

Preface

Bangladesh's success in women related socio-economic aspects especially in the area of education and women empowerment has been acclaimed in all around the world. Various initiatives by the present government for mainstreaming women in the overall development process through their empowerment have played a pivotal role. According to Gender Gap Report 2017 prepared by World Economic Forum, Bangladesh ranks 47th among 144 countries with highest rank in South Asia. In particular, women's political empowerment of Bangladesh has advanced significantly leaving behind many developed countries. In this regard, Bangladesh is in seventh position. Considering expansion of female education and developing women entrepreneurship, Bangladesh has reached an honorable position among the world's developing countries. Many experts have opined/identified that the empowerment of women is the main driving force of unprecedented achievement in the socio-economic sector. Following these advancements/developments, Honorable Prime Minister's personal initiative and pragmatic direction played the role of catalyst. In recognition of her contribution, she received the Global Women's Leadership Award from the Global Summit of Woman in 2018.

The government is committed to ensure overall development of women. In the Article 27, 28, 29 and 65 (3) of Bangladesh Constitution, the state's commitment to the establishment of women's rights has been expressed. The 7th Five-Year Plan guarantees equal rights and opportunities for men and women, and recognition of women's dignity as equal contributor to economic, social and political development. The National Women Development Policy, 2011, emphasizes ensuring women's economic, social, administrative and legal empowerment, including their full and equal participation in the mainstream of socio-economic development. In order to continue the development of women, the government has been spending about 5.0 percent of GDP that is almost equal 27 percent of the national budget per year.

For proper distribution of growth, socio-economic development of the disabled, destitute and deprived communities, especially women, children, small ethnic groups, disabled people and other disadvantaged sections of society should be ensured. The efforts of our government are continuing to abolish all the discrimination against women and to make them an important partner of development. Poor mother, working women, widows, elderly and husband abandoned women are increasingly being brought under social protection.

We have also initiated to publish gender budget report this year to exhibit the details of the budget allocated for various activities undertaken by the government targeting women's development and benefit of the women. It is a detailed report that highlights the analysis of the policies, programs and allocations of 43 ministries/divisions for the development of women. I am sure the report will give an account of our efforts for eliminating gender based disparities. At the same time, it will enhance the capabilities of the policymakers and relevant stakeholders to come up with policies in order to address the challenges mentioned in the report.

I express my gratitude to all the officials of the Finance Division and the line ministries concerned for putting their best efforts in publishing this report. With that I hope gender budget report will remain an integral part of the budget process in the coming days.



(Abul Maal Abdul Muhith)

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