

## Chapter-15

### Ministry of Textiles and Jute

#### 1.0 Introduction

1.1 Textile and jute sector plays an important role in overall economic development including industrialization, employment generation and creation of export to the country. Textile and jute ministry is working hard to increase competitiveness by fully utilizing the potentials of this sector. 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 Jute sector contributes 4.9% to the total national export earnings of Bangladesh. At present there are 26 government and 234 private jute mills in the country. The number of workers employed in these mills stands at 2.43 lacs. About one-fourth of the total population of Bangladesh is directly or indirectly associated with jute and jute industries. Bangladesh exports more than 90 percent of the world's demand of raw jute, and about 60 percent of jute goods. In order to increase public awareness about the use of jute goods, "National Jute Day" was celebrated for the second time on 06 March, 2018, in the presence of Honorable Prime Minister. A three-day jute goods fair was also organized to mark the occasion.

Jute Diversification Promotion Center (JDPC) has developed around 400 entrepreneurs to diversify jute products, out of which 60% are women. These entrepreneurs are producing 135 types of diversified jute goods. Currently, diversified jute products of Bangladesh are being exported to 118 countries around the world.

Handloom industry supplies 40% of the domestic demand of textiles in the country. The annual production of this industry is 68.70 crore meters. In terms of value addition in the national economy, the contribution of the loom industry is more than 1,227.00 crores. About 1.5 million people are employed directly or indirectly in this industry. As a result, this sector is the third largest in providing employment after agriculture and garment industry. In the financial year 2016-17, weavers have been given a loan of Tk 4.10 crore. About 25% of the borrowers are women.

Currently under the Department of Textiles, six Textile Engineering Colleges, 06 Textile Institutes and 42 Textile Vocational Institutes have been offering different level of textile education. In order to create skilled manpower in textile and clothing, different levels of degrees were given to 3032 students by these institutes in the FY 2015-2016, of which 23% were women.

Bangladesh Sericulture Board has produced 847 kg silk yarn through the production of 1.60 lakh kg silk cocoons in the fiscal year 2016-17. At the same time 1400 silk farmers were trained, of which 75% were women. Three varieties of silk worms and 2 varieties of mulberry were invented. In line with the direction of the Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, steps have been taken to involve the beneficiaries of the project titled “One House, One Farm” in silk farming. Initially, 25 upazillas of 20 districts have been taken under this programme.

- 1.3 In order to regain the lost glory and ensure the best possible diverse utilization of the jute and jute-based industry, the present government has enacted the 'Mandatory Jute Packaging Act, 2010,' and 'Mandatory Jute Packaging Rule-2013'. It has been mandatory to use jute packing for the distribution of 06 product items, such as, paddy, rice, wheat, corn, fertilizer and sugar in the said rule. This rule has been amended and 11 more products, namely: chili, turmeric, onion, ginger, garlic, pulses, coriander, potato, flour and husk have been added to the list. At present, compulsory use of jute packaging for 17 (seventeen) products has been ensured. Already, ginger, garlic, onion, potato packaging bags has been marketed. Jute Act, 2017 has been formulated to identify the existing problems of textile and Jute sector.

## **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.
- ❖ Assisting 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 To meet up the domestic demand of textiles and jute goods and increase of exports:** If the production and export of garments, silk and jute goods are increased, employment opportunities for women will be created. By taking necessary technical training women entrepreneurs and workers will be able to produce and market their products more efficiently. It will increase participation of women in business and economic activities.

**3.2 Improvement of the socio-economic conditions of small and medium scale entrepreneurs:** As a result of their efforts to empower women entrepreneurs through loans and training, their overall position in society will improve. Simultaneously, other women will also be on the path of empowerment following this example.

**3.3 Conservation and protection of the environment:** Involvement of women in environmental friendly jute and silk products begets an opportunity for women to receive linked education and training which will improve their socio economic conditions.

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

4.1 The Ministry of Textiles and Jute has undertaken various programs to create employment for women and to improve their socio-economic conditions, which will directly and indirectly affect women's development:

- ❖ Provision of suitable residential facilities, maternity leave and allowances, security at night shift, recruitment, contract, and offer facilities for women workers;
- ❖ To make 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 the textile sector.
- ❖ Taking effective measures to ensure the social responsibility of the workers and employees by the management authority to meet the compliance requirements of foreign buyers (for the purpose of fixing working hours, enforcement of labor law, providing protection from environmental pollution, health care, sanitation services, fire safety, compensation and insurance arrangements etc.)
- ❖ Establishment of training centers to provide regular training to build skilled people in the field of employment generation in the rural areas as well as inclusion of women in the development process;
- ❖ To undertake activities related to silk farming, training, microcredit and other assistance to rural people, especially rural women for increasing the production and quality of silk products and creating jobs in this sector;

- ❖ To encourage women entrepreneurs, the current banking policies will be evaluated and simplified. By coordinating with the financial and banking institutions, the Ministry will set up women-friendly banking services, which will ensure the access of women entrepreneurs in the fields of industrial credit, equity, capital, venture capital, current capital, etc.;
- ❖ Arrangement for the preparation of strategic plan for future women employees in the textile and garment industry.
- ❖ There are separate sitting arrangements, separate toilets and separate prayer places for women employees to ensure safe employment. All kinds of security measures have been taken so that women workers can work safely without any risks;
- ❖ With the efforts of women entrepreneurs to make economic empowerment by loan and training, their position in family and society have been upgraded and the quality of their living has been improved;
- ❖ Employment opportunities for rural women in the production of handloom, silk and diversified jute goods have been created and their contribution to household expenditure is increasing;

For the professional improvement of women workers, junior level employees have been given the opportunity to participate in various courses such as computer training, English language, office management etc. In addition to this, the women workers were 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 of the market of textile, sericulture and jute products.	❖ Textile sector has made significant contribution to the country's economic development. This sector is considered to be a labour intensive sector. The poorest of the poor people are involved in traditional silk industry. This program has been given the highest priority due to the expansion and marketing of jute and jute goods to bring back the heritage of jute known as "the golden fiber" of Bangladesh. Textile and jute sector earns around 87.78% of the country's total foreign currency
2.	Diversification of jute	❖ Textile Vocational Institute in Textile sector,

Serial No.	Priority Spending Areas/Programmers	Impact on Women Development (direct/indirect)
1	2	3
	products	<p>Textile Diploma Institutes, BSC-in-Textile Engineering institutions are playing an important role in creating skilled manpower. Diploma-in-Textile Degree has been provided for skilled manpower in the weaving sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ In order to develop efficient manpower, technical training on silk farming to silk farmers and training in jute cultivation has been provided. Through the improvement and increase of the production and quality of silk, cloth, jute and jute goods, it will be possible to cope up with the existing position in the competitive world market and expand it. There is no alternative to training to increase productivity and quality. So this sector has been given priority.</li> </ul>
3.	Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ 75 percent of the total workers involved in different activities of sericulture such as mulberry plantation, silkworm rearing, spinning thread and weaving are women.</li> <li>❖ 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.</li> </ul>

## 6.0 Women's Share in Ministry's Total Expenditure

(Taka in Crore)

Description	Budget 2018-19			Revised 2017-18			Budget 2017-18		
	Budget	Women Share		Revised	Women Share		Budget	Women Share	
		Women	percent		Women	percent		Women	percent
Total Budget	464574	136938	29.48	371495	86169	23.2	400266	112019	27.99
Ministry Budget	738	149	20.24	774	152	19.68	895	216	24.13
Development	552	140	25.39	412	37	9.01	543	202	37.20
Non-Development	186	9	4.96	362	115	31.82	352	14	3.98

Source: RCGP database

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

Indicator	Unit of measurement	Actual		
		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
<b>Women entrepreneurs' participation in micro-credit and training</b>				
Trained women	Number	1350	2148	635
Distribution of micro-credit	Taka in lakh	44.25	61.10	88.00

Source: RCGP Database

## 8.0 Success in Promoting Women Development

- ❖ In the fiscal year 2014-15, 45 women have been trained in-house and abroad. In the fiscal year 2015-16, 49 women were trained in domestic institutions, in-house and abroad. In the year 2016-17, 40 women were trained in domestic institutions, in-house and abroad.
- ❖ According to the latest weaving census (2003), the number of total weavers in the country was 888115. Of them, female weavers were 415748, i.e. 50% female weavers. Hundred percent of Manipuri female weavers were provided training under the project titled "To establish training, development and exhibition center for the development of Manipuri weaving industry in Sylhet" implemented by the Bangladesh Handloom Board.
- ❖ In the last 3 years, Bangladesh Silk Board produced 8.40 lakh mulch that has been distributed among women. Also, 8.03 lakhs of silk eggs (DFL) have been produced and distributed. A total of 1875 female farmers have been given technical training on silk cultivation;
- ❖ Under the BSTRI, in the year 2016-2017, 125 women out of 280 trainees were imparted training.

## 9.0 Recommendations for Future Activities

Serial No.	Recommended activities in 2016	Progress
1.	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	It has been decided that the new technologies of AZO free dyeing and Jute fabric production is planning to be established. Of 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.

Serial No.	Recommended activities in 2016	Progress
2.	To strengthen BJMC's activities and to solve existing technical problems of the jute industry and to ensure the availability of raw materials and the marketing of the products.	Establishment of Composite Jute Textile and Garment Units for the modernization of BJMC, BMRE of Jute Mills, establishment of Veskos yarn production plant from raw jute have been taken. It will provide benefits to 50% of women workforce
3.	To improve technological development of the existing problems of rural handloom weaving industry; to ensure proper marketing of raw materials and production of textile; strengthening the Handloom board and providing training and credit facilities for the production of handloom fabrics and other facilities	In the current fiscal year, the initiative to train 940 women among 6790 trainees is going on. The Project has been taken to modernize textile industries, of this project 50% beneficiaries will be women. The Projects waiting for approval from the planning commission. The project includes: a. Establishment of Textile village Project b. Modernization of textile industries; c. Establishment of 6 basic training centers; d. Establishment of two Multi-promotion centers.
4.	Bangladesh Sericulture Board will provide employment for 6.50 lakh people including training to 10,200 silk farmers/ banyans to create skilled and technical manpower	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.	Taking necessary action to provide technical training related to silk industry through Bangladesh Sericulture Research and Training Institute. If a development project is undertaken for the promotion of technical education related to mulberry cultivation and pollination, reeling and spinning, weaving, dyeing	A project has been initiated to provide women's textile related technical education.

Serial No.	Recommended activities in 2016	Progress
	and printing, this will generate huge employment of women in sericulture and their socio-economic conditions will be changed by participating in economic activities.	