

Preface

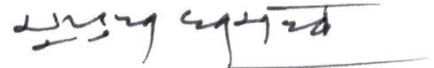
The economic, social and political privileges, experiences and preferences of men and women are relatively different. For this reason men and women are differently influenced by the policies and strategies of the government. Inequalities between men and women continue to widen unless proper attention to gender sensitivity is given in revenue collection and resource allocation during formulation and implementation of national budget. In order that both men and women cannot leverage their full potential in the fundamental development of the country. Considering this efforts are taken to make the national budget gender sensitive to the fullest possible extent. Thus gender balanced resource distribution is ensured and that creates equal opportunities for all the men and women, boys and girls.

It is a matter of great pleasure that our gender disparity has reduced considerably as gender sensitivity has been considered rightly in the formulation of government policy- strategy and its implementation. According to World Gender Gap Report, Bangladesh was ranked 91th among 115 countries in 2006. In 2018, Bangladesh appeared at 48th position among 149 countries. Currently Bangladesh is at the top of the Gender Gap Index in South Asia. Bangladesh has also secured a prestigious position among the world's developing countries in expanding women's education and creating women entrepreneurs. Honorable Prime Minister's visionary leadership, personal initiatives and prudent guidance have played a key role in achieving these remarkable progresses. In recognition of her contributions towards women empowerment, she was awarded 'Planet 50-50 Champion', and 'Agent of Change' in September 2016. In continuation of this, she also awarded the 'Global Women's Leadership Award' in 2018 from Global Summit of Women.

The nation's commitment to establish rights of women is articulated in the Article 27,28,29 and 65(3) of the Constitution of Bangladesh. The country's strategic documents assured equal rights and opportunities to men and women. The National Women Development Policy, 2011 emphasizes on ensuring women's economic, social, administrative and legal empowerment with full and equal participation in the mainstream of socio-economic development. Government has been expending more than one-fourth of the total budget each year for sustainable women development. In order to achieve an inclusive growth, the overall advancement of the destitute, incapacitated and underprivileged communities especially, women, children, minor ethnic groups and disabled people including other disadvantaged communities have to be ensured. Our government is continuing its sustained efforts to eliminate all forms of discriminations against women and to make women an important partner of development. Poor mothers, working women, elderly, widows and husband deserted women are being brought under social protection at an increasing number.

Initiatives has been taken to publish Gender Budget Report in FY 2019-20 also that will demonstrate many different activities taken by the government and allocations made for women development. Detailed analysis of budget allocations, programs and policies for women development of 43 different ministries/divisions have been stated in this document. I believe this publication will apprise all concerned about the efforts of the present government to achieve gender parity and help policy makers as well as others in their decision making process.

I sincerely thank all the officials of the Finance Division and concerned ministries related with this publication. I hope, the gender budget report will be incorporated as an integral part of the budget process in the future as well.



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