

Chapter-41

Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The main objective of Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism is to attract domestic and foreign tourists by providing world-class civil aviation infrastructure; ensuring safe, efficient and reliable passenger and commodity transport facilities and offering multidimensional and improved services of the country's tourist attractions. In the activities of Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry, women have the opportunity to participate directly in tourism sector. Besides, women are directly involved in air transport. Other activities are also playing an indirect role in women's development and empowerment. Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism and attached departments are very conscious about empowerment of women and increasing their convenience.

2.0 Major Functions of the Ministry:

- ❖ Formulation, updating and implementation of laws and policies relating to civil aviation and tourism;
- ❖ Modernization of airports and coordination of air routes and air services;
- ❖ Supervision of activities relating to air space control, safe take-off and landing of aircraft, aeronautical inspection, and issuance of licences for aircrafts and pilots;
- ❖ Signing of contracts relating to civil aviation and tourism with local and international organizations and their coordination;
- ❖ Increase competitiveness and services of Biman Bangladesh Airlines as national flag carrier;
- ❖ Providing license and registration of travel agencies, hotels and restaurants and renewing and controlling of those;
- ❖ Development and marketing of tourism products and undertaking research for evolution of tourism industry, its modern management and creation of efficient manpower;
- ❖ Establishment, operation and control of allied services based organizations relating to the overall development of tourism industries; and
- ❖ Increase of employment and promotion of local products and cultures through expansion of tourism ensuring participation of the community.

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

3.1 Capacity enhancement for civil aviation and passenger & cargo transportation system:

This strategic objective is not directly related to women's development. However, women workers are engaged in the development projects for improvement of different airports in the country. Apart from this, due to expansion of the airports the opportunities for employment of women workers in the sector will also be increased in near future. As a result, the strategic objective has been playing an indirect role in the development of women. In addition, mother care rooms, breast feeding rooms and separate prayer rooms are ensured for women passengers in the airports. Thus, capacity enhancement for civil aviation related activities of the Ministry played indirect role in women advancement through improving women employment and women friendly facilities.

3.2 Establishment of efficient and quality air cargo transport system: If the cargo transport system is expanded in the country, the employment of women will be increased, and that will play an indirect role in the development of women. This strategic objective will be helpful for creating women's solvency.

3.3 Expansion of Tourism: Increasing the number of tourist centres and tourists in the country will increase the employment opportunities for women. Tourism is a multidimensional and labor intensive industry. Apart from the direct participation of women in this industry, there are opportunities for indirect participation. Women living in the surrounding areas of tourist sites, have the opportunities to sell their small and cottage industries products to tourists. It is to be noted that in the duty free shop and in all units of Bangladesh Tourism Corporation provide the facilities to sell the products produced by local women including tribal women. Besides, in the hotels/ motels of Bangladesh Tourism Corporation women are working at different positions like receptions, housekeeping, kitchen and other managerial posts. As a consequence, the number of women workers has also been increased in private hotels/motels. Bangladesh Tourism Corporation has taken initiative to ensure women's participation in the social ecotourism industry. In addition, development of community tourism involved women directly with this sector. With a view to increase women's participation in tourism sector, women are specially considered for various training at National Hotel and Tourism Training Institute.

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

4.1 Role of women workers in the field of air transport and tourism is important. This Ministry plays a significant role in empowering women in both direct and indirect ways. Women's participation in various posts of air transport like pilot, cabin crew, aeronautic technicians etc. and other administrative posts of civil aviation plays an

special role in women development and empowerment. At present, about 700 women are performing duties in these posts.

- 4.2 Tourism sector is directly involved in the employment and empowerment of women. If tourism industry expands in the country, employment opportunities for women will be increase proportionately. Various jobs like tourist guides, hotel personnel and self-employment in small and cottage industries of women entrepreneurs will be increased. Apart from this, this ministry has an important role to develop community tourism and eco-tourism where women will be especially encouraged to participate. The Ministry has also responsibility to conduct tourism related training to increase capabilities of the women to increase their share in the sector. Thus, the Ministry has a special role in advancement and empowerment of women.

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	Various development projects are going on for the development of airports, ensuring safety at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport and providing better services to the passengers. Women workers will be employed in these development projects and in future, opportunities for employment of women workers will be increased, both in public and private sector, due to expansion of air transport sector. As a result, these expenses will have indirect impact on women's development.
2.	Modernisation of existing tourism infrastructure and development of new infrastructures	If the tourism sector expands through the development of the existing and potential tourist spots of the country, the employment of women in hotels / motels will be increased. The opportunities for marketing the products of small and cottage industries made by women will be expanded. As a result, this spending will effect directly and indirectly on women's empowerment and consequently, on women's development.
3.	Wider publicity for tourist attractions	In the publicity activities, women will be specially engaged. Particularly, in different documentary, TVC and other advertisement women's employment will be increased.
4.	Development of physical infrastructure under PPP	There is no direct impact of these spending on women's development. However, there are opportunities for employment of women in these projects.

Serial No.	Priority Spending Areas/Programmes	Impact on Women Development (direct/indirect)
1	2	3
5.	Conducting training for human resource development	National Hotel and Tourism Training Institute offers various training where a significant number of women are trained continuously. Trained women empower themselves through employment in various sectors of tourism industry. As a result, this sector has direct influence on women's development.

6.0 Women's Share in Ministry's Total Expenditure

(Taka in Crore)

Description	Budget 2019-20			Revised 2018-19			Budget 2018-19			Actual 2017-18		
	Budget	Women Share		Revised	Women Share		Budget	Women Share		Actual	Women Share	
		Women	percent		Women	percent		Women	percent		Women	percent
Total Budget	523190	161247	30.82	442541	136036	30.74	464573	136938	29.48	321861	88441	27.48
Ministry Budget	3426	717	20.93	1071	339	31.65	1508	504	33.42	364	20	5.51
Development	3375	706	20.92	1021	330	32.32	1461	496	33.94	317	12	3.85
Operating	52	11	21.15	50	9	18	47	8	17.02	47	8	16.66

Source: RCGP database

7.0 Success in Promoting Women's Advancement

- ❖ The participation of women in ongoing projects including official activities of civil aviation authority is increasing day by day due to proper initiatives of Civil Aviation Authority. Specifically, women's participation in air traffic control, air traffic management and air navigation services have been increased during last three years. At present, about 700 women are working in Biman Bangladesh Airlines at different posts including 01 GM, 09 pilots, 215 cabin crews, 6 technicians and other posts.
- ❖ Transportation facilities are being provided for women working in night shifts at all airports.
- ❖ Civil Aviation Training Center is providing training on various courses. Among them, Basic ATC Course, Elementary ATC Course, Aircraft Marshaling Course, CFR AFO Initial Course, Fire Orientation Course, Basic Aviation Security Course, Simulator Training are mention-worthy. A significant number of these trainees are women who are working efficiently in the aviation sector of Bangladesh.
- ❖ With a view to providing skilled human resources, National Hotel and Tourism Training Institute offers training on tourism as well as hotel and hospitality management. The main courses are Diploma in Hotel Management, Diploma in Tourism Management, Professional Chef Courses, Certificate Course in Food and Beverage Production, Service, Baker and Pastry Production, Travel Agencies and

Tour Operators, Receptionists etc. This institution provides training every year where significant number women are included.

- ❖ In addition to regular training courses, special training is organized for women in the National Hotel and Tourism Training Institute. As a part of this, in 2017, 260 women are trained. This is resulting in skill development as well as employment generation for women. Four female workers have been provided Chinese Language Course for easy and smooth communication with Chinese guests at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel.

8.0 Recommendations for Future Activities

- ❖ With the development of the tourism industry linkage industries are also developed. These include handicrafts, cultural activities, small and cottage industries etc. Women's participation is vital in these industries. Women have the opportunity to participate in cultural activities also. Proper training and government financial aid can be provided to make these women self-reliant. Necessary programs will be undertaken to develop these sectors with the coordination of other related ministries.
- ❖ Women's economic development can be achieved through the expansion of overall tourism related activities. There is a huge opportunities of women to work in hotel management. Therefore, special initiatives will be undertaken for the development of tourism industry especially for women's employment and advancement.
- ❖ The opportunity to employ skilled women workers in the field of cabin crew, hotel and hospitality management, professional tour guide etc. can be utilized. Employment opportunities can be created for a large number of women by organizing special training with emphasis on English language.
- ❖ Social eco-tourism industry has created a wide field for women through home stay program for the tourists. Particularly in the hills, haor and forest areas, such opportunities are immense. Therefore, new initiatives will be taken to develop eco-tourism.
- ❖ Steps will be taken for marketing of hand-made products of women in duty-free shops.