

Chapter-15

Ministry of Textiles and Jute

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The textiles and jute sector is playing an important role in industrialization, employment creation and growth of export, and thus contributing to the overall economic development of the country. The Ministry is working towards creating a competitive textiles and jute sector as well as working with the goals of increasing the productivity, employment and export through utilizing the full potentials of the sector. In order to identify and resolve the existing problems of the sector, Jute Law-2016 has been enacted. Textiles Law- 2017 has received policy level approval of the Cabinet Committee meeting. Pragmatic steps have been taken to make Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporations (BJMC) and Bangladesh Textiles Mills Corporations (BTMC) profitable. National Jute Day -2017 has been observed for the first time across the country.
- 1.2 Jute is one of the major sectors of Bangladesh's economy. This sector contributes 4.9% of total export earnings of the country. Currently, 2,43,000 workers are employed in 26 state-owned jute mills. Women workers constitute 18% of the total workforce of BJMC jute mills. The demand and sale of jute products have increased many folds in domestic market through the implementation of Compulsory Use of Jute in Packaging 2010 Act. As a result of the steps on diversification of jute products under the supervision of Jute Diversification Promotion Centre (JDPC), 400 successful entrepreneurs have been created of whom 60% are women. As many as 135 varieties of jute products are being produced by these entrepreneurs. Diversified jute products are being exported to 118 countries.
- 1.3 Textiles sector also makes an important contribution to the economy of the country. Textiles sector stands next agriculture sector in creating rural employment. According to Textiles Survey 2003, total number of weaving factories in the country are 5, 05,556. Throughout the year, directly 9.00 lakh and indirectly 6.00 lakhs people are employed in these factories. These weaving industries supply 40% of the domestic textiles requirements of the country. Amount of yearly value addition in these industries were about TK. 1, 227.00 crore. During 2015-2016 FY. TK. 4.3 crore loans were provided to 1,360 weavers for their 3,456 factories. 30 % of the borrowers were women. Bangladesh Handloom Board (BHB) has given the certificate of the country of origin to the exports of textiles product equivalent to USD 429.20 Lakh. To create skilled workforce for textiles and garments sector, 3,032 students were conferred different degrees from existing engineering colleges, textiles institutes and textile vocational institutes during 2015 and 2016. 23% of the students were women. Steps have been taken to establish new textiles institutes along with the existing ones.

2.0 Major Functions of the Ministry

- ❖ Formulation, implementation and evaluation of policies of textiles and jute sector.
- ❖ Management of the state owned textiles and jute industries.
- ❖ Coordination of domestic and international marketing of jute and textile products.
- ❖ Assist the private sector in development and expansion of jute and textile industry
- ❖ In order to ensure improved and quality textiles and jute goods production, effectively control, supervise, issue certificate and create skilled manpower for textiles, weaving, sericulture and jute sector.
- ❖ Undertake technical and marketing research for innovation of diversified jute products, and for production and development according to the demand of domestic and international market.
- ❖ Functions relating to attract FDI and employment of foreign nationals in textiles and jute sector,
- ❖ Carry out research for textiles and jute sector.

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

- 3.1 **Fulfillment of domestic demand for textile and jute goods, and increase of exports:** The increase in the production and export of textiles, silk and jute goods will create employment opportunities for women and increase their income. Necessary technical trainings will enhance the skills of women entrepreneurs and workers, help them produce and market their products more efficiently as well as increase their participation in trade and economic activities. This will contribute to their development and empowerment.
- 3.2 **Improvement of the socio-economic conditions of small and medium scale entrepreneurs:** Steps undertaken to empower women entrepreneurs through training and disbursement of credit will contribute to women's overall socioeconomic condition. The examples of successful entrepreneurs will encourage other women to be involved in these activities.
- 3.3 **Conservation and protection of the environment:** Women's engagement in the motivational activities for the use of environment-friendly jute and silk products will open opportunities for them to get relevant education and training which will improve their socio-economic status.

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

4.1 Different aspects of women's advancement in the activities, planning and projects of the M/O Textile and Jute are as follows:

- ❖ To take steps to ensure suitable accommodation, maternity leave and allowance, security at night shift, employment and contract, etc. for women;
- ❖ To develop strategic plans for women for their future employments in the textile and garments sector;
- ❖ To undertake motivational activities and provide financial support to establish women entrepreneurs in small, medium and cottage industry under textile sector;
- ❖ To undertake appropriate actions to meet the compliance issues by the foreign buyers (fixing working hours, implementation of labor laws, protection from environmental pollution, healthcare services, sanitation, fire insurance, compensation, insurance scheme etc.);
- ❖ Establish training centres, provide regular training to women in advanced weaving system and include them in rural employment creation.
- ❖ To take steps to improve the quality and increase the production of silk products and generate employment in the rural areas especially for women through training, micro-credit and other supports.
- ❖ To encourage women entrepreneurs, existing banking policies will be evaluated and simplified. In coordination with the banks and financial institutions, women-friendly banking services will be developed that will ensure access of women entrepreneurs to industrial loan, equity, capital, venture capital, revolving capital etc.

4.2 To improve the socio-economic condition of women and to generate employment, Ministry of Textiles and Jute has taken following initiatives which will contribute directly and indirectly to the development of women.

- ❖ Provide separate sitting arrangements, toilet facilities and prayer rooms to ensure safe working environment for women. Steps have been taken so that women employees can work in a safe and risk-free atmosphere;
- ❖ Providing training and credit to women is ensuring their respectable position in the family as well as in the society. This also improves their standard of life.
- ❖ Employment opportunities have been created for women in the sericulture, textile, handloom and jute sector which is increasing their share of the contribution to family income and expenditures;

- ❖ To improve professional skills, particularly for the employees of third class employee trainings have been imparted. On computer, language and office management. Besides, awareness building workshops on the Prevention of Oppression against Women and Children Act and Dowry Prohibition Act have been organized so as to make women aware about their application.

5.0 Priority Spending Areas and Benefits for Women's Advancement

Serial No.	Priority Spending Areas/Programmers	Impact on Women Development (direct/indirect)
1	2	3
1.	Expansion of the market of textile, sericulture and jute products.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Increase in the production of textile, sericulture and jute products will create job opportunities for women. Women entrepreneurs and workers would be able to produce and market these products successfully through necessary technical training. As a result, participation of women in businesses and other economic activities will increase. ❖ A significant portion of the marginal rural poor are involved in sericulture industry.
2.	Diversification of jute products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Diversification of jute product is necessary to reclaim the glory of jute. Being environment friendly, diversified use of jute would also positively contribute to the environment. ❖ Through production of diversified jute products, employment opportunities for rural women have increased. This also resulted in increasing their contribution to family income.
3.	Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 75 percent of the total workers involved in different activities of sericulture such as mulberry plantation, silkworm rearing, spinning thread and weaving are women. ❖ Due to the increase in production and quality of the sericulture and jute products and generation of employment in these sectors, opportunities for training, micro-credit and other assistance for the rural people, especially, women will increase.

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	895	216	24.12	963	141	14.65	686	129	18.74
Development	543	202	37.12	285	128	44.8	280	116	41.49
Non-Development	352	14	4.08	678	13	1.98	406	12	3.05

Source: RCGP database

7.0 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) of the Ministry in relation to Women's Advancement

Indicator	Unit of measurement	Actual		
		2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Women entrepreneurs' participation in micro-credit and training				
Trained women	Number	2155	2148	1350
Distribution of micro-credit	Taka in lakh	87.61	61.10	44.25

8.0 Success in Promoting Women Development

- ❖ During 2014-2015, 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 FYs, Textiles Directorate provided in-house training to 400 trainees (50 women), 209 trainees (57 women) and 108 trainees (60 women) respectively.
- ❖ According to Handloom Survey 2003, total number of weavers in the country are 8, 88,115 of whom 4, 72,367 are male while 4, 15,798 are women (nearly 50%). Bangladesh Handloom Board has provided training to 100% of Manipuri female weavers under the project entitled "Establishment of Training Centre, Fashion Design and Sale cum Display Centers for the development of Manipuri weavers of Sylhet" targeted for socio-economic development of women. Apart from that, Board's different projects are making positive impact on female weavers by creating opportunities for employment and promoting empowerment.
- ❖ There are 930 day care center in 1690 factories of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BGMEA) and 122 day care centers in the factories of Bangladesh Knit Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA). In Bangladesh Textile Manufacturers Association (BTMA) mills, there are 9 day care centers and 4 maternity clinics. Women are benefiting from these facilities;
- ❖ During last three years, Bangladesh Sericulture Board has raised and distributed 8.40 lakh mulberry saplings. 8, 03 lakh disease free larvas (DFL) were produced

and distributed. At the same time, 1875 female sericulture farmer were provided technical training in sericulture.

- ❖ During 2014-2015, 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 FYs, BSRTI has trained 215 trainees (137 women), 166 trainees (108 women) and 220 trainees (28 women) respectively.
- ❖ During 2015-2016 FY, Bangladesh Sericulture Board has produced 11,000 KG silk thread from 10.00 Lakh KG cocoon. At the same time, 610 sericulture farmers of whom 75% are female received training.
- ❖ The IT training Centre of BJMC are playing significant role in enhancing the skills of the employee. During 2014-2015, 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 FYs, 336 (23 women), 369 (28 women) and 171 (24 women) were provided training respectively.
- ❖ Maximum emphasis is being laid on women development in all activities of the Ministry. Along with creating employment for women in textiles sector, they are being given training to enhance skills.

9.0 Recommendations for Future Activities

Serial No.	Recommended activities in 2016	Progress
1.	Technical works of diversified jute goods are mainly done by small entrepreneurs of whom most are women. Therefore, technical and financial assistance in jute diversification should be increased	It has been decided that the new technologies of AZO free dyeing and Jute fabric production is planning to be established in which 50% of the trainees will be women. Initiative has been taken to train 260 people of which priority will be given to 60% women.
2.	Existing problems in the rural handloom industries should be addressed and technological development has to be ensured. Activities of the Handloom Board should be strengthened to ensure that raw materials are available and products are marketed properly	The Project has been taken to modernize textile industries, of this project 50% beneficiaries will be women. The Project is waiting for approval from the planning commission. The project includes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Establishment of Textile village Project b. Modernization of textile base industries c. Establishment of training centers in lands of 6 basic centers d. Establishment of two Multi-promotion centers

Serial No.	Recommended activities in 2016	Progress
3.	Through Bangladesh Silk Development Board, steps will be taken to distribute 26.43 lak mulberry saplings, 21.38 lakh disease free larva (DFL), , to procure 178 MT silk cocoon, to give incentive and training to 6790 male and female sericulture farmers and create employment for 3.63 lakh women	In the current fiscal year, the initiative to train 940 women among 6790 trainees is going on.
4.	Necessary steps should be taken to provide sericulture related technical training by Bangladesh Sericulture Board and Bangladesh Sericulture Research and Training Institute (BSRTI)	In 2016-17, the project to increase productivity through development and expansion of sericulture technology has been started. This year 45% trainees are women in the first phase. Among total participants 60 trainees are women.
5.	If development projects are taken to extend textiles-related technical education to women along with men, there will be created huge opportunities for women's employment and their socio economic development.	The project to provide women's textile related technical education has been started.