

Chapter-41

Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The main responsibilities of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism include providing safe, efficient and reliable passenger and cargo transportation facilities through creating world class civil aviation infrastructure, diversification of the main tourist attractions of the country and attracting domestic and foreign tourists through providing quality services. In order to implement Vision- 2021 of present government that is to meet the challenges of upgrading the country to a middle income country by 2021, Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh has taken different steps to develop and modernize the three international airports and other airports of Bangladesh. With this end in view, facilities of aircraft parking have been created through overlaying ash-fault runway and strengthen the runway of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) and updating the taxiway category and construction of cargo and passenger Apron. Besides this, consultant has been appointed to conduct feasibility study to construct Bnagabandhu International Airport. On the other hand Bilateral Civil Aviation Agreement has been signed with Belgium and Canada. Two Boeing 737-800ER and two Turbo- Prop (Dash-8 Q400) have been added in the air crafts. The Code sharing contract has been completed with Ettihad Airways. Already Bangladesh Biman has been awarded IOSA certificate.
- 1.2 In the Seventh Five Year Plan, tourism has been identified as one of the important service sector. In the developing economies, tourism is one of the main sources of growth and employment. Tourism contributes to around 2.1 percent of GDP and helps to create employment of 1.3 million approximately. There is scope for enhancing the contribution of tourism sector in the economy. The Tourism Policy, 2010 has been adopted to create tourism friendly environment, ensure quality services and provide secured and comfortable staying of tourists in Bangladesh. Effective steps have been taken to identify and develop the potential tourist spots and modernize and extension of the existing tourist spots. To develop and expand the tourism sector, ten storied Motel Saikot consisting of 154 rooms has been constructed in Chittagong and three motels in Rangamati, Sylhet and Chapai Nawabgonj have been also constructed. In 2016, PATA New Tourism Frontiers Forum has been organized. Besides, the television documentary film titled “Beautiful Bangladesh- Land of Stories” has been achieved a number of international awards. To promote tourism and develop tourists’ attraction to old heritage and Buddhist religious old heritage, International Conference on Buddhist Heritage has been organized in 2015 with the association of UNDP. The Mega Beach Carnival has been organized at Cox’s bazar and Kuakata in 2016 and 2017. A

contract of thirty years tenure has been signed with Intercontinental Hotels Group Asia Pacific and ten years tenure with Pan Pacific Hotels has been signed for providing world class services in hotel management.

2.0 Major Functions of the Ministry:

- ❖ Formulation, updating and implementation of laws and policies relating to civil aviation and tourism;
- ❖ Modernization of airports, coordination of air routes and air services;
- ❖ Airspace control, civil aviation safety, Aeronautical inspection and licensing of aircraft and pilots;
- ❖ Increasing capacity of competitiveness and quality of service of the national flag carrier- Biman Bangladesh Airlines Limited;
- ❖ Signing of contracts regarding Civil Aviation and Tourism with local and international organizations and coordination of those;
- ❖ Registration and licensing of travel agencies and hotels/ restaurants and renewal and control of those:
- ❖ Development and marketing of tourism products, conducting research to expand tourism industry, modern management and creation of skilled manpower; and
- ❖ Establishment, direction and control of tourism sector organizations for overall development of tourism industry.

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

- 3.1 **Safe and Secure Aviation System:** High employment opportunities will be created through increasing the number of airports, increasing the number of flights on domestic and international routes, reopening the unused airports, establishing more international airports and modernizing the existing international airports. These will create employment opportunities for women as well.
- 3.2 **Efficient and Competitive Cargo Transport System:** Expansion of labor intensive industries will create more employment opportunities. Significant portion of these employees will be women workers. This process will increase employment and economic capability of women which will play important role in the development and empowerment of women.
- 3.3 **Expansion of Tourism:** Expansion of industries will create more employment which will also increase more employment opportunities for women. Moreover, expansion of community tourism will involve more women in this sector. Through employment

and empowerment of women, tourism sector will play direct and indirect role in the women development.

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

The role of Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism is very important to the advancement of the national economy. The key activities of the ministry are- to ensure the safety in air traffic system in its territory, efficient and competitive air cargo transportation system, expansion of inbound tourism, development of tourist spots and enhancing tourist facilities etc. There are huge scopes of women's socio-economic development through all these activities. The role of this ministry for women's advancement and rights are discussed below:

- 4.1 **Expansion of Inbound Tourism:** The wonderful natural beauty, world's longest sandy beach, largest mangrove forest, hills, haors, rich and diversified cultural heritage could attract huge number of domestic and foreign tourists. Tourism industry could make remarkable contribution to the national economy if those attractions and natural resources are advertized and marketed properly. Women would easily be grab large share of jobs in tourism industries.
- 4.2 **Tourism Related Human Resource Development:** With the expansion and flourishing of tourism industry, employment opportunities will also be increased, which will create the opportunities for women. The opportunities of job for women would be created through recruitment of trained women as tourist guides, which will lead to their empowerment. The opportunities of income generating activities of women would be created through training courses for women. This will improve their purchasing power and firmly increase their self confidence in decision making.

5.0 Priority Spending Areas and Benefits for Women's Advancement

Serial No.	Priority Spending Areas/Programmes	Impact on Women Development (direct/indirect)
1	2	3
1.	Development and modernization of civil aviation related infrastructure:	Civil Aviation sector expansion, ensuring aircraft security, providing air passengers quality services- Considering these issues as top priority Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh has taken different projects such as- up gradation of Hazrat Sahjalal International Airport (HSIA), development of Cox's Bazar Airport (phase-1), construction of Bagerhat Khan Jahan Ali Airport. Initiatives have been taken to implement projects regarding safety and security system development and expansion of existing Export cargo Apron of HSIA (2 nd phase). Besides, to meet the increasing demand of future preliminary inspection/study will be done to construct Bangabandhu

Serial No.	Priority Spending Areas/Programmes	Impact on Women Development (direct/indirect)
1	2	3
		International Airport.
2.	Modernisation of existing tourism infrastructure and development of related infrastructures	Identification and development of potential tourist spots of Bangladesh, modernization and extension of existing tourist spots, construction of world class tourist establishment by encouraging private investment, expansion of community tourism, improvement of physical facilities and service quality of existing tourism infrastructure.
3.	Construction of physical infrastructure for tourism under PPPs	Tourism and aviation related infrastructure construction projects are very costly. Considering this, priority has been given to establish tourism or aviation related physical infrastructure under PPP in addition to establishing Exclusive Tourist Zone for foreign tourists. As a result of this investment in this sector will be faster. Due to participation of private sector, management efficiency in this sector will increase. This will attract foreign investment.
4.	Conducting training for human resource development:	To create capable manpower for providing international standard service in tourism sector, steps have been taken for up-gradation of NHTTI, modernization of its training modules and also establishment of new training centers. Special importance has been given to increase capability of civil aviation related training centers and to provide high quality training to the aviation sector manpower.

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 Women percent		Revised	Women Share Women percent		Budget	Women Share Women percent	
Total Budget	400266	112019	27.99	317174	86586	27.3	340605	92781	27.24
Ministry Budget	687	163	23.7	516	171	33.16	549	113	20.64
Development	644	153	23.81	473	162	34.24	489	104	21.2
Non-Development	43	10	22.1	43	9	21.35	60	10	16.07

Source: RCGP database

7.0 Success in Promoting Women's Advancement

- ❖ 'National Hotel and Tourism Training Institute' has been imparting training in Tourism, Hotel and Hospitality management with a view to develop skilled human resources. The main topics of these trainings include: Diploma in Hotel

Management, Diploma in Tourism Management, Professional Chef Course, Certificate Course in Food and Beverage Production, Services, Bakery and Pastry Production, Travel Agency and Tour Operator and Receptionists. Irrespective of gender, each year 1500-1600 participants receive training on these courses.

- ❖ Besides, regular training courses, National Hotel and Tourism Training Institute also organize special training courses for women. As a part of this initiative, 232 women received training in 2016. This has increased the skill of women, which has been creating their employment opportunities.
- ❖ Besides, aviation related trainings are conducted through Civil Aviation Training Centers. Among those Basic ATC Course, Elementary ATC Course, Aircraft Marshalling Course, CFR AFO Initial Course, Fire Orientation Course, Basic aviation Security Course and Simulator Training are remarkable. Along with the regular courses this institution provided trainings to 1293 persons through 81 courses irrespective of gender. Among them, 228 women received training. As a result, capacity of women has been enhanced and opportunities of employment have been created.

8.0 Recommendations for Future Activities

- ❖ With the expansion of tourism industry, many allied sectors are flourished like handcrafts, small and cottage industries. A large number of women are engaged in these industries. Women have ample opportunities to participate in cultural activities. Initiatives should be scaled up to carry out specific and target oriented activities for women's development.
- ❖ Huge opportunities have been created for women in hotel management. Economic development of women can be achieved through different activities under tourism industry. Therefore, specific and target based initiatives should be taken for the development of tourism related activities.
- ❖ Special training programs for women could be arranged in the areas such as flight cabin crew, hotel and hospitality management, professional tour guides, etc. to create efficient work force. It is important to give special emphasis on English language course for women in order to take advantage of these new opportunities of employment in the tourism industry.
- ❖ By establishing home stays in village homes for the tourists, social eco-tourism has opened up a new horizon of employment opportunities for women. It has great opportunities in the hills, haors and forest areas. Therefore, new initiatives can be taken in order to increase opportunities in eco-tourism.