

Chapter-25

Public Security Division

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Establishing rule of law along with political and social stability is a precondition for economic growth of a country. In order to establish it law and order situation should be well maintained. Public Security Division undertakes different policies, strategies and actions with a view to ensuring security of lives and assets of citizens at all levels. According to the Constitution of the country all citizens are equal to law and citizens enjoy lawful rights. The Public Security Division is committed to provide these constitutional rights to all citizens of the country by establishing strong and responsive law enforcing agencies.

1.2 The Constitution of Bangladesh is the main guiding principle of all national plans and development issues of the country that ensures equal rights and equal participation for men and women in every sphere of national life. Side by side, the Constitution also confirms that all citizens irrespective of men and women are equal before law and are entitled to get equal protection on the basis of law. Despite these legal safeguards, due to patriarchal beliefs and perceptions women face huge challenges in participating equally in the society as well as in the state. Consequently, women experience various social and economic disparities in their daily lives. With this end in view the government of Bangladesh is committed to ensure equal opportunities and social securities for women through improving law and order situation of the country. In order to address these issues, the Public Security Division is mandated to take necessary initiatives to maintain law and order, combat terrorism and militancy, and prevent violence against women across the country.

2.0 Major Functions of the Ministry

- ❖ Formulate and implement security related laws, rules and policies;
- ❖ Carry out activities related to border protection and smuggling prevention;
- ❖ Ensure internal security through anti-terrorism operations, strengthening intelligence activities and development of law and order situation;
- ❖ Maintain liaison and sign agreements with international organizations and foreign nations.

3.0 Strategic objectives of the Ministry and their Relevance with Women's Advancement and Rights

3.1 Women will come forward while their lives and assets are secured enough through well maintained internal security and law and order situation. Thus, women's self-confidence will increase and their role to the society will be enhanced.

4.0 Roles and Responsibilities of the Ministry for Women's Advancement and Rights

4.1 The government of Bangladesh is highly committed to preserve the rights of women. In line with this, the Public Security Division is responding accordingly. Steps are being taken to combat violence, harassment and eve-teasing by different departments of the Public Security Division. In order to prevent eve-teasing, law enforcing agencies have been kept alert. Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and Superintendent of Police (SPs) are instructed to take urgent measures and strengthen their monitoring role in this regard. Besides, to bring eve-teasers to trial by Section 509 of the Penal Code has been incorporated under the Mobile Court Act-2009.

4.2 Female members of the law enforcing agencies like Bangladesh Police, Border Guard Bangladesh, and Ansar and Village Defence are drawing 100% monthly rations same as their male colleagues. In addition, female members are granted 30 percent risk allowance like male members of these forces. The inclusion of female members in these agencies is proportionately increasing every year.

4.3 Bangladesh Police has 11,261 female members (police- 10,855 and non-police- 406) which is 5.47% of its total employee. One female police unit titled 11 Armed Police Battalion has been formed. Two female FPUs (Formed Police Units) are working in Haiti and Congo as a part of UN Peacekeeping Mission. Till today 1046 female police members have joined in the UN Peacekeeping Mission through 12 female contingents by which a total of BDT 469 crore has been reimbursed as foreign currency. In order to make the police stations more women-friendly female police are being employed in every police station as per Women Development Policy 2011. Mobile courts are conducted frequently in order to stop child marriage and eve-teasing in the educational institutions. All members of Bangladesh police are receiving training on gender awareness and gender equality in all police training institutes. A total of 71 Women Support Centres established in Superintendent of Police (SP) office and Metropolitan Police offices that are involved with providing counseling and legal aid to the victims. Under an UNFPA-funded project, Protection and Enforcement of Women Rights (PEWR) Project, Women Help Desk has been set-up in 15 thanas on a pilot basis. One Stop Crisis Centres (OCCs) are established in all

public medical college hospitals from where rape victims get medical supports. One separate police division named Police Women Support and Investigation Division has been formed under Dhaka Metropolitan Police in order to provide safety, security and legal support to the female victims. 08 (Eight) Victim Support Centres have been established in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Barisal, Rangpur and Rangamati district. In 2016 these victim support centres have provided assistance to 1250 victims. Among them 402 has been rehabilitated. In FY 2016-17 Bangladesh Police has spent BDT 691 crore for its female members which is 6.35 percent of total allocation.

- 4.4 Bangladesh Ansar and VDP has initiated a list of special activities for women empowerment. Two female battalions comprising 808 female Ansar members have been formed. Besides, a total number of 672 female members of Ansar and VDP have been posted to district level offices. Furthermore, women members of this force are working as Commander in some battalions.
- 4.5 Women and children trafficking have reduced substantially because of anti-trafficking drives taken by Border Guard Bangladesh. Appointment of 283 female soldiers has already been completed. On the other hand, appointment of 50 female members is under process. More importantly, Border Guard Hospitals located at Dhaka, Shatkhira, Khagratori, Thakorgaon and Chuadanga are providing medical facilities to both BGB and non-BGB women and kids.

5.0 Priority Spending Areas and Benefits for Women's Advancement

| Serial No. | Priority spending Area/Programmes | Impact on women's advancement (Direct and Indirect) |
|------------|---|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | <p>Enhancing the efficiency and capability of Bangladesh Police, BGB, Ansar and VDP, and Bangladesh Coast Guard</p> <p>Enhancing the efficiency and capability of Bangladesh Police, BGB, Ansar & VDP, and Bangladesh Coast Guard have been given the highest priority with a view to maintaining internal law and order and ensuring security of life and property.</p> | Maintain internal security and law and order |
| 2. | <p>Restructuring of Border Guard Bangladesh</p> <p>In order to strengthen the protection of border, control of smuggling and prevention of human and narcotics trafficking, restructuring of the</p> | Border security and protection of the country's economic and commercial interest |

| Serial No. | Priority spending Area/Programmes | Impact on women's advancement (Direct and Indirect) |
|------------|--|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | Border Guard Bangladesh has been considered as the second priority area. | |

6.0 Women's Share in Ministry's Total Expenditure

(Taka in Crore)

| Description | Budget 2017-18 | | | Revised 2016-17 | | | Budget 2016-17 | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------|---------|-----------------|-------------|---------|----------------|-------------|---------|
| | Budget | Women Share | | Revised | Women Share | | Budget | Women Share | |
| | | Women | percent | | Women | percent | | Women | percent |
| Total Budget | 400266 | 112019 | 27.99 | 317174 | 86586 | 27.3 | 340605 | 92781 | 27.24 |
| Ministry Budget | 18288 | 1431 | 7.83 | 16783 | 1291 | 7.69 | 19286 | 1421 | 7.37 |
| Development | 1045 | 278 | 26.6 | 884 | 225 | 25.48 | 1500 | 239 | 15.92 |
| Non-Development | 17243 | 1154 | 6.69 | 15899 | 1065 | 6.7 | 17786 | 1183 | 6.65 |

Source: RCGP database

7.0 Success in Promoting Women's Advancement

- 7.1 Last three years a total number of 2561 women have received direct service from seven victim support centres. Besides, 1988 women have got legal and other supports while 918 have been rehabilitated. To undertake welfare activities among the female Police members of Bangladesh Police Bangladesh Police Women's Network (BPWN) has been formed.
- 7.2 In FY 2016-17 Bangladesh Ansar and VDP has provided fundamental training to 58,271 of its female members with a view to generating their income level.
- 7.3 Combating women trafficking under a joint initiatives of Public Security Division and the UNICEF titled 'Anti-trafficking Mechanism and Monitoring' is a notable success to mention. A good number of preventive measures have been taken to address women trafficking and their rehabilitation. Last three years, BDT 1.96 crore had been allocated to this purpose. Under this project 1258 women trafficking victims have been rescued.

8.0 Recommendations for Future Activities

- ❖ Female members of the law enforcing agencies will be placed to important positions on basis of their competencies.
- ❖ Necessary steps would be taken to create women-friendly environment in different departments of the Division.
- ❖ Food courts operated by female members will be introduced considering the benefits of its female members.
- ❖ Sufficient day-care centres will be in place in all offices of the Division.