

IN QUEST OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

GRASSROOTS TO NATIONAL ARENA

Biannual Report
(July 2007 - June 2009)



Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS)

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Foreword

This biannual report is reflections of restarting our march with full vigor towards our mission; narratives of overcoming the obstructions imposed by then anti-progressive rule on us and other fellow-travelers who behold secularist and pluralistic values. Throughout the period of 2007-2009, we revived our programs with grassroots women, where we originated from, emerged in policy advocacy arena with our agenda of empowering women and even extended our presence across the continent.

It is our pleasure to mention that in this period, internationally, we became part of a campaign called W8, a global advocacy group of eight women interfacing G8 for essential services like health, education and sanitation. Regionally, we continued as core committee member of South Asian Alliance of poverty Eradication (SAAPE) and leading its Regional Gender Thematic Group. Nationally, became active in My Right campaign to ensure rights of education and health care as the convener of this network.

The period could also be sketched with some remarkable achievement in national context. A major breakthrough happened in national election 2008 through which a record number of women won people's mandate. For the first time in country, women possess some most important position in the government like ministries of Food and Agriculture, Foreign Affairs, Home Affairs, and Labor. The present government is showing positive sign to adopt the much urged *National Policy for the Advancement of Women*, 1997, formulated by network of women organizations, of which BNPS was a leading member. The government also vows to pass a bill for ensuring 33% women representation in parliament which has been a foremost policy agenda of BNPS.

We also experienced a positive sign in present national budget that become a little more informative with gender disaggregated information and analysis. This could be marked as a success of BNPS as it is the path-setting organization in Bangladesh to start analysis of national budget from gender perspective since 2000. We didn't deviate from the path we set, even in our worst time— between 2002 and 2007. Long five years, we continued to track down the national budget with our meager resource and with our fellow-travelers ensured our collective voice be heard by the policy makers

The wind of changes is being felt in national education sector. As a women and minority rights organization, BNPS always advocates for a uniform, universal and people-oriented education system consistent with our Constitution and spirit of liberation war. A national education policy is now in process taken many issues we have been propagating for many years on educational reform. Again, we have joined in this reformation process by originating a challenging project on making education gender responsive.

Last but not least, the stream of peace has started flowing again, hopefully unhindered, in the backyard of our ethnic sisters in Chittagong Hill Tracts. After the end of armed conflict we started working together for peace, justice and empowerment. We hope to do it again. We hope to walk together with our indigenous sisters of CHT and plain land on the thoroughfare of peace and harmony; climb up to the spacious temple which delivers equality and equity and celebrates diversity.

The women movement of Bangladesh has still a long way to go to materialize a gender-just society and uproot the patriarchy. We would like to encourage all our colleagues,

grassroots women, and civil society members to be active to encounter the challenges of women's inequality and disempowerment. BNPS aspires to continue its struggle and lost, than never to have struggled at all.

We sincerely recall the never-ending support we have enjoyed from our compatriots in our quest for women's empowerment and we hope all our partners, donors and well wishers will not deprive us of their unending support and cooperation in future. We thank you all!

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rokeya Kabir', with a stylized, cursive script.

(Rokeya Kabir)
Executive Director

SECTION 1

BNPS: Tale of Overcoming Challenges and Sticking to the Cause

Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS) is an activist women organization, working since 1986 to establish equal rights of women in the level of family to state. BNPS has been working at the national level for policy and legal reforms and at the community level organizing and mobilizing grassroots people through a variety of programs.

BNPS follows a bottom-up right-based approach linking community to the national level. In the process its role is one of catalyst and facilitators. BNPS has been trying to create environment for the women and other marginalized groups raising their voice and claiming their entitlements through a variety of activities, like awareness raising, institution building, livelihood activities and reforms of different policies, system, institution and mindset. The congenial working environment, culture of co-operation and team work, non-hierarchical management with activist orientation is seen by all as an asset in BNPS.

So far BNPS has directly worked with around 200000 women and over a period of two decades more than 800000 people from different background involved with the efforts of BNPS, and it has been recognized as one of the most dynamic women organization in Bangladesh. BNPS is focusing on social, economic and political empowerment of women, strengthening of local government, electoral reform, education reform and gender budget analysis. As a trendsetting organization, BNPS introduced the question of gender in the education system (in the year of 1993, started reviewing *Madrasha* education from gender perspective). In 2000, BNPS for the first time in the country, started national budget analysis from gender perspective. In addition, BNPS has been the pioneer in taking up many firm steps on many challenging issues like inheritance laws, women representation in power structure i.e. parliament, local government. As a strategy for creating greater impact BNPS pioneers in developing many network/platform for the above mentioned issues. In the late eighties and beginning of nineties it also worked to build the bridge between NGOs and other broader groups of civil society. It also introduced different cultural media as a tool for awareness building process. As one of the pioneer organizations it started work to sensitize media people on gender and other development issues from the beginning of nineties. BNPS works in the community level for involving women in income generating activities (IGA) through providing credit support, training for management of micro enterprise, accounts keeping and skill development, which have created a sustained environment and space for women.

BNPS not only had the expertise and wisdom of working with women towards social and economic empowerment but also had the activist tenacity to take a political stand in the face of conservative lobbies for the cause of women and human rights. BNPS has been the pioneer in taking up challenging issues against many conservative mindsets, which quiver the root of the fundamentalists and their exploitation network.

After 2001, BNPS had to gone through a turmoil situation— emotionally and physically challenging, transformative and tough journey due to state of affairs in the country. From January 2002 until 2004, it had to survive the harassment by the “powers that be” in the name of investigation by using different organs of government, raising different unfound allegations and accusations, initiating legal cases which also resulted in loss of

freedom. It may be mentioned that the coalition government which came in power along with Islamic fundamentalist groups in October 2001 targeted five progressive NGOs to stop their operation. In fact, all these forces targeted organization's values of being secular, advocacy for women's and other ethnic and religious sections rights and freedom of choices as citizen.

At the time of government's hostility towards BNPS, it was implementing following three projects:

1. Socio-Political and Economic Empowerment of Women in Bangladesh jointly funded by European Union, ICCO, The Netherlands, EED and HBF, Germany.
2. Promoting Responsive Governance and Gender Justice funded by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).
3. Empowerment of Women through Greater Access to National Resources funded by Bangladesh Freedom Foundation.

Under these projects BNPS was developing and implementing some pioneering strategies and activities like development of one national network of elected women members of Local Government, training of Union Parishad members for introducing participatory process of budget preparation, introducing direct dialogue between elected chairman, members and voters, community forums of women and other sections of community) to interact with LG as pressure group. This program was being implemented through developed a network of elected women in Union council (the lower strata of LG).

Most problematic issue after October 2001 was barring BNPS to receive any funds from its donors. Since BNPS could not access the foreign fund for more than six years, active partnership with different donors was virtually ceased.

To cope with the situation, BNPS had to adapt many changes in coping strategies. The challenge had been one of 'not giving up', yet being diligent and strategic, with no compromise on values. It low profiled itself and sustained the work of women's empowerment work and continues to do advocacy and networking nationally and internationally in collaboration with like-minded organizations, networks and individuals.

The silencing of its voice went against the natural character and culture of BNPS. Most of the advocacy and lobbying for women's rights temporarily took a back stage. The political scenario of the country prompted BNPS towards the strategic alliance with like-minded organizations, keeping the cause of the organization in focus and cope through difficult struggles for survival.

An important strategy during these troubled times was to establish a strategic alliance with Institute for Environment and Development (IED). After much deliberation and reflection, BNPS decided to work in collaboration with IED for survival in late 2003, who later on took the responsibility of continuing the women's rights work through its portfolio of human/citizen rights and environment. ICCO, The Netherlands and EED, Germany came forward to support in this crucial form of strategic alliance which has been started from July 2004 keeping the cause of the organization in focus and cope through difficult struggles for survival. The survival need was balanced with no compromise in values but

just taking position of limiting the activities to stay low profile and gain strength from coalition building on common strength of social justice and equity.

Facing the challenges for survival under most exhausting circumstances and to keep the contact with the community, BNPS adopted the self-financing micro finance model that paid for the minimum expenses of administration and staff salary through developing a business plan for 2004 to 2007. The communities with whom BNPS worked understood the context of the organization due to their long relationship and trust.

Most of the staff observed that the high degree of uncertainty was the most difficult to manage during this period. Many of them stuck to the organization in solidarity because of its (BNPS) values, right based work and the hope and strength to survive. The overall environment, commitment and activist orientation of BNPS attracted many to stay with the organization during crisis. Work culture that offers independence and opportunities and the support of many well wishers and donors enabled the staff to face these tough challenges in the life of the organization.

Many of the BNPS staff articulated that to survive through the political challenges faced by them and they put their personal ideology in front of them and held the view— “we have together built this organization and we are here to work for women’s rights”.

In all this, most of the staff who stayed and those who left for lack of funds stood together with the organization in strong solidarity physically and emotionally.

Passing through the phase of joint works with other organizations from 2004 to 2006, BNPS is poised well to reflect on future directions, strategies, identity, strategic partnership areas. The possible linkages between the grassroots based work, and civil society work for policy impact on women and human rights and demanding accountability of governing systems, empowering local governance in unions, municipalities and over all nurturing of people’s sustainable movement to protect the interests of the poor women and disadvantaged.

After a long period of sufferings, with the departure of previous government, the time of two years neutral caretaker government came in. In this time BNPS received renewal of all its registrations and started contacting donors for its programs again. It received fund from MISEREOR for a one-year study project entitled, “*Alternative Education System Sensitive to Gender and Pluralism*” which came to end in October 2008. EED extended its support to organize training course entitled, *Gender Budgeting: A Framework for Women Empowerment and Social Accountability*. In this context BNPS has decided to emerge out from the cyst and run the programs as like before 2002.

From July 2008, a one-year bridging grant from EED has been received to restart the **PRiME** project. With the support of the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) a two-year policy study and advocacy project entitled, **Promoting Rights of Women through Changing Mindset**, has been started in August 2008. In March 2009, Oxfam-Novib of Netherland has started funding a three-year project entitled, **Making Education Gender Responsive and Preventive to HIV/AIDS**. MISEREOR and EED have extended their support for the **PRiME** project for another three year period, up to June 2012.

Organizational Profile of BNPS

Vision: A society free from all sorts of discrimination

Mission: Empowerment of women, ethnic and religious minorities to reach the goal of a vibrant society, free from all sorts of discrimination.

Goals: Establishing an enabling environment for the disadvantaged people particularly women to be able to get organized, exert for demand and ensure access to their rights and quality services for social, political and economic empowerment.

Core Values of the Organization

BNPS has an ideological base with some core values. These are considered as guiding factors that contribute as essential elements in developing all the programs implemented by the organization. BNPS is neither an organization for subcontracting development projects nor an agency for supplying services to the customers. To be more precise, it believes development as intervention for social transformation. The followings are the core values of the organization:

Inclusion: BNPS make every effort to include all sections of societies, particularly the disadvantaged and marginalized groups, women, poor and minorities in the development program.

Plurality: BNPS promotes culture of plurality.

Secularism: BNPS believes and encourages secularism in every aspects of social and national level to eradicate disparity and discrimination against any religion and ethnic group.

Core Competencies

- Long experience in women rights movement
- Wider acceptance in the community, civil society, media and donor as a women rights organization
- Activists nature of work with committed workers
- Learning organization with required flexibility
- Bottom up approach
- National, regional and international network
- Micro-Macro linkage

Principal Thematic Areas

- Mainstreaming gender and marginalized groups
- Poverty eradication
- Governance
- Promote concept of plural society

Core Programs

The programs of BNPS are encircled around the following three main empowerment areas:

Policy reform interventions and mass awareness

- Reformation of Education System
- Reformation of Electoral Process
- Analysis of National Budget and PRSP
- Mapping implementation of policies and commitments

Local governance

- Strengthening local government and community level governance through inclusion of marginalized people

Community level awareness, mobilization and livelihood initiatives

- Leadership development through institution building and development education
- Legal awareness and legal aid through referral service
- Financial services to poor women

Strategic Segments:

- Advocacy and lobbying
- Networking
- Cultural activism
- Public debate
- Promote accountability of duty bearers, policy-makers and other actors

Support Programs

- Monitoring and evaluation
- Training
- Policy research, documentation and publication

Priority empowerment areas through programmatic interventions

Social Empowerment	Economic Empowerment	Political Empowerment
◆ Social mobilization and Institution development ◆ Development Education ◆ Awareness raising on civic and legal rights ◆ Making education system gender sensitive ◆ Disaster Management and Environment Development	◆ Capacity and skills development ◆ Livelihoods improvement and assets building of women ◆ Market extension for women and vulnerable segments of the society ◆ Gender budget analysis ◆ PRSP analysis ◆ Increase access to public resources	◆ Strengthening local government and governance ◆ Electoral reform ◆ Increased participations of women in political institutions

Project Implemented (since the inception of BNPS) in relation to the Programmatic Strategic Issues of BNPS

Programmatic Strategic Issues	Relevant Projects	Year of Implemen- tation	Project Donors
Women's Empowerment and its Sustainability	Women's Development	1987 to 1996	ICCO, Netherlands, CWS, NY, USA
	Study of Women Education in Bangladesh	1995	HBF, Germany
	Strengthening the Women's Movement in Bangladesh	1997-1998	NORAD
	Socio-Political and Economic Empowerment of Women	1997-1999	ICCO and Christian Aid
	Strengthening the Women Empowerment Process in Bangladesh	1999-2002	ICCO and EZE
	Creating Enabling Environment for Women	1998-2000	SDC
	Empowerment of Women through Greater Access to National Resources	2000-2001	Bangladesh Freedom Foundation
Economic Empowerment and Livelihood Development	Socio Economic and Structural Empowerment of Women	1996-2001	Heinrich Boll Foundation, Germany
	Gender Budgeting: A framework for women empowerment & Social Accountability	15-05-2007 to 30-09-2007	EED, Germany
	Integrated Health Development	1990 to 1996	ODA/ NGO Project
Environment and Disaster Management	Multi Purpose use of Cyclone Shelter	1992-1995	France Embassy
	Reconstruction of House at the Flood affected area	1998-1999	ICCO, Netherlands
	Rehabilitation	1991, 1997	SDC, Netherlands Embassy, CIDA, Proshika and SOH
Political Empowerment	Voter education on Women Issues	1996	The Asia Foundation
	Networking and Advocacy for Legal Rights	1997-1998	The Asia Foundation
	Democracy Education for Effective LEBs	1997-1999	The Asia Foundation
	Election Observation from Gender and Minority	2001	The Asia Foundation

	Perspective		
	Promoting Responsive Governance & Gender Justice Project	2000-2002	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

Ongoing Projects

Name of the Project	Supported by
Promoting Rights Through Mobilization and Empowerment (PRiME)	EED and MISEREOR, Germany
Promoting Rights of Women Through Changing Mindset	UNDEF
Making Education Gender Responsive and Preventive to HIV/AIDS	Oxfam Novib



SECTION 2

Advocacy for Political and Economic Empowerment of Women

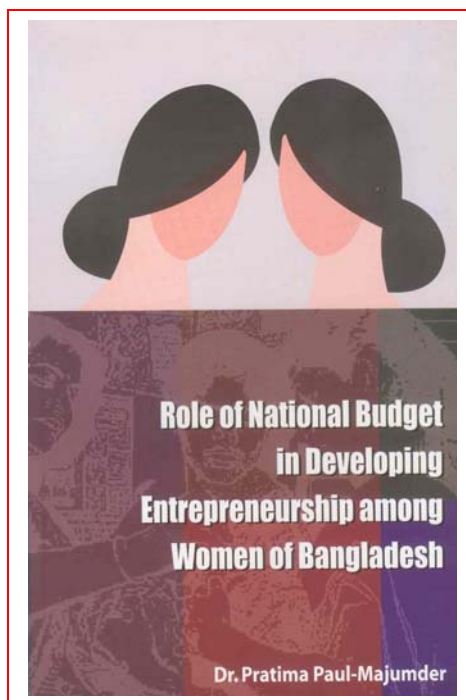
As a leading member of women's movement network which facilitated the formulation of *The National Policy for the Advancement of Women* (1997), Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS) is still fighting for the women empowerment of Bangladesh. To facilitate the political and economic empowerment process for women BNPS is active in policy advocacy at home and abroad. BNPS regularly conducts policy research and analysis whenever it deems necessary to support its own advocacy initiatives or to equip women's movement activists with required information and analysis. These policy researches, policy analysis, brief studies, fact sheets, briefing papers and other information materials try to identify gaps and indicate advancement path in relevant areas of political and economic empowerment of women ranging from gender responsive national budget to women's participation in lowest tier of local government. BNPS regularly share findings and information generated by its policy studies, analysis and briefing papers with stakeholders and policy makers through organizing seminar, workshop, press conference or briefing; publication; writing op-ed in newspaper, submitting memorandum to policy formulation bodies, and organizing social mobilizations when required.

Creating Environment for Economic Empowerment

Advocacy for Gender Responsive National Budget and PRSP

BNPS is the pioneer organisation in Bangladesh to start analysis of national budget and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) from gender perspective since 2001. BNPS has been trying to articulate the demand and necessity of gender budgeting in the country both among the proponents of women's empowerment and the policy-makers. The discourse of gender budgeting and allocating resource from gender perspective is getting impetus and is being reflected in the national budget.

In this respect BNPS has been conducting national budget analysis from gender perspective for the last nine years. In the reporting period, two more studies were conducted to analyze national budget and PRSP from gender perspective. Both the studies were supported by New York based the United Nation Democracy Fund (UNDEF) under a BNPS' policy study and advocacy project entitled, *Promoting Rights of Women through Changing Mindset*.



Study to Identify Status of Women in the National Budget of Bangladesh

As a sequel of six earlier studies, this policy research (2009), *Study to Identify Status of Women in the National Budget of Bangladesh*, looks at the national budget to see how a



budget really considers the gender relations and women's advancement. It aims at finding the reasons behind the under-utilization of the allocation earmarked for women's development. In addition, this study aims at assessing whether the development projects that are undertaken in the national budget for women are according to the priority needs of women and also to evaluate the performance of these projects to empower women, the primary gender objective of the government of Bangladesh.

Focusing on the budget documents and the implementation status through case studies, the study argued that the national budget is still discriminatory in terms of gender perspective, and the poor women have not been benefited in real sense with the allocations made in the budget.

Dr. Pratima Paul-Majumder, Senior Research Fellow of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) conducted the study for BNPS.

Addressing Women's Advancements and Rights Issues in I-PRSP and PRSPs of Bangladesh

Following an earlier (2008) BNPS analysis of Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) this study, *Addressing Women's Advancements and Rights issues in I-PRSP and PRSPs of Bangladesh*, made a critical look at the PRSP documents from gender perspective to see how this national policy instrument addresses the issue of women's advancements in Bangladesh. It also identified the strengths and weaknesses of this document to make further steps. The study reviewed the existing related available documents, gathered information from grassroots through a number of focus group discussion and individual interviews. Dr. Kaniz N. Siddique, an international consultant at Ministry of Finance conducted this study for BNPS.

Capacity Development Training on Gender Budgeting

In addition to conduct policy study, BNPS undertook capacity development initiative of 18 NGOs on gender budgeting through a three-day titled. *Gender Budgeting: A Framework for Women Empowerment and Social Accountability*. Along with 23 NGO staff one Assistant Director from Department of Women's Affairs participated the training course.

Creating Environment for Political Empowerment

In Bangladesh women have played very important role in all democratic movement, but their participation in the various spheres of political life has continued to remain minimal in comparison to their male counterparts. Politics is always considered a dirty game only for 'big boys'. This is quite evident in election times when high incidence of violence takes place. The prevailing climate of political violence including corruption and manipulation discourages women in participating in politics. In addition, there are cultural barriers which increase the existing gender gaps.

BNPS believes that, elimination of discrimination against women and advancement of equality for them can never be achieved without creating proper space and access to political sphere both at national and grassroots levels. Since inception, BNPS has been the pioneer in taking up steps on demanding women representation in power structure i.e. parliament and local governments, reformation of acts and ordinance and electoral rules to ensure women's greater access to political arena. In reporting period, BNPS continued advocacy and campaign for women's political empowerment along with building leadership among grassroots women.

National Level

Status of Implementation of National Policies and other Commitments related to Women in Bangladesh

This policy study, *Status of Implementation of National Policies and other Commitments related to Women in Bangladesh*, reviewed a range of national policies and international covenants and revealed to what extent these are gender-friendly in case of Bangladesh.



The objective of the study is to make an overview and assessment of the policy framework on gender and development, and the state of implementation of such policies along with compliance of different international commitments.

The study made series of recommendations to make the policies work in favor of women's advancement that has also been emphasized in the National Women's Advancement Policy supported by the Constitution.

Prof. Salahuddin M. Aminuzzaman, a renowned public policy analyst working with the University of Dhaka, conducted this study as a part of UNDEF supported project, *Promoting Rights of Women through Changing Mindset*.

National Seminar on Political Empowerment and Advancement of Women

Putting forward the demands of local women's movement for 40% women's representatives in all tier of local Government and 33% women's participation in all level committees of political parties, a national level Seminar on political Empowerment & Advancement of women held on 6 December 2007 at National Press Club, VIP lounge, Dhaka. Participants including political leaders, civil society members, bureaucrats, policy makers, academicians, justice, women Leaders, journalists, and NGOs representatives were present in the seminar to raise collective voice in favor of the demands.

Re-union of Women Freedom Fighters

Today's independent and sovereign Bangladesh is a consequence of nine month long bloody liberation war of 1971 against Pakistan army. Women were the worst victims of atrocities in the war but they were not only just rape victims of Pakistan army. Brave women throughout the country defied torture and death to give shelter to freedom fighters; treated wounded freedom fighters as doctor and nurse and took arms training and fought in war front. Some of these women received gallantry awards for their heroism. But unfortunately, role of women in the liberation war is only sketched as victim of rape and torture in general. Believing in political empowerment of women, BNPS wants to uphold women's forefront role in liberation war as an inspirational for women of present generation.

To recall that heroic role of women and spread it to present generation Bangladesh Nari Progati Shangha along with Mahila Muktijodha Sangsad (Women Freedom Fighter Council) and Institute for Environment & Development (IED) organised a Reunion of Women Freedom Fighters on 11 December 2007 at Chhayanaot Bhaban in Dhaka. Around 400 participants including 200 women freedom fighters, political leaders, parliament members, academicians, retired government officials, lawyers, judges, women leaders, human rights and development activists, journalists, cultural activists were presented at the occasion.

Air Vice-Marshal (Retd) AK Khandoker, Deputy Commander-in-chief of the Liberation Army was chief guest and Professor Sanjida Khatun, chief of Muktisangrami Shilpi Sanstha (Artists in Liberation War) was special guest at the occasion. The reunion presided over by Dr. Makhduma Nargis Ratna, General Secretary of Mahila Muktijoddha Sangsad. Rokeya Kabir, executive director of BNPS presented the key-note paper of the discussion session.

Speakers and participants demanded the trial of war crimes in 1971. They urged the government to constitute a special tribunal and try the war criminals saying it was the duty of the state and the government was also inclined to do so. The women who fought in the Liberation War also demanded to bar the war criminals from taking part in the election.

Major national electronic and print media covered the occasion with due importance.

Press conference demanding more women's participation in election

To address the frustrating non-existence of women's participation in the election of nine municipalities and four City Corporations in August 2008 BNPS organized a press conference on 26th August 2008 at Dhaka Reporter's Unity auditorium.

At the conference, BNPS shared the findings and observation on women candidature in aforementioned elections which was below the expectations level of women's movement. Moreover, women's participation in election management and observation were also low. With a view to enhance women's sincere participation in election and in policymaking level, BNPS demanded 33 percent women's representation in the political parties as per the declaration of Election Commission.

Speakers at the press conference urged that the political parties should nominate women candidates to compete for general seats in the election. At the same time, duties of the women counselors of municipality and City Corporation should be specified and direct election should be mandatory for seats reserved for women in the Parliament.

The demands also included appointing women as election commissioner, presiding officer, polling officer, polling agents in electoral activities and more women's participation in election observation activities. Moreover, speakers urged the Election Commission to preserve gender-disaggregated data of the persons involved in polling activities

Leaflet demanding more pledges to women's development in election manifesto

Aiming the national parliamentary election of 2008, BNPS published a leaflet demanding specific promise from contesting political parties towards women's development in their election manifestoes. The leaflets delineating specific demands were sent to political parties and circulated to media, NGOs, CSOs, women rights organizations and others concerned places to create public opinion.

Report on Women Status in Electoral Process

In June 2009, a comprehensive report entitled "Women Status in Electoral Process," was completed to find out the trend of female voters participation in election, women's participation in national and local government election as candidate, reflection of women's rights and development in political parties' election manifestos. Based on the data collected by the advocacy cell of BNPS Professor Salahuddin M Aminuzzaman, department of Public Administration of Dhaka University prepared the report. This report will be used to advance various issues related to women's political empowerment process in Bangladesh.

Fact Sheet on Women's Participation in National Parliament Election

The advocacy cell of BNPS extensively observed the participation of women in national parliament election held in December 2008. A fact sheet on women participation in electoral process and in politics since the independence of Bangladesh was developed with various trend analysis. Different print and electronic media were provided with this information and therefore the issue of women participation in electoral process was highlighted in media using BNPS reference.

The changed context:

Women's increased participation in politics and electoral process

Traditionally, importance to perusing women voter was less in Bangladesh, seemed their vote could be decided by their male counterpart in family. Proportion of women voter as well as their presence in polling centre in comparison of male was also less in number. Representation of women in national parliament and election candidature was one of the lowest in the world. Rate of women parliamentarian was only 2% in last national parliament which was lowest in South Asia. But the situation changed in last national election of 29 December 2008.

Bangladeshi women voters for the first time outnumbered men by more than 1.4 million, according to the new voters' roll with photographs prepared for the ninth parliamentary elections. The number of voters this time stands at 81,058,698. Of them, 41,236,149 (51% of total voters) are women and 39,822,549 men -- the former outnumbering the latter by 1,413,600.

For the first time in the history of Bangladesh record number of women candidates participated in the national poll. Out of 38 contending political parties 16 have nominated 75 female candidates. In addition to this, 13 independent women also participated in this poll. Finally 52 women contested in the poll. Out of 52 women candidates a total of 20 have been elected for the 300-member 9th parliament (6.33% women) of the republic. Compare to the 8th parliament this is a three-fold increase in numbers. Only six women from three parties became MPs of the former parliament by direct vote.

Reception of Women Parliamentarian

To hail the women' achievement in politics Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS) and Institute for Environment and Development (IED) jointly organized a reception to congratulate 65 female members of the ninth parliament of Bangladesh. Female parliament members (MP) were accorded reception by presenting crests, address of honors and flower bouquets. Thirty one women MPs of Bangladesh Awami League (AL), Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Jatiya Party (JP) elected by direct vote and selected by the respective parties for reserved seats for women were present in the reception. Deputy leader of the parliament Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, agriculture minister Matia Chowdhury and home minister Sahara Khatun were present among the prominent MPs.

Women lawmakers both from treasury and opposition benches unanimously vowed to work together for the betterment of the country's women. Addressing the reception they unequivocally said no political differences could stop them from discharging their sacred duties for women empowerment and uphold their dignity in the male-dominated society.



Eminent personality and proponent of women's political empowerment Professor Khan Sarwar Murshid, Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Dr Halima Khatun, Ms. Latifa Akand and Ms. Sultana Sarwat Ara Zaman, among others, attended the reception with Principal Ms. Mahfuza Khanom in the chair. Ms. Rokeya Kabir, Executive Director of BNPS initiated the session with a welcome speech where she had highlighted the chronological activities of women's movement and its contribution to attain the women's empowerment in Bangladesh. IED's Executive Director, Mr. Numan Ahmed Khan, elaborated the context of this program.

The reception held in Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium at National Museum, Dhaka on April 13, 2009 was attended by leading women's organization, NGOs, government officials, and activists of civil society organizations.

South Asia Regional level

South Asian Regional Status Paper on Women Participation in Politics

At South Asian regional level, BNPS is founder-member and leading the gender thematic group of South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE). Aiming to aware the target audience on marginality of and discrimination against women in political arena of South Asia, also to influence policy makers and political parties along with building public opinions intend to ensure women's political representation in all decision making levels and electoral process, BNPS, the Regional Gender Thematic Focal Organization of SAAPE, published the Regional Status Paper entitled "Political Participation of Women in South Asia" as well as disseminated to various participants including the SAAPE Gender Thematic Groups and the SAAPE alliance, government and non-governmental organizations, civil society, political parties, media, academicians, and human and women rights activists. The publication, as its short term outcome, helped raising awareness on position of women in politics of South Asia while expected greater support and public opinion to increase women's representation in Parliaments as well as decision making levels of political parties as long term outcome.

Campaign for greater participation of women in politics of south Asia

To campaign for greater participation of women in politics of south Asia BNPS also developed and published 2 posters and 1 desk calendar with the same intention and outcome set for the Regional Status Paper described earlier.

Poster: Demanding an increased participation of women in politics in South Asia, one poster portrayed pictures of six women prime ministers in South Asia on the top while placed two tables in the middle that provided some statistics on women representation in Parliament in 2008. This poster brought the message that the overall representation of women in politics is minimal and concluded that "... South Asian politics is still a men's world". Another poster, making a slogan "Breaking Silence for Bringing Changes in Politics" graphically showed the low representation of women in parliaments of the South Asian countries in comparison to other regions.



Desk Calendar: The calendar portrays pictures of six incumbent and former women Prime Ministers of South Asia with a brief biographical note. It also provides a snapshot of different women's rights movements took place in Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Afghanistan and Bhutan.

All these published materials were distributed to different government officials and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) as well as to the SAAPE members of the South Asian countries.

South Asia Regional Conference on Women's Participation in Politics

A regional conference on women's participation in politics titled "Breaking the Barriers – Claiming Women's Space in Politics in South Asia" took place on January 9-10, 2009 in Kathmandu, Nepal. This was organized by SAAPE in coordination with its Gender Thematic Group led by BNPS while the local host was *Samyukta Sangharsha Samiti* (Alliance of Political Women Wings), *Jagaran Nepal* (For Women Rights, Peace and Governance).

The conference aimed at (i) discussing the status of women in South Asia and building a common understanding on status and key issues of women in politics in the region (ii) initiating strategic campaign and advocacy to increase women's meaningful participation in the political arena of South Asian countries, and (iii) increasing coordination and collaboration among the actors of the campaign on women in politics in South Asia.

The conference was participated by different groups like academics, parliamentarians, representative of political parties, civil society organizations, social movements,

community organizations, relevant institutions, expert, and trade union leaders from Nepal, India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan.

The conference was able to build a common understanding among its participants on status and key issues of women in South Asia; also to develop a regional campaign and advocacy strategy to go forward with the issue in collaboration of member countries with effective coordination.



The conference made a campaign call covering the issues related to women's political empowerment in South Asia including an urge to the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) leadership (ranging governments, political parties, civil society organizations) to declare 2010 as the 'Year For The Promotion of Women In Politics'.

Advocacy and lobbying in regional and international level

In the age of globalization, BNPS believes that establishing the equal rights in the society, it is important to make advocacy and lobbying in the regional and international level. This would create an opportunity to form a pressure group that can influence the policy making process regionally and globally, which in turn will contribute to ease the BNPS movement in the national level. In purview of this BNPS involve activity with following network/alliances.

Network and alliance in regional/international level

The W8: Eight extraordinary women, one unique voice: As a dedicated advocate for ensuring peoples access to their rights to basic services, Executive Director of BNPS Ms Rokeya Kabir has been selected by Oxfam international as a member of a cabinet of eight women/W8, interfacing G8 countries. Lunched on February 2009, W8 consists of eight women ambassadors from each of Oxfam's essential services focus countries including Bangladesh, India, Thailand, Philippines, Malawi, Mali, Nicaragua and Georgia. Since the formation, the coalition has been speaking on behalf of global poor and marginalized people that do not have free access to education, health, and sanitation by bringing the voice and realities of communities to world leaders. Their lobbying is mainly

focused to G8 leaders for investing more in poor countries to ensure essential services for all.



South Asian Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE): South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE) is a regional network of the like minded organization for advocacy and addressing the issues of poverty and deprivation, discrimination, social development and the process of “globalization”. NGOs, mass organizations, academicians, trade unions, community based organizations and different movement mentors of this networks. Its Regional Secretariat is based in Kathmundu, Nepal, and it was formed in the year 2001. The objective of this alliance is to create poverty free and an equitable society where people can get an opportunity for enjoying their rights and dignity. BNPS has been acting as a regional thematic focal organization on gender of this alliance and the ED of BNPS has been playing an important role for its political guidance as one of the founder and member of regional core committee of SAAPE from its formation period.

In the alliance, it was broadly identified five thematic issues such as Gender equality, good governance, labour rights, peace and demilitarization and food sovereignty. And BNPS is the lead organization on Gender equality and also selected as a country focal organization for SAAPE in Bangladesh.

As a gender focal organization, BNPS continues its advocacy work for a gender sensitive budget increased political participation of women, which address the issues of women both in rural and urban level in the region.

Committee for Asian Women (CAW): Committee for Asian Women (CAW) is an Asian Regional organization for women workers based in Bangkok, Thailand. CAW celebrated her Silver Jubilee year in 2002. For the last 25 years, CAW has been taking up issues of women workers in Asia. BNPS is a member of CAW contributed highlighting the issue of women workers, particularly in the increasing informal sector.

A study has been conducted on “Impact of Globalization on Women in Bangladesh”. Besides, wrote two papers on globalization and its impact on women and also women workers one for a regional workshop in India, one for an International seminar in Hong Kong City University.

Water and Democracy Forum: This forum consists of 46 partner organizations from India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan of South Asia. The objective of this forum is to explore opportunities for action towards the basic right to water, in respective countries as well as within South Asia. BNPS is a member of the steering committee of this forum participated and contributed in different meetings and workshops producing policy documents.

South Asian Network of Gender Activists and Trainers (SANGAT): It is a South Asia level network dealing with gender related issues which enforces the women movement in South Asia raising their voice, claiming their entitlements and establishing women rights as human rights. It was established in 1998, and based in New Delhi, India. BNPS is an active member of SANGAT since its inception.

South Asian Network for Social and Agricultural Development (SANSAD): SANSAD is established in 2004 as a regional level network of like-minded voluntary organizations, academic institutions, farmers and trade associations to ensure people's participation in the processes of development, peace and governance for addressing the regional concerns based in New Delhi, India. SANSAD supports people's efforts to build community, and create the social cohesion necessary for healthy, caring societies and assist in the development of sustainable livelihoods that meet the needs of all community members. BNPS is actively involved with SANSAD activities in Bangladesh and in regional level.

Moreover, through participating different International and Regional workshops, seminars and symposiums, the Executive Director of BNPS took the initiatives to ensure inclusion of the issues concerning women empowerment, rights and creating opportunity for women in the declarations and policies of different International and Regional organizations.

Network/alliances at national level

Since inception, BNPS has been taken initiatives to bring a reform in the NGO sector in Bangladesh to make it an organized movement and include the process of empowerment of the poor and women in their programs. BNPS has been working for bringing activism in place of traditional project oriented development work by the NGOs. The issues like, fundamentalism, secularism and its relation to democracy and development were also brought to the sphere of NGOs through the tireless efforts. In this perspective BNPS played an active role to facilitate the process arranging different forums/networks like Coalition for the Urban Poor (CUP), Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF), Democracy Forum, Sammilito Nari Samaj (United Women's Platform) and Women's Development Forum. In the inception period BNPS office worked as secretariat and ED of BNPS as founding coordinator of all these networks/forums.

Amar Odhikar (My Rights) Campaign: Since September 2008, BNPS has been active in a national campaign on ensuring rights to essential services for all called Amar Odhikar Campaign (AOC). AOC is an alliance of CSOs with a view to bringing about substantive changes in the quality and the delivery of basic essential services, paying particular attention to education and health and facilitated by the Southern Campaign Group of Oxfam Novib (ON) started at the end of 2007. The initiative was followed by a series of practical actions which successfully involved review of the existing literature, observing real case scenario at the grassroots level, organizing dialogues with

prominent political leaders, law makers, members of the parliamentary standing committee, key informants such as educationist, academics, CSO leaders, researchers as far as the said issues are concerned.



On October 25, 2008 the Campaign was launched in Dhaka with the aim to establish demand of right to primary education through ensuring four specific demands firstly, one school in every village; secondly, one teacher must be appointed for each group of 40 students; thirdly, school must provide midday meal for the children; and finally, the right to education must be included in the constitution as a fundamental right.

The purpose of AOC is to mobilize the civil society of Bangladesh to facilitate government to ensure the essential basic services to all. At present the campaign is focusing on quality and equitable standards of education. Rokeya Kabir, Executive Director of BNPS is the convener of AOC.

Coalition for Urban Poor (CUP): It is national network primarily concentrated on the marginal people in the urban areas and slum dwellers in Dhaka City. CUP has been proved as an important platform for the urban poor for their economic development and raising voice for the denial rights. It played vital role in stopping the eviction of slum dwellers.

Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF): It was formed for triggering a national discourse on the right of children and address the issue of child labor.

Democracy Forum: With the initiative of BNPS, Democracy Forum was developed in 1997. This was formed for expediting the political empowerment of women, establishing the good governance and to strengthening the Local government. Involving the NGOs working in Dhaka and outsides, it was formed in order to strengthening the Local Government and initiating the Democracy Education process. BNPS worked as secretariat of this network.

Sammilito Nari Samaj (United Women's Platform): BNPS took the initiative to sensitize and mobilize people from different groups of women activists and organizations to push for women rights issues and fight against the violence on women. The Executive Director of BNPS acted as the founder Coordinator of this forum and BNPS provided secretarial supports throughout the country. Workshops, seminars, rally and processions were organized as the initiatives of these forums, against case of rape and killing of Yasmin, a young worker girl by police and it turned into a country wide movement named "Yasmin Murder Movement".

Women's Development Forum: For developing women's leadership in the NGO sector, BNPS created a space for women working in big NGOs and leaders of small women headed NGO. In June 27, 1993 a network was formed named Mohila NGO Forum and later on it was renamed as Women Development Forum (WDF). BNPS

played the role of coordinating the platform. Through this network a movement initiated against harassment of women their workplaces, which help developing the organizing and mobilizing capacity of women leaders.

Samajik Protirodh Committee (Social Action Committee against Violence): It is a national network comprised of 42 women and human rights activist groups. BNPS, as a member of the network, contributed to formulate policy papers and developing IEC materials as follows:

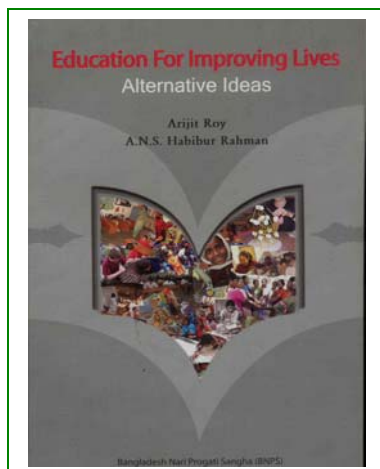
- Convention, sharing meeting, press conference and human chain.
- National women's advancement policy.
- Increase numbers of reserve seats for women in the parliament and direct election for seats.
- Resist violence against women.
- Increase women's participation in decision making process in all level.
- Uniform family code.

Sampreeti Mancha: It is a forum of different writers, intellectuals and professionals like professors, doctors, engineers, journalists etc. The forum responses most of the issues raised in the country on violence against both ethnic and religious minority. BNPS is facilitating this forum by providing space for their activities and secretarial support.

Poribesh Banchao Andolon (Environment Movement): Poribesh Banchao Andolon is an activist's group working on environment issues. A lot of progressive organization and individuals are member of this movement, BNPS is one of them. Many of the eminent personalities of Bangladesh are working with this platform. The movement mobilizes mass opinion on environment issues from grass root to policy makers.

Governance Coalition: Governance Coalition is established in 2004 with the motto of "Promoting Responsive Governance and Human Rights". The mission of the coalition is to establish effective participation of the poor and marginalized people in exercising their rights over the decision making and policy making processes that affect their lives. BNPS is a member of this coalition.

Education Reform



Reformation of education System in Bangladesh is one of the core programmatic areas of BNPS under Policy reform intervention and mass awareness. As a women and minority rights organization, BNPS firmly believes in the following as the guiding force of its pedagogical philosophy:

- Pluralism and diversity
- Unity in diversity
- Humanism
- Secularism

BNPS always advocates for a uniform, universal and people-oriented education system consistent with our

constitution and spirit of liberation war. BNPS has been creating public opinion against madrasa education since 1994 as it is one of main obstacle in promoting women's rights and gender equality. A study entitled "Madrasa education in Bangladesh: Background, Present scenario and the Position of women" was conducted in 1993 by eminent educationist and column writer Abul Momen. This study report being enriched with the recommendations suggested in a seminar held in 1996 was published in book form in 1997. A further study report titles 'Madrasa Education: An Observation' was published in 2003. Through these endeavors, the need for reforming madrasa education is well accepted and expressed at civil society and government level. Many donors including UNICEF stopped their funding in madrasa education as a result of evidence based resistance of BNPS.

Study report on 'Education for Improving Lives: Alternative Ideas'

Besides advocating for the uniform education system, BNPS also developed a concrete guideline to implement the urged education system. An analytical report on "Education for Improving Lives: Alternative Ideas" has been published in October 2008 and disseminated among educationists, academicians, teachers, political leaders, donors and civil society members. This report provides a complete guideline to form and implement a uniform and inclusive education policy and system in Bangladesh.



This study report was an outcome of a one year project titled 'Alternative Education System Sensitive to Gender and Pluralism in Bangladesh' The goal of the project was to develop recommendations for an alternative education system, which is sensitive to gender, human rights and plurality.

Ten focus group discussions at sub-district level, four workshops at district level, four divisional level workshops and one national level sharing with policy makers were conducted to develop the guideline and the study report.

The present government, as part of their election commitments to the people is reviewing the education policy of the country to make it uniform and secular. Among many of the suggested changes in the proposed education policy reflection of BNPS' advocacy in this field are being reflected.

SECTION 3

Grassroots: Where We are Grounded At

BNPS is mainly grounded at grassroots; working with the marginalized women in rural areas and urban slums. To promote the cause of women's equality BNPS has created a strong presence at national level through its powerful advocacy for basic issues related to women empowerment.

Promoting Rights through Mobilization and Empowerment or PRiME is the core program of BNPS which translates the mission statement of the organization into action. With the support of EED, Germany this program was initiated in July 2008. After successful completion of this one-year program in June 2009, the program has been extended for another three years (July 2009 - June 2012). MISEREOR of Germany has joined EED to support the 2nd phase of PRiME.

Following activities are being carried out in five working areas to build up women's organizations and develop their leadership capacity for social action and economic activities. Other objectives of the program are: enhance women's participation in local governance and manage their livelihood through acquiring skills and access to market, mobilize community to advance social causes which impact on women's advancement and empowerment.

Twelve thousand women organized for change and empowerment

Group formation

Creating a space for women is the primary component of BNPS grassroots level intervention for women empowerment through which they could organize themselves, analyze their problems and setting, identify the causes behind their unequal status and to way forward collectively. Under the facilities of BNPS, in reporting period, 12,000 women have been organized themselves in 600 groups at five field areas, namely Dhaka and Chittagong city, Netrokona, Barhatta and Sandwip.. Each group is now engaging themselves in their social, economic and political advancement activities based on annual plan developed by each group and facilitated by BNPS staff. Each of 600 groups meets at least once in a month to review the progress of its annual plan.

Monthly Awareness Session for Group Members



Awareness session is an integral part of monthly group meeting. At group level, a courtyard meeting was organized in monthly basis to aware the group members and other community people on related social, economic, health, nutrition, sanitation, civic and rights issues and information. Implementations of different identified area specific activities were also discussed through these sessions. Staff of BNPS facilitates these sessions.

Male member from the community were also participated in these sessions. In reporting period, 6898 courtyard meeting have been organized.

Role of women and men, and actions to improve gender relations, different policies, laws, and responsibility of concerned GO-NGO agencies, health, right to education, sanitation, birth registration, organisation and development, planning, skill development, increase production, market extension, social mobilization were some major issue discussed in awareness session in reporting period. BNPS staff used a flip chart provided by central office to facilitate the awareness session.

Following table shows the number of awareness sessions and participants organized in five centers during July 2008-June 2009.

Center	No. of awareness session	No. of participants
Dhaka	1123	9077
Netrakona	1130	11416
Chittagong	1164	9936
Barhatta	1130	17896
Sandwip	2351	38816
Total:	6,898	87,141

Cluster Committee: a step after the primary group

A Cluster Committee is a ward level committee consists of 10 to 15 representatives of 5 proximate groups. Followed by project guideline, 118 Cluster Committees have been formed covering 600 groups. All the Cluster Committees have developed annual plan based on their group level planning.

Developing women leadership and initiating collective efforts to implement group level plan is the core area of Cluster Committee's activities. The

committee seats at least once in a month. The issue of identifying and getting proper service on child and maternal health, safe

drinking water, vaccination, birth registration, waste disposal, tree plantation were the major discussion issues of Cluster Committee meetings in reporting period.

Besides regular activities some Cluster Committees successfully established linkage for group members in obtaining public services.



Cluster Committee to Ensure Services

At Netrakona, a Cluster Committee contacted with nearby CARE office to report against irregular presence and service of CARE field health worker in their community. After the petition, the service of the health worker becomes regular now. At Barhatta, cluster leaders successfully mobilized Upazila livestock office and Upazila Agriculture office to provide training to group members on poultry rearing and preparing compost fertilizer. In all centers, cluster leaders keep regular contacts with local

governments to ensure access into government safety net services like Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) and Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) cards, supernumerary allowance, Widow allowance, and other government services like Sanitary latrine, Tube-well, Marriage registration.

Economic empowerment interventions are carried out through above-mentioned five centers. Women from poor households organized into group and cluster are the participants of economic empowerment programs.

Income Generation: Skill and Entrepreneurship Training for the Group Members

Women organized at grassroots level are from marginalized section of society with low income, no or less education and less privileged. Most of them have to engage in hard work to feed and rear their family but traditionally their contribution is often ignored as non-formal laborer.



BNPS facilitates these women to enter into semi-formal and formal labor sector by providing them technical skill and training on different IGA and improve their entrepreneurship capacity. In the reporting period 16 training on different IGA skill were provided to 400 women in five centers. Besides, 12 training on entrepreneurship development were organized through which 300 women got entrepreneurship skill. The courses on skill development trainings were: Embroidery, Homestead vegetables gardening, Poultry rearing, Nursery management, making hand bag and on preparing sweet-boxes.

Training Turns to Action

Mariom Begum, age 22, education level class five. Husband Chanchol Mia has no fixed occupation like many other urban poor living in slums. Rickshaw pulling, day laborer, whatsoever when managed. Extreme poverty and uncertainty was the element of their daily living with two children out of school. Sometime she earned a little by making dress with a rental swing machine. In July 2008, she joined in Meradia 'Balaka' grassroot women group of BNPS Dhaka center. Being a group member she got the opportunity of obtaining training on Entrepreneurship development. She had not enough capital but the training boosted her confidence, widen her vision to find out scope of entrepreneurship by unlocking hidden business prospect. The slum where they live is at the end of eastern Dhaka where a new bus service started at the beginning of 2009. That newly started Bengal City Service brought her the much wanted opportunity. She started a street side food shed targeting to serve lunch and dinner in

cheaper price than restaurant for bus drivers, staff, rickshawpuller, hawkers, construction labour and other street dwellers. Her husband also has joined her as all-time helping hand. Her daily net income is now 400 to 500 taka. Both her children started going nearby school from this year.

Assist in establishing linkage with external skill training providers

The Community Organizers and Program Organizers of centre offices are helping the group members in exploring the opportunities of training at the Upazila/district level government and private institutions. At Barhatta center, 30 members received training on poultry farming and 77 members received training on agriculture through such linkage with department of youth development and department of agriculture accordingly. Staff of Dhaka center established linkage with training program of Islamic Relief, an INGO. Four group members have received training on mobile phone set servicing through this successful linkage. At Chittagang, 188 group members have been linked with micro credit program of different NGOs.

Market extension training: Multiple impacts in promoting women empowerment

Creating income generating skill is proved not-enough to bringing desired optimum return because women have no access and control over the market. The project introduced market extension training for women and providing linkage arrangement between local market committees and women entrepreneurs and producers. Each center has 6 (at Sandwip 12) groups consist of 15-20 members. They are engaged in extending the market of their productions. These groups are called Market extension group and they are provided with training on Marketing.

To ease their access into market-place meeting with nearby market committees have been conducted in each center.

In a conservative society like rural Bangladesh, It is truly challenging for women to get access into market-place. However, in our initial experiences, market committees have not shown any reluctance to women entrepreneurs yet except Sandwip. In other areas, women have started judging the market demand, earn the best price by perfect decision, and procure the production material in competitive price, which is essential for success in entrepreneurship.

Entering of women into direct market segment is not only adding value to their income promotion, but it has vital significance to breaking the gender stereotyping role of women in our society.

Income, Employment and Marketing

The name of Market Extension Group 1 in Netrokona is North Satpai Bazar Market Extension Group, lead by Shibani Gupta. Her spouse Jhunu Gupta works in a local tobacco factory as a support staff. Maintaining minimum family expenditure of five members (including three daughters) was a hardship for them.

To earn for family Shibani attend a skill development training course of BNPS on making sweet-box along with other group members. After receiving training they started making sweet-box commercially investing thirty thousands taka managed by her husband. At earlier, the role of Shibani and her group was limited in making the products. Her husband played the

role of purchasing raw material and supplying the finished goods to a middle party.

The scenario was changed when Shibani and her group received training on Market extension. After knowing the ins and outs of supply chain, outsourcing, marketing, pricing, market and marketing skill they started collecting raw material through proper bargaining from different sources in competitive price. Also they started supplying the products directly to sweet-meat shops and restaurants and collecting orders. Their business started expanding. Shibani got a credit support of Taka 30000 from BNPS Micro Finance Trust. Now they supply 5000 boxes weekly which was 2000 to 2500 before. Invested running capital becomes Tk. 80000.

Leadership capacity building for grassroots women

One of the aims of organizing grassroots women is to develop their leadership which goes along with the group formation process naturally. Besides, BNPS facilitates their leadership development process by providing training to the group and cluster leaders on formal leadership training. Since July 2008 - June 2009, 18 leadership training have been conducted in participation of 500 women group and cluster leaders.

In consequence of the training for the leaders, awareness has been raised for

claiming their rights. They are found better in conducting meeting, documenting the meeting decisions, identifying the problems and planning for addressing the problems with minimum supports from the implementing organization. They are also found to take leadership in solving the local level practical problems such as: preventing early marriage and family violence, ensuring just



services from public service authorities, establishing linkage with other organizations etc.

Sandwip women leaders aiming at local government election

At Sandwip, Cluster Committee members have decided to nominate their leaders for upcoming Union Council election. Shankkari Rani Sheel of Cluster No. 1, Nilufar Yasmin of Cluster 2 and Bilkis Begum of group 97 gained support of group and cluster members and local people to contest in forthcoming election. These three women have been proved their leadership capability by successfully preventing/handling some incidents on violence against women, dowry and early marriage and above all by leading local level lobbying with government officials to ensure public services.

Organized to Assert Rights and Access to Services

Within the working area of Barhatta center 'Jithon' is a remote village without any government or nongovernmental primary school at all. The members of Jithon cluster were firmly devoted to establish a school in their locality for their children. Kopona and Delwara were assigned to contact with 'Shabolombi' and 'Christian Life' (two different NGOs of Barhatta who have non-formal education program) to lobby for allocating school program in Jithon. They got hope from Christian Life on March 2009. Getting concern from Christian Life, the cluster members along with BNPS staff conduct a survey to make a list of children age of 5-6 ready to get into proposed

school and to select teachers and school place from community. The school installed at the place of Kolpona's household and started on 30 March of 2009.

At Chittagong, 'Smriti' cluster committee members successfully recovered a community pond (water source) by disconnecting a drainage line into it and cleaning it by their own initiative. 'Doel' cluster committee installed dustbin in their area by lobbying with City Corporation.

At Netrakona, a Cluster Committee contacted with nearby CARE office to report against irregular presence and service of CARE field health worker in their

community. After the petition, the service of the health worker becomes regular now.

At Sandwip, 'Shamun' colony is the residence of members of group number 145. The only connecting road to the colony goes under water in every rainy season. On March 2009, the group members along with concern cluster leaders contacted with local Union Parishad councilor Mr. Abul Bashar to repair the road before upcoming monsoon. The road was repaired in time. Members of group number 103 installed a bamboo-bridge in their neighborhood by contributing their own money and engaging male members of locality.

Making Education Gender Responsive and Preventive to HIV/AIDS

To contribute in developing an effective education and awareness system that effectively address the gender inequalities, power imbalance and its impacts on reproductive health and spread of HIV/AIDS, BNPS has started a three years project with support of Oxfam Novib in March 2009. The specific objectives of the project are:



- o A mapping of available education materials (produced by public and private sectors in relation to gender, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS) developed in order to avoid reinventing the wheel and pin pointing the interventions required
- o Gender responsive, reproductive health/HIV/AIDS-oriented lesson plans and learning materials developed
- o Teaching capacity and knowledge level of selected school teachers, community health workers and BNPS front line staff/volunteers developed
- o Students/young women and community people are sensitized on gender inequalities and its impact on reproductive health and HIV/AIDS
- o A national consensus built on a reformed education system sensitive to gender, and its impact on reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and poverty

The project is aimed at national level policy intervention based on piloting activities in Netrokona Sadar, Barhatta sub-districts, and Dhaka city.

SECTION 4

Staff Capacity Building

BNPS keeps on renewing capacity of its staff through training, workshop, exposure visit to maintain their knowledge and skill level up-to-date and effective. Whenever both financial and human resource permits BNPS organize custom made capacity development training internally. In addition to this internal capacity development exercise, staff also attended capacity development events organized by an external organization both in home and abroad. Following staff capacity development events were organized or availed during the reporting period:

Staff development training: Internal

31 female and 28 male staff attended the following three courses internally organized by the training cell of BNPS:

1. Capacity building training for the field staff of the PRiME project, November 3-5, 2008
2. Training on Market Extension for field staff, March 15-17, 2009
3. Project orientation and training on conducting KAP survey for the project 'Making Education Gender Sensitive and Preventive to HIV/AIDS, June 23-24, 2009

Staff development training: External

1. 'Development of Human Rights based Strategy to Prevent Torture', December 30-31, 2007, organized by Centre for Rehabilitation of Torture Survivors (CRTS)-Bangladesh.
2. 'Gender Responsive Budget', March 24-25, 2008, organized by Steps towards Development, UNIFEM and Unnoyan Somunnay.
3. 'CEDAW Alternative Report Writing' April 23-24, 2008, organized by Steps towards Development.
4. South Asia Workshop on 'Access to Land, Water and Forest Resource of the Poor, Women and Indigenous Peoples', June 29-30, 2008, organized by ALRD.
5. 'Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation', April 5-7, 2009, organized by Caritas Bangladesh.

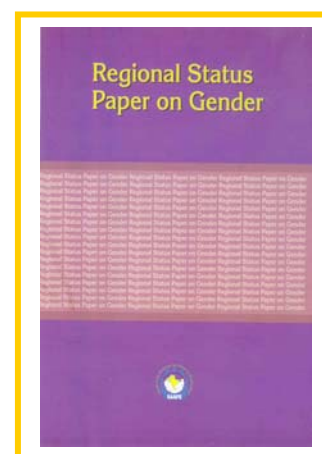
Training/Seminar/Workshop: Abroad

- Workshop on Water and Democracy, April 9-10, 2008, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh, India; organised by Water and Democracy Forum
- Workshop on Water and Democracy, August 27-30, 2008, Bhubaneswar, India; organised by Water and Democracy Forum
- Workshop on 'Asia Regional Consultation on LDC Issue and Conference on Democracy, Development and Peace in Asia', November 7-11, 2008, Kathmandu, Nepal; organised by South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE)
- Conference of South Asian Women. January 9-10, 2009, Kathmandu, Nepal; coorganised by SAAPE and BNPS, Regional Gender Thematic Focal organisation of SAAPE

- United Nations 53rd session of the commission on the status of women, March 2009, UN Headquarter, New York, USA
- Meeting on 'Essential Services Popular Mobilization and Media Team', March 2009, the Hague, Netherlands; hosted by Oxfam Novib
- Meeting on 'Civil G8 Dialogue', 2 - 5 May 2009, Rome, Italy; hosted by Rome Municipality and Oxfam Novib

Documentation and Publication

BNPS has quite a strong presence in documentation and publication in the NGO arena. It publishes study reports, books, booklets, journals, posters, leaflets, stickers and other various communication materials. Purpose of different kind of materials published by BNPS is to promote and disseminate the information related to its various advocacy initiatives. These materials also become facilitating tools of interaction between stakeholders to initiate a discourse and mobilize opinion. It also maintains its website and a library at its office premises. Following materials were published in the reporting period to support different issues namely gender budgeting, education policy analysis, various aspects of women's political empowerment, national election and analysis of election manifestos of political parties from women's perspective.



List of Publication	
Category	Title
Half yearly journal of BNPS	Nari O Progati (Women and Progress), 4 issues (in Bangla)
Study	Role of Fiscal Policy in Achieving a Gender Responsive National Budget in Bangladesh (in Bangla and English)
	Education for Improving Lives: Alternative Ideas (in English)
Booklet	Women in Election Manifesto of Political parties (in Bangla)
	South Asia Regional Status Paper on Gender (in Bangla and English)
	Political Empowerment of Women: In Parliament and Government (in Bangla)
Report	Proceedings of the Workshop on Water and Democracy in South Asia (in English)
	Daring to Lead: The Evolution of Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS) (in English)
Poster	Bringing Changes in Politics: Increase Women Participation in South Asia (in English)
	Women Participation in Parliament in South Asia (in English)
	Women and Men United to End Violence against Women and Girls (in English and Bangla)
	Begum Rokeya (in Bangla)
Leaflet	Unite to End Violence Against Women and Girls (in Bangla)

	Memorandum to political parties on the eve of 9 th national parliament election (in Bangla)
	Ensure ten percent direct allocation for women in national budget (in Bangla)
Fact sheet	Women's advancement towards Political Empowerment, fact sheet on women Member of Parliament (in Bangla)
Desk calendar	Women's Political Empowerment in South Asia (in English)

Internal Audit System

BNPS has taken a good step in doing regular monitoring of its activities. Its internal audit department reviews the operation of the internal control system which keeps the management informed about the ongoing circumstances. The internal audit system also examines the different aspects of financial management such as checking bill vouchers, books of accounts, rules and regulation of accounts are properly followed or not. This internal audit system identifies the problems; root causes of the problems and finds the ways to resolve those problems.

External Evaluation

Most recent external evaluation of BNPS was carried out in May 2009 by a renowned audit of Bangladesh, ACNABIN. Assigned by Oxfam Novib, ACNABIN carried out an Organizational System Review of BNPS.

Audit Reports

(For the year ended June 30, 2008)

Auditors' Report



Name of Client

BANGLADESH NARI PROGATI SANGHA (BNPS)

Consolidated Accounts

for the year ended June 30, 2008

পিনাকী এণ্ড কোম্পানী

Pinaki & Company

2/4, Nawab Habibullah Road (2nd Floor) Shatbag, Dhaka-1000

Tel: 9660944, 9665095, E-mail: pinaki_co@yahoo.com Fax: 88-02-9672726

Amena Plaza (2nd Floor), 70, SK Mujib Road, Badamtali, Agrabad C/A

Chittagong, Tel # 031-710451, Mob # 01711830577, 01914 313641

Dhaka, Dated : 22.12.2008

The Executive Director/ Executive Committee
Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha
Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209

Sub: Audit of Consolidated Financial Statements of "Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha"-for the year ended June30, 2008.

Dear Madam,

We have audited the accompanying Consolidated Balance sheet of Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha as on June30, 2008 and the related statement of Income and Expenditure and Receipts and Payments Account and along with explanatory notes there to for the year then ended. The preparation of these financial statements is the responsibility of the management of Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha. Our responsibility is to express an independent opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

The financial statement, prepared in accordance with Bangladesh Accounting standard (BAS), which are consistent in all material reports with international accounting standards as adopted in Bangladesh, give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha.

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements

The following statements is enclosed with the report

SECTION- A

- a) Consolidated Balance Sheet as on June30, 2008.
- b) Consolidated Income & Expenditure account.
- c) Consolidated Receipts & Payments account.

SECTION-B

- a) Corporate and others information.

BANGLADESH NARI PROGATI SANGHA

Subject of our Forgoing comments we report that:

- A. To the best of our knowledge and belief we, have obtained all the information and explanations, which were necessary for the purpose of our audit.
- B. **In our opinion.**
- a) The Consolidated Balance sheet and Income and Expenditure account, respectively exhibit a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the BNPS as on 30 June, 2008.
 - b) Proper books of account as required by law have been maintained by the Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha so far as appeared for our examination of those books.
 - c) The Financial Statement dealt with by the report are in agreement with the books of accounts.


Pinaki Das, FCA
Partner

BANGLADESH NARI PROGATI SANGHA

Consolidated Balance Sheet

as on June 30, 2008

PROPERTY AND ASSETS

		TAKA	
		2008	2007
FIXED ASSETS	Note-1	9,643,902	10,944,051
OUTSTANDING LOAN	Note-2	-	102,541,177
INVESTMENT	Note-3	6,581,365	11,778,374
SECURITY DEPOSIT-Telephone (As per last Account)		15,000	15,000
LOAN & ADVANCE	Note-4	2,770,000	7,062,000
AMOUNT TO BE REALISED FROM COURT CASE	Note-5	203,042	1,415,985
FUND WITH PARTNERS-SDC funded program	Note-6	47,218	47,218
CLOSING BALANCE			
Cash in hand	Note-7	13,206	999,980
Cash at bank	Note-8	1,734,402	12,036,966
TOTAL		21,007,135	146,840,751

FUND AND LIABILITIES

		TAKA	
		2008	2007
FUND ACCOUNT			
Restricted fund	Note-9	(351,512)	(803,807)
Unrestricted fund	Note-10	4,386,764	(3,129,353)
Reserve Fund For Apartment Purchase		-	7,000,000
CAPITAL RESERVE	Note-11	9,658,902	10,959,051
SAVINGS & CREDIT PROGRAM			
Revolving loan fund	Note-12	-	63,708,185
Security deposit-MBC		-	206,000
Group savings fund	Note-13	-	55,799,437
STAFF BENEFIT FUND-PF & gratuity	Note-14	2,386,669	8,092,111
STAFF WELFARE FUND	Note-15	159,202	168,900
STAFF INCOME TAX ACCOUNT-TDS	Note-16	8,928	2,045
LOAN ACCOUNT-as per last account	Note-17	4,778,182	4,758,182
PROVISION FOR EXPENSES			
Audit fee-credit and savings program	Note-18	-	80,000
TOTAL		21,007,135	146,840,751

Signed in terms of our separate report of even date

Pinaki & Co
PINAKI & CO 22.12.08
Chartered Accountants

BANGLADESH NARI PROGATI SANGHA

Consolidated Income & Expenditure Account
for the year ended June 30, 2008

Particulars		Taka
Income		
Local Fund	Note-19	1,810,930
Staff Welfare Fund	Note-20	8,328
Total		1,819,258
Expenditure		
Local Fund Program	Note-21	1,297,157
Staff Welfare Fund	Note-22	5,984
Depreciation on Fixed Assets	Note-1	671,147
Excess of Expenditure over Income		(155,030)
Total		1,819,258

Examined and found correct

Pinaki & Co.
PINAKI & CO. 22.12.08
Chartered Accountants

BANGLADESH NARI PROGATI SANGHA

Consolidated Receipts and Payments Account
for the year ended June 30, 2008

Particulars		Taka
Receipts		
Opening Balance		1,055,843
Cash in hand	Note-23	5,334
Cash at bank	Note-24	1,050,509
Grant Received	Note-25	1,056,711
From EED		153,367
From MISEREOR		903,344
Local Fund	Note-26	1,810,930
Staff Welfare Fund	Note-27	29,368
Staff Benefit Fund-PF & Gratuity	Note-28	313,370
Staff Income Tax A/C -T.D.S	Note-29	94,967
Total		4,361,189
Payments		
Funded Program	Note-30	525,144
EED		153,367
MISEREOR		371,727
Bank Charges-Funded Program	Note-31	586
SDC Fund Transfer to Local fund	Note-32	78,686
Local Fund	Note-33	1,708,242
Staff Income Tax A/C-T.D.S on June 30, 2008	Note-34	88,084
Staff Benefit Fund -(PF & Gratuity)	Note-35	177,117
Staff Welfare Fund	Note-36	36,722
Closing Balance		1,746,608
Cash in hand	Note-37	12,506
Cash at bank	Note-38	1,734,102
Total		4,361,189

Examined and found correct

Pinaki & Co.
PINAKI & CO. 22.12.08
Chartered Accountants

BANGLADESH NARI PROGATI SANGHA

Consolidated Notes to the Accounts

as on June 30, 2008

I. SCHEDULE OF FIXED ASSETS

Name of fund	Balance as on 01.07.07	Addition during the year	Adjust. Write off	Depre. during the year	Balance as on 30.06.08
ICCO	9,328,869	-	-	493,658	8,835,213
HBFB	374,170	-	-	55,087	319,083
SDC	31,144	-	-	6,229	24,915
Local fund	580,864	-	-	116,173	464,691
Savings and Credit Programme	629,004	-	629,004	-	-
Total	10,944,051	-	629,004	671,147	9,643,902

Note: Depreciation rate varies from 10% to 30% according to the set rules of BNPS depending on types of assets.

No depreciation has been charged on fixed assets below 6 months from the date of purchase.

Note: Fixed assets of Savings & Credit programme Tk. 629,004 has transferred to BNPS Microfinance Trust.



BANGLADESH NARI PROGATI SANGHA
ICCO FUNDED PROGRAMME

Notes to the Accounts

as on June 30, 2008

1A Schedule of Fixed Assets

Particulars	Balance as on 01.07.07	Addition during the year	Disposal during the year	Balance as on 30.06.08	Rate of	Depreciation		as on 30.06.08	WDV as on 30.06.08
						as on 01.07.07	Charged during the yr		
Land & Land Development (Netrok)	118,000	-	-	118,000	0%	-	-	-	118,000
Land & Land Development (Sandwi)	239,000	-	-	239,000	0%	-	-	-	239,000
Building (Sandwi)	789,136	-	-	789,136	5%	112,550	33,829	146,379	642,757
Furniture & Fixture	522,787	-	-	522,787	10%	141,675	38,111	179,786	343,001
Type Writer	9,083	-	-	9,083	15%	3,505	837	4,342	4,741
Sewing Machine	2,536	-	-	2,536	15%	901	215	1,116	1,220
Computer	87,528	-	-	87,528	20%	42,713	8,963	51,676	35,852
Moto Cycle	86,071	-	-	86,071	20%	42,003	8,814	50,817	35,255
Photocopier	9,191	-	-	9,191	20%	4,485	941	5,426	3,765
Bi-cycle	8,268	-	-	8,268	15%	3,190	762	3,952	4,316
Television	41,461	-	-	41,461	15%	15,999	3,819	19,818	21,643
VCR	13,446	-	-	13,446	15%	5,189	1,239	6,428	7,019
VCR	5,443	-	-	5,443	15%	2,100	501	2,601	2,842
Vidio Camera	23,679	-	-	23,679	15%	9,137	2,181	11,318	12,361
Computer Printer	7,885	-	-	7,885	20%	3,848	807	4,655	3,230
Computer Monitor	2,314	-	-	2,314	20%	1,129	257	1,386	948
Stand Fan	4,826	-	-	4,826	15%	1,862	445	2,307	2,520
Overhead Projector	6,404	-	-	6,404	15%	2,471	590	3,061	3,343
Cassette Recorder	1,816	-	-	1,816	15%	701	167	868	948
Office cum Training Centre at Netr	1,806,634	-	-	1,806,634	5%	257,671	77,448	335,119	1,471,515
Office cum Training Centre at Bar	1,351,491	-	-	1,351,491	5%	192,756	57,937	250,693	1,100,798
Air Conditioner	52,277	-	-	52,277	20%	25,511	5,353	30,864	21,413
Cyclone Shelter at Sandwi (2 Nos.)	5,842,475	-	-	5,842,475	5%	833,283	250,460	1,083,743	4,758,732
Total	11,031,550	-	-	11,031,550		1,702,682	493,658	2,196,340	8,835,215



1B. Schedule of Fixed Assets

Particulars	Balance as on 01.07.07	Addition during the year	Disposal during the year	Balance as on 30.06.08	Rate of	as on 01.07.07	Depreciation Charged during the yr.	as on 30.06.08	WDV as on 30.06.08
Ceiling Fan & Stand Fan	4,691	-	-	4,691	15%	1,810	432	2,242	2,449
Television	6,404	-	-	6,404	15%	2,471	590	3,061	3,343
VCR	6,404	-	-	6,404	15%	2,471	590	3,061	3,343
Audio Cassette Recorder	1,154	-	-	1,154	15%	445	106	551	602
Still Camera	1,720	-	-	1,720	15%	668	159	827	903
Computer with Printer	109,018	-	-	109,018	20%	53,201	11,163	64,364	44,653
Photocopier	82,944	-	-	82,944	20%	40,477	8,493	48,970	33,974
Jeep (Vehicle)	140,929	-	-	140,929	20%	68,773	14,431	83,204	57,724
Furniture & Fixture	267,365	-	-	267,365	10%	76,131	19,121	95,272	172,092
Total	620,637	-	-	620,637		246,467	55,087	301,554	319,083



BANGLADESH NARI PROGATI SANGHA
SDC FUNDED PROGRAMME

Notes to the Financial Statements
as on June 30, 2008

1C Schedule of Fixed Assets

Particulars	Balance	Addition	Disposal	Balance	Rate	Depreciation		WDV
	as on 01.07.07	during the year	during the year	as on 30.06.08	of	as on 01.07.07	Charged during the yr.	as on 30.06.08
Computer with UPS, Voltage Stabiliser	60,826	-	-	60,826	20%	29,683	8,229	35,912
Total *	60,826	-	-	60,826		29,683	8,229	35,912



BANGLADESH NARI PROGATI SANGHA
LOCAL FUND

Notes to the Financial Statements
as on June 30, 2008

1D Schedule of Fixed Assets

Particulars	Balance as on 01.07.07	Addition during the year	Disposal during the year	Balance as on 30.06.08	Rate of	as on 01.07.07	Depreciation Charged during the yr.	as on 30.06.08	WDV as on 30.06.08
Motor Car	1,134,500	-	-	1,134,500	20%	553,636	116,173	669,809	464,691
Total	1,134,500	-	-	1,134,500		553,636	116,173	669,809	464,691



(For the period from 1st August 2008 to July 31st 2009)

Auditors' Report



Name of Client

BANGLADESH NARI PROGATI SANGHA (BNPS)
Project Name: Promoting Rights of Women Through Changing Mindset
For the period from 1st August 2008 to July 31, 2009

পিনাকী এণ্ড কোম্পানী Pinaki & Company

2/4, Nawab Habibullah Road (2nd Floor) Shahbag, Dhaka-1000
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Amena Plaza (2nd Floor), 70, SK Mujib Road, Badamtali, Agrabad C/A
Chittagong, Tel # 031710451, Mob # 01711830577, 01914313641



পিনাকী এণ্ড কোম্পানী
Pinaki & Company

Chartered Accountants



BANGLADESH NARI PROGATI SANGHA (BNPS)
Project Name: **Promoting Rights of Women Through Changing Mindset**

Auditors' Report

We have audited the accompanying balance sheet of the Project Name: **Promoting Rights of Women Through Changing Mindset** of Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS) funded by EED, Germany as on July 31, 2009 and the related Income and Expenditure Account and Receipts and Payments Account for the year then ended. The preparation of these financial statements is the responsibility of the Organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an independent opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Bangladesh Standards on Auditing (BSA). Those Standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Project Name: **Promoting Rights of Women Through Changing Mindset** of Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS) as on July 31, 2009 and of the results of its operations for the period ended.

We also report that:

- we have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit and made due verification thereof.
- in our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the Organization so far as it appeared from our examination of those books and
- the financial statement dealt with by the report are in agreement with the books of account.

Pinaki Das
Pinaki Das, FCA
Partner

Date: 1.9.2009

Office : 2/A, Towar Hattullah Road (Old Port), Dharmah, Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh
Tel # 880944, 966095, E-mail : pinaki.cpa@gmail.com Fax # 88-02-9672726, Mobile # 01711-106302
Chattogram : Artha RAJA Old Post: 70, SK. Mulla Road, Eastern, Agrabad C/A, Chittogram, Tel # 031-710467, Mob # 01711-825577, 01714-31364

BANGLADESH NARI PROGATI SANGHA (BNPS)
Project Name: Promoting Rights of Women Through Changing Mindset

Balance Sheet
as on July 31, 2009

PROPERTY AND ASSETS		TAKA
FIXED ASSETS	Sch-A	175,015
CLOSING CASH AND BANK BALANCES	Sch-B	2,201,748
TOTAL		2,376,763
FUND & LIABILITIES		TAKA
RESTRICTED FUND	Sch-C	1,951,748
CAPITAL RESERVE	Sch-D	175,015
TEMPORARY WORK LOAN	Sch-E	230,000
OUTSTANDING LIABILITIES	Sch-F	20,000
TOTAL		2,376,763

Signed in terms of our separate report of even date

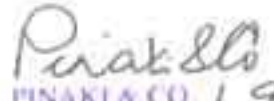
Pinaki S.B.
PINAKI & CO 1.9.09
Chartered Accountants

BANGLADESH NARI PROGATI SANGHA (BNPS)
Project Name : Promoting Rights of Women Through Changing Mindset

Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended July 31, 2009

Particulars	TAKA
Income	
Interest earned on Bank Account	31,061
Total	31,061
Expenditure	
Audit fees	20,000
Depreciation on Fixed Assets	30,885
Audit fees	(20,000)
Depreciation for Capital fund	(30,885)
Excess of income over expenditure (transferred to restricted fund account)	31,061
Total	31,061

Examined and found correct.


PINAKI & CO. 1.9.09
Chartered Accountants

BANGLADESH NARI PROGATI SANGHA (BNPS)
 Project Name: Promoting Rights of Women Through Changing Mindset

Receipts & Payments Account
 for the year ended July 31, 2009

Particulars	TAKA
Receipts	
Opening balance	-
Cash in hand	-
Cash at bank	-
Fund Received from UNDEF Newyork	6,144,750
Interest received from Bank	31,061
Temporary Work Loan	250,000
Total	6,405,811
Payments	
Personnel cost:	2,785,948
Programme staff	1,010,994
Honorarium for National Consultants For Study Cost	1,502,200
Travel and per diem (National Consultant & Staff)	72,754
Programme cost:	
Contractual Service:	121,985
District/Division level Sharing Meeting/Workshop	-
National Level Seminar/workshop/sharing meeting	121,985
Media Campaign	-
Program Support cost of implementing partner:	549,010
Conceptualization and development of documents with stamp messages and organize Meetings/Training with policy makers for lobbying and continuous advocacy	549,010
Fixed Assets:	
Office Equipment	205,900
Coordination meeting/Materials	27,453
Monitoring and Evaluation	-
Study Report Publish	-
Booklet	-
Poster	-
Leaflet/Stickers	-
Operational cost:	313,767
Office Accommodation	55,000
Stationery and supplies	29,546
Communication, Postage, fax and others:	15,980
Printing and Photostat	15,410
Audit Fee and Administrators financial management fee	192,879
Bank Charge	8,921
Temporary Work Loan	-
Closing balance	2,201,748
Cash in hand	2,105
Cash at bank	2,199,641
Total	6,405,811

Examined and found correct.

BANGLADESH NARI PROGATI SANGHA (BNPS)
Project Name : Promoting Rights of Women Through Changing Mindset

Schedules to the Financial Statements
as on July 31, 2009

A. Fixed Assets

Particulars	Cost			Rate of Dep.	Depreciation			W.D.V as on 31.07.09
	Balance as on 01.08.08	Addition during the period	Total as on 31.07.09		Balance as on 01.08.08	Charged during the Year	Balance as on 31.07.09	
Office equipments	-	205,900	205,900	30%	-	30,885	30,885	175,015
Total	-	205,900	205,900		-	30,885	-	175,015

** Depreciation on Office equipments	205,900	6 Months	30%		30,885
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Note: No depreciation has been charged on fixed assets below 6 months from the date of purchase.



BANGLADESH NARI PROGATI SANGHA (BNPS)
Project Name: Promoting Rights of Women Through Changing Mindset

Schedules to the Financial Statements
as on July 31, 2009

No.	Particulars		Taka										
B.	Cash and Bank Balance		2,201,748										
	In hand	Sch-E1	2,107										
	At bank	Sch-E2	2,199,641										
B.1.	In hand		2,107										
	Cash in hand		2,107										
B.2.	At bank		2,199,641										
	Pubali Bank Ltd, Shatmujit Road-of Central Office, Dhammondi-A/c. No. STD-40		604,391										
	Standard Chartered Bank,Dhammondi Branch,House no-6,Road no-5 Dhaka-1203		1,398,210										
	Account No.- CA-01 1247123 01												
B.3.	Bank Reconciliation Statement:												
	<table><tr><th>Location</th><th>Name of Bank</th><th>Bank Address</th><th>A/c Number</th><th>Balance 31.07.2009 (BDT)</th></tr><tr><td>Central</td><td>Pubali Bank</td><td>Shatmujit Road Branch Dhammondi, Dhaka</td><td>STD-40</td><td></td></tr></table>	Location	Name of Bank	Bank Address	A/c Number	Balance 31.07.2009 (BDT)	Central	Pubali Bank	Shatmujit Road Branch Dhammondi, Dhaka	STD-40			
Location	Name of Bank	Bank Address	A/c Number	Balance 31.07.2009 (BDT)									
Central	Pubali Bank	Shatmujit Road Branch Dhammondi, Dhaka	STD-40										
	Balance as per Bank Statement 31 July 2009		1,004,391										
	Add: Deposit		-										
			1,004,391										
	Less: Cheque issued but not Presented the bank		400,000										
	Closing Balance as per Cash book		604,391										
C.	Restricted Fund		1,951,748										
	Opening balance		-										
	Add:												
	Realized against approval of NGO Bureau received from UNDEF, New York		4,370,216										
	Unrealised Fund during the Period received from UNDEF, New York (Sch-C1)		1,574,534										
	Excess of income over expenses during the year		31,061										
			6,175,811										
	Less:												
	Fund utilized during the period		1,768,163										
	Transfered to capital reserve -Office equipment		205,900										
	Provision for Expenses -Audit fees		20,000										
	Temporary Work Loan Refundable		230,000										
			4,224,063										
C.1.	Fund realised during the Period		1,574,534										
	Total Fund Received from UNDEF, NEWYORK		6,144,738										
	Less: Fund realised against approval of NGO Bureau		4,370,216										



BANGLADESH NARI PROGATI SANGHA (BNPS)
Project Name : Promoting Rights of Women Through Changing Mindset

Schedules to the Financial Statements
as on July 31, 2009

No.	Particulars	Taka
D.	Capital Reserve	175,015
	Opening balance	-
	Add:	
	Office Equipments	205,900
		205,900
	Less:	
	Depreciation charged during the year	30,885
E.	Temporary Work Loan	230,000
	Opening balance	-
	Add: during the year	230,000
		230,000
	Less: Realization during the year	-
F.	Outstanding Liabilities	20,000
	a. Provision for audit fees	20,000
	Opening balance	-
	Add: Provision for audit fees-during the year	20,000
		20,000
	Less : Audit fee paid during the year	-
		20,000



(For the year ended 30th June 2009)

Auditors' Report



Name of Client

BANGLADESH NARI PROGATI SANGHA (BNPS)
Project Name: Promoting Rights through Mobilization and Empowerment (PRIME)
For the year ended 30th June 2009

পিনাকী এণ্ড কোম্পানী
Pinaki & Company

2/4, Nawab Habibullah Road (2nd Floor) Shahbag, Dhaka-1000
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Chittagong, Tel # 031-710451, Mob # 01711830577, 01914 313641



BANGLADESH NARI PROGATI SANGHA (BNPS)

Project Name: Promoting Rights through Mobilization and Empowerment (PRiME)

Auditors' Report

We have audited the accompanying balance sheet of the **Project Name: Promoting Rights through Mobilization and Empowerment (PRiME)** of Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS) funded by IED, Germany as on June 30, 2009 and the related Income and Expenditure Account and Receipts and Payments Account for the year then ended. The preparation of these financial statements is the responsibility of the Organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an independent opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Bangladesh Standards on Auditing (BSA). Those Standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the **Project Name: Promoting Rights through Mobilization and Empowerment (PRiME)** of Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS) as on June 30, 2009 and of the results of its operations for the period ended .

We also report that:

- we have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit and made due verification thereof;
- in our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the Organization so far as it appeared from our examination of those books and
- the financial statement dealt with by the report are in agreement with the books of account.

Pinak Das
Pinaki Das, FCA
Partner

Date: 29.2009

BANGLADESH NARI PROGATI SANGHA (BNPS)
Project Name : Promoting Rights through Mobilization and Empowerment (PRIME)

Balance Sheet
as on June 30, 2009

PROPERTY AND ASSETS		TAKA
FIXED ASSETS	Sch-A	155,792
SECURITY DEPOSIT	Sch-B	-
ADVANCE OFFICE RENT	Sch-C	-
TEMPORARY WORK LOAN	Sch-D	-
CLOSING CASH AND BANK BALANCES	Sch-E	141,544
	TOTAL	297,336
FUND & LIABILITIES		
RESTRICTED FUND	Sch-F	3,544
CAPITAL RESERVE	Sch-G	155,792
OUTSTANDING LIABILITIES	Sch-H	136,000
DUE TO PROVIDENT FUND	Sch-I	-
PF LOAN-Staff	Sch-K	-
	TOTAL	297,336

Signed in terms of our separate report of even date

Pinaki & Co
PINAKI & CO. 29.09
Chartered Accountants

BANGLADESH NARI PROGATI SANGHA (BNPS)
Project Name : Promoting Rights through Mobilization and Empowerment (PRIME)

Income and Expenditure Account
for the period July 01, 2008 to June 30, 2009

Particulars	TAKA
Income	
Interest earned on Bank Account	34,090
Total	34,090
Expenditure	
Audit fees	(40,000)
Books & Periodicals-Annual report Publication	(96,000)
Depreciation on Fixed Assets	(13,210)
Total	(149,210)
Excess of income over expenditure (Transferred to restricted fund account)	34,090
Total	34,090

Examined and found correct

Pinaki & Co.
PINAKI & CO. 29.09
Chartered Accountants

BANGLADESH NARI PROGATI SANGHA (BNPS)

Project Name : Promoting Rights through Mobilization and Empowerment (PRIME)

Receipts & Payments Account

for the period July 01, 2008 to June 30, 2009

Particulars	TAKA
Receipts	
Opening balance	
Cash in hand	
Cash at bank	
Fund Received from EED	16,412,084
Interest received from Bank	34,090
Total	16,446,174
Payments	
Programme cost:	5,028,820
Livelihood & Economic Empowerment	1,823,927
Training for Group Member	1,197,888
Formation for Community Forum	537,714
Human Rights & Policy Advocacy	697,936
Institutional Development	768,155
Personnel cost:	8,151,538
Programme staff	5,427,567
Administration & accounts staff	2,723,951
Operational cost:	2,956,270
Office rent	818,000
Advance office rent	-
Security deposit-office rent	-
Stationery and supplies	238,111
Printing and photostatic	287,525
Postage, fax, phone and utility charges	363,502
Travel, per diem and local conveyance	359,228
Utility-Gas, Water & Electricity	201,257
Maintenance of equipment & furniture & others	223,403
Bank charges	19,007
Audit fee	40,000
Office Setup & shifting	466,238
Fixed Assets:	171,002
Office Equipment	150,937
Furniture & Fixture	20,065
Closing balance	141,544
Cash in hand	Sch-E1 2,482
Cash at bank	Sch-E2 139,062
Total	16,446,174

Examined and found correct

Pinaki & Co.
PINAKI & CO. 2.9.09
Chartered Accountants

BANGLADESH NARI PROGATI SANGHA (BNPS)
Project Name: Promoting Rights through Mobilization and Empowerment (PRIME)

Schedules to the Financial Statements
as on June 30, 2009

A. Fixed Assets

Particulars	Cost			Rate of Dep.	Depreciation			W.D.V as on 30.06.09
	Balance as on 01.07.08	Addition during the period	Total as on 30.06.09		Balance as on 01.07.08	Charged during the Year	Balance as on 30.06.09	
Office equipments	-	150,952	150,952	30%	-	15,210	15,210	135,742
Furniture & fixture	-	20,045	20,045	10%	-	-	-	20,045
Total	-	171,002	171,002		-	15,210	-	155,792

Note: The Accounting policy applies that no depreciation has been charged on fixed assets below 6 months from the date of purchase.



BANGLADESH NARI PROGATI SANGHA (BNPS)
Project Name : Promoting Rights through Mobilization and Empowerment (PRIME)

Schedules to the Financial Statements
as on June 30, 2009

No.	Particulars		Taka
B.	Security Deposit-Office rent		-
	As per last a/c		-
	Paid during the year-Central Office	50,000	
		<u>50,000</u>	
	Less: Realization during the year	<u>50,000</u>	
C.	Advance Office Rent		-
	As per last a/c		-
	Paid during the year-Central Office	5,000	
		<u>5,000</u>	
	Less: Realization during the year	<u>5,000</u>	
D.	Temporary Work Loan		-
	As per last account		-
	Add: during the year	25,000	
		<u>25,000</u>	
	Less: Realization during the year	<u>25,000</u>	
E.	Cash and Bank Balances		141,544
	In hand	Sch-E1	2,482
	At bank	Sch-E2	<u>139,062</u>
E.1	In hand		2,482
	Central Office		1,054
	Dhaka Centre		1,273
	Chittagong Centre		-
	Sandwip Centre		18
	Netrokona Centre		132
	Barhata Centre		<u>-</u>
E.2	At bank- Pubali Bank		139,062
	Shimsojit Road-off Central Office, Dhanmondi/A/c No. STD-74		133,228
	Standard Chartered Bank,Dhanmondi Branch,		
	House no-6,Blood .ap.-5thDhaka-1205 A/c No. B1124712301		-
	Pubali Bank- Gomat Bazar, Dhaka, Dhaka Centre A/C No. 2974-102-819		704
	Pubali Bank-Moheddibagh Br. Chitt-Chitt. Centre A/C No. STD- 931-101-77265		1,374
	Pubali Bank- Shidherhat Br., Chittagong/Sandwip Centre A/C No. STD-03		214
	Pubali Bank-Netrokona Br., Netrokona Netrokona Centre STD-0623-101-70551		507
	Bank: Krishi Bank- Matarjan Para, Barhata, Nil., Barhata Centre A/C No. CA-273		<u>1,035</u>



BANGLADESH NARI PROGATI SANGHA (BNPS)

Project Name : Promoting Rights through Mobilization and Empowerment (PRIME)

Schedules to the Financial Statements

as on June 30, 2009

No.	Particulars	Taka
F. Restricted Fund		5,544
	Opening balance	-
	Add:	
	Fund received	16412084
	Office rent advance refund	5,000
	Security Deposit-Office rent	50,000
	Excess of Income over exp. during the year	34,000
		16,501,174
	Less:	
	Fund utilized during the period	16,133,628
	Transferred to capital reserve fund	171,002
	Provision for Expenses -Audit fees	40,000
	Provision for Expenses-Books Periodical Annual report Publications	96,000
	Office rent -Advance & Security money deposit	55,000
		16,495,630
G. Capital Reserve		155,792
	Opening balance	-
	Add:	
	Advance Office Rent	5,000
	Office Equipment & furniture fittings	171,002
	Office rent-Security deposit	50,000
		226,002
	Less:	
	Advance Office Rent adjusted-during the year	5,000
	Office rent-Security deposit adjusted-during the year	50,000
	Depreciation charged during the year	15,210
		70,210
H. Outstanding Liabilities		136,000
a. Provision for audit fees		40,000
	As per last a/c	-
	Add: Provisions for audit fees-during the year	40,000
		40,000
	Less : Audit fee paid during the year	40,000
		40,000
b. Accrued Expenses		96,000
	As per last a/c	-
	Add: Books & Periodicals-Annual Report Publication during the year	96,000
		96,000

BANGLADESH NARI PRAGATI SANGHA (BNPS)
Project Name : Promoting Rights through Mobilization and Empowerment (PRIME)

Schedules to the Financial Statements
as on June 30, 2009

No.	Particulars	Taka
I.	Due to Provident fund	-
	As per last a/c	-
	Add: provision during the year	452,847
		452,847
	Less : Payment made during the year	452,847
		-
J.	Gratuity Provision	-
	As per last a/c	-
	Add: provision during the year	342,412
		342,412
	Less : Payment made during the year	342,412
		-
K.	PF Loan - Staff	-
	As per last a/c	-
	Add: provision during the year	31,032
		31,032
	Less : Payment made during the year	31,032
		-



Organogram of BNPS

