassroots level meeting on budgeting for the year 2013-14**

SL.	Date	Venue	Session Chair
1.	13 April	Faridpur District Branch Office	Professor Shipra Roy
2.	25 April	Kumarkhali District Branch Office	Momtaz Begum
3.	26 April	Rajbari District Branch Office	Laili Nahar
4.	26 April	Kustia District Branch Office	Fatema Begum
5.	27 April	Sunamganj District Branch Office	Shila Roy
6.	27 April	Mymensingh District Branch Office	Ferdous Ara Mahmud
7.	28 April	Jessore District Branch Office	Professor Suriya Sharif
8.	29 April	Pirojpur District Branch Office	Ferdous Ara Mahmuda
9.	30 April	Rangpur District Branch Office	Professor Shah Alam
10.	30 April	Kurigram District Branch Office	Nandita Chatarjee
11.	30 April	Swarupkathi District Office	Laili Jahan
12.	30 April	Gaibandha District Office	Amatur Nur Chora
13.	03 May	Chittagong District Office	Professor Latifa Kabir
14.	03 May	Netrokona District Office	Sahida Akter
15.	06 May	Brahmanbaria District Office	Syeda Samsunnahar
16.	10 May	Narayanganj District Office	Lakhkhi Chatarjee
17.	15 May	Magura District Office	Momtaz Begum
18.	17 May	Barguna District Office	Nazma Begum
19.	18 May	Tangail District Office	Begum Samsur Nahar
20.	26 May	Kaukhali District Branch Office	Alo Rani Roy
21.	26 May	Dinajpur District Branch Office	Kanji Rahman

### ***2.1.7 Promotion of Political empowerment of women and increase women's participation at the decision-making levels through alliance networking***

Social Action Committee observed International Women's day 2014 in a festive mood. Demonstration, Cultural program and rally was organized on 8th March at Central Shahid Minar. Sixty seven organizations under the Social Action Committee arranged this program while Ayesha Khanam, President Bangladesh Mahila Parishad presided over the program and the Honorable State Minister of Women and Children Affairs Ministry Meher Afroze Chumki was the Chief Guest of this Program.

The program was inaugurated with a short Cultural programme participated by Udichi Shili Gosti and Nagorik Uddog shilpi Gosti, Bizon Kumar Mistri and Adibashi Forum Group dance by Indigenous and mentally challenged girls was very inspiring. Culture programme was concluded with dance drama prepared and presented by Shilpo Bangla of Ruposhree Chakrabarti.

The objective of the rally was to pressure the authorities to stop practicing using religion in politics that hindered women empowerment and equality. The theme of this gathering was selected "Stop using religion in politics, Ensure equality and development for women". The gathering was conducted by Florence Gomage from Dhaka YWCA. The declaration of the gathering was declared by Zakia K hasan, President of Women for Women and Sabina Yasmin, Program Officer from FPAB. Different representatives from Print and Electronic Media participated in this rally.

After declaration the Chief Guest and president delivered their speech and rally was proceeded from Shahid Miner and ended National Press Club. After the rally, Acting General Secretary, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad delivered a speech and concluded the program.

The event was covered by 9 print media (*Jugantor, Samakal, Sangbad, Prothom Alo, Bhorer Kagoj, Ittefaq, Daily Star, Independent and New Age,*) and 6 electronic media (BTV, RTV, Jamuna TV, ATN News, Boisakhi TV and Channel I).

### 2.1.8 Promote Women in Electoral Process

BMP circulated posters and leaflets, extended logistic support and conducted campaigns to promote women's role in the electoral process. Seventy four BMP organizers contested the Upazila Vice-Chairman post. BMP provided them with logistic and moral support. Among the contestants twenty nine BMP organizers won the election.

**Table 3.11: BMP Members won as Vice Chairman in the Upazilz Election, 2014**

Sl.	Name of the District	Name	Place	Position in BMP
1.	Jhalakhati	Israt Jahan Sonali	Vice Chairman Jhalokati Upzila	Movement Secretary Jhalakhati Zila Branch
		Afroza Akther Laizu	Vice Chairman Rajapur Upzila	General Secretary Rajapur Upzila
		Dalia Nasrin	Vice Chairman Nalchity Upzila	President Nalchity Upzila
2.	Sunajmgong	Nigar Sultana (Keya)	Vice Chairman	Member (was not member before election)
3.	Rajbari	Shahinur Akther Beauty	Vice Chairman Rajnari Sadar Upzila	Member
		Shahida Ahmed	Vice chairman Pangsha Upzila	Vice President Pangsha Thana Committee
4.	Rajshahi	Most. Sufia Begum	Vice Chairman Poba Upzila	Convener Nabogonga Village Committee
5.	Tangail	Tahmina Akther Mina	Women Vice Chairman Sakhipur Upzila	General Member Sakhipur Upzila Committee
6.	Sarupkathi	Jahanara Begum	Women Vice Chairman Sarupkathi Upzila	General Member Sarupkathi Zila Branch
7.	Pirojpur	Maksuda Akther	Women Vice Chairman Mathbaria Upzila	Member
		Asma Akther	Women Vice Chairman Vandaria Upzila	Member

		Ms Shahida Begum	Women Vice Chairman Zianagar Upzila	Member
		Anisakhan	Women Vice Chairman Sadar Upzila	Member
8	Sylhet	Joymoti Rani	Women Vice Chairman Fatehpur Union Jaintapur Upzila	Convener Jaintapure Upzila Committee
9	Bagerhat	Adv. Parvin Ahmed	Women Vice Chairman Bagerhat Sadar Upzila	Joint Secretary Zila Committee
		Hosne Ara Mili	Women Vice Chairman Rampaul Upzila	Vice President Rampaul Upzila Committee
		Kamrunnahar Hai	Women Vice Chairman Mongla Upzila	President Mongal Upzila Committee
		Rina Akther (Sagor)	Women Vice Chairman Saronkhola Upzila	President Saronkhola Upzila Committee
10.	Barishal	Monirunnahar Meri	Vice Chairman Gourondi Upzila Parishad	Convener Gourondi Thana Branch
		Tahmina Akther	Vice Chairman Bakergong Upzila Parishad	Vice President Bakergong Thana Branch
		Rehena Begum	Vice Chairman Barishal Sadar upzila Parishad	Member Barishal Zila Branch
		Nazma Begum	Vice Chairman Hizla upzila Parishad	Member
11.	Mymensingh	Monira Sultana	Vice Chairman Valuka Upzila Parishad	Involvement
		Lutfunnessa Beauty	Vice Chairman Trishal Upzila Parishad	Involvement
12.	Rangpur	Salina Talukdar	Women Vice Chairman Kaunia Upzila	President Kaunia Upzila Committee
		Tanzina Afroz	Women Vice Chairman Pirgacha Upzila	Vice President Pirgacha Upzila Committee
13.	Nator	Shamsunnahar Parul	Women Vice Chairman Lalpur Upzila	Convener Lalpur Upzila
		Most. Anjuman Ara Begum	Women Vice Chairman Singra Upzila	Member Singra Branch
		Morsheda Begum Parul	Women Vice Chairman	

			Nator Sadar Upzila	
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### Output 3: Intensifying Women’s Human Rights Movements through Networking

Networking has emerged as another area of major success of BMP. Over the years, the organization has been able to consolidate and expand its networks with local, national and international organizations and groups dedicated to interventions in human rights, women rights and development actions. It has spurred women’s human rights movements, which play a crucial role in establishing their rights and status in a society. Without a strong movement, particularly in a society of developing country, it is almost impossible to change the rules and regulations for recognising and establishing women’s human rights. BMP has intervened in different ways towards mobilizing and forging various forces to wage an effective movement. Throughout the year of 2014 BMP remained engaged in pushing the agenda of women’s human rights as reflected in the planned outputs under this component.

**Table 3.12: Status of Achievements in Intensifying Women’s Human Rights Movements, 2013**

Sl.	Areas of Intervention	Activities		Achievement Status and Comments
		Planned	Actual	
<b>3.1.1</b>	a. Promote and improve women reproductive and sexual health right b. Influencing policy (National health policy, PRSP national budget, national educational policy) c. Campaign (Poster, leaflet, TV spot) d. Advocacy and Lobby Sharing/ discussion meeting with GO/ NGO/ Civil Society/ Policy maker	01 Program	01	Achieved
<b>3.1.2</b>	Empowerment and encouragement of young girl in sexual and reproductive health right Discussion / Sharing/ Workshop (Educational Institution / Workplace/ Community) Central	Central: 9	Not done	Not achieved  Not achieved
<b>3.1.3</b>	a. To review status of maternal health (Early child birth complication) b. To review of impact on sexual and gender based violence on health c. Impact on violence on psychological health of child	01 Program	Not Done	Not achieved
<b>3.1.4</b>	Discussion Meeting / Sharing meeting / Survey/ Research/ Study:1	01 Program	Not Done	Not achieved

Sl.	Areas of Intervention	Activities		Achievement Status and Comments
		Planned	Actual	
3.1.5	Programme aiming for prevention of sexual diseases specially HIV/AIDS. round table discussion/ Human Chain / Rally/ Seminar/ Confesence-1	01 Program	Not Done	Not achieved
3.1.6	Establishing women's health right through networking : (Introduction of sex education in curriculum, access to sex education, ensure supply of rational use of drugs, contraceptive as essential drug, Resist drug/ drug addiction causing health hazards. Human health friendly (Campaign) Advocate six month maternal leave for promoting exclusive breast feeding Intervening: Sharing Meeting -1	01 Sharing Meeting	Not done	Not achieved
3.2.1	Observance of international women's day: Conduct meeting /Seminar / Sharing Meeting / Human Chain /Rally/ Press conference/ for establishing constitutional rights of women- 1 (venue cost, entertainment, communications, greeting cards, poster, materials etc.)	1 Program	1 Program	100%
3.2.2	Observance of CEDAW day: Conduct exchange of views for situation analysis of CEDAW implementation -1 (venue cost, entertainment, communications, poster, stickers, materials etc.)	1 Program	Done	Achieved
3.2.3	Linkage and Networking with global/ international Platform: Sharing meeting, postal cost, communication greetings card 100,000	2 issues	Done	100%

### ***III.3.i. Details of area specific interventions under output 3***

#### ***3.1.1 Promoting and improving women reproductive and sexual health rights through influencing policy, campaign, advocacy and lobby***

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and Obstacle and Gynecological Society of Bangladesh Jointly observed Safe Motherhood Day with the theme of 'Let us ensure safe motherhood' on 28th May 2014 at Central Sahid Minar.

General Secretary of BMP Dr. Maleka Banu, Vice President of BMP Prof. Rowshan Ara Chowdhury, President of OGSB Prof. Latifa Shamsudding, Health Secretary of BMP, Nurul Wara, Prof. Sameena Chowdhury, General Secretary of Dhaka Mohanagar , Rehana Unus, Members of Health Sub-Committee and numbers of Doctors, Gynecologist, Teachers, Students and nurse were took part in the rally. They also raised voice for reduce maternal mortality rate and ensure women's human rights and ensure safe maternal and women's reproductive health rights.

To mark the day district branches of BMP also took initiative to highlight the significance of the day and make people aware of maternal and child health care. A total of 25 districts successfully organized meetings on the occasion of Safe Maternal Health. The Health, Environment and Social Welfare Sub-Committee undertook some programmes for raising adolescent and reproductive health rights awareness among young girls during this period through central and district branches.

**Table 3.13: Observance of Safe Motherhood Day at the District Level**

Sl	District	Event	Date and Place	Participants	President
1	Kumarkhali	Discussion Meeting	28-05-2014 Branch Office	BMP Members	Hosneara Rubi
2	Barisal	Discussion Meeting	28-05-2014 Branch Office	BMP Members	Rabeya Khatun
3	Kaukhali	Discussion Meeting	28-05-2014 Branch Office	BMP Members	Jahanur Begum
4	Faridpur	Discussion Meeting	28-05-2014 Branch Office	BMP Members	Shipra Roy
5	Dinajpur	Discussion Meeting	28-05-2014 Branch Office	BMP Members	Sufia Begum
6	Kurigram	Discussion Meeting	28-05-2014 Branch Office	BMP Members	Nandita Chatarjee
7	Munshiganj	Discussion Meeting	28-05-2014 Branch Office	BMP Members	Jebun Nahar Begum
8	Natore	Discussion Meeting	28-05-2014 Branch Office	BMP Members	Dilara Begum Parul
9	Sunamganj	Discussion Meeting	28-05-2014 Branch Office	BMP Members	Shila Roy
10	Swarupkathi	Discussion Meeting	28-05-2014 Branch Office	BMP Members	Nadia Begum
11	Kushtia	Discussion	28-05-2014	BMP Members	Firoja Mohi

		Meeting	Branch Office		
12	Rajshahi	Discussion Meeting	28-05-2014 Branch Office	BMP Members	Kalpona Roy
13	Jessore	Discussion Meeting	28-05-2014 Branch Office	BMP Members	Nasima Banu
14	Narayanganj	Free Medical Service	28-05-2014 Branch Office	BMP Members	Nasima Banu
15	Belabo	Discussion Meeting	28-05-2014 Branch Office	BMP Members	Rabeya Khatun Shanti
16	Rajbari	Discussion Meeting	28-05-2014 Branch Office	BMP Members	Sultana Ahmed
17	Chittagong	Discussion Meeting	28-05-2014 Branch Office	BMP Members	Latifa Kabir
18	Mymensingh	Discussion Meeting	28-05-2014 Branch Office	BMP Members	Komola Ghosh
19	Pirojpur	Discussion Meeting	28-05-2014 Branch Office	BMP Members	Monika Mondol
20	Bhrammonbaria	Discussion Meeting	28-05-2014 Branch Office	BMP Members	Kulsum Begum
21	Rangamati	Discussion Meeting	28-05-2014 Branch Office	BMP Members	Kanika barua
22	Modhukhali	Discussion Meeting	28-05-2014 Upazila Health complex auditorium	BMP Members	Shimu Rahman
23	Dhaka City	Discussion Meeting	28-05-2013 Goram Ali Ahmed School & College	BMP Members	...
24	Kishorganj	Discussion Meeting	28-05-2014 UP member's home	BMP Members	Sultana Rajia
25	Khulna	Discussion Meeting	28-05-2014 Branch Office	BMP Members	Shayla Haq Dipa

### ***3.1.1 Promoting and improving women reproductive and sexual health rights through influencing policy, campaign, advocacy and lobby***

BMP emphasizes promoting and improving women reproductive and sexual health rights in Bangladesh. In this regard, the organization considers that there is a need for influencing policy, running campaign, advocacy and lobby. Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and Obstetric and Gynecological Society of Bangladesh jointly observed Safe Motherhood Day at Central Sahid Minar on 28th May 2014. This year theme of the day is “Let us ensure safe motherhood”. Representative from BMP, members of Obstetric and Gynecological Society, doctors, medical students, nurse were participated in the Gathering. To mark the day district branches of BMP also took initiative to highlight the significance of the day and aware people about maternal and child health care raised voice for reduce maternal mortality rate and ensure women’s human rights and ensure safe maternal and women’s reproductive health rights. . Total 19 districts were successfully organized meeting on the occasion of Safe Maternal Health.

### ***3.2.1 Observance of International Women’s Day***

Every year BMP published English and Bangla posters and Greetings card and distributed as a part of celebrating International Women’s Day. Total 18 thousand (16 thousand Bangla, 2 thousand English) posters and 15 thousand (14,500 Bangla, 500 English) Greetings card were published. This year International Women’s Day Slogan was “Stop using religion in politics, Ensure equality and development for women”.

These poster and card were distributed to different Embassies, Development partners, Ministries, Social Action Committee, Media, International organization, Civil Society organizations, Teachers, Doctors, Well wishers of BMP across the country. This year BMP distributed greeting card in 52 Active district branches and 2274 grassroot branched of BMP. 27 District branches of BMP organized different programs on the occasion of International Women’s day. Branches of BMP successfully organized different program like rally, seminar and discussion meeting on the occasion of Women’s day. Dinajpur, Pabna, Natore, Kumarkhali, Chittagong, Faridpur, Kawkhali, Barishal, Narayangonj, Rajshahi University, Sorupkathi, Sunamgonj, Khulna, Kurigram, Rajbari, Tangi, Rajshahi, Tangail, Kustia, Kalmakanda, Jamalpur, Dhaka Mohanagar, Brahmonbaria, Mymensing, Jessore, Netrokona, Kishoregonj district branches successfully organized meeting on the occasion.

### ***Discussion meeting on “Global Women’s movement and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad”***

International Sub committee and Training research and Library sub committee jointly organized a Discussion meeting, on 15th June 2014 at 3.00 p.m. at Sufia Kamal Auditorium. This discussion meeting was chaired by Ayesha Khanam, President of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad. Rekha Saha, Secretary of International sub committee delivered the welcome speech in the meeting. She said, In 12th National Conference BMP organized commission based discussion meeting in different issue. Participant gave their valuable recommendation on different commission. Among them there is important recommendation that, Young Generation should inform about history of Women’s movement. In this regard BMP organized a meeting on that issue and try to include numbers of Young generation. Rekha Saha, said, “Global Women's Movement is a large canvas. So, it is not easy to discuss about this canvas in short time. But we can get some guiding points from the discussion and enrich

our knowledge through studying different books and documents. Women's Movement of Bangladesh is an inseparable part of Global Women's Movement. Every movement has two sides like Theoretical & Practical approach. Practical approach includes movements, Human Chain, Advocacy-lobby etc. Knowing Theoretical approach of women movement is very much important for fulfilling the challenges of Twenty First Century.

This discussion meeting was chaired by Ayesha Khanam, President of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad. Ayesha Khanam was the main Discussant of this meeting. Rekha Saha, Secretary of International sub- committee conducted the Discussion Meeting.

In her speech, Ayesha Khanam discussed elaborately different aspects of Women's Movement like its history, different Schools of thoughts about feminist movement, Institutionalization of Women's movement etc. She also described about the relationship between Global Women's Movement and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad. She mentioned about the activities of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad as a movement oriented organization. After the discussion, she answered to the questions of young generation during open Discussion. Students and the young teachers expressed their enthusiasm towards the commitment of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad in achieving democratic, secular; equity based state, society and family. In this meeting President Ayesha Khanam briefly discussed about beginning/ origin of women's history, different dimension of movement, interaction and how this movement begins to work as a organizing way in different arena of the world.

In this meeting a total 85 persons were attend the program. Among them central committee members, sub-committee members, Dhaka City committee members, Staffs and 26 young people participated from Home Economics College, Lalmatia College and University of Dhaka took participation in the program. Audience also joined in open discussion session also.

### ***3.2.2 Observance of CEDAW Day***

International sub-committee organizes a sharing meeting on "58th CSW (Commission on the Status of Women) session experience Sharing meeting" on 7th August 2014 at Sufia Kamal Bhaban Auditorium. The experience sharing meeting was chaired by Ayesha Khanam, President of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad. Maleka Banu, General Secretary was main discussant as she participated the 58th CSW session as representative from Bangladesh Mahila Parishad. General Secretary Maleka Banu shared her own personal experience on the 58th CSW session. First she said about the past experience of the background of association of BMP with the Commission on the Status of Women. She shared about the opening session, main focused theme of 58th CSW session, different session, BMP parallel event on 'Resist and Eliminate Child Marriage', interaction meeting, conversation circle, NGO CSW session, emerging new issues, challenges and recommendations of the 58th CSW session. She expressed that she will take initiative to relate the sensible knowledge in organizational activity of BMP.

Ayesha Khanam, President of BMP desires that BMP's leaders will carry the experience they have achieved and forward to the next generation and will work together in future.

The program was conducted by Rekha Saha, Secretary of International sub-committee. Central Committee members of BMP, Dhaka Mohanagar Committee members, Sub-

committee members and staffs of BMP also attended the program. Total 68 actively took participation in the sharing meeting.

#### *Discussion meeting to observed CEDAW Day*

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organized a discussion meeting to observed CEDAW Day on 2nd September 2014 at 3:30 PM, CIRDAP Auditorium. General Secretary, Maleka Banu delivered her welcome speech and said BMP playing strong advocacy role at national level and mobilize other women to push for implementation of CEDAW provisions. Recently BMP collected 76 thousand signatures for demanding withdrawal of reservation from the CEDAW article 2 and 16.1 (c) send signatures to Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh. International sub-committee Secretary of BMP, Rekha Saha presented a key note paper on the “Stop all kinds of Violence against Women and Ensure equal rights of women and men on property and resources and CEDAW.” She placed some recommendations including the withdrawal of the reservation about articles 2 and 16.1 (c) of CEDAW.

Senior journalist and Prominent Columnist, Jaglul Ahmed Chowdhury, member of Law Commission, Dr. Shah Alam Chowdhury were present as special guests and Salma Khan, Former Chair of CEDAW Committee was present as Discussants in the meeting.

Salma Khan former Chairperson of Bangladesh CEDAW Committee to the UN said the state should implement the CEDAW articles, as those were consistent with the articles of the constitutions. Jaglul Ahmed Chowdhury said, BMP playing an active and need based role to ensure women’s human rights in every sphere. Dr. Shah Alam Chowdhury said, The Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh has reserve on articles 2, and 16 (1) (c). It is said that these two articles conflict with The Holly Quran and Sunnah but still Government can’t give specific explanation and reason on that issue. Ayesha Khanam, President, BMP chaired the program and demand the withdrawal of reservation from the article 2 and 16.1.(C) of CEDAW and Full implementation of CEDAW .

The program was conducted by International sub- committee member Luna Nur. BMP central Committee members, Social Action committee members, Sub-committee members, Media, Dhaka Mohanagar committee members and staffs of BMP participated the meeting. Total 154 participants participated the meeting.

The International sub committee of BMP also published 18 thousand posters as a part of its CEDAW day observance. These poster were distributed to different embassies, Development partners, Ministries, Print and Electronic Media, International organization, Social Action committee, Civil Society organizations, District branches of BMP. Total 22 District branches of BMP organized different programs on the occasion of CEDAW day. Kumarkhali, Sunamgonj, Faridpur, Kurigram, Kishoregonj, Pirojpur, Natore, Tangail, Netrokona, Tangi, Brahmanbaria, Modhukhali, Nauga, Bagerhat, Dinajpur, Mymensing, Jessore, Munshigonj, Rangpur, Rajshahi, Chittagong, Kaukhali district branches of BMP organized different programs on the occasion of CEDAW day.

### ***3.2.3 Linkage and Networking with global/ international Platform***

BMP is regionally and globally renowned women and human rights organization. The 58th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) session was held at the United Nations Headquarters (New York) from 10 – 21 March 2014. Representative of member states, UN

entities and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all regions of the world attended the session. Maleka Banu, General Secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad participated the 58th CSW session as a representative of the organization.

The priority theme of the session was “Challenges and Achievements in the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls”. On March 11 2014 Bangladesh Mahila Parishad also arranged a parallel event on ‘Resist and Eliminate Child Marriage’ at Armenian Convention Centre (ACC). The event was attended by representatives from the Member States, development partners, NGOs. They showed their strong interest this issue. The session was appreciated by the participants.

Joint General Secretary Rakhi Das Purkayastha participated the Seminar on “Marga-Darshan: Horizons and Hopes for Christians and Hindus to Walk the Talk of Justice and Peace Today” was held on Nepal, Kathmandu from 8-12 October 2014.

Asia-Pacific Regional Council (APRC) of the International Council of Women (ICW), the National Council of Women Thailand (NCWT), UNESCAP organized seminar on “Assuring Sustainable Development Goals: Challenges in Transforming Women and Girls” was held on Thailand, Bangkok from 17-20 November 2014. General Secretary Maleka Banu and Finance Secretary Dil Afroj Begum were participated the conference as representative of BMP.

#### **Major Networking Partners of BMP at the International Level**

International Women Rights Action Watch- Asia Pacific (IWRAP), Kenya; Agro-forestry, Basic health and Co-operatives (ABC), Nepal; SAMHATI, USA; Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), Japanese Women’s Committee 2050, Japan; Centre for Women’s Global Leadership, USA; Aurat Foundation, Pakistan; North East Network (NEN), India; Confederation of Voluntary Associations (COVA), India; Federation of Business & Professional Women- Nepal (FBPWN); National Federation of Indian Women (NFIW), India; International Centre for Ethnic Studies (ICES), Sri Lanka; Durbar, India; Sakhi Resource Centre for Women, India; Nirantar, India; Shirkat Gah, Pakistan; JAGORI, India; SANGAT, India; Global Fund for Women, UN WOMEN; UNESCAP; UNDP; and ECOSOC.

## Output Four: Effective Functioning as a Lobby and Advocacy Agent

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) demonstrated enormous capacity to function as a lobby and advocacy agent of women in Bangladesh in order to establish their rights and to protect their interests. The organisation has been visible at many important local, national and international meetings, workshops, seminars and so on. It has effectively acted as an agent of lobby and advocacy forum to sensitise the state and non-state agencies and organizations about women rights and issues. Besides, in many cases, it has been continuously drawing attention of these agencies and organisations to the plight of women.

**Table 3.17: Status of Achievements in Functioning as a Lobby & Advocacy Agent**

SL.	Areas of Interventions	Activities		Achievement Status
		Planned	Actual	
4.1.1	Submit deputation and memorandum to concerned law enforcement authorities – As per necessarily	As per necessity	Total 3851 Correspondence sent to various Ministries of Govt. and law enforcement agencies	Done
4.2.1	Carryout Women Human Right Movement and resist VAW through alliance Networking (SAC) – Sharing Meeting/ Round table discussion/Press Conference /Human Chain / Street Movement / Lobby/ National	Central Level: 2 Grass root level: 10	04	100%
4.2.2	Carry out lobby and advocacy for good governance and strengthening local government – Submission of memorandum Workshops at divisional level Sharing Meeting: 1 Participants: 120	1	Not done	Not done
4.2.4	a. Awareness campaign on responsibility, accountability, transparency of elected representatives at national and local govt. tiers, administration and relevant areas	Grass root level: 10	-	-

SL.	Areas of Interventions	Activities		Achievement Status
		Planned	Actual	
	b. Monitoring to assess the status			
4.2.5	Documentation – Grass root level	Grass root level: 10		-
4.2.6	Survey	1	-	
4.2.7	Workshop	01	-	-
4.2.8	Documentation	01	-	-
4.2.9	Advocacy lobby for democracy and good Governance through intensive networking e.g. Social Action Committee (Parliamentary Committees/ Women Caucus/ Political Parties/ Civil Society organization) Sharing meeting / discussion / press conference	2	10	Done
4.3.1	Publishing Mahila Samachar	4 Issues	4 Issues	100%
4.3.2	Distribution of Mahila Samacher,	4,500/4,800 Copy	10,000 published	Achieved
4.3.3	Publication of English bulletin: brusher/other information Materials	Publication of an English Bulletin		Not done
4.3.4	Publication of Annual Report (English) & project completion report	Annual Report (English)	Annual Report published in April, 2014	Done
4.3.5	Publication of Annual Report(Bengali)	Annual Report (Bengali)	Annual Report	Not done
4.3.6	Publication of journal	Publication of Mahila Parishad Journal, 2 Issues	May 2014 December 2014	Achieved
4.3.7	Poster and leaflets	2 Posters And 2 Leaflets	1. 4 posters, 8 March National Conference, CEDAW, VAW 2. 3 Leaflet issues of poster and 1 issue of leaflet	100%

SL.	Areas of Interventions	Activities		Achievement Status
		Planned	Actual	
4.4.1	Conduct Advocacy/ lobby with Media Professionals on Women's human rights issue with Media Professionals/ Politician/ women activities/ Professors/resource person: Discussion/Sharing meeting / Roundtable/ Seminar/ Training workshop/meet the press etc.	03	03	Achieved 100%
4.4.2	Documentation of above Code	01	Not done	Achieved
4.4.3	a. Publish special supplements in national dailies on political / economical/ social empowerment of women-1 b. Produce TV spot:1	a. 01 b. 01	Publish one supplement in three news paper	Achieved
4.4.4	Screening on BTV 4 times within 2 month: 1	-	Not done	Not done
4.4.5	Networking with Media	1	3	100%

### ***III.4.i. Details of area specific interventions under output 4***

#### ***4.1.1 Submission of deputation and memorandum***

BMP submitted deputation and memoranda to concerned law enforcement authorities in Bangladesh. In this regard, the organization made a total of 2508 correspondences to various ministries and law enforcement agencies in 2014.

**Table 3.18: Correspondence with concerned authorities to resist VAW**

Sl. No.	Authorities	No. of Correspondence	Response
1	Prime Minister	194	In response concerned authorities took necessary steps.
2	Minister of Home Affairs	303	
3	MOWCA	6	
4	Inspector General of Police (IGP)	335	
5	District Commissioner (DC)	982	

6	Superintend of Police (SP)	983	
7	Officer of In charge (OC)	972	
8	Other Ministry	40	
9	Others	36	

### **Social Action Committee (SAC)**

Under the leadership of BMP, the Social Action Committee (the platform of 67 women, human rights and development organisations) jointly undertook some notable programmes in 2012 in order to establish women rights, to resist VAW, to raise awareness among ordinary people irrespective of gender, and to ensure women empowerment. BMP through its centre and district branches implemented the following programmes in association with the Social Action Committee.

- Celebration of International Women’s Day on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2014
- Mass gathering Organized on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2014 at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh. The slogan of the gathering was “Uphold Human Rights. Establish Independent, Democratic Society”.
- Gathering was organized against communal attack on minority people on 21st January, 2014 at Central Shaheed Minar.
- A human chain organized in front of National Press club for protesting rape, gang rape and all kinds of violence against women on 9th January, 2014.
- Human Chain demanding the minimum marriageable age of girls be kept 18 in the Child Marriage Restraint Act-2014

#### ***4.2.1 Carryout Women Human Right Movement and resist VAW through alliance Networking (SAC) – Sharing Meeting/ Round table discussion/Press Conference /Human Chain / Street Movement / Lobby/ National Convention***

#### **Human Chain to protest the attack of Nurjahan Begum, female Union Parishad member**

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organized a human chain on 28th January, 2014 to protest the attack on Nurjahan Begum, a female member of Mobarakpur Union Parishad of Shibgonj Upazila in Chanpainababgonj district in front of National Press Club.

The speakers urged all women representatives of national Parliament to protest this incident and raised their voice on this issue. The speakers also demanded exemplary punishment for the perpetrators.

Among others, Ayesha Khanam President, Rakhi Das Purakayestha, Acting General Secretary, Kazi Sufia Akhter, Movement Secretary, Rehana Yunus, General secretary, Dhaka Mohanagar spoke at the event and Laila Khaleda, Dhaka Maganagar movement secretary presented the recommendations.

#### **Protest against Killing of Josna of Belabo, Narsingdi**

A mass protest has been organized by Belabo branch of BMP at Chaitan village, Belabo, Narsingdi against killing of Josna Begum. She was killed brutally for raising voice against teasing of her daughter.

Rabeya Khatun Shanti, President of Belabo branch, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad chaired the program while General Secretary of BMP, Maleka Banu was the chief guest of this gathering.

Among others the local people, UP Chairman, Ex UP Chairman, Social Worker, local political representatives, young's of the locality delivered their speech by expressing their protest against this murder. The speakers urged all people of the village to protest this incident and raised their voice on this issue.

General Secretary Maleka Banu demanded exemplary punishment for the perpetrators. She also demanded for ensuring security of the victim's family. She reminds the authority keep in account the voice of the gathering.

The general Secretary, Nazrin Huq Hena conducted the program. Around 2000 people presented in this gathering.

### **BMP'S concern on recent proposal of revision of marriage age contradicting Child Marriage Restraint Act (Draft), 2014**

A Press Conference was organized by the SAC of BMP express concern over the proposal of lowering the age limit of marriage especially of a girl which contradicts Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2014(Draft) National Press Club was held on 09 November 2014.

A group of women rights activists submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina demanding that the minimum age of girls and boys for marriage be 18 and 21 respectively. A total of 68 women, Human Rights and Development based organizations expressed their solidarity with the memorandum.

Addressing the Prime Minister the memorandum says, they have been surprised by a move to lower the marriage age of girls to 16 and that of boys' to 18 veering away from a September 15, 2014 Cabinet decision in which the Cabinet endorsed the draft Child Marriage Act fixing the marriage age of girls at 18 and that of boys' 21.

It also said that when United Nations and others International Organizations are trying to promote women equal rights and treatment and campaigning for women empowerment just that time taking this decision will obstacle the women development.

Referring to the decision, it also said that taking decision by the government officials was not participatory and others rights based organizations such as National Human Commission, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) and others organizations should be join, it suggests.

Ayesha Khanam, President of BMP said that despite knowing the negative impact of getting married in the early age how could the government officials planning to take such a decision. "It is the girls who will face the bad consequences if she got married at the age of 16," she said.

Ayesha also urged the government and representatives of civil society to take strong steps against child marriage. Ranjan Karmakar, Executive Director of Steps towards Development said that the decrease of the marriage age of girls will bring bad impact on women as well as to our society too. "When they are not mentally prepared to get married they become mother

and they face difficulties coping with their partners and members of the law's house family," he said. The memorandum also said lowering the minimum age for marriage is not supportive to the empowerment of women and men, rather this would add to their sufferings.

### **Sufia Kamal's 15<sup>th</sup> death anniversary observed**

A seminar was held in remembrance of late poet Sufia Kamal on the occasion of her 15th death anniversary on 20 November at CIRDAP auditorium in the capital, with the theme "We want effective participation of men and young generation to prevent and eliminate aggression against women."

Addressing the event, Sultana Kamal, executive director of Ain O Salish Kendra, said: "The current situation is not safe for women. They are getting sexually assaulted everywhere. Even older women are not spared from the torture."

"Women have progressed in the fields of science, education, culture and politics everywhere. Yet they are suffering from prejudice against them. Our men and young generation have to come forward to resolve this situation," she said.

Ayesha Khanam, chairman of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said: "Sultana Kamal dedicated her life to eradicate discrimination against women, build a secular society and establish democracy. We have to implement her ideals in our lives."

Abdul Qaiyum, associate editor of Prothom Alo, said: "Sufia Kamal endured two struggles at the same time: one was against the Pakistan government, and the other was against our society to establish women's rights."

A minute of silence was observed in the late poet's memory as well.

Organised by Social Action Committee of BMP, the seminar was attended by 153 participants from 16 women's and human rights organisations. Selina Khalek, former chairman of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, presided over the event.

### **Human Chain demanding the minimum marriageable age of girls be kept 18 in the Child Marriage Restraint Act-2014**

A new way of oppressing girls is being introduced in the country with the government pushing to reduce marriageable age of females from 18 to 16, said women's rights activists at a human chain on 03 December.

They said if the move is successful; females would be at a risk of suffering damage to their reproductive health and mental health and be deprived of their right to take part in political and economic activities as a citizen of the country.

Social Action Movement, a platform of 63 women's rights organizations, arranged the event in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital demanding the minimum marriageable age of girls be kept 18 in the Child Marriage Restraint Act-2014.

They said with the world observing the “International Fortnight for Resistance against Repression on Women”, the government's move is contradictory in fighting repression of women.

Officials of Nari Mukti Sangshad, and Ayesha Khanam and Maleka Banu, president and general secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, among others, addressed the human chain.

#### **4.2.9 Programmes at central and grass-root levels**

##### **TV Spot**

Movement subcommittee of BMP made a TV spot Protest of recent violent terrorist attacks and torture on countrywide minority community. This TV spot broadcasted the following times in different television channels.

Name of the Channel	Date	Time
Channel I	12 January-18 January 2014	Before News at 9 PM
ATN News	12 January-21 January 2014	Before News at 9 PM
Channel 71	13 January-22 January 2014	Before News at 7 PM Before Talk show at 8 PM

#### **Protest of recent violent terrorist attacks and torture on countrywide minority community**

In protest of violent terrorist attacks and torture on countrywide minority community Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organized a human chain program in front of National Press Club on 09.01.2014 at 3 pm.

The human chain program was presided by the President of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Ayesha Khanam & conducted by Movement Secretary Kazi Sufia Akhter.

Ayesha Khanam, President, Central Committee, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad along with General Secretary, Maleka Banu, Joint Secretary, Rakhi Das Pourkayasta, Joint Secretary Sheema Muslem, Asst. General Secretary, Adv. Masuda Rehana Begum and Rehana Yunus, General Secretary, Dhaka Mahanagar spoke at the program.

In protest against violent terrorist attacks and torture on minorities, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad demands:

1. Immediate safety of these minorities to be restored. At the same time, BMP demands that the persons involved in this hooliganism should be identified immediately arrested and necessary legal proceedings be taken against them.
2. The mobilization demands that necessary steps be taken to enforce the decision of immediate judgment of these terrorist as instructed by the Prime Minister.
3. BMP is calling upon the government, administration, all democratic, progressive, political, social and cultural groups to build up combined defense for maintenance of harmony, peace and amity of all minority groups, as well as to end the current anarchist situation.
4. Great emphasis has been given and demanded for the administration to take immediate action against the minority Perpetuators
5. At the same time, voice is raised to take necessary steps for immediate rehabilitation of the affected minority families.

6. Administration and law enforcement agencies have been called upon to take the highest precautionary measures in order to prevent any untoward situation rained any where of country.

### **Gathering against communal attack by BMP**

BMP organized a gathering against communal attack on minority people on 21st January, 2014 at Central Shaheed Minar. Ad. Sultana Kamal, Executive Director, Ain O Shalish Kendra chaired the gathering. Among others Ayesha Khanam, President, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Shaheen Anam Executive Director, Manusher Jonno Foundation, Nilufer Bannu from Women for women, Shipa Hafiz from Brac, Badiul Alom Majumder from Hunger Project, Ranjan Karmaker from Steps towards Development, Rokeya Kabir from BNPS, Ad. Salma Ali from BNWLA, Afroza Huq Rina from Jatiya Nari Jote, Rokeya Rafiq Baby from Karmajibi Nari, Momtaz Begum from Mahila Muktijodha Sangsad, Tahmina Huq from Action Aid, Nazma Akhter from Awaz Foundation, Shahin Akhter from Nari Maitree, Chanchana Chakma from Hill women's federation, Kohinur Mahmud from Bills spoke.

The speakers alleged that the recent attacks on minority communities specially on Hindu were continuing due to political motivated campaign pursued by the religious fundamentalist forces & failure of the Government agencies to tackle the situation. Bangladesh Mahila Parishad President said the Government must ensure the punishment through speedy trial tribunals. In this gathering at least 600 people from Social Action Committee were present. Movement Secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Kazi Sufia Akhter conducted the program and International Secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Rekha Saha presented the recommendations.

### **Bangladesh Mahila Parishad expressed its deep concerns over the killings, arson, and violence in the name of political activity**

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad expressed its deep concerns over the killings, arson and violence in the name of political activity Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organized a press conference on 29th January 2015 at National Press Club on current political situation. In the press conference Bangladesh Mahila Parishad expressed its deep concerns over the ongoing killings, arson and violence in the name of political program.

President Ayesha Khanam moderated the conference while General Secretary Maleka Banu and Joint General Secretary Shima Moslem were present. Program Director Advocacy Jana Goswami present by a written statement of BMP.

In the statement it is said that the current political situation in the country is a threat to Democracy. BMP also called that the killing of men, women and children in name political program must be stopped. In the statement BMP demanded that the political program which brutally kills people must be ended immediately at the same time BMP demanded that nature of political programs must be democratic and urged to the Government to protect the democratic rights of people of parties. In the statement BMP said that burning people to death is no way be a democratic programs.

In the answer of a question President Ayesha Khanam said that violence is restricting women's mobility on the streets. She urged to the major political parties to behave responsibly.

In the statement BMP demanded that the culprits behind petrol bomb attacks should be given exemplary punishment through speedy trial.

### **Press Conference on “Concern of BMP’S Central Committee over the Current Socio-Political Situation prevailing in the Country”**

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organized a press conference on “its concern over the Socio-Political Situation prevailing in the Country” on 5th August 2014 at conference room, National Press Club. The conference was chaired by Ayesha Khanam, President of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad. Movement Secretary, Kazi Sufia Akhter presented the keynote paper. The conference was also attended by General Secretary Maleka Banu. This program was conducted by Program Director Advocacy & Lobby Jana Goswami. Around 40 journalists from different electronic and print media were participated in the meeting and Ayesha Khanam, President of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad answered all queries of journalists. Central committee members, office staffswere also present there.

In this press conference BMP expressed deep concern for increasing rate of violence against women, communal violence across the country, present political situation, increasing crime like-murder, kidnapping etc.

BMP demanded secured life for all citizens, ensuring exemplary punishment for perpetrators of communal violence, increasing the number of reserved seats for women in the National Parliament, introduction of direct election and re-demarcation of constituency, stop providing political shelter to perpetrator, stop use of religion in politics, reduce the control of central government over local government, withdrawal of restriction from the article 2 and 16.1.c of CEDAW, build up consolidated action of government, administration, civil society to resist all kind of violence against women specially rape, gang rape, boycott rapists from society, to take necessary action for implementing Chittagong hill tract treaty 1997 to solve existing economic, political conflict and to ensure rights of indigenous people. BMP also noted in their press briefing about ongoing attack on Gaza where thousands of innocent civilians were killed including women and children. In this circumstance BMP urged for urgent global active initiatives to establish harmony & peace in world.

### **Prevention of Communal Violence and Remedial Measures**

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and BRAC Jointly organized dialogue on ‘Prevention of Communal Violence and Remedial Measures’ in different districts. Here it may be mention that these initiatives orginated from the local level.

<b>Date</b>	<b>District</b>
02.05.2104	Thakugaon
03.05.2104	Dinajpur
16.05.2104	Jessore
17.05.2104	Satkhira
10.06.2014	Gaibandha
19.09.2014	Chittagong

## **Protest Rally against violation of Human Rights and Crime against Humanity in Gaza**

A Human Chain is organized by Social Action Committee (A platform of 68 Women's, Human Rights, Development and socio-cultural organizations) on 14th August 2014 at 4:00 to 5:00 PM in front of press club protesting killing of civilian, women and children in Gaza.

Women and Human Rights activists raise voices to stop killing, genocide, violation of Human Rights and crime against humanity in Gaza. They asked to Global Community to establish peace and stop war.

Women Human Rights activists urged UN Security Council and Human Rights Council to take proper action against it.

The rally urged Global leader and conscious citizen to raise their voice and to play the proper role.

Among others Ayesha Khanam, President Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Ad. Sultana Kamal, Executive Director, Ain O Salish Kendra, Rokeya Kabir Executive Director Bangladesh Nari Progoti Sangha, Ranjan Karmaker, Executive Director Steps Towards Development, Murshikul Islam Shimul from The Hunger Project Bangladesh, Chiro Ranjan Karmaker from BRAC delivered their speech. Excluding these, the representatives from Bangladesh Mahila Samity, IEED, Bangladesh Women Lawyers Association, Dhaka YWCA, Nagarik Uddog, Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra, Nari Mukti Sangsad, RDRS and other organizations were present in this human chain.

### **4.3.1-4.3.7 Publication and Dissemination**

During the year 2014, the period covered in the report, BMP published 4 issues of the *Mahila Samacher*, the quarterly journal brought out by the organization. The issues were published on October-December, 2014, January-March, 2014, April-June, 2014, and July-September 2014 respectively. Each of the issues consisted of special features and write-ups by BMP leaders and activists on selected subjects. A total of 10000 copies of each issue of *Mahila Samacher* were published and distributed 9490 copies among different individuals and organizations. Key issues highlighted in the *Mahila Samacher* are mentioned in the following boxes.

#### **October-December 2014**

- ✓ Martyred Intellectuals Day and Victory Day
- ✓ Resistance of VAW: International Initiatives
- ✓ Community, Communalism and Non-communal Bangladesh

#### **January-March 2014**

- ✓ 58<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women
- ✓ International women's day and status of women in Bangladesh
- ✓ Women Awaken
- ✓ Women in liberation war

#### **April-June 2014**

- ✓ Sufia Kamal Memorial Speech
- ✓ Women's Human Rights & Empowerment
- ✓ Anti-communal movement, Democracy and Sufia Kamal
- ✓ Women's movement and BMP

**July-September 2014**

- ✓ Equal rights of men and women and CEDAW
- ✓ Role of Hena Das and Baby Moudud
- ✓ Experiences of 58th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

### **Mahila Parishad Journal 2014**

*The Mahila Parishad Journal* has entered in its fourth year of publications in 2014. The first issue of *the Mahila Parishad Journal* in 2014 was published in the month of June. It covers a wide range of issues concerning communalism, fundamentalism and feminism. Eminent scholars and writers have contributed to the Journal. The second issue of the *Mahila Parishad Journal* in 2014 was published in the month of June. It covers a wide range of issues concerning communalism, culture, gender and literature. Eminent scholars and writers from home and abroad have contributed to the Journal.

#### **4.4.1 Advocacy/Lobby on Women's Human Rights**

##### **Sharing meeting on 'Women's Movement in Bangladesh and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad'**

Media and Mass-communication sub-committee of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) conducted a sharing meeting on 'Women's Movement in Bangladesh and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad' on 26th February 2014 at the Sufia Kamal Auditorium of BMP. Ayesha Khanam president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad presided over this meeting and give a brief introduction on 'Commission on the Status of Women' highlighting women's present status in Bangladesh. Dil Manwara Manu, Media and Mass Communication sub-committee Secretary of BMP presented the key note paper on "Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Women's Movement and upcoming issues". Rakhi Das Purkayastha, acting general Secretary and Shima Moslem, joint General Secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad also make their comments on contribution of BMP to uphold women's movement in Bangladesh. The discussion meeting was facilitated by Sultana Rahman, broadcast journalist of Independent Television.

Ayesha Khanam the president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad said many women journalists inform us about the sexual harassment at their work place. Few media house has gender policy. Women are also the part of the society. So, we should continue our movement to establish women's right in the society. The keynote paper highlighted the glorious and incessant engagement in the women's movement since the inception of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad. She pointed out that still BMP are fighting for establishing a communal harmony society based on 1972s constitution, meaningful wages for women garments worker and incorporate women's household work at GDP etc. Rakhi Das Purokayastha the acting General Secretary of the organization focused her speech on the Mission and Vision of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad. She also told about the constitution of the organization. Shima Moselem, Joint Secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad said that journalist and media plays an important role to uphold the women's movement in Bangladesh as well as to achieve the vision of BMP. Collaborating activity of BMP with journalist is continuous and it aimed to act as pressure group to policy makers/authorities in order to secure women's rights.

Journalist Irin Niazi Manna, Angur Nahar Monti, Sebika Debnath, Sabina Yeasmin, Farida Yeasmin, Shanaz Munni, Parvin Sultana Jhuma, Rabeya Baby, Easmin Peu and Rita

Bhawmik took part in open discussion. Total 33 journalists were present in this sharing meeting.

### **Get together and experience sharing with journalist**

Media and Mass-communication sub-committee of Bangladesh Mahila Parisad (BMP) arranged Get together and experience sharing with journalist on 20 March 2014 at the Sufia Kamal Auditorium of BMP. Ayesha Khanam president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad presided over this meeting. Rakhi Das Purokayastha, acting general Secretary, Sima Moslem, joint general Secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and Dil Manwara Manu, Media and Mass Communication Secretary of BMP also gave speech. The program was facilitated by Parvin Sultana Jhuma General Secretary of Nari Sangbadik Kendra.

The participant journalist expressed that there to bear triple burden at our society, whereas a male journalist can concentrate only his employment issue. Though women journalist doing their job with skill yet them, they often blamed that they can't do crime report or other sort of challenging reports. This is due to stereotype concept towards women in generally.

Ayesha Khanam, President of Bangladesh Mahila Parisad stated that, the ideal inheritor of Sufia Kamal has gathers in this auditorium. Today she also told that in Bangladesh women are involved in various professions. Journalist who is working in most risky environment, they have to work with their life threatening situation at night. Women journalists are contributing a lot to gear up women's empowerment by their continuous effort in media. They are upholding the positive representation of women in media. To overrule the existing patriarchal challenge, women journalists are the ideal inheritor of respectful Begum Rokeya, Pritilota, Ila-mitra, Sufia Kamal and Hena Das.

Media and Mass Communication secretary Dil Monwara Manu stated that number women's profession journalist is increasing day by day, particularly in electronic media. This was not an easy task; they have to overcome lot of challenges in their working place as well as at family. Nowadays, women journalists are recruited as Editor and some are engaged in the management position of press club also. She also stated that women journalist may give more emphasis to find out the causes of violence against women in their news.

Alpana Begum from Netrokana, Dilruba Jesmin, Vola; Arju Luna, Samima Naznin and Sultana Kamal Moni from Barisal; Tasnima Khanam Bithi and Farzana Mrusdula from Sylhet; Maksuda Akter from Pirojpur; Samima Akter from RTV, Ching May Pru Marma and Oamra Marma from Khagrachori, Rayhana Akter from Maymansing, Sarmin Nahar from Hobigonj, Taskina Easmin journalist of Manb Kantha, Angur Nahar Monty Vorer Kagaj, Munima Sultana Financial express, Rabea Baby Daily Ittefaq and journalist Sabina Easmin from Prothom Alo took part in open discussion. Total 70 journalists were present in this meeting.

### **Discussion Meeting with leading mass-media personalities/ policy makers of mass-media by BMP**

On 24 November 2014 Bangladesh Mahila Parisad (BMP) organized a discussion meeting with leading mass-media personalities at its Sufia Kamal Auditorium. Ayesha Khanam, president of BMP presided over the meeting where Dil Monowara Manu (Secretary of Media and Mass communication sub-committee) presented the Key note paper and Shima Moslem

(Joint Secretary of Central Committee) welcomed all by her inaugural speech. On behalf of women journalist, Taskina Yesmin, member of Mass-media subcommittee presented the key recommendations in the meeting. The main objective of the meeting was to share the obstacles experienced by women journalist in all over the country and to recommend a way out of the obstacles from gender lens.

Most importantly, Ayesha Khanam, chair of the meeting stated that throughout the civilization women had to face different challenges, working as journalist is not beyond it; mass media can be strong medium of tackling these challenges. She also emphasis for a mandatory gender policy exist and implementing for all newspaper and electronic media.

Shima Moslem, Joint Secretary of Central Committee of BMP stated that mass media have strong power to motivate mass people; we need to properly utilize this power for women's empowerment. She also demanded to the leading journalist for considering recommendations presented by women journalist.

Dil Monowara Manu, in her key note, stated that though women journalist increasing in Bangladesh gradually they are facing more challenges compare to other profession. Now a day's, the root level women journalist covering the crucial news including – gender, child rights, child marriage, trafficking good governance, environment, climate change. Reportedly there are very few women journalist works as senior management of media. 'We are demanding 33% women journalist in all sector of mass media' she added.

Mr. Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, Secretary General of Bangladesh Federal Journalist Union stated that religious fundamentalism is the main challenge for women journalist. Both man and women should works together to protect women's rights from religious fundamentalism. Shamyol Datta, Editor of Daily Vorer Kagoj, expressed differently that sometime women don't want to face challenges in profession; reminding the limitation of state and society we should way forward the gender policy in mass media sector. Mustofa Monowar Sujon, News editor of Alokito Bnagladesh stated that we have to make a social movement for develop the condition of women journalist in our country. Kazi Rafique, News editor of Daily Sangbad and Munima Sultana of Financial Express shared their view in similarly, women journalist have to face lot of problem when they are working at night or evening; women journalist didn't entertained office vehicle though it is a mandatory by the rule of Wage Board. Promob Shaha, News Editor of Channel I also attened this meeting.

Sohag Majumdar of Daily Sangbad, Sumi Khan of Daily Janakantha, Farida Yasmin & Rabeya Baby of Daily Ittefaq, Pronob Saha of Channel I, Parvin Sultana Soma of Bangladesh Women Journalist Centre, Mahfuja Jesmin of BSS expressed their experience and share recommendations towards a gender friendly mass media.

Along with 35 senior level journalists, senior official of BMP i.e. Vice President Dr. Fouzia Moslem and Nahar Ahmed, Assistant General Secretary Advocate Masuda Rehana Begum, Finance Secretary Dil Afroz Begul also attended and participating the meeting successfully. The discussion meeting was facilitated by Pavin Sultana Jhuma, Member of the mass media sub-committee of BMP. Total 80 participatns were present in this meeting.

#### **4.4.3 - a. Publish special supplements in national dailies on women's political / economical/ social empowerment**

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad celebrated 44th founding anniversary on 18 April, 2014 at Engineers Institution, Dhaka. For celebrating this anniversary BMP published colour suppliment on 17 April 2014 in Daily Prothom Alo, Daily Samakal and the Daily star. The theme of the year was “There is no alternative to professional skills for facing the challenges of 21st century”. This has had impact on enhancing the image of BMP amongst concerned people & provided access to information and the memorable history of Bangladesh Mahila Prishad.

#### ***4.4.5 – Networking with Media***

Under the intervention area of Networking with Media, BMP participate the birth anniversary of famous print and electronic media through the year. From January-December BMP has participated the birth anniversary of Daily Samakal, Desh TV, The daily Star, the launching of the online news agency The report 24.com, The birth anniversary of Daily Prothom alo, Gazi TV, Channel I and The new age. Without this Media and mass communication subcommittee of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organized three sharing meeting with journalist for make batter relation with them and make a strong networking with journalist.

#### **Sharing Meeting with journalist**

Media and mass communication sub committee of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organized three meeting with journalist on 15 October, 19 November and 17 December at Sufia Kamal Auditorium in Bangladesh Mahila Parishad. Joint Secretary Shima Moslem and Secretary of media and mass communication sub committee of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad attend this meeting. Around 15-20 women journalist were attend in these meeting. They shared their problems, their obstacles in this meeting. Journalists also said that Bangladesh Mahila Parishad is their platform.

## OutputFive: BMP is Further Strengthened and Developed through Capacity Building towards Sustainability and Institutionalization

Organisational strength of BMP is the driving force behind its success since the days of its establishment. General members, activists and organisers are the key forces in this regard. As an organisation BMP has further improved its capacity through better skills and knowledge of its human resources as well as institutional development. The work plan of BMP in 2014 particularly focused on consolidating present strength for long-term sustainability of the organisation, reinforcement of the leadership and taking steps for strengthening young generation as a force of the organisation.

**Table 3.19: Programmes and participants at central and district levels**

2013						2014					
Implemented Programs			Participants			Implemented Programs			Participants		
Centre	Dist.	Total	Centre	Dist.	Total	Centre	Dist.	Total	Centre	Dist.	Total
108	2738	2846	38330	52951	91281	55	1102	1157	6002	32882	38884

In 2014, BMP undertook 1157 programmes in which 1102 and 55 were implemented at district and central levels respectively. Notably, there had been 38884 participants in different programs of BMP in 2014, out of which 32882 were from the district branches and the rest from the centre. The continuing improvement of organisational capacity of BMP is the outcome of sustained programmes and activities like training and workshops, support for legal activism, networking at all levels and precision in actions.

**Table 3.20: Summary of Achievements in Improving Organisational Capacity**

SL.	Areas of Interventions	Activities		Achievement Status
		Planned	Actual	
5.1.1	Paralegal Training for the organizer at district & branch level	16 Trainings	16 Trainings 4 Trainings (2013)	Achieved 100%
5.1.2	Divisional Training for the leaders (TOT)	1	1 Training	Achieved
5.1.3	Conduct Legal literacy Training for young women	1	01	Achieved
5.1.4	Village Watch Training	5	5 Trainings 2 Trainings (2013)	Achieved
5.1.5	Motivational Programme in Grass root level & Central	Central: 4	04	Achieved
5.1.6	Awareness Raising/Legal Literacy Training for Young/Students	7	06	Achieved
5.1.7	Seminar/Workshop (University/College/School)	2	02	Achieved
5.1.8	Consultation and dialogue for Advocacy for Implementation of UFC & other laws (Concert/Docudrama & others)	1	01 Program	Achieved/Target Surpassed
5.1.9	Advocacy for Domestication of	As per necessity	01 program	Achieved

	CEDAW			
5.1.10	Publication (Legal Aid) – Training Module & Report	-	-	-
5.1.11	UFC Publication		-	-
5.1.12	External Consultation for Organizational Development	-	-	-
5.1.13	Training Need Assessment	-	-	-
5.1.14	Sustainability and Fund Raising Consultant	-	-	-
5.1.15	Advanced English and report writing skill training for staffs (Research & Monitoring)	-	-	-
5.1.16	Research Methodology Training	-	-	-
5.1.17	Office Management, Financial Management & Computer Application Training	-	-	-
5.1.18	Project Monitoring & Evaluation	-	-	-
5.1.19	Project Management Course for Staffs	-	-	-
5.1.20	Financial Analysis for Decision Making Training	-	-	-
5.1.21	Workshop/Seminar for Central Committee members on Project Design, Budgeting, Monitoring, Evaluation, Report Writing, Advocacy, Research and Consultancy, Advanced Management System and Practices	-	-	
5.1.22	Internal Audit Training for Internal Auditor and Roving Accountant	-	-	-
5.3.1	Increase membership – Conduct Organizational meeting for buildup branch committee	10	6	60%
5.3.2	Conduct Training on Organizational Capacity Building (Regular and refreshers)	-	-	-
5.3.3	Organizational Tour	14	23	Achieved
5.3.4	District Conference	14	4	29%
5.3.5	Conduct Sharing Meeting for Organizer regarding district Conference	14	4	29%
5.3.6	Conduct Motivational Program for women, men and young women at grass root level for raising awareness on women human rights issue	-	-	-
5.3.7	Awareness raising and Motivational Programme with young women in grassroots level	1	1	100%
5.3.8	Conduct Sharing meeting with		-	-

	women in profession			
5.3.9	Conduct Sharing Meeting with Indigenous women	1	1	Done
5.3.10	Workshop with the organizers to build up leader (at Central level)	-	-	-
5.3.11	Workshop with the organizers to build up divisional leader	-	-	-
5.3.12	Activities to focus the strength of district and grass root level branches and consolidation	1	01	Achieved
5.3.13	Organize internal annual planning implementation and monitoring review/workshop	1	01	Achieved
5.3.14	Publication: 1. Monitoring and documentation on organizers activities 2. Update and publish organizational training module 3. Action research and publication on male involvement with BMP			Achieved
5.3.15	Sharing with Civil Society (44 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of BMP)	01	01	Achieved
5.3.16	Memorial lecture on Founder President Poet Sufia Kamal	01	01	Achieved
5.3.17	Provide logistic support to implement organizational activities and to strengthen district branch (Office rent + utility bills)	52	52	Achieved
5.3.18	National Conference	-	-	-
5.4.1	Conduct capacity building and skill development training (Training for Trainers)	-	-	-
5.4.3	Conduct training for midlevel organizers at divisional level	-	-	-
5.4.4	Conduct National and Branch level basic training for young organizer	2	2	Achieved
5.4.5	Conduct training for grassroots organizer	30	30	Achieved
5.4.6	Conduct Study Circle, Debate	12	10	83%
5.4.7	Research Analysis on incidents of VAW	01	01	Achieved
5.4.8	Conduct Subjective Research Study	01	1	Achieved
5.4.10	Certificate/diploma course on Gender Development & Women Empowerment	01	01	Achieved
5.4.11	Collect books and journals, equipment of library	As Per Necessity	As Per Necessity	Achieved
5.4.12	Publication Research on History of			-

	Women's Movement in Bangladesh			
5.5.1	Audit Fees & Others	01	01	Achieved
5.5.2	Internal Audit: To ensure accounts keeping	As Per Necessary	Branch Visit: 20 Central Office: 10	Achieved
5.5.3	Financial Training/ Office Management Training for staff:	05	05	Achieved
5.6.1	Sharing with cultural activities	01	01	Achieved
5.6.2	Cultural Program	01	01	Achieved

### ***III.5.i. Details of area specific interventions under output 5***

#### ***5.1.1 Paralegal Training for the organiser at district & branch level***

The Paralegal training held for the organizers at district and grassroots branch levels. During this period 20 Paralegal training sessions were held. The training has helped improving the capacity of organizers for legal activism. About 735 organizers have participated in these trainings held in different parts of the country.

#### **Paralegal Trainings (Jan.-Dec.2014)**

<b>SL.</b>	<b>Branch</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Trainer</b>
1.	<b>Savar</b>	05.02.2014	49 (28 Young girls)	Adv. Maksuda Akhter Adv. Fatema Khatun Adv. George Chowdhury
2.	Rangpur	17.02.2014	34 (9 Young girls)	Adv. Dipti Rani Sikder RiazuddinAhamed
3.	Nawgaon	17.02.2014	34 (18 Young girls)	Adv. Ram Lal Raha
4.	Gaibandha	17.02.2014	39 (14 Young girls)	Adv. Maksuda Akhter Adv. George Chowdhury
5.	Jalpur	26.02.2014	29 (5 Young girls)	Adv. Maksuda Akhter Adv. Ram Lal Raha
6.	Rajshahi	12.03.2014	37 (20 Young girls)	Adv. Dipti Rani Sikder RiazuddinAhamed
7.	Rajshahi University	12.03.2014	33 (16 Young girls)	Adv. Maksuda Akhter Adv. Md. Taufiqul Islam
8.	Natore	13.03.2014	36 (16 Young girls)	Adv. Maksuda Akhter Adv. Dipti Rani Sikder Adv. Md. Taufiqul Islam RiazuddinAhamed
9.	Mymensingh	25.03.2014	38 (8 Young girls)	Adv. Maksuda Akhter Adv. Md. Taufiqul Islam RiazuddinAhamed
10.	Netrokona	25.03.2014	39 (13 Young girls)	Adv. Maksuda Akhter Adv. Md. Taufiqul Islam RiazuddinAhamed
11.	Moulvibazar	31.03.2014	40 (20 Young girls)	Adv. Maksuda Akhter Adv. Dipti Rani Sikder

				Adv. Ram Lal Raha Adv. Md. Taufiqul Islam
12.	Training of the Central Committee Officer	19-20 April 2014	31 (11 Young girls)	Ayesha Khanom, Maleka Banu, Adv. Rakhi Das Pukayasto, Adv. Masuda Rehena Begum, Adv. Afifa Begum Shapna, Adv. Maksuda Akhter Adv. Dipti Rani Sikder Adv. Ram Lal Raha
13.	Kumarkhali, Kustia	04.06.2014	35 (20 Young girls)	Adv. Maksuda Akhter Adv. Dipti Rani Sikder RiazuddinAhamed
14.	Madhukhali	10.06.2014	35 (11 Young girls)	Humayara Khatun Adv. Ram Lal Raha
15.	Magura	10.06.2014	41 (13 Young girls)	Adv. Maksuda Akhter Adv. Dipti Rani Sikder Adv. George Chowdhury
16.	Narayangong	23.06.2014	41 (13 Young girls)	Adv. Masuda Rehana Begum Adv. Maksuda Akhter Adv. Md. Taufiqul Islam
17.	Habigong (Lal Chando Tea Garden)	14.12.2014	40 (37 Young girls)	Adv. Maksuda Akhter Adv. Dipti Rani Sikder Adv. Md. Taufiqul Islam
18.	Raypura Organizational District Branch	22.12.2014	34 (28 Young girls)	Adv. Afifa Begum Shapna Adv. Ram Lal Raha
19.	Singair, Manikgong	22.12.2014	40 (12 Young girls)	Adv. Maksuda Akhter Adv. Dipti Rani Sikder Adv. Md. Taufiqul Islam
20.	Mirzapure, Tangail	24.12.2014	24 ( 13 Young girls)	Adv. Maksuda Akhter Adv. Dipti Rani Sikder Adv. George Chowdhury

### **5.1.2 Divisional training for the leaders (TOT)**

Divisional Paralegal training for the leaders (TOT) was held on 23-24, May 2014 at Karitas Auditorium, Sagordi, Barishal. Through initiative of the Central Legal Aid Sub Committee of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad the TOT Program was organized by Barishal district Branch. A total of 38 organizers from the districts of Barishal, pirojpur, patuakhali, jhalkathi, Barguna, Kaukhali, Bhola& Sharupkathi joined the TOT. It created a considerable degree of interests and enthusiasm among the participants about training and thus improving the skills of district and grassroots leaders. A total number of 53 persons attended the Program. The program was chaired by Rabeya Khatun, President, Barishal district Branch of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.

The inaugural speech was given by Nurjahan Begum, General Secretary, Barishal district Branch of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad. Sima Moslem, Joint secretary, Central Committee of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Rekha Saha, International Secretary, Central Committee of

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Adv. Afifa Begum Shopna, Legal Aid Secretary (Acting), Adv. Maksuda Akhter, Director, Legal Advocacy & Lobby, Adv. Ram Lal Raha, Senior Lawyer, Adv. Dipti Rani Sikder, Senior Lawyer, Adv. Toufiqul Islam (Program Officer), Adv. George Chowdhury, Junior Lawyer of Central Legal Aid Sub-Committee took part in the discussion and explained the purpose and expected outcome of the program. The training program was conducted by protima Sarkar, Legal Aid Secretary, Barishal district Branch of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.

### **5.1.3 Conduct legal literacy training for young women**

The BMP Legal Aid Sub-Committee organized training for young women to improve legal literacy for their involvement in activity related resistance of VAW. In 2014 BMP organized one training program as planned on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at the Sufia Kamal Bhaban Auditorium. A total of 70 participants including 37 young women attend the program. The program has been able to involve young women with resistance movement of BMP against VAW.

### **5.1.4 Village Watch training**

BMP organize six training programs to resist VAW for the Village Watch Team in 2014. The first meeting was held on 13<sup>rd</sup> February at Sufia Kamal Bhaban Auditorium with different *para* committee of Dhaka city. The second meeting was held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2014 with Gaibandha district branch. The third training program was organized on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 with Sylhet district branch. The third training program was organized on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2014 with Barisal district branch while the fifth training program was organized on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2014 with Rajbari district branch. The sixth training program was also organized on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2014 with Kustia district branch. These training programs contributed to motivate and engage 195 members with resistance of VAW movement. They have received better understanding and skill for performing their works.

### **5.1.5 Motivational program at grass-roots and central levels**

The organization has been able to arrange 5 such programs in 2014 that played an important role to motivate the people both at central and grass-roots levels. These programs made mass people aware of resistance of VAW movement and also keeping continuation of awareness building activity through discussion meetings.

**Table 3.21: Motivational Program at grass roots and central levels**

Sl	Date	Place
1	05.02.2014	Porabari, Bedepara, Savar
2	01.04.2014	Islamabad, Shahporan, Sylhet
3	01.04.2014	Singur Punji Para, Kulaura, Moulvibazar
4	07.08.2014	Singair, Manikganj
5	15.10.2014	Mirzapur, Tangail

### **5.1.6-Awareness raising/legal literacy training for young/ students**

BMP organized six sharing meetings with young students in different parts of the country including Dhaka in order to raise their awareness about different forms of violence against women especially on sexual harassment. There were a total of 596 teachers and students who took part in these programs that contributed to raise their awareness about VAW and its resistance.

**Table 3.22: Awareness raising trainings**

Sl	Date	Place
1	26.02.2014	Government Ashek Mahmud University College, Jamalpur
2	01.03.2014	Department of Social welfare, Habibullah Bahar University College, Dhaka
3	03.03.2014	Teachers' lounge, Dhaka College
4	05.03.2014	Seminar Room, Notre Dame College, Dhaka
5	02.12.2014	R C Majumder Auditorium, University of Dhaka
6	04.12.2014	R C Majumder Auditorium, University of Dhaka

#### ***5.1.7 Seminar/Workshop (University/College/School)***

BMP organized two seminars with teachers and students of the Government University College Gaibandha and Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of Dhaka on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2014 and 27<sup>th</sup> November respectively. The theme of the seminars was VAW, remedial measures of VAW and role of the state. A total of 298 teachers and 85 students were present.

#### ***5.1.8 Consultation and dialogue for advocacy for implementation of UFC & other laws (Concert/Docudrama & others)***

As planned, BMP organized one consultation and dialogue for advocacy for implementation of UFC and other laws. In this regard, BMP produced one TV spot on rape. This TV spot were broadcast in ATN News and Channel 71 on several occasions.

#### ***5.1.9 Advocacy for domestication of CEDAW***

The organization arranged one sharing meeting about advocacy for domestication of CEDAW on 23 September 2014 at Sylhet. There were 135 participants along with bar Association 109 lawyers who attended the program.

#### ***5.3.1- Organisational meeting for building up branch committee***

In Jan-June 2014, there are 1157 programs are implemented both at central & district level. Among these 1102 programs are at district level and 55 programs are in central level. A total number of participants are 38884. Among these 32882 participants are at district level and 6002 participants are in central level.

BMP became more strengthened with increasing membership by conduct organizational meeting. During this period five organizational meetings were held at grass root level with the district participation by central organizational sub- committee and district branch committee.

#### ***5.3.3 Organisational tour***

Organization tour plays a significant role in strengthening and consolidating district and grass roots level organizations. It also increases communication between the centre and local leadership in the executive committee. These tours enable the central leaders to observe directly the positions of district branches, trust of local people on the district leadership, capacity, skills and accountability of local activists. The objectives of such tours were to strengthen the activities of the district branches through discussion on the problems and challenges faced and strategies to be pursued. In 2014, BMP was able to organize 23 such visits where 657 members and organizers were present

### ***5.3.4 District conference***

According to the constitution of the organization it is necessary to organize district branch conference in every three year. All programs and activities of district branches of BMP in the last three years were presented in the Conference. Work-plan and its implementation procedure were also reviewed in the session. The organization maintains order and continuity by forming a new Executive Committee through this conference. In 2014 BMP Organization sub-committee and district branches organized 4 district conferences against the target of 14. Political situation and field circumstances did not allow holding conferences according to the planned target.

### ***5.3.5 Sharing meeting for organizers regarding district conference***

Generally, the central leaders get opportunities for exchange of views with district level organizers during the district conferences. In 2014 BMP organized 4 sharing meetings. The main goal of this program is to find out limitations/barriers of district branches and ways of overcoming them in a participatory framework of discussion. Eventually, it contributes to strengthen the organization.

### ***5.3.7 Awareness raising and motivational programme with young women at grass root level***

In observance of 8 March International Women's Day Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organized a discussion Meeting on 6 March 2014 at Engineers Institution, Dhaka. The Discussion Meeting was concluded with a cultural program.

BMP's Slogan for the day is "stop using Religion in Politics Ensure Equality and Development for women".

Professor Dr Mizanur Rahman Chairman, National Human Rights Commission and Her Excellency MS, Meretre Lundemo, Ambassador, The Royal Norwegian Embassy, Dhaka were Present in the program as special guests. Representatives from the young generation also took part in the discussion.

The program was presided over by Ayesha Khanam, President, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.

In her speech, Rakhi Das Purkayastha, Acting General Secretary of BMP described the pioneering role of BMP in observing 8th March since 1972. She Expressed worry about the use of religion by the Political parties and the rise of fundamentalism in the country which is the main obstacle in establishing good Governance and democracy. Finally she urged the young Generation to come forward to strength women movement and to integrate their efforts with Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.

Professor Dr. Mizanur Rahman Chairman, National Human Rights Commission said that in order to establish equality between Men and Women all like civil society administration and judiciary should work together. Every Member of the society should also play active role in establishing women's Rights.

Her Excellency MS, Meretre Lundemo, Ambassador, The Royal Norwegian Embassy, Dhaka said violence against women is still prevailing in the society though movement for equal rights has been continuing since decade. Gender equality could be established through the

economic and social development. Young generation only can take the challenges for establishing equality.

Ayasha Khanam, chair the meeting said after Independence we have to struggle much for observing the International Women's Day. She also urged to establish Women's Human Rights well as democracy taking lessons from the culture of universal Human Rights.

She said political empowerment of women, decision making process and direct election in women's reserved seats should be constitutionally ensured.

### ***5.3.9 Conduct sharing meeting with indigenous women***

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad arranged a sharing meeting with Indigenous women on 11th February 2014 at 4.00 P.M at the Sufia Kamal auditorium. Ayesha Khanam president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad presided over the meeting. Acting General Secretary Rakhi Das Purkayastha spoke on the meeting. Organizational secretary Umme Salma Begum spoke about the objectives, goal of the organization and also addresses the purpose of the meeting. Different community of indigenous women from plan land and Chittagong hill tracks like Chakma, Garo, Marma, Santal, Tripura, Monipuri, Chak attended the program with great interest and enthusiasm. The participants shared their socio economic and environmental problems and hindrance being Indigenous women. They also shared their experiences about the relationship with mainstream population. Different types of recommendation about their rights and existence come out from the open discussion. President of the meeting Ayesha Khanam ensured them to provide the recommendations to concern ministry. Dr. Fauzia Moslem vice president, Advocate Masuda Rehana Begum assistant General Secretary also attended the program. Rehana Yunus General Secretary of Dhaka Mohanagar committee also addressed in meeting. 9 central committee members also participated the program. A total of 27 participants attended the program.

### ***5.3.12 Activities to focus the strength of district and grass root branches and consolidation***

As planned, BMP observed *Organizational Month* in 2014 to consolidate and strengthen district and grassroots branches. The slogan of the organization month was '*We need secular, democratic and professionally skilled voluntary organizers at all levels of our organization to consolidate organizational strength*'. All district branches observed this program. The implemented activities of organizational month are:

- Inauguration
- Organizational training
- Collection of new member and renew
- Discussion meeting with youth woman
- Discussion with professional and indigenous women

### ***5.3.13 Organize internal annual planning implementation and monitoring review/workshop***

BMP organized the two-day long National Council Meeting (Internal Annual Planning Implementation and Monitoring Review Meeting) at the Fars Hotel & Resorts, Dhaka on 14-15 November, 2014. The program is organized by Organization sub-committee. The meeting was presided over by Ayesha Khanam, President, BMP while Her Excellency, Merete Lundemo, Ambassador, The Royal Norwegian Embassy, Dhaka, and Tapati Saha, on behalf of Christine Susan Hunter, Country Director, UN Women, Dhaka, present as special guests. The other Guests were Morshed Ahmed, Senior advisor and Maria Sorhus, Trainee, The

Royal Norwegian Embassy, Dhaka. This year's the slogan; National Council Meeting declared as Efficient, Ideal & Volunteer Organizer can meet the Challenge Of the 21st Century.

The Inaugural session was conducted by Umme Salma Begum, Organizing Secretary, Central Committee, BMP. The key events was divided into three working session. 1st working session was conducted by Kaniz Rahman, member of Central Committee, BMP, 2nd was by Rina Ahmed, Secretary, Research, Training and Library Sub- committee of Central Committee, BMP and 3rd was by Kaniz Fatema Tagor, Organizing Secretary of Dhaka Mahanagar, BMP. Prof. Latifa Kabir, Member of Central Committee presented Condolence message. Welcome address was given by Maleka Banu, General Secretary of Central Committee, BMP.

In the Inaugural session, Tapati Saha, on behalf of Christine Susan Hunter, Country Director, UN Women, said, UN Women is made to establish empowerment of women. The achievement of UN Women, the acceptance of the League of Nations is also the result of success of worldwide women activist organizations like Bangladesh Mahila Parishad those work for women's progress.

Her Excellency, Merete Lundemo, Ambassador of The Royal Norwegian Embassy, Dhaka, appreciated on the successive program of the organization, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad. She remarked that Bangladesh Mahila Parishad is working against religious fundamentalism and working for preservation of women rights which play a very positive role in Bangladesh.

In this National Council Meeting counselor participated in five thematic subject termed as commissions. Counselor actively participated in the different group, and shared and gave their views, options and recommendations on those issues:

Themes of topics are:

- Challenge of the 21st Century: Efficient, Ideal & Volunteer Organizer.
- Violence Against women and girl child: Violation of Human Rights.
- Communalism, Religious Fundamentalism and Women's Human Rights .
- Women Political Empowerment : Pre-requisite for Women's Human Rights
- Democracy and Good Governance: Pre-requisite for Women's Rights.

Ayesha Khanam, President of BMP, said, though Women in our society are victims of violence in her family, discriminated in economy and deprived from their fair wages, they actively participated to make the society going forward. She also said, we have to make the contribution of women movement going forward through the social movement. She also said, women movement's aim to ensure the effective participation of women in development agenda in 2015.

Maleka Banu, General Secretary of Central Committee, BMP, said, neglecting various odds women are advancing forwards. She also said, volunteerism of thousands of members of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad makes women movement strength.

Dr. Fauzia Moslem, Vice President of BMP, speaks about administration. Rakhi Das Purkayastha, Joint General Secretary of BMP, speaks about organization. Shima Moslem, Joint General Secretary of BMP, speaks about Commission. And Dil Afroz Begum, Finance Secretary of BMP, speaks about Economic Affairs.

#### **5.3.14 Publication**

BMP completed the publications of the following documents in 2014 as planned:

1. Monitoring and documentation on organizers activities
2. Update and publish organizational training module
3. Action research and publication on male involvement with BMP

#### **5.3.15 Sharing meeting with civil society**

With the slogan “There is no alternative to professional skills for facing the challenges of 21st century’ BMP celebrated 44th founding anniversary on 18 April, 2014 at Engineers Institution, Dhaka. The ceremony was presided over by Ayesha Khanam, President, BMP while Prof. Rehman Sobhan an eminent Economist and Chairman of CPD and Christine Susan Hunter, Country representative of UN Women were present as special guests. The other special Guests were Representatives of young Generation, indigenous women, women farmers and grassroots organizers. The Auditorium was filled with utmost capacity with organizers who have been advocating Women’s Rights at Grassroots Level. Christine Susan Hunter, Country representative of UN Women told that women movement plays an effective role to establish women’s Rights. She firmly believes that BMP would continue its struggle for establishing Women’s Rights in Bangladesh. Prof. Rehman Sobhan dreamt of equality of man and women and said it would take only 20 years when equalities of man and woman would exist in our society He said his dream is consistent to the spirit of Liberation War. Women of Bangladesh have already established themselves as one of the strongest pillars of the national economy. In the secondary level 50% students are female.

Through Micro-credit system 30 Lac women running their small scale business. Correspondingly women have become the main source of value addition in the garments sector. But still participation of women in politics would be ensured.

Maleka Banu, General Secretary and Rakhi Das Purkayastha Joint Secretary of BMP also spoke on the occasion. Sima Moslem, Joint Secretary read out the declaration of this year’s founding Anniversary. Ayesha Khanam, President of BMP said religious extremism has taken its many ugly forms which is great hindrance for women’s human rights. She urged all to stop use of religion in politics. BMP has walked a long way and still there is a long way to go for women’s emancipation. The program concluded with a drama ‘Khana’. The program was conducted by Umme Salma Begum Organization secretary of BMP.

#### **5.3.16. Memorial Lecture on Poet Sufia Kamal**

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad celebrated the 103 birth anniversary of Poet Sufia Kamal, the founder President of BMP on 20 June 2014 at the Auditorium of Bangla Academy. The program was presided over by Ayesha Khanam, President, BMP while Dr. Shamsuzzaman, Director General of Bangla Academy delivered the memorial Lecture on the poet. As a part of its Program BMP awards Sufia Kamal crest to the distinguished Personalities of the society. This year Poet Sufia Kamal crest was awarded to Justice Late Debesh Chandra Bhattacharya for his Contribution to the cause of Women emancipation. His son Dr. Debopriya

Bhattacharya, an eminent economist received the crest of behalf of the family members. Rakhi Das Purkayastha Joint Secretary of BMP presented the brief biography of Justice Late Debesh Chandra Bhattacharya. Maleka Banu, General Secretary of BMP said, Poet Sufia Kamal always dreamt of a democratic, non-communal, equity based state and society. Ayesha Khanam, President of BMP said that Poet Sufia Kamal is the source of our inspiration and strength in the struggle for establishing Women's Human Rights. The programme was conducted by Umme Salma Begum Organization secretary of BMP. The Program was concluded with a musical soiree.

#### ***5.3.17 Provide logistic support to implement organisational activities and to strengthen district branch***

BMP provided logistic support to 52 district branches in against the target of 52. The organization feels that logistic support to district branches significantly helps to strengthen their organizational capacity.

#### ***5.4.4 Conduct national & branch level basic training for young organizer***

Training, Research and Library Sub-committee of BMP organized a Divisional Training titled 'Training on Awareness Raising & Capacity Building for the Empowerment of Women with young organizers' in Rajshahi on 28 Feb-1st March 2014. In this training young 64 organizers from 10 districts were participated. 4 Central committee members were presented there.

Different aspects of Gender concept were the subject of training -

- Women's Movement in the perspective of Sub-continent and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad,
- Concept of Gender, Empowerment of Women and Women's Movement
- International Initiatives to establish Women's Right and CEDAW: In the Perspective of Bangladesh.
- Concept of Advocacy & Lobby and it's appliance in the activities of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.
- The Principles & Activities of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad in the light of Memorandum & Declaration.
- Role of Organizers to implement the activities of Organization.
- Right of Women in the constitution and existing law.
- Sequential Activities to Resist Women's Violence.

Facilitator of the training courses were –

- Shima Moslem, Joint General Secretary, Central Committee, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.
- Adv. Masuda Rehana Begum, Asst. General Secretary Central Committee, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.
- Kazi Sufia Akhter Shelly Secretary Movement Sub-committee , Bangladesh Mahila Parishad .
- Dr. Mahbuba Kaniz Keya, Professor, Dept of Psychology ,RU University and central Committee member, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad .
- Dipti Rani Sikdar, member, Training, Research & Library Sub-committee

Moderator of the training courses were –

- Lilun Naher Baby, Vice-president, Rajshahi District Branch .
- Raseda Khalek , Vice-president, Rajshahi District Branch .
- Shahin Akter, Vice-president, Rajshahi District Branch .

Training, Research and Library Sub-committee of BMP organized a Divisional Training titled ‘Training on Awareness Raising & Capacity Building for the Empowerment of Women with young organizers’ in Rangamati On 9-10 May 2014. In this training 58 young organizers from 8 districts were participated both from Chittagong and Shylet. 5 Central committee members were presented there.

Different aspects of Gender concept were the subject of training -

- Women’s Movement in the perspective of Sub-continent and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad,
- Concept of Gender, Empowerment of Women and Women’s Movement
- International Initiatives to establish Women’s Right and CEDAW: In the Perspective of Bangladesh.
- Concept of Advocacy & Lobby and it’s appliance in the activities of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.
- The Principles & Activities of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad in the light of Memorandum & Declaration.
- Role of Organizers to implement the activities of Organization.
- Right of Women in the constitution and existing law.
- Sequential Activities to Resist Women’s Violence.

Facilitator of the training courses were –

- Shima Moslem, Joint General Secretary, Central Committee, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.
- Kazi Sufia Akhter Shelly Secretary, Movement Sub-committee , Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.
- Rina Ahmed, Member, Training, Research & Library Sub-committee
- Sara Ban Tahura Secretary, Publication Sub-committee
- Dipti Rani Sikdar, member, Training, Research & Library Sub-committee

Moderator of the training courses were –

- Mono ara Jasim, Vice-president, Rangamati District Branch .
- Miniti Chakma , Vice-president, Rangamati District Branch .
- Konika Baruya, president, District Branch .

#### ***5.4.5 Conduct training for grass root organisers***

BMP conducted trainings for grassroots level organizers through the district level branches with the aim of raising awareness and efficiency. In most of the cases the trainers are district level leaders. But the eminent persons from different professional groups such as lawyers, professors, researchers of that area became interested regarding BMP and provided training on their relevant area. In 2014 BMP arranged 112 training events in 42 districts and the numbers of the participants were 4074. Curricula for all the training programs were based on

the training modules developed by the centre. Under project 87 training events is in 30 districts and the number of the participants were 3221 and out of project 25 training events in 12 districts and the number of the participants were 853 .

### **Impacts**

- Increases Gender Awareness of Organisers.
- Participants understood concept regarding gender issues, which increased their efficiency and make them more active, and devoted for the organization as well as for women empowerment. ToT increases their capacity and confidence to provide training at grass root level.
- Through ToT exposure training by the Specialist in national level.
- At Divisional level training, grassroots level organizers became involved with central level training through direct feedback and communication from central level organizers.
- Eminent professional groups like lawyers, teachers, and activists in district level became interested regarding Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and remain as trainer in grass root training which increases networking between grass root organizers and resource persons.

### **5.4.6 Conduct Study Circle, Debate**

To enlighten and encourage younger in mainstream women’s movement, raising awareness regarding women’s rights as well as human rights, gender issues, prepare activist etc, Study Circle can be a good via. From this perspective Study Circle conducted in every month.

#### **Study Circle conducted in 2014**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Conducted Area</b>	<b>Number of Districts</b>	<b>No. of Study Circle</b>	<b>No. of Participants</b>
2014	Central level	-	10	839
	District level	22	68	1228
<b>Total</b>		<b>22</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>2067</b>

In 2014, the numbers of centrally organized study circles were 10 in which 839 young men and women took part. In another part, 68 study circles have been conducted in 22 districts where the numbers of participants were 1228. Issues that featured in the study circle included Importance of Language Movement, International Women’s day, Stop Sexual Harassment & Stalking, Biography of groundbreaking Women, CEDAW, women’s movement etc.

#### **Study Circle conducted in following colleges in 2014**

<b>S. N.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name of the Institution/Place</b>	<b>Issues of Discussion</b>	<b>No. of Participants</b>
1.	26/01/14	Department of Youth Development and Social Relation, Home Economics College, Azimpur	VAW	153

2.	13/03/14	Debate, Sufia Kamal Bhaban Auditorium	VAW	60
3.	27/03/14	Department of Social Work, Eden College	Dowry, Child marriage	50
4.	20/05/14	Institute of Social welfare and research, University of Dhaka	Empowerment of Women, VAW	62
5.	21/08/14	Swidhesorri Girls College	Equity of men and women, VAW	65
6.	02/09/14	Department of Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Dhaka	Gender Equity, Quota System	70
7.	07/09/14	T &T University College	VAW	107
8.	24/09/14	National College Home Economics	-	44
9.	21/10/14	Central Office	Child Marriage	27
10.	28/10/14	Azimpur Girls School and College		201
Total				839

### ***Impacts***

- Young generation got interested regarding study circle and worked on gender issues.
- They became involved with the organizational activities.
- Through the study circle BMP got exposure to the wider section of the society and dreams of the young mind.

### ***5.4.7 Research Analysis on incidents of VAW***

Research analysis on incidents of VAW is continuous process. Data is collected from daily newspapers and then all data are coded in Coding Framework. After the completion of coding, all data were accumulated to analyze in 2013. Currently report writing is underway.

### ***5.4.8 Conduct Subjective Research Study***

BMP started a research project on “Women in Readymade Garments Industry: Understanding Capabilities and Vulnerabilities of Female Workers in Bangladesh” in September 2013. Data has been collected for the study. Currently report writing is underway.

### ***5.4.9 Workshop on CEDAW for Lawyer***

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, at the initiative of the Training, Research and Library Sub-Committee, has conducted a day long workshop titled “Workshop on CEDAW for Lawyer” for Lawyers at 30 May, 2014 in Sufia Kamal Bhabon Auditorium, Central Office, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad. The subject of workshop was addressed by Rina Ahmed, Secretary of training, research & library unit. The event was also addressed by Ayesha Khanam, President of Central Committee, BMP & Shima Moslem, joint General Secretary of BMP. The moderator of the session was Syeda Shamse Ara Hossain, Vice president of BMP. There are 25 practitioners Lawyer from Dhaka was participated in the workshop.

The curriculum of the Workshop included 4 topics covering wide range of subjects. The workshop comprised classes on the following topics:

- Human Rights Conception & Consequences
- CEDAW Convention: Background & Analysis.
- Application of CEDAW on Justice activities: Implementation & Challenges
- Balance of CEDAW Convention with Bangladesh Constitution & Beijing PFA

#### ***5.4.10 Certificate/diploma course on Gender, Women Empowerment and Development***

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, at the initiative of the Training, Research and Library Sub-Committee, has introduced three month certificate course yearly titled “Gender, Women Empowerment and Development”. In this year fourth course was held at Sufia Kamal Auditorium central office of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad from 22 August 2014-20 December 2014. The course was participated by 26 students from different sector of the society which includes NGO workers, social activists, professionals, Govt. Officer, Student and staff of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad etc. The curriculum of the certificate course contains 30 topics under eight modules covering wide range of subjects. Apart from theoretical classes, group work, panel discussions were included in the course curriculum. A field visit to Savar designed as a part of practical course. The opening ceremony of the certificate course is inaugurated by Ayesha Khanam, Chair, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad. After the course completion certificate award ceremony was held at the Sufia Kamal Auditorium at 4:00 pm on 20 December 2014 followed by certificate giving among the participants. Prominent sculptor and freedom fighter Ferdousi Priyovashini was the Chief Guest of the ceremony, which was presided over by Ayesha Khanam, Chair, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad. Dr. Maleka Banu, General Secretary, Mahila Parishad and Ms Shima Moslem, Joint General Secretary and the Course Director, Secretary of Training, Research and Library Rina Ahmed also addressed in the meeting. Ayesha Khanam, Chair, Mahila Parishad, said Bangladesh Mahila parishad has its multi-dimensional activities; certificate course is one of these. The main objective of certificate course is to increase the awareness within both male and female members of the society. She also mentioned that suggestion by the participant will help to enrich the course. Pinki Majumdar, Sharifa Yasmin, Nazma Ara Begum Popy briefly expressed their views on the course on behalf of the participant. They said, this certificate course is the combination of all theoretical and practical theory of gender issue which increases their knowledge and consciousness about gender, women’s right & development. It is very helpful to develop personal, professional career and social networking. They suggested Course duration should be extended to 6 months and if possible reading materials may be provided in brail system for blind students. The event was conducted by Shahzadi Shamima Afzaly, and the certificate ceremony conducted by Saleha Banu and Afroja Arman member of Training Research & Library sub-committee. 69 person including journalists, Central committee members and officials of BMP attended the programme of certificate distribution of the course. Chief Guest Ferdousi Priyovashini distributed certificates among the participants. Ayesha Khanam presented the participants with books and flower bouquets.

#### ***5.4.11 Collect books and journals, equipment of library***

People from different backgrounds use library services of BMP. Particularly, advanced level students get mostly benefited by the books from the library. The number of the books collected in the year 2014 was 43 out of which 4 were collected as courtesy. It was reported that 143 persons appeared on the register as they used the library in 2014. The BMP library collected 82 reference materials including CEDAW, gender and development related bulletin, reproductive health related publications, annual reports, etc. It may be mentioned that a PhD researcher and an M.Phil student have worked on “Women Movement and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad” and “Role of Sufia Kamal in Women Movement” respectively who have immensely benefited from the BMP library services.

#### ***5.5.3 Financial Training/Office Management Training for Staff***

##### **Accounting Practices**

BMP has always emphasized upon accomplishing accounting practices in a timely manner so as to facilitate the management in taking necessary decisions. In view of any laps identified by the external auditor in BMP’s accounting system, BMP has been working acutely to implement the recommendations put forward by External Auditors. BMP has adopted the Accountings Software (Tally).

##### **Financial Governance**

Financial Governance, being sensitive area, was viewed to be of more importance by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad. BMP central Executive Committee constituted a Finance Committee comprising of President, General Secretary, Joint Secretary, Assistant General Secretary, Finance Secretary and staff from Finance and Accounting Department to prepare financial planning and to monitor all financial activities in a timely manner. Finance committee sits regularly at least once in a month to discuss and monitor the monthly progress of accounting and financial activities. BMP maintains budgetary control over all sorts of expenditures. Variances are also analyzed in a timely manner giving further efforts to Financial Management Process.

##### **Internal Audit**

The internal audit system of BMP is not only tracking the activities against targets / desired performance, but also working relentlessly in keeping the centre and the branches tie together in harmony. A total of 37 Branches were Audited by Internal Auditor during 2014. 14 Branches were not visited due to Political Unrest but those branches were specially allocated in the financial management training.

##### **Financial Capacity Building of the Branch Office**

At branch offices no professional or designated accountant is employed. Branch Executive in addition to his / her administrative responsibilities performs accounting functions. Branch Executives as well as volunteer organizers are continuously given financial training from head office. Despite limited technical knowledge and experience branch Executives are doing well in general book-keeping and financial reporting. A total of 5 divisional trainings of Financial Management were conducted during 2014. 149 participants from 49 Branches took part in the trainings. Participants are comprised of secretaries and Branch Executives. The training highlighted the necessity as well as technique for preparing program Budget / Monthly Budget, handling Cash, approval of expenditure and preparation of financial statement at Branch level.

##### **Training Module**

A training module is prepared in respect of branches need base and distributed to all participants to provide knowledge, skills and tools in financial management activities in a systematic manner.

### **Procurement**

BMP Central Executive Committee constituted a procurement committee comprising of one of Vice-Presidents, General Secretary, Assistant General Secretary, number of secretaries and other administrative staff to maintain a system for purchasing goods and services required by the office. Quality and competitive requirement is being met for each of the procurement. Quotations are invited as per level fixed in the practice.

Procurement efforts to ensure that items procured conform to the requirements of the Project and that the guidelines and the procedures of BMP and development partner.

### ***Human Resource Management***

BMP's Human Resource & Admin is working together targeted to improve its office management as well as human resource management and development. Through developing the efficiency of the employees, their competency, ethical and moral values, and creativity and integrating voluntarism with professionalism HR & Admin are going ahead towards strengthening the process of institutionalization of BMP. With a view to proper implementation of all activities HR & Admin is working to develop a rational and useful infrastructure to unveil the enthusiasm and capability of employees and to ensure maximum utilization of resources.

HR and Admin is in charge of supervising staff performance, appraisals, managing grievances, compensation and benefits. For this HR & Admin is guided by the service rule which has been updated in the reporting period. By this time BMP also updated Appraisal Form and developed Gender Policy.

The total number of employees in 2014 (31.12.2014) is 98 with 58 female and 40 male. Among them 34 are working in Branch offices. In the reporting period 21 employees have been recruited.

To establish a good coordination between concerned members and officials towards implementing a well managed administration Central Committee has assigned a team of six members comprising 3 organizational members and 3 officials.

Besides this, 2 officials are also included in Administrative Management activities.

To increase professional skills and integrate employees with BMP's mission, vision and values with the aim of strengthening the institutionalizing process regular morning sessions, eleven monthly meetings on administrative management, seven monthly staff meetings, two half yearly staff meetings, two meetings with Administrative Support team have been arranged. In half yearly staff meetings branch offices employees also participate.

Reviewing and evaluating of activities as well as identifying problems arose while implementing those activities and finding solutions of those is the main objective of these meetings.

BMP is providing organizational orientation to newly recruited employees to make familiar with mission, vision and values of the organization as well as working environment and

human resource policies. To increase employees capacity BMP arranged one day Para Legal Training for all Program Executives as per their demand. Central office employees who did not received before also participated in this. An orientation on Gender Policy has carried out. BMP also trying to make officials more efficient through provide them training from outside. Consequently Manager Human Resource received 2 day training on “HR Blue Chips: The Value Stream Functionalities” from BD Jobs; Internal Auditor received 2 week training on “Internal Audit” from BIM. Project Coordinator received one month course on English Language from British Council. Besides these Director- Finance & Admin conducted a brief in service on report writing in morning session.

Construction of a new auditorium and renovation of the office building, establishing a substation and fire fighting system has been accomplished. Proper rules and regulations have been followed in all these accomplishments.

BMP experienced that employees developed ownership feeling to the organization and spontaneous initiative to implement activities. To follow all kind of rules - regulations and policies employees are more active. Furthermore the process of institutionalization is being forwarded.

Office management system in branch offices should be developed and for this necessary step should be taken. Increasing professional skill and integrating this with voluntarism spirit of organizers more initiatives will be taken.

#### Budget Component: 5

Budget Code	Areas of Intervention	Activities		Extent of Achievement	Remarks
		Planned	Actual		
5.5.1	Audit Fees & Others	1	1	100% Achieve	-
5.5.2	Internal Audit: To ensure accounts Keeping system as per GAAP	51 (Branch)	Branch Visit 24 Branch Central Office 13 Branch	73% Achieve (37 Branch)	Due to Political Unrest 100% target not Achieve
5.5.3	Financial Training / Office Management Training for Staff	5	5 Training	100% Achieve	-

#### Audit:

**Budget Code:** 5.5.2 (Internal Audit: To ensure accounts Keeping system as per GAAP)

#### **Branch office visit for Audit:**

S.N.	Division	Name of Branch	Date
01.	Dhaka	Manikgonj	21/01/14
02.	Khulna	Magura	27/01/14
03.	Khulna	Khulna	27/01/14

04.	Khulna	Bagerhat	28/01/14
05.	Khulna	Zhenidha	28/01/14 to 29/01/14
06.	Barisal	Pirojpur	29/01/14 to 30/01/14
07.	Rajshahi	Rangpur	13/02/14
08.	Rajshahi	Gaibandha	14/02/14 to 15/02/14
			13/08/14
09.	Dhaka	Tangil	16/02/14 to 17/02/14
10.	Chittagonj	Rangamati	26/02/14
11.	Chittagonj	Chittagonj	27/02/14
12.	Sylhet	Sylhet	17/03/14
13.	Khulna	Satkhira	28/05/14 to 29/05/14
14.	Dhaka	Kisoregonj	31/05/14 to 01/06/14
			15/06/14 to 18/06/14
15.	Barisal	Jhalokhati	24/06/14
16.	Barisal	Barisal	25/06/14 to 26/06/14
17.	Dhaka	Sherpur	25/06/14 to 26/06/14
18.	Rajshahi	Rajshahi District	17/07/14
19.	Rajshahi	Rajshahi University	18/07/14
20.	Rajshahi	Kurigram	11/08/14
21.	Dhaka	Narayangonj	13/08/14
22.	Dhaka	Madukhali	25/08/14
23.	Dhaka	Faridpur	26/08/14
24.	Dhaka	Kalmakanda	26/08/14

**Audited in Central Office:**

S.N.	Division	Name of Branch	Branch	Date
01.	Rajshahi	Rajshahi University	1 Branch	02/02/14
02.	Dhaka & Barisal	Mymensingh, Narayanganj, Tongi, Raypura & Jhalokhati	5 Branch	14/05/14
03.	Dhaka	Savar	1 Branch	10/09/14
04.	Dhaka, Rajshahi & Khulna	Dhaka Mahanagar, Savar, Balabo, Tangi, Raypura, Nawgoan, Pabna, Gaibandha & Khulna	9 Branch	08/12/14

**Note:** Savar, Tangi & Raypura Branch audited in Central office 2 times.

**Special workshop on Financial Management:**

S.N.	Workshop Name	Date	Participants	
			Organizer	Staff (Central)
01.	Discussion of the role of Secretaries and Staff in	10/03/14	12 Person	34 Person

	implementation of Financial Management			
<b>02.</b>	Financial Management workshop based on Internal Audit system analysis	19/10/14	15 Person	33 Person

**Training:**

**Budget Code:5.5.3 (Financial Training / Office Management Training for Staff)**

S.N.	Name of Training	Date of Training	Place	Number of Branch	Number of Participants	Branch Name
<b>01.</b>	Khulna & Barisal Divisional Financial Management Training	14/03/14 & 15/03/14	Dhaka	12	28	Khulna, Bagerhat, Kustia, Kumarkhali, Jessore, Magura, Satkhira, Barisal, Jhalokhati, Pirojpur, Kowkhali, Barguna.
<b>02.</b>	Chittagonj & Sylhet Divisional Financial Management Training	28/03/14	Brahmanbaria	5	16	Chittagonj, Brahmanbaria, Sylhet, Sunamgonj, Moulovibazar.
<b>03.</b>	Dhaka Divisional Financial Management Training	02/05/14	Mymensingh	7	27	Mymensingh, Netrokona, Kalmakandha, Tangil, Sharpur, Muktagacha, Kishorgonj.
<b>04.</b>	Dhaka Divisional Financial Management Training	23/05/14	Dhaka	13	31	Dhaka Mahanagar, Munshigonj, Narayanganj, Savar, Manikgonj, Tongi, Gazipur, Belabo, Raypura, Rangamati, Chandpur, Swarupkati.
<b>05.</b>	Rajshahi & Ranpur Divisional Financial Management workshop based on Audit analysis	19/12/14	Rajshahi	12	47	Rajshahi, Rajshahi University, Natore, Nawgoan, Pabna, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Kurigram, Gaibanda, Faridpur, Rajbari, Modukhali
<b>Total</b>				<b>49</b>	<b>149</b>	

## **Chapter IV: Interventions beyond Planned Outputs**

Although it is not unusual to experience variations in achieving the targets of a project, BMP has particularly focused on this issue considering the fact that objective conditions in Bangladesh have forced the organization to undertake new measures to achieve the larger goals of the organization. Obviously, these measures were undertaken beyond the planned outputs. Chapter III clearly shows that BMP has been implementing its programmes and activities in five components covering a wide range of issues and concerns for women's human rights in Bangladesh. It must be mentioned in the outset that both the public and private spaces of women are being constantly violated by patriarchy and repressive elements in the state and society. The existing socio-cultural and politico-economic setting in Bangladesh poses a difficult challenge to women's life, livelihood and development. BMP's interventions have also faced these challenges to achieve its targets in 2014. In this context, some critical factors may be briefly introduced to understand the scenarios against which women development and empowerment issues are pursued in Bangladesh.

First, it is widely recognized that although the women movement has achieved its success in the past 100 years, women continue to suffer from unequal power relations between men and women in public and private life. Empirical studies violence against women clearly demonstrates that it occurs within the broad context of unequal power relations. Second, patriarchy and men's control over women play a crucial role in sustaining an environment of discrimination and exploitation. It is observed that male dominance has ideological and material bases while there is a pervasive presence of women's subordination. In the society men use violence when male authority is threatened. Third, culture and social practices exacerbate the conditions of violence against women. The politicization of culture in religious "fundamentalisms" poses serious challenges to women's rights. Forms of harmful traditional practices such as polygamy and polyandry, witch hunting, child marriage and forced marriage, unmatched marriage, practices whereby women of low status are born into prostitution, dowry-related death, human trafficking, and forced commercial sexual exploitation of the girl child and women become widely visible in the society. Fourth, economic inequalities play a critical role behind gender discrimination in Bangladesh. Women cannot enjoy equal rights and opportunities in real life although the Constitution of Bangladesh recognizes the same. Women are generally discriminated in employment, work places and asset ownership. Restrictions on women's control over economic resources constitute a form of family violence. Finally, causal and risk factors for subordination of women include use of violence in conflict resolution, legal doctrines of privacy of the home and family, state inaction, social and economic status, individual histories of exposure to violence and individual types of behavior.

Empirically speaking, Bangladesh has been witnessing a rising trend in various forms of VAW in the recent times. The BMP study based on 64 districts and 15 national newspapers shows that during January-December 2012, 4654 women had been subject to VAW. 341 women committed suicide while 898 women were murdered after rape. Victims of Fatwa, trafficking of women, acid burn, torture in police custody, and torture on maid servants also took place. The failure to ensure direct election to women members of the National Parliament and to increase reserve seats of women to one-third of total number of MPs have also deprived women from taking part actively in the national policy making process. Above

all, grassroots realities reveal that women are being faced with different obstacles from legal to cultural to establish their rights and dignity in the society. It must be mentioned Bangladesh has also achieved positive changes in some social indicators such as enrolment rate at elementary level, infant mortality, and maternal health, the overall context remains challenging for women in Bangladesh.

#### Gaps in implementing the planned outputs

BMP has implemented the planned programmes of its project for women's empowerment and development in Bangladesh under the above mentioned conditions. A component-wise analysis of gaps between planned and actual outputs has been given below.

##### *Component-1: Accelerating social movements against VAW*

The organization has achieved almost all planned outputs in component one. It has also surpassed targets of several planned outputs. All activities in the areas of legal aid and Rokeya Sadan were completed in 2014.

##### *Component-2: Strengthening political empowerment of women*

BMP fully implemented all programmes and activities under component 2 it planned throughout the year 2014. It has been observed that the organization has even achieved more than those of planned. In some cases it achieved more than 200% of its targets.

##### *Component-3: Intensifying Women's Human Rights Movement through Networking*

BMP implements a large number of planned programmes and activities in each year of the project in order to intensify Women's Human Rights Movement through Networking. In 2014, BMP achieved the targets in wide-ranging areas of interventions. It has not been able to implement all activities planned in few areas of intervention such as empowerment and encouragement of young girl in sexual and reproductive health, reviewing status of maternal health, sharing meetings, and programme aiming for prevention of sexual diseases specially HIV/AIDS. As usual BMP had been particularly successful in strengthening linkage and networking with global and international actors in 2014.

##### *Component-4: Effective Functioning as Lobby and Advocacy Agent*

BMP achieved almost all planned outputs planned in 2014 under this component. It has undertaken several programmes and activities to play an effective role as lobby and advocacy agent. However, it fell short of achieving the targets in interventions such as awareness campaign, publishing supplements in national dailies on political / economical/ social empowerment of women, and producing TV spot.

##### *Component-5: Improving Organisational Capacity*

In 2014, BMP faced difficulties in achieving targets in all areas of intervention under this component. However, BMP could not achieve targets in few minor sub-sectors of interventions. It has not been able to publish Legal Aid Update Module regularly. It lags behind UFC publication, and update volume. It has achieved 50% targets in organizing sharing meetings for district conferences and awareness and motivational programme with young women at grass-roots level. It could not finish financial and office management trainings for the staff.

## Unplanned activities

In view of emerging situations and needs, BMP engaged in programmes and activities beyond its plan. The media and mass communication subcommittee actively organised different programmes by the central committee of BMP such as International Women's Day celebration, birth and death anniversaries of poet Sufia Kamal, International Human Rights Day, Safe Motherhood Day etc. To celebrate these memorable days, mass media subcommittee collected write ups from district branches of BMP which were subsequently published in local and national newspapers. BMP responded to the national issues and incidents of violation of human rights. BMP strongly opposed to attacks by the fundamentalist forces in the Society. Mass media subcommittee regularly communicated with both print and electronic journalists as well as prepared and sent press releases to cover all the programme news by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.

### *BMP team financially supported to victims of Ramu tragedy*

On 19 September, team of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad visited Ramu, Patiya and Ukhia where thousands of extremists torched more than twenty Buddhist temples, Buddha statues, ancient Buddhist manuscripts and homes in what is considered to be the worst attack on the Buddhist community since Bangladesh's independence in 1971. The team members talked with the suffered victims and family members and also gave financial support.

The members of the team were General Secretary Maleka Banu, General Secretary Advocate Masuda Rehana Begum, finance Secretary Dil Afroz Begum. BMP expressed their grief and concern on this political violence and urged political parties to be remain restrained for this heinous activities.

### *Realisation of Dower, Maintenance and Other expenses*

BMP has been able to realise Tk. 66,54,700 as dower, maintenance and other expenses for divorced women through mediation services of different district branches of Bangladesh and grassroots branches of BMPTk. 36,74,000 through the central office. Grand total 1,03,28,700 Tk. It is a huge success for BMP

### *Social Welfare*

The Health, Environment and Social Welfare Sub-Committee undertook several programmes and activities in 2014 for raising awareness and supporting people in crisis. BMP involved in social welfare activities in 2014 in providing winter cloths to the poor, helpless and marginalized women in different parts of Bangladesh. It covered different district branches to distribute winter cloths, which are – Barisal, Jessore, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Pirojpur and Narshindi.

Table 4.1: Social Welfare Activities of BMP

Date	Places	Items
1.01.2014	Rajshahi University Branch	Distribution of cloths, blankets
03.01.2014	Sunamganj	Distribution of blankets
10.01.2014	Kumarkhali	Distribution of winter cloths
10.01.2014	Dhaka City	Distribution of winter cloths, blankets
11.01.2014	Rajshahi University Branch	Distribution of blankets,

		winter cloths
12.01.2014	Nature	Distribution of books
15.01.2014	Kaukhali	Distribution of blankets
17.02.2014	Rajshahi University Branch	Distribution of winter cloths
25.01.2014	Narayanganj	Distribution of blankets
27.01.2014	Pirojpur	Distribution of blankets
06.02.2014	Barisal	Distribution of winter cloths, blankets
07.02.2014	Thakurgaon	Distribution of winter cloths
10.02.2014	Jessore	Distribution of blankets
18.02.2014	Dinajpur	Distribution of blankets
03. 03.2014	Belabo	Distribution of winter cloths
30.03.2014	Jessore	Sewing training & distribution of sewing machine
12.04.2014	Savar	Health care
25.07.2014	Kumarkhali	Distribution of wheel chair
15.08.2014	Belabo	Distribution of books
12.09.2014	Gaibandha	Distribution relief
19.09.2014	Kurigram	Distribution relief
04.10.2014	Kolmakanda	Distribution relief
10.12.2014	Belabo	Distribution of winter cloths
31.12.2014	Belabo	Sweater

#### *Field Visit by Development Partner*

BMP organized a Field Visit programme for development partner on 12<sup>th</sup> May -14 May 2014 at Dinajpur. Honorable Delegates from The Royal Norwegian Embassy led Her Excellency Ambassador Ms. Merete Lundemo visited BMP District Branch Office, Shekhpura, Bangi Bechar Hat of Dinajpur District Branch of BMP. The Delegates were Mr. Morshed Ahmed, Senior Advisor, Development Affairs and Ms. Angrid Gjerdset Trainee. A 5 members (Ayesha Khanam, President, Central Committee BMP, Maleka Banu, General Secretary, Central Committee, BMP, Dil Afroz Begum, Finance Secretary, Central Committee, BMP, Jana Goswami, Director (Advocacy) BMP and Lili Ara Parvin Aotoshe, Project Coordinator BMP) team of Central Committee led by President Ayesha Khanam accompanied the visitors. The visitors shared and exchange their views with Dinajpur District Committee, observe mediation program, sharing with beneficiaries of Legal Aid Services, support for political empowerment and others, Indigenous men & women, Community leader and members of BMP, sharing with Grass-root women on activities of BMP grass root activist & community leaders, grass root men and women & members of BMP and representatives from different socio cultural organization, Human Rights Organization & different professional organization (Teacher, Doctor, lawyers, Journalist, Media).

Her Excellency Merete Lundemo, Ambassador, The Royal Norwegian Embassy with a team visited the district branch office of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad from 8<sup>th</sup> December-12<sup>th</sup>

December. The other members of the team were Mr. Morsdhed Ahmed, Senior Advisor, Development Affairs, Ms. Maria Sorhus- Trainee, Irena Solaiman- Trainee

On behalf of Central Committee, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad a team of 7 members led by President Ayesaha Khanam accompanied the team. The other members of the team were General Secretary Maleka Banu, Joint General Secretary Rakhi Das Purkyastha, Joint General Secretary Shima Moslem, Finance Secretary Dil Afroze Begum, Advocacy Director Jana Goswami, Project Coordinator Lili Ara Parvin Aotoshe .

On 9th December 2014 the team shared with the Executive Committee of Kaukhali District Branch. In this sharing Meeting the president of Kaukhali Branch Ms. Jahanur Begum Presided over. General Secretary and all other secretaries and the members were present in this sharing meeting. General Secretary Sunanda Samaddar conducted the meeting. At the same time the team shared with the beneficiaries of BMP Kaukhali Branch. Among the other beneficiaries the victim of trafficking, the victim of early marriage, the victim of domestic violence, the member of study circle were present. The Team also exchanged their views with Local/ Upazila administration and community leader of Kaukhali. In this sharing meeting UNO Kaukhali Upazila, , the local Govt. representatives Specially the Upazila Chairman, Vice Chairman, Union Parishad Chairman, Officer in Charge, Journalists, teachers were present and participated in the discussion.

On 10th December 2014 the team visited the Sarupkathi Branch of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad. In Sarupkathi the team conducted meeting with local administration of Sarupkathi where UNO Sarupkathi, Upazila Chairman, Officer In Charge, Teachers, Union Parishad female member, were present and participated in the sharing meeting. The team also met with the Executive committee of Sarupkathi Branch, beneficiaries BMP and grass root Women, Specially farmer women and exchanged their views. The farmer women who are the member of BMP, welcomed the Ambassador by giving a paddy shield. In this sharing the farmer women shared their experience as they have to face the situation very often by becoming a women.

#### Conference of Barisal Branch

On 11th December Barisal District Branch organized district conference. In this conference the Special guests were Ayesha Khanam, President, Central Committee, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Her Excellency Merete Lundemo, Ambassador, Norwegian Embassy, Bangladesh, Mr. Shahidul Alam, Deputy Commissioner, Barisal District. At first a rally was organized from Town Hall. The Ambassador and the team, President Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and other Leaders participated in this rally. The rally was in festive mood and around five thousand women participated in this rally. After rally the special guests Ayesha Khanam, President, Central Committee, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and Her Excellency Merete Lundemo, Ambassador, Norwegian Embassy, Bangladesh inaugurated the conference. After rally the council was held as a part of conference.

A dinner party was hosted by the Ambassador where the Honourable Parliament member, Barisal-2, Deputy Commissioner of Barisal, Metropolitan Police Commissioner of Barisal, Representative of Barisal Education Board, UNO of Kaukhali , Central Leader of BMP, the leader of Barisal Branch, Kaukhali Branch, Sarup Kathi Branch were present.

The visitors shared and exchanged their views with local grass root women, beneficiaries of BMP, women representatives of local Government and BMP members and organizers on

VAW, political participation and W/H/R. Later the team appreciated the activism of BMP and its positive impact in this remote area as well as the programme organized by BMP for them.

## **Chapter V: Evaluating the Impact of BMP Programmes and Activities**

BMP's capacity to successfully operate is greatly enhanced when it has been developed through a sustained and committed organisational process, and is consequently both robust and convincing. BMP has emerged as a strong social force against the societal challenges of patriarchy and masculinity, on the one hand, antagonism of communal and fundamentalist groups on the other. The impact of BMP programmes and activities has been clearly felt in larger socio-cultural and political milieu in Bangladesh more than ever before. As far as the project is concerned, BMP has been influencing the society through its multifarious programmes and activities. On the civil society front, the organization has extensively contributed to women's empowerment and justice in Bangladesh, which has transformed BMP into a pioneer and frontline women organisation and movement in the country. The history of women's movement in Bangladesh is the history of BMP. Over the years, BMP has created a solid profile of social activism for millions of women in Bangladesh. The implications of programmes and activities are clearly visible in different spheres primarily in socio-political, economic and cultural contexts. The activities and programmes of BMP have positive impact on changing conditions faced by women in Bangladesh in their quest for a 'just society' without gender discrimination and violence. A key impact of the project is mainstreaming of gender issues, especially VAW, to the national level. It is argued that as a result of constant campaigning of BMP, the issue of violence against women and the need to protect women from violence have come to the fore. Concomitantly, it plays a critical role in changing their mind-sets regarding gender issues and women's situation. The specific implications of BMP activities have been explained in the following section.

### **V.1 Mainstreaming women's contribution in society**

Bangladesh has the 59<sup>th</sup> largest GDP in the world, which clearly demonstrates the size of national economy. One of the fundamental factors behind this success has been the immersion of millions of women workers in the mainstream of economy that is widely known to the society. BMP strongly advocates that financial value of women's labour at home and outside remains unaccounted for. There is no recognition of women labour in the country. In order to recognize women's labour in the economy there is a need for establishing their rights of ownership to their income and hundred percent rights to expenditure of their own earnings. BMP works as a collaborating organization to achieve women's economic empowerment. In 2014 BMP identified the key areas of women's engagement in national economy over the last three decades such readymade garments industries; agriculture and fisheries; migration; and entrepreneurship in medium and small industries.

#### ***Women in agriculture***

Despite their routine work, women are very actively involved in agricultural production in Bangladesh. Women in rural Bangladesh are in general responsible for most of the agricultural work. In Bangladesh, around 120 millions of people are involved in agricultural sector. Among those people about 53.25% are male and 46.75% are female. The agriculture sector accounted for nearly 17.3% of GDP which provides 19.36 billion USD. Women's contribution in GDP 11.81 billion USD. It is estimated that women represent a substantial share of the total agriculture labor force, as individual food procedures or as agricultural workers, and that around two-thirds of the female labor force in developing economies is engaged in agriculture work. Between 1999-2000 and 2005-2006 the number of women

workers in agriculture or fisheries increased from 3.7 million to 7.7 million. Women from 60-70% of landless and nearly landless families have been involved in agriculture as workers. Women work in many different sectors of agriculture such as irrigation, seeding, seed selection, siblings, crop-cutting, crop harvesting etc. According to BMP, the most critical aspect of their deprivation of women in agriculture is lack of recognition of their labour. As they do not have ownership on land and properties, they do not get financial value of their labour. BMP implemented different programmes for mobilizing the women farmers such as rallies and processions in different divisional cities in Bangladesh.

### ***Women in Ready-Made Garmets***

The RMG industry of Bangladesh started in the late 1970s and became an important player in the economy. The industry has contributed to export earnings, foreign exchange earnings, employment creation, poverty alleviation and the empowerment of women. Bangladesh has become the second largest exporter of RMG in the world slightly behind China. The RMG industry is a strategic sector for Bangladesh. In FY 2013-2014, it provided 4.2 million direct jobs, 16 percent of GDP and more than of 75 percent of foreign exchange earnings. The fact of the matter is that such kind of special position of RMG in Bangladesh is the result of untiring and cheap labour of women workers. It is estimated that 43.1% Garments owners in Bangladesh extract highest profit with the lowest facilities to women workers. Millions of women workers are giving their cheap labour without minimum supplies of wages and living environment. They have no protection for food, health, education, and from sexual violence.

### ***Women in SME***

Bangladesh is a developing nation, rich in human resource, where women constitute slightly less than a half of the population. The majority of them are underprivileged, undernourished, illiterate and poor. Moreover, without the garment sector, there are not enough employment opportunities for women. Therefore economic activities through self-employment have become essential for potential working women.

As a matter of fact, women entrepreneurship or women in business has gained importance and acts as a very recent phenomenon in Bangladesh. Although women are taking entrepreneurship in many challenging fields, their activities in Bangladesh are not that extensive. However, in spite of fewer opportunities, many women have successes in business although; they are very small in number.

According to the Bangladesh economic review, around 6% of the country's economy comes from SMEs. Bangladesh industrial economy is thickly populated by these industries which amount for over 99% of the private sector industrial establishments and provide more than 80% of industrial employment. The relative SME shares in total GDP range between 20-25% and that in manufacturing value added vary between 40-45%. The sector is currently exhibiting dynamism by registering an average annual compound growth rate of over 7-8% in their value added shares to GDP.

It has been found that at present women entrepreneurs constitute less than 10% of the total business entrepreneurs in Bangladesh, whereas, women in advanced market economies own more than 25% of all business.

The engagement of women entrepreneurship in SMEs is a new phenomenon all over the world. In Bangladesh, women entrepreneurship started developing in fact after the liberation of Bangladesh. Very few women entered the profession of business before seventies.

Bangladeshi women entrepreneurs need to have an extra quality in form of dogged determination and resilience since this is needed to fight with adverse situations which seem to confront female entrepreneurs than their male counterparts in the present-day context.

Besides the above mentioned areas women are now engaged in migrant job in different corners of the world. They are sending money to their families regularly. According to BMIT information, from 1991 to 2012 more than two lac six thousand five hundred twenty five women are living abroad as migrant workers. They are largely based in Lebanon, Jordan, Saudi Arab, UAE, Mauritius and Singapore. In the process of migration, many women have also been regularly victimized at the hands of human traffickers. They do not get good treatment or facilities as special citizens from the embassies; rather they suffer from negligence of local high commission or embassies. Hence, BMP has submitted a number of recommendations to the Ministry of Labour and Employment and host governments which include sending women workers through government managed registration system; exploring labour market for women workers; reducing migration cost; support from embassies; better treat with women migrants; stopping women trafficking; and training centres in every sub-district and district in Bangladesh. BMP also thinks that it is a matter of satisfaction that the number of women entrepreneurs is increasing day by day. They are making themselves visible in the national economy despite the unfavourable conditions. BMP has close relations with the women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh. The organization has recommended providing industrial loans, budget allocation, reducing the rate of bank interest on loans, and decreasing the rate of VAT for women.

## **V.2 Strengthening the voice of anti-communal and progressive forces**

Bangladesh is widely known to the international community for communal harmony and for its moderate and peaceful character of the society. The long traditions of communal harmony have been established largely due to contribution of democratic and progressive social forces in addition to the foundation laid by the 1972 Constitution. Since its establishment in 1970 BMP has not deviated from its struggle against communalism and fundamentalism. The year of 2014 was particularly significant for sudden assertions of the fundamentalist and communal forces, however small in number. Coupled with confrontational politics over elections the situation got worsened. In such a context BMP has mobilised people against this communal force through its central, district and grassroots level programmes and activities. It organised rallies, processions, seminars, and press conferences throughout 2014 to expose the fundamentalist elements. The role of BMP has evidently strengthened the voice of anti-communal and anti-fundamentalist groups and organizations in Bangladesh. Although BMP has consistently targeted communal and fundamentalist forces since its creation, in 2014 the organization emphasized its role in this direction given the situations in Bangladesh. As a democratic and progressive platform BMP has been well equipped through its wide-ranging networks that became evident in 2014.

## **V.3 Civil society engagement**

Although in Bangladesh civil society has been strong, vibrant and extensive largely due to its role in microcredit, education and health, this was not the case with gender and women issues. BMP as the pioneer of women movement in Bangladesh has changed the scenario. Over the years, the organisation has successfully involved civil society groups and individuals from different fields with its activities. It has created the unity among the likeminded organizations through its Social Action Committee. The number of organizations under this platform is

increasing every year. It provides the organizations with the opportunity to better understand each other's policy, devise effective institutional and functional strategy, and work together. Importantly, the participation of like-minded organizations has been widened each year and at the same time members of the civil society have voiced their support for BMP's activities.

Consequently, BMP was able to successfully engage legal experts in law reform, panel lawyers in mediation and case filing, academics in training programme for capacity building, artists in cultural activities, economists in gender budget analysis, medical professionals in health awareness programme, financial experts in financial capacity building, researchers and activists in designing course on gender development, mass women in advocacy and lobby and media. The number of organizations of Social Action Committee (A platform initiated by BMP) is now about 68 and they are playing visible role on different Women's Human Rights issues. Another notable case of engagement is that 35 organizations jointly prepared and submitted an Alternative Report on CEDAW to UNCEDAW Committee, held dialogue with MOWCA and also UNCEDAW committee concluding comments of UNCEDAW committee includes recommendations from Alternative Report. BMP celebrated International Women's Day including centenary anniversary jointly with 64 Women's Rights, Human Rights, Development and Socio-cultural organization and funder organizations participated in the rally. BMP with cooperation from organizations jointly drafted and advocated on Domestic Violence Act, Hindu Marriage Registration Act, and prepared UPR Report on HR.

#### **V.4 Empowerment and capacity building**

The activities and programmes of BMP have brought about positive changes in empowerment and capacity building of millions of women in Bangladesh. Particularly, political empowerment of women in the country is quite visible over the years in which BMP has an important contribution. It is widely argued that the declaration of National Women's Development Policy in 2011 was the outcome of demands by BMP and other organizations since 2004. BMP also gave input to update the policy. BMP, Social Action Committee, cross section of people, media strongly stand for NWDP 2011 against violent reaction of religious fundamentalists group. National Plan of Action prepared for implementation by MOWCA in consultation with BMP and Women Human Rights organization. Another significant area of impact is growing presence of women in decision-making positions in Administration, Judiciary, Law Enforcing Agency, Peacekeeping Mission, Bank and Corporate during this period.

Legal aid services of BMP have ensured alternate dispute resolution and gender justice. It has increased access to justice for a large number of victims of violence. Through its mediation services, BMP helped the victims to recover a total of TK. 1,03,28,700 in the year 2014 as dower money and maintenance costs. This has been a huge support to distressed women who are suffering due to family disputes. Women are now getting opportunities to become financially self-reliant as BMP helps them collect dower and alimony. BMP also runs training programs for women. BMP was successful in developing collective leadership, especially in those districts where coordination and understanding among the core organizers are high. Besides, the number of organisers with good leadership potential has also increased over time. Researchers, students, professionals and others do have access in library for their study. The number of visitors in library has been increasing day by day signifying the importance of BMP for their capacity building.

Women representation in the national parliament has substantially increased over the years. The number of women parliament members elected directly is 19 while 50 members are nominated in reserved seats out of total 350. It is worthwhile to mention that the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, Deputy Leader of the Parliament, Deputy Whip, Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee, MOWCA, and Members of Different Parliamentary Standing Committee are also women in Bangladesh. Women lead the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Telecom, State Minister MOWCA, and Ministry of Labour. Local government has also seen increased representation of women. Women mayor was elected for the first time in Narayanganj with the support of civil society, not political party.

### **V.5 Networking**

Networking is both an end and means of BMP activities and programmes. It plays a key role in political, economic and social changes for women in Bangladesh. The impact of interventions made by BMP on networking has been positive and significant. BMP has not only increased its networking with other women's human rights and socio-cultural organizations, social movements and individuals via participants and resource persons, but also strengthened its relations with them. BMP is linked with global and regional women's human rights movement since its inception. As a civil society organization affiliated with UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) BMP is in close contact with global women's rights movement and human rights movement and remains updated. During last year BMP representative attended and actively participated in CSW session and UN CEDAW meeting. BMP is in close contacts with UN Women (Bangladesh Chapter) participating in development of its strategic plan. President of BMP has been nominated of its Civil Society Advisory Group Member. BMP maintains network with global and regional Women's Rights and Human Rights Organizations. In fact, global and regional networking of BMP with CSW, UNCEDAW, IWRAW, and UN-WOMEN continued and strengthened. It may be mentioned that impact of networking at international level has contributed to greater access to global resources and arena. BMP has also established strong network with media in Bangladesh. The role of media is very important in shaping peoples' psyche. Due to collaboration with media, satellite channels broadcast the activities of BMP on a priority basis. Journalists view BMP as a good source for collecting information about women.

### **V.6 Government and societal response and recognition**

BMP has ensured increasing attention from the government and the society for its works in women and gender issues and concerns in Bangladesh. The organisation receives more response and recognition from the government agencies and civil society actors. For example, the impact of law reform activities of BMP resulted in the enactment of new laws in Bangladesh. Unlike the past, the Government has increased its response to the correspondence of BMP on the incidents of VAW. Rokeya Sadan of BMP is working as a partner organization with the Victim Support Centre of Bangladesh police. Victimized women and children are regularly being sent by the court and the police to BMP's shelter centre "Rokeya Sadan." The Legal aid sub-committee has successfully increased collaboration and administrative lobbying with the administration.

The government has taken measures to formulate and implement gender budget in 25 ministries. Different Ministries, administrative offices and courts included women in the decision making process. The process of trial of war criminals and crimes against humanity

has started and some prime accused were arrested. The government has amended family law and enacted “*Nari o Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain.*” In addition, initiatives have been taken to formulate Domestic Violence (Deterrence and Protection) Law. The acceptability of BMP has increased within the administration. It becomes evident by the fact that different administrative units of the government consult with BMP before formulating any law regarding women. It also participated in social awareness and multi-sectoral programme against VAW by MOWCA. Another reflection of the impact of BMP’s role is nomination of its members in different important committees of ministries and other government offices at central and local levels. For example, BMP represented in National Women Development Council, Anti Human Trafficking Act Implementation Committee, Acid Control Committee, Law drafting committee/Complain Committee against Sexual Harassment of UGC/Update NWDC, Informal Sharing Committee to Update NWDC, Informal Sharing on 6<sup>th</sup> 5 Year Plan, BMDC, Local Level Steering Committee, Health Ministry, TIB and anti corruption Commission in different Districts.

Similarly, the primary asset of this organization is social acceptability. BMP has successfully attracted the attention of women from different walks of life. Young people are showing interest to get involved in activities related to protesting violence against women as a result of regular awareness raising campaign by BMP. BMP’s alternative dispute resolution through arbitration has gained popularity because of its less complicated and time saving procedure. People are becoming more and more interested about BMP’s arbitration board because of its time saving procedure. The arbitration process is administered by Legal aid subcommittee, which manages it through the Arbitration Board. This process is done in lieu with alternative dispute resolution procedure declared by Government of Bangladesh. BMP has been involved in awareness raising programmes with students and teachers, sharing meetings with people, media campaign, and consultation with different section of civil society members.) Voice of BMP is taken into consideration by all sectors due to its sustained long-term activities in national and grass-root level and global exposure to Women’s Human Rights Movement.

#### **V.7 Strong sense of voluntarism in the society particularly in the youth community**

BMP’s programmes and activities have created a strong sense of voluntarism in the society particularly among the millions of youth people who constitute the most active segment of population in Bangladesh. In resisting VAW specifically in the cases of sexual harassments, torture and cruel behaviour, BMP has inculcated critical perceptions about how the views of young girls are formed and how the sense of responsibility is created in their behaviour while they are exercising their individual freedoms. Study circles attract young generation to work on gender issues. More students join the study circles as participants in college campuses that contribute to change their traditional views. Members of study circles also work hard to organize study circles in different places including college campuses. This also builds a network with students, teachers as well as educational institutions. The growing interests of people in social movement for women’s empowerment and justice reflect in their increased participation in BMP activities. Thus, it becomes evident that BMP has created a very positive impact on the people about their social commitment in the society.

#### **V.8 Institutional sustainability and efficiency**

As an organisation BMP has achieved remarkable institutional efficiency and sustainability through different capacity building activities and training programmes. Training and research both are important for building and enhancing institutional capacity. Awareness among the

organisers, volunteers and employees about the importance of training to gain efficiency is now much higher than any time before. In 2014, the number of training programmes and trainees increased both at central and district levels. Number of trained organizers has also increased. Moreover, training programmes at district branches were conducted in accordance with central training module. It resulted in higher quality training programmes. The certificate course on gender, women empower and development has built a bridge between the academics and the organization, as the faculty members of this course were university teachers, researchers, and women leaders. Efficient financial management is very important for smooth running of an organization. Executives of the district committees were given training to increase their efficiency in office and financial management. In addition, the introduction of accounting software also contributed to the enhancement of the quality of the financial management. Participants are now more confident that they can apply gathering knowledge in professional level and also in personal and social life.

Indeed, the programmes and activities in improving organisational capacity of BMP have led to a number of positive outcomes. First, gender awareness of organizers has visibly increased over the years. Participants in different training programmes clearly understood gender issues, which assisted them to increase their efficiency and make them more active, and devoted for the organization as well as for women empowerment. Through ToT there has been improvement of their capacity and confidence to provide training in grass root level. ToT also exposed them to the specialists at national level. Grassroots level organisers in the divisions became involved with central level training through receiving direct training from central level organisers. Eminent persons from lawyers, teachers, and activists, in district level became interested regarding BMP and continue as trainers in grassroots training, which increased networking between grassroots organisers and resource persons.

#### **V9. Women in Politics, Administration and Security**

In order to enhance women's empowerment, the number of seats reserved for women in the National Parliament have been increased by 5, and made 50. There has been a sharp increase in the number of women parliamentarians elected (20% of total seats) in the last national election. To create opportunities for women's increased participation in politics, reserved seats for women in union council, Upazila Parishad and municipalities have been increased to one third of the total and women are to be directly elected to those seats. More than 12,000 women were elected as public representatives in the last round of local government elections. Women's participation in local level elections was perhaps one of the greatest milestones for Bangladesh.

At present in Bangladesh, the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, Speaker and Deputy Leader of the House are all women. Number of women among the Justices of the Supreme Court, top positions of the administration – secretaries, additional secretaries, joint secretaries, deputy commissioners, top positions of police, armed forces and UN peacekeepers, indicates improvement in women's empowerment. This has been possible due to a reserve quota created by this government for women employment at every level of administration to enhance women participation in government jobs.

Gender perspective has been integrated into Bangladeshi peacekeeping missions too. Bangladesh is now the top contributor of female police officers to the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations as Formed Police Unit. Bangladesh female peacekeepers have placed themselves as key driving force to reduce gender-based violence, conflict and confrontation, providing sense of security especially for women and children, mentoring

female police officer in the local area and thus empowering women in the host country and promoting social cohesion. Presently 190 female officers from Bangladesh are working in different peace keeping missions around the world.

## **Chapter VI: Dynamics, Challenges and Suggested Measures**

The year 2014 was politically relatively calm compared to the situation prevailing in the greater part of the year 2013. However, some element of uncertainty still prevailed in the country. The Bangladesh Mohila Parishad (BMP) keeping the situational context in mind embarked on to implement its various programmes and activities throughout the year 2014. The organization with renewed vigour and enthusiasm carry on with its mandated functions and activities.

Here it is worth mentioning that the BMP started its journey from its very inception with slogans of ‘Women’s Emancipation is Human Emancipation’ and ‘Women’s Rights are Human Rights’. These are still valid and relevant to the very existence of the organization. With time, through its long struggle and steadfast commitment the BMP as an organization specifically focussed as women movement and organization has secured a place for itself in the society and still committed to women’s causes. The BMP has also become a part of the achievement that Bangladesh has made especially in the broad area of women development and empowerment.

The BMP’s experiences suggest that, in Bangladesh, there are a number of factors that play important role in any initiative or efforts for women empowerment and development. These factors broadly could be classified as political or institutional, psychological and societal. In recent years, different forms of fundamentalisms are also working as hindrances against women empowerment. In the following section, we will try to dwell into those factors and the challenges they pose to the BMP to achieve its goals and objectives. Based on the findings and observations, certain suggestions will be made to overcome them.

### **VI.1 Fear of Political Uncertainties**

In 2014 the country did not witness any large political turmoil. The BMP have been able to implement project activities with much ease which was absolutely absent in the previous year. As such, performance in the area of implementation was quite impressive in 2014. However, there was the looming fear of political confrontation between the political parties jeopardizing the prospect of smooth implementation of different project activities. The other threat that also posed a threat was the rising trend of fundamentalism of different type especially communal fundamentalism.

However, the above mentioned threats did not escalate in the year 2014 which as mentioned earlier made easy implementation of project activities. However, it appears that these threats are still there and the conflicts have not yet been resolved. In view of the above, it can be apprehended that these issues will always remain as threats unless and until these are resolved as continue to pose threat to smooth implementation of project activities by the BMP.

### **VI.2 Changing Societal dynamics**

Social issues and its traditional values and norms are very important particularly when these are related with gender equality and women rights in Bangladesh.

The prevailing social value pattern and norms are still very discriminatory against women through in recent years some positive changes have been registered in different areas. Still gender discrimination is wide spread coupled with corruption, mal-governance and other crises including political. With respect to violence, these are more common with women folks of the country. They are still very much vulnerable to these violence both domestic and outside as well.

These pose challenges to successful implementation of the programs and activities by the BMP:

(i) The traditional social values and norms about the gender roles and responsibilities of both the sexes. These significantly undermine women's position in the society. But here needs to be remembered that about half of the total population are women and to exclude them from the mainstream development activities is detrimental for the advancement of the nation.

(ii) Increasing use of religion and fundamentalism in determining women's status by a group of people is an emerging challenge. Such fundamentalist attitudes towards women affect their rights and also exclude them from the mainstream activities. BMP is experiencing these types of challenges and these are threats to promote women rights and dignity in the society for which MBP works for.

(iii) The non-compliance of national and international legal documents/obligations about women rights and empowerment is the other challenge. Such non compliances directly affect BMP activities as many of them are guided by them. As a result, implementation of different project activities becomes difficult for the MBP.

(iv) The non-availability of sex-segregated data in Bangladesh is another challenge to formulate and implement projects and programs. Absence of these also makes it difficult to assess the performance of various activities and programs involving particularly women and their issues.

(v) Lack of political commitment especially on the part of the government poses another challenge to programs and projects on women's rights and development. The political commitment in many cases are guided by political and social considerations which many a time goes against the vital interest of the women who constitute the 50% of the population of the country. The BMP are also subjected to these realities which sometimes make it difficult for it to implement different activities.

(vi) Wide spread poverty particularly or overwhelming the women is another challenge for women emancipation in Bangladesh. To make the situation worse, women are often excluded from different benefits and services offered by the state to its citizens. This practice of exclusion is further intensified as women in the country at large are not organized to press for their rights and demands.

(vii) Misconception about the concept of gender is another problem faced by the BMP as in many cases it cannot ensure adequate participation of men in its activities.

### VI.3 Global Issues and Dynamics

The increasing phenomenon of globalization affects life and livelihoods of people in the developing countries including Bangladesh. In many places it has been seen that globalization impacted adversely especially the vulnerable sections of the society more particularly the women. There are two other factors which in recent times have seriously impacted the society and economy. One is the climate change. Bangladesh is extremely vulnerable to global climate change because of its location and geographical features. The other factor is recurring global economic recession affecting economies of the world. The BMP as an organization is not immune to these challenges and shocks.

### VI.4 Institutional and Organizational challenges

The BMP faces a number of internal questions in implementing its programmes and activities though over the years it has achieved noteworthy institutional capacity and sustainability. However, BMP still subjected to the following challenges:

- (i) The BMP as an organization is based on voluntarism which itself stands in the way of developing professionalism to develop organizational capacity to implement projects efficiently.
- (ii) Limited capacity at the grassroots level of BMP. Grassroots chapters' are not well prepared to respond against incidents of VAW immediately. District branches are not also well equipped to address immediate challenges about the violation of women rights.
- (iii) Limited use of modern technology, particularly, information and communication technology by BMP.

### VI.5 Suggested measures/Recommendations

The following suggestions/recommendations are made based on findings, experiences and observations:

- (i) The BMP is primarily a voluntary organization. In the changes global scenario of market forces, the concept of voluntarism needs to be propagated to its fullest extent. Proactive initiatives should be taken up to promote voluntarism in BMP.
- (ii) Leadership is essential for the success of any organization. Specific programs for leadership development under the principle of voluntarism should be initiated at all levels of BMP.
- (iii) Professional skills of human resources (volunteers and others as well) should be further developed.
- (iv) Special programs should be taken up for gender sensitization of the policy makers.
- (v) BMP should develop network with other organizations and women's movement both within and outside the country to carry forward its vision, mission and goal more effectively.

(vi) Programmes (such as study circles) for young women of the organization should be continued and increased in number. More projects related to employment generation can be undertaken.

(vii) A unified course on action needs to be taken from district level to the centre in order to accelerate the movement against VAW.

(viii) BMP should take more programs and activities to raise awareness against gender disparity by organizing increased number of meetings, trainings, workshops, rallies, human chains and exchange of views to raise awareness, as regards violence against women.

(ix) Initiatives should be taken to form citizens' forums like the Village Watch Committee. People from all segments of the society should be made aware of the positive outcomes of such social groups.

(x) BMP should further strengthen its advocacy and lobbying activities. For this purpose, network with like-minded organizations should be developed. Measures should also be taken to strengthen central local relations.

(xi) As a movement BMP needs to take further initiatives for becoming inclusive in participation of people in terms of gender, age, occupation and location. Men and women from all strata of society should be motivated on some of the key issues relating to gender and development like VAW, political empowerment of women and human rights. Planned activities should be designed to engage more women, men, young men and young girls in the movement for gender equality.

(xii) The BMP has strong institutional foundation due to its leadership and long experience in the field, in order to meet new demands and challenges in the 21st century it should focus on further institutional development. Measures should be taken for capacity building and professionalism among the staffs and organizers.

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