

## Chapter-15

### Ministry of Textiles and Jute

#### 1.0 Introduction

1.1 The role and importance of textile and jute sector in the economy of Bangladesh is immense. Textile and jute sector plays an important role in industrialization, employment generation and export of the country. This ministry is providing necessary support to government and private sector to continue its development pace. The productivity and export are expediting through competitiveness, diversification of jute products, creation of skilled manpower and expansion of investment opportunities. This ministry plays an important role in changing socio-economic conditions of men as well as women. All the programs, plans and projects of the ministry put greater importance on the development of women.

#### 1.2 The importance of the ministry in the socio-economic context of the country:

- ❖ Jute sector contributes 4.9% to the total national export earnings of Bangladesh. At present, 161 mills including 25 government mills are functioning in the economy. A total of 70 spinning mills are working in the private sector. The number of workers employed in these mills stands at 2.43 lakhs. Bangladesh produces the best quality jute in the world. About one-fourth of the total population of Bangladesh is directly or indirectly associated with jute and jute industries. National Jute Day is celebrated every year on 06 March to increase public awareness about the use of jute goods.
- ❖ Training on Entrepreneurship Development is one of the major activities of Jute Diversification Promotion Center (JDPC). JDPC has created 702 entrepreneurs in jute diversification sector. Among the entrepreneurs 290 (41.31%) were women. They are producing 280 different types of diversified jute goods. Our diversified jute products are exporting to 118 countries.
- ❖ Loom industry is placed second (agriculture first) in rural employment generation. According to Handloom Census, 2003, the total number of looms in the country is 5,05,556. Handloom industry supplies 40% of the domestic demand of fabric. Its annual value addition to the economy is more than 1,227.00 crores. About 1.5 million people are employed directly or indirectly in this industry. A lot of women are engaged in loom sector. Bangladesh handloom Board has provided country of origin certificate to exported garments worth of 429.20 lakhs USD.

- ❖ Currently under the Department of Textiles, 07 Textile Engineering Colleges, 07 Textile Institutes and 42 Textile Vocational Institutes have been offering different levels of textile education. In order to create skilled manpower in textile and clothing, different levels of degrees were given to 3247 students by these institutes in the FY 2017-18, of which 799 are female student
- ❖ Bangladesh Sericulture Board has produced 1150 kg silk yarn through the production of 1.62 lakhs kg of cocoons in FY 2017-18. At the same time 1400 silk farmers were trained, of which 75% were women. In line with the direction of the Honorable Prime Minister, the beneficiaries of 'My Home My Farm' scheme of 55 upazilas of 25 districts are primarily included in silk cultivation. As a result, a large part of women's population will be able to get involved in this work.

### **1.3 Constitutional and Ethical obligations of Ministry's activities:**

In order to regain the lost glory and ensure the best possible diversified utilization of jute and jute-based industry, the present government has enacted the 'Mandatory Jute Packaging Act, 2010,' and 'Mandatory Jute Packaging Rules-2013'. The said Act came into effect from 1st January, 2014. Jute Act, 2017 has been formulated to identify the existing problems of Jute sector. Apart from this, Textile Policy-2017 and Textile Act-2018 have been promulgated.

### **2.0 Major Functions of the Ministry**

- ❖ Formulation of policies, implementation of plans and evaluation;
- ❖ Management of state-owned textile and jute industries;
- ❖ Overall coordination related to marketing of textile and jute products in local and foreign market;
- ❖ Providing assistance to private sector in the development and expansion of textile and jute industries;
- ❖ Ensuring production of advanced and high quality textile and jute products through ensuring proper control, supervision and certification/licensing in this sector and creation of skilled manpower in textiles, handloom, silk and jute sectors;
- ❖ Proper technological and market research for innovation, production and development of diversified jute products demanded by local and international markets;
- ❖ Attract foreign investment in the textile and jute sectors and the employment of foreigners in the garment industry and
- ❖ Research in the textile and jute sectors.

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

**3.1 Diversification and market expansion of textile and jute products:** Distribution of disease free silkworm eggs and mulberry plants will create new business opportunities. Diversification and market expansion of textile and jute products will create employment and business opportunities for the rural and marginalized population. Distribution of micro-credit will enhance the capacity and resilience of the rural and marginalized to alleviate their poverty.

**3.2 Human Resource Development:** Women entrepreneurs' overall status in the society will be improved through their increased capacity and skill. Other women entrepreneurs will follow predecessors' examples and might change their living and be empowered.

**3.3 Assistance in jute and textile business:** Women will receive assistance through government regulatory and institutional support. This will create growth in textile and jute sector. Therefore, it uplifts their socio-economic status.

**3.4 Strengthening research related to technology and innovation:** By adopting technology women may also boost their businesses and their socio-economic status as well.

**3.5 Expansion investment opportunity in jute and textile sector:** New investment will encourage women to engage more in this sector. This will positively impact on women's income and accelerate their socio-economic development.

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

#### **4.1 The aspect of women's development in the function, planning and projects of the Ministry:**

- ❖ Provision of suitable residential facilities, maternity leave and allowances, security at night shift, recruitment, contract, and other facilities for women workers;
- ❖ Making arrangements for preparing strategic plans for future recruitment of women in the textile and garment industry;
- ❖ Providing incentives and financial assistance to establish women entrepreneurs in small, cottage and mid-level industries in textile sector;
- ❖ Ensuring social responsibility of the management to the workers and employees to meet compliance requirements of foreign buyers (provision of work hours, enforcement of labor law, security from environmental pollution, health care,

sanitation, fire safety, compensation and insurance arrangements etc.) by taking effective measures;

- ❖ Establishment of training centers to provide regular training to build skilled people in the field of employment generation in rural areas as well as inclusion of women in the development process;
- ❖ Providing training, microcredit and other assistance to the rural, especially women for the production of quality silk products and to create jobs in this sector;

**4.2 The Ministry's initiatives for generating women's employment and improving their socio-economic conditions will directly and indirectly affect women's development are:**

- ❖ Use of masks has ensured the health safety of women workers in Jute mills;
- ❖ Employment opportunities for rural women in the production of handloom, silk and diversified jute goods have been created. Thus, women's sharing to household expenditure is increasing;
- ❖ Women workers are participating in various courses such as computer training, English language, office management etc. for their professional development. In addition, the women workers are informed by arranging social awareness workshops on implementation and enforcement of child and women repression law and anti-dowry laws.

**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 and Marketing of Textiles, Silk and Jute Products.	Increased 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.
2.	Education and Training	Textile Vocational Institutes, Textile Diploma Institutes, Textile Engineering Colleges are playing pivotal role in creating skilled manpower. Diploma-in-Textile degree provides skilled manpower in handloom sector. In order to develop efficient manpower, technical training on silk farming and jute cultivation has been provided. The existing position in the competitive world market and expanding

Serial No.	Priority Spending Areas/Programmers	Impact on Women Development (direct/indirect)
1	2	3
		textile and jute sector requires increasing production and quality improvement of silk, cloth, jute and jute goods. As there is no alternative to training to increase productivity and quality this sector has been given priority.
3.	Research on Technology and Innovation.	In order to preserve high yielding mulberry varieties, preserve varieties of silkworms, mulberry development and silkworm varieties development has been invented. Suitable initiatives are being taken to restore the technology of making muslin yarn of Bangladeshi golden tradition.

## 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	800	215	26.82	1616	169	10.44	738	149	20.14	715	186	25.99
Development	600	190	31.59	742	142	19.16	552	140	25.34	269	22	8.25
Operating	200	25	12.53	874	26	3.03	186	9	4.72	446	164	36.67

Source: RCGP database

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

Indicator	Unit of measurement	Actual		
		2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
<b>Women entrepreneurs' participation in micro-credit and training</b>				
Trained women	Number	2148	635	2135
Distribution of micro-credit	Taka in lakh	61.10	88.00	150

Source: RCGP Database

## 8.0 Success in Promoting Women Development

- ❖ Training was given to 130 workers in the Ministry in FY 2017-18. Of them, 16 were women.
- ❖ The Department of Textiles has provided in-house and foreign training to 255 personnel in FY 2017-18. Among them 175 were men and 80 were women. It appointed 78 people in 2017-18. Of them, 9 were women.
- ❖ According to Handloom Census 2003, total weavers in the country are 8,88,115. Of whom 4,72,367 are male and 4,15,798 are women (nearly 50%). Bangladesh Handloom Board has provided training to 100% Monipuri female weavers under the project titled "Establishment of Training Centre, Fashion Design and Sale

cum Display Centers for the development of Monipuri weavers in Sylhet” with a view to developing their socio-economic condition. So far, 640 monipuri women have been trained under the project.

- ❖ In last 3 years, Bangladesh Sericulture Development Board produced and distributed 8.18 lakhs mulberry plants to women. Also, 8.89 lakhs of silk eggs (DFL) have been produced and distributed to them. A total of 2775 female farmers have been given technical training on silk cultivation;
- ❖ Bangladesh Sericulture Research & Training Institute (BSTRI) imparted training to 260 trainees including 85 women in 2017-18.

#### **9.0 Recommendations for Future Activities**

- ❖ Mainly women entrepreneurs are involved in producing diversified jute goods, most of whom are small entrepreneurs. Increasing financial and technical assistance in the field of diversification of jute products is essential;
- ❖ Ensuring technological development to rural handloom weaving industry along with ensuring proper marketing of raw materials and production of textile, strengthening Handloom board, facilitating credit to the women should be ensured;
- ❖ Providing technical training related to silk industry through Bangladesh Sericulture Research and Training Institute and Bangladesh Sericulture Development Board. Technical education related to mulberry cultivation and pollination, reeling and spinning, weaving, dyeing and printing will generate huge employment for women in sericulture industry.