

Chapter-43

Power Division

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The power sector plays a pivotal role in the overall economic development of a country. The demand for electricity is increasing day by day due to increasing trend of income generating activities other than using in the households. Along with fulfilling the continuous power demand, Power Division aims to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to implement the pledge “Sheikh Hasina’s Udyog, Ghore Ghore Bidyut”. The government has set a target to increase annual average growth to 7.4% in accordance with the Perspective Plan (2010-21) and the 7th five-year plan of Bangladesh. Power Division is working relentlessly to ensure affordable, reliable, uninterrupted quality electricity for all by the year 2021.

2.0 Major Functions of the Division

- ❖ Undertake all activities related to power generation, transmission and distribution;
- ❖ Formulation, updating and implementation of laws, policies regulations related to power sector;
- ❖ Expand, reconstruct and modernize power generation, transmission and distribution services in line with the increasing demand and formulate plans accordingly;
- ❖ Encourage private and joint venture investment initiatives along with government investment;
- ❖ Improve the standard of living of the rural poor people through rural electrification and introduction of renewable energy;
- ❖ Revenue collection and commercial operation monitoring;
- ❖ Expansion of renewable energy, ensuring efficient use of energy and promoting energy saving initiatives.

3.0 Strategic Objectives of the Division and their Relevance with Women’s Empowerment

- 3.1 **Ensuring uninterrupted and quality power supply:** The expansion of electricity system in rural areas will ensure the establishment of new factories, small & cottage industries, and manufacturing units which will eventually increase more participation of women in employment and income-generating activities
- 3.2 **Expansion of renewable energy technology and increase usage of energy saving appliances:** Initiatives have been taken to use renewable energy technology and power saving equipment in order to encourage rural women to use environment-

friendly energy sources for households for saving their time, preventing environment pollution and taking health-care measures. With the use of the advanced energy-saving stove, more and more rural women are now able to perform household chores much earlier and expanding their work through speeding up jobs and earning by participating in various income-generating activities. Future energy securities will be ensured if the electricity generated from renewable energy is supplied on priority basis in remote rural areas.

4.0 Role of Power Division for Women's Advancement and Rights

- 4.1 During the past 8 years, per capita power generation has increased to 433kwh from 220 kwh. Consequently, more women have come under the coverage of electrification which intensifies their overall lifestyle development to a great extent
- 4.2 As a result of expansion of electricity facilities in the rural areas women can save valuable time by completing household chores much earlier to be involved with different income generating activities like small and cottage industries and other commercial enterprises which has created opportunity for rural women to be self-dependent;
- 4.3 Due to the use of electricity, women are able to find out the issues related to education, protection and rights, including information of home and abroad through the internet, which are playing vital role in their progress.

5.0 Priority Spending Areas Programmes and its impact of Women's Advancement

Serial No.	Priority Spending Areas/Programmes	Impact on Women Development (direct/indirect)
1	2	3
1.	Construction of new power plants and rehabilitation and maintenance of existing plants	Establishment of new power plants and maintenance of the existing power plants have increased electricity production. As a result, new industries will be established that will create employment opportunities for women.
2.	Construction of new transmission lines and necessary maintenance of old lines	The expansion of power transmission system in the rural areas has made positive direct and indirect impact on the socio-economic development and employment of women.
3.	Expansion of renewable energy technology and initiation of measures for energy savings	Production of electricity through development of renewable energy sources and distribution to remote areas (where expansion of grid is expensive) will ensure future energy security. Women can carry out their household chores comfortably using renewable energy. Under the energy efficiency enhancement program,

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1	2	3
		steps have been taken to distribute improved cook stove all over the country. This will ensure energy and time savings, reduction in environmental pollution and guarantee better health for women.
4.	Implementation of load management activities	Uninterrupted power supply in irrigation season through load management has been contributing to increased agriculture production while implementation of energy conservation program through maximum utilization of limited resources will contribute to economic development. Women will benefit from this development.

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 Women percent		Revised	Women Share Women percent		Budget	Women Share Women percent	
Total Budget	464574	136938	29.48	371495	86169	23.2	400266	112019	27.99
Ministry Budget	22936	14461	63.05	22821	4304	18.86	18894	10174	53.85
Development	22893	14460	63.17	22757	4303	18.91	18845	10173	53.98
Operating	43	1	2.69	63	1	1.75	49	1	2.04

Source: RCGP database

7.0 Success of power division in the progress of Women's Advancement

- ❖ At present, per capita power generation rises to 433kWh in Bangladesh. Increase in the per capita generation and consumption of electricity has facilitated more women to participate in income-generating activities and their standard of living has improved. Among the success stories of the power sector for women's development are:
- ❖ 100% participation of women in billing of rural electrification program
- ❖ Through the use of advanced environment-friendly improved coal stoves, most of the rural women are now able to save their precious time and have become conscious regarding environmental pollution, health protection practices and measures;
- ❖ Creation of employment opportunities for women in garment industries through expansion of power
- ❖ Participation of women in union information centre through electrification

- ❖ Due to electrification, small & cottage industries and commercial enterprises are growing fast and has created more employment opportunity for rural women;
- ❖ Electricity has made it possible for getting access to social medias; women are now playing a vital role in educating themselves about issues relating to health and rights, including education.

8.0 Recommendations for Future Activities

- ❖ Ensure electricity access to the projects taken by poor, deprived women and make it a top priority
- ❖ Childcare facilities should be provided to the women employees of power sector for their children's safety and security.
- ❖ While undertaking power sector related projects, necessary measures can be taken to ensure that the project contributes to enhance the knowledge and capacity of women. At the same time, proper attention should be given in taking up projects so that workload and health risks for women are reduced.
- ❖ Due consideration should be given to integrate women's benefit during project undertaking.