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# The Status of Statistics Pertaining to Violence against Women in the Context of Bangladesh<sup>1</sup>

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### Introduction

1. Women constitute the half of the population. Therefore, no development intervention can be fully achieved without their participation. The women should have equal rights and privileges in the society. Nevertheless, in practice, women are deprived of equal rights and they are oppressed by their male counterpart particularly by the intimate partner. The women folk are experiencing mental, physical and sexual violence. This is almost common in all countries of the world, developing or developed.

#### 1. Development Initiatives for Women in Bangladesh

- 2. The present democratic government of Bangladesh is striving hard to improve the quality of life of all the citizens eliminating all sorts of discrimination among the people. The constitution of Bangladesh ensures equal rights to all citizens, prohibits discrimination and inequality on the basis of sex and strives to promote social and economic equality. According to Article 27 of the Constitution of Bangladesh, all citizens are equal before the law and are entitled to equal protection of the law. Article 28 states that the State shall not discriminate against any citizen on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or region. With respect to women, Article 28 also states "Women shall have equal rights with men in all spheres of state and public life". Article 28 further states, "nothing shall prevent the State from making special provision in favour of women or for the advancement of any backward section of population.
- 3. Bangladesh is a signatory of Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). CEDAW was approved by the Government of Bangladesh on November 6, 1984. Bangladesh is now working to implement different articles of CEDAW. The Government of Bangladesh adopted the 'National Policy for Women's Advancement' (NPWA), 2008 that aims at claiming all forms of discrimination against women by empowering them to become equal partners of development. The overall development goal for women's empowerment stands at: (i) Promoting and protecting women's human rights; (ii) Eradicating the persistent burden of poverty on women; (iii) Eliminating discrimination against women; (iv) Enhancing women's participation in mainstream economic activities; (v) Creating opportunities for education and marketable skills training to enable them to participate and be competitive in all economic activities; (vi) Incorporating women's needs and concerns in all sectoral plans and programmes; (vii) Providing safe custody for women and children victims of trafficking and desertion, and creating an enabling environment for their integration in the mainstream of society; (ix) Ensuring women's empowerment in the field of politics and decision making; (x) Taking action to acknowledge women's contribution in social and economic spheres; (xi) Ensuring women's social security against all vulnerability and risks in the

state, society and family; (xii) Eliminating all forms of violation and exploitation against women; (xiii) Developing women's capacity through health and nutrition care; (xiv) Facilitating women's participation in all the national and international bodies; (xv) Strengthening the existing institutional capacity for coordination and monitoring of women's advancement; (xvi) Taking action through advocacy and campaigns to depict positive images of women; (xvii) Protect women from the adverse effects of environmental degradation and climate change; (xviii) Take special measures for skills development of women workers engaged in the export-oriented sectors; (xix) Incorporate gender equality concerns in all trade-related negotiations and activities; and (xx) Ensure gender sensitive growth with regional balance.

# 1. 1 Elimination of All Forms of Violence and Exploitation against Women

4. The Government created a "Law Commission" to review laws related to the protection of women's rights and to recommend necessary changes. The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA) has undertaken multi-sectoral projects to eliminate violence against women including setting up One-stop Crisis centre in medical hospitals in six divisions for acid throwing and rape victims to ensure quick delivery of necessary services. Facilities for DNA testing have been created in Dhaka Medical College for identifying rape criminals. At the National, District, and Sub-district levels, Committees for the Prevention of Violence against Women have been formed. Violence prevention cells also exist in the Department of Women's Affairs and the National Women Organization. Homes for abused women and women in safe custody have been established both by the Government and NGOs.

### 1.2 Political Empowerment and Participation in the Decision-Making Process

5. The most important progress in politics is in the area of local government. In the 2002 election a large number of women became elected not only in reserved seats but also in regular seats.
All city corporations have kept one-third of the seats of Commissioners for directly elected women commissioners. In 2006, the Parliament passed a bill, which increased reserved seats for women to 45 from 30. The National Women Development Policy 2008 has suggested that

one-third of the seats in the Parliament be reserved for women to be elected through direct elections.

# 1.3 Ensuring Women's Participation in International Forums

6. A fair amount of progress has been made in the trade and commerce sector. Some policies and strategies have been identified for women's full participation in mainstream economic activities.
Policymakers from MOWCA have participated in several international conferences where they shared information on the progress and difficulties in the area of good governance and women's empowerment and gender responsive budgeting.

# 1.4 Institutional Mechanism for Addressing Women's Advancement and Rights Issues

7. The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs is acting as the focal point and catalyst for actions regarding women's issues and responding to the needs and priorities of women in activities of all government agencies. MOWCA and its implementing agencies have been undertaking different projects for women. The National Council for Women's Development (NCWD) was established in 1995 with the Honourable Prime Minister as the chair. The Government has adopted a National Policy for Women's Advancement (NPWA). As a follow-up on the Beijing Platform for Action, the Government has formulated a National Action Plan (NAP), which aims at translating the NPWA into measurable time-bound achievements. To fulfill the commitments of NAP, the Parliamentary Standing Committee for MOWCA has been established.

# 2. Civil Society Association Working for Women Development

### 2.1 Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association

8. Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) is one of the pioneer organizations working for the establishment of human rights in Bangladesh. The Association was formed in 1979 at the initiative of some prominent women lawyers of Bangladesh, and subsequently registered as a legal aid body in 1981. The Association works for the uplift of women by providing legal aid, conducting training on rights of women, lobbying for necessary reforms of the existing laws, lobbying the authorities on women's rights, issues and laws, investigating reports on violence against women and carrying out different activities for the rehabilitation of the survivors of different types of violence.

# 2.2 Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (Bangladesh Women Council)

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad was established in 1970 with the objective of upholding the rights and privileges of women in Bangladesh. A major area of activities of the Parishad is its local, regional and national conferences that take place at intervals of 2-3 years to propagate the ideas, programmes and achievements of the organisation and its members, and to steer movements for ensuring better role and place of women in society. The Parishad has a significant role in organising mass movement against polygamy, child-marriage, women trafficking and prostitution. As torture on women emerged as an issue of increasing concern in 1980s, the Parishad started a legal aid programme to assist the oppressed women and to offer law training to all women in general. It submitted for consideration of the government a set of recommendations for adoption in the Parliament. One such recommendation is about formation of a Uniform Family Code. In order to implement this and other legal reforms, the government formed a Law Reforms Committee. Bangladesh Mahila Parishad is now a big organisation with 21 primary committees in Dhaka city. It has about 75,000 registered members in 150 subdistricts of 60 districts of the country. Its activities are managed by a 41-member central

committee and a number of subcommittees responsible for conducting programmes in different areas within the mandate of the organisation.

# 2.3 Steps Towards Development

10. Steps Towards Development is working since 2003 for achieving its goal of gender equality, good governance and human rights. To reach this goal it has launched different programs at various working areas. From 2007, along with its core program Steps has started a program for increasing women's political participation as it recognized that without women's political participation, the gender equality goal cannot be changed. At the same time, increased women's political participation can help to change the power structure of country and can contribute to good governance. Through the program, 101 women fellows have been developed who have interest in working on increasing women's contribution in the political sphere. Along with these women fellows, at present more than 5000 women activists are working on women human rights issues in the working areas of Steps.

# 2.4 Organization for Women's Development in Bangladesh (OWDEB)

11. OWDEB is a women led socio-cultural development organization started on February 01, 1995.
The core concern of OWDEB's development strategy are effective participation of the women in decision making process that effect their life and livelihood, gender equality, social justice, cultural & economic growth with equality, sustainable and productive resource management and finally environmental protection and regeneration.

### 3. Categories of Violence

12. The Friends of the Chair (FoC) group of the United Nations Statistical Commission on the Indicators on Violence against Women defined different types of violence against women in the following way.

### 3.1. Physical Violence

13. It is an act that inflicts physical harm to the body of the women. Acts such as hitting, biting, kicking, slapping, pushing, shoving, grabbing, beating, chocking and assaults with different objects and weapons would all fall within this category.

#### 3.2. Sexual Violence

- 14. It is an act aimed to force the women to engage in sexual acts against her will (or without her consent). Sexual violence consists of a number of different acts such as forcing her to perform undesired sexual acts or performing any sexual activity that the female finds degrading and humiliating, attempted rape, rape and aggravated rape, being forced into sexual activity with someone else or for money or for goods.
- 15. However, in addition to the violence defined by the FoC, another sort by violence is also observed in all countries that may be termed as "mental violence" or "psychological violence". Though physical assault and sexual abuse are not done in this case, but this mental violence leads to mental disorder and sometimes it leads to severe consequence such as "suicide". These types of mental violence are; scolding, do not address to queries, threatening, stopping expenses for livelihood, abusing parents of the female counterpart etc.

#### 4. Indicators Relating to Violence against Women

16. The indicators suggested by FoC are very much relevant and such indicators will focus on the current status of violence and violence over time. These indicators will also be useful to prescribe appropriate policies for reducing violence against women (VAW) as it contains age, which may be used to focus on age specific programme. However, these indicators need to be reviewed and may be finalized after getting feedbacks from different countries. Comments on the indicators have been furnished in a separate section of this report.

### 5. Country Practice

# 5.1. Legal Framework

- 17. Government of Bangladesh is pursuing legal and protective measures for minimizing all sorts of violence against women for many years. Some of the legal measures are directly related to violence against women and some are indirectly related to violence against women but conducive for upholding the rights and privileges of women. The legal measures are as follows.
  - O The Acid Crime Prevention Act 2002
  - O The Acid Control Act 2002
  - O The Legal Aid Providing Act 2000
  - O The Suppression of Violence against Women and Children Act 2000
  - O The Family Court Ordinance 1985
  - O The Dowry Prohibition Act 1980
  - O The Muslim Marriages and Divorces Registration Act 1974
  - O The Dissolution of Muslim Marriage Act 1939
  - O The Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act 1933
  - O The Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929

- O Section 375 of the Penal Code 1860
- O The Code of Criminal Procedure 1898

#### 5.2. National and International Policies

- 18. A number of national and international policies are adopted by the government of Bangladesh for bringing the women in the mainstream of development and their empowerment. These are as follows.
  - O Policy for the Advancement of Women 2008 National Children Development Policy
    1994
  - O National Plan of Actions (15 Ministries)
  - O Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

    1979
  - O Beijing Platform for Action 1995
  - O Declaration to Elimination of Violence Against Women 1993
  - O Millennium Development Goals 2000
  - O National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction (NSAPR) 2008
  - O SAARC Declaration to Combat VAW 2002
  - O International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women 1999

### 5.3. Available Information Relating to VAW

- 19. Administrative Sources: Compilations of the Violence against Women Information from Department of Police
- 20. Unfortunately, Bangladesh does not have detailed data on VAW as suggested by the FoC. No national survey has so far been done to address the issue of VAW. However, some sporadic

attempts have been made by some NGOs and government agencies to collect data on VAW. The only source that is being used to get data on VAW is the department of police. They publish some data on the reported case of VAW. The available data can be seen from the table below.

Table 1. Cases of reported violence against women and children by Categories 2002-2007

Year		Women oppression							
	Rape	Acid	Seriously	Other	Total	oppression			
		throwing	injured						
Total	19639	1087	5400	56244	81870	3725			
2002	3702	214	1079	11346	17153	535			
2003	4118	207	1209	12853	18337	461			
2004	2865	191	663	8023	11643	532			
2005	2556	183	568	7561	10871	483			
2006	2453	145	1205	7421	10622	774			
2007	3345	147	676	9084	13244	940			

Source: Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Bangladesh (GOB)

- 21. The above table shows an overall scenario of violence against women over the years. As mentioned earlier these cases are only the reported cases and may not reflect the real situation of the VAW. Moreover, no age specific data are available from this source.
- 22. Compilations of the Violence against Women Information from National Dailies: The national dailies of Bangladesh publish report on the violence against women. A compilation of such reports from March-September 2009 is given in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Violence against Women Reports in National Dailies

Type of				2009	)		
violence	March	April	May	June	July	August	September
Physical	90	127	126	156	171	101	80
Sexual	39	60	47	37	64	44	50
Burn	14	11	13	19	22	20	17
Total	143	198	186	212	257	165	147

Source: National Dailies

- 23. The above report indicates that the violence fluctuates over the months. However, these cases may not represent the total cases, because only the serious and disclosed cases are reported in the national dailies.
- 24. One Stop Crisis Centre (OCC) of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs: Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA) has been operating OCC in 6(six) medical college hospitals in six administrative divisions of the country. These OCCs provide multidimensional services to the clients who suffered from violence. They are given medical treatment as well as legal support to file cases against the perpetrators of the incidence.
- 25. The table below shows the reported incidences and the legal measures taken by the OCC during January to October 2009.

Table 3. OCC clients up to October 2009

Category	Dhaka	Rajshahi	Chittagong	Sylhet	Khulna	Barisal	Total
	Medical	Medical	Medical	Medical	Medical	Medical	
	College	College	College	College	College	College	
	Hospital	Hospital	Hospital	Hospital	Hospital	Hospital	
Physical	1415	2404	551	645	932	459	6406
Assault							
Sexual	980	239	184	240	121	149	1913
Assault							
Burn	128	26	07	11	26	11	209
Total	2523	2669	742	896	1079	619	8528
No. of filed	1156	335	189	331	144	151	2306
cases							
No. of	148	18	05	00	01	04	176
judgment							
announced							
Cases where	29	09	02	00	00	00	40
penalty							
imposed							

Source: Multi-sectoral Programme on Violence against Women, MOWCA, 2008

- 26. Survey Findings: International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research in Bangladesh (ICDDR-
  - B) Survey on Domestic Violence against Women

27. Survey Methodology: ICDDR-B in collaboration with WHO conducted a qualitative research and population based survey on 3130 women of reproductive age (15-49) in urban and rural areas of Bangladesh to study the prevalence and consequence of domestic violence against women and their coping strategies. Data were collected from one urban and one rural site between June and November 2001. Qualitative data were collected through 18 key informant interviews, 11 focus group discussions (9 exclusively with men and 2 exclusively with women) and in depth interview of 23 rural and 15 urban women who experienced domestic violence. Quantitative information was collected using a multi-stage cross sectional population based survey covering Bangladeshi women aged 15 to 49 years, regardless of their marital status. First 42 clusters in rural and 39 clusters in the urban sites were randomly selected. The number of households to be interviewed within each cluster was proportionate to the size of the cluster. The households within each cluster were randomly selected. Within each selected household, one woman was interviewed. If there were more than one eligible woman in the household, the person to be interviewed was selected randomly.

Table 4. General Characteristics of the women in the survey

Characteristics	Urban	Rural
Age, mean	29 years	30 years
Unmarried	14%	13%
Ever-married	86%	87%
Never attended School	18%	37%
Primary education	18%	30%
Secondary education	33%	27%
Higher education	30%	7%
Earns and Income	19%	19%
Muslim (Religion)	95%	83%

Source: International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research in Bangladesh

28. Prevalence of Physical and Sexual Violence against Reproductive Aged Women: Prevalence of physical and sexual violence against reproductive aged women has been presented in Table 6. It is revealed from the table that 61% of rural and 60% of the urban women of reproductive age were suffered from physical or sexual violence at some point of their lives. The prevalence of physical and sexual violence in the rural and urban areas was almost similar.

Table 5. Prevalence of physical and sexual violence against reproductive aged women

Type of violence	% of woman suffered				
	Rural	Urban			
Physical violence	44	46			
Sexual violence	44	41			
Physical or sexual violence	60	61			
Physical and sexual violence	27	26			

Source: International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research in Bangladesh

29. Perpetrators of Physical Violence against Reproductive Aged Women: The persons by whom the women were victimized have been presented in Table 7. Surprisingly, the husbands were the main perpetrators in case of violence against women followed by female members of the family and other male members of the family.

Table 6. Perpetrators of Physical Violence against Reproductive Aged Women

Perpetrator of physical violence	Rural (%)	Urban (%)
Husband	84%	75%
In-laws	3%	2%
Father	3%	10%
Other male family members	7%	10%
Female family members	9%	17%
Non-relatives	9%	7%

Source: International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research in Bangladesh

30. Survey on Violence against Women in 6 (six) Upalizas (Sub district) by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs: Ministry of Women and Children Affairs has recently conducted a sample survey in 6 (six) upazilas (sub-district) of the country. This survey covered 3086 households

taking a minimum 500 households from each upazila. Any sort of violence experienced by women 10 years and over throughout her life was collected in the survey. The survey covered all the types of violence against women such as, mental, physical, sexual and burning/acid throwing.

31. The detailed result of this survey is yet to be published, but some provisional result is provided in Table 7.

Table 7. Age category of respondents for major types of violence against women, 2008

Type of violence	Age category of respondents (years)									
	Girls 10-18	Women 19-49	Women 50	Total						
			and above	respondents						
Psychological/ mental	138	2735	140	3013						
violence	(8.5)	(70.7)	(23.0)	(49.4)						
Physical violence	98	2185	91	2374						
	(6.0)	(56.5)	(14.9)	(38.9)						
Burn/acid violence	1	60	0	61						
	(0.1)	(1.5)	(0.0)	(1.0)						
Sexual abuse	89	566	13	669						
	(5.5)	(14.6)	(2.2)	(11.0)						
<b>Total victims</b>	241	3156	159	3555						
	(14.8)	(81.5)	(26.0)	(58.2)						
<b>Total respondents</b>	1624	3870	611	6105						

Note: The respondents are mutually inclusive and the figures in the parenthesis indicate corresponding Percentages.

Source: Multi-sectoral Programme on Violence against Women, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, 2008.

32. The above table indicates that as many as 58.2% of women 10 years and above have suffered from any sort of violence throughout their life. The highest 49.4% suffered from psychological/mental violence, 38.9% suffered from physical violence and 11.0% suffered from sexual abuse. The incidence of violence was the highest among the women aged 19-49 years (81.5%).

#### 6. Comments on the Methodology of Surveys on Violence against Women

- 33. The background document circulated by the UNSD mentioned that many countries in the world conducted surveys on VAW under the auspices of national and international agencies. Some countries conducted separate survey and some of the countries used a separate module on VAW in other traditional surveys such as Demographic and Health Survey (DHS). Therefore, the instrument used in different surveys also differs.
- 34. It may be noted that, some of these surveys were done by international agencies, and some were by the donor agencies. The participation of National Statistical Organization in these surveys was not very common. Therefore, the representativeness and coverage of these surveys is not known clearly. The results obtained from these surveys need further investigation.
- 35. As regards the WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women, which was conducted in collaboration with ICDDR, B, it may be noted that in case of Bangladesh the survey was conducted in two sites one is in the urban areas and the other is in the rural areas. The urban area was Dhaka city, the capital of Bangladesh and the rural area was Matlab, a sub-district of the country. Therefore, the findings of this survey are indicative only and may not be representative for the country as a whole. The rural area that was selected for the WHO study may not reflect the whole rural Bangladesh as "Matlab" is a developing area where International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases is working for many years and providing health services to the people.

# 6.1. Comments on the Suggested Indicators

36. The international indicators of the VAW pertaining to physical and sexual violence as recommended by FoC needs to be elaborated and extended in light of the country context and socio-economic and religious setting of the country. The violence specific comments are given below. These comments are based on Bangladesh experience.

# 6.2. Physical Violence

37.	In	case	of	physical	violence,	in	addition	to	the	events	defined	by	FoC,	the	following	items	can
	be	cons	ide	red.													

- O Burn/Acid throwing
- O Dropping from higher place
- O Smash the finger or hand
- O Needle the finger
- O Kick in the abdomen
- O Hit in the teeth
- O Murder (Femicide)
- 38. Severity in case of physical violence may be considered for those incidents, which cause injury to the victim, bleeding from any organ of the body may also be considered severe type of physical violence. The other incidents may be termed as "moderate".
- 39. The perpetrators may be classified in the following way:
  - O Husband/Lover/Boyfriend
  - O Father/Mother
  - O Fathers in Law/Mothers in Law
  - O Brother/ Sister
  - O Brothers in Law/Sister in Law

	0	Other Female Family Members
	0	Neighbor
	0	Relatives
	0	Stranger
	0	Teacher/tutor
	0	Employer
	0	Religions Leaders
	0	Members of Law Enforcing Agencies
40.	Freque	псу
	0	How many times during last 12 months (once, twice, many times)
	0	How many times throughout life (once, twice, many times)
41.	Charac	teristics of Victim
	0	Age
	0	Education
	0	Place of Residence
	0	Marital Status
	0	Economic Liberty
<b>6.</b> 3.	. Sexual	Violence
<b>1</b> 2.	The foll	owing items may be included.
	0	Eve teasing
	0	Take nude picture for extortion
	0	Pretended love for sexual relation
	0	Forced abortion

O Other Male Family Members

- 43. The severity of sexual violence may be defined in the following way: "Severe sexual violence is those violence which leads to abortion or miscarriage or gang rape by a number of miscreants and inserting sharp object to the vagina causing ulcer in the vagina."
- 44. Other sexual violence may be termed as "moderate".
- 45. The relationship to the perpetrator, classification of frequency, characteristics of victim may be same as physical violence.

### 6.4. Psychological Violence

- 46. The following categories may be considered for psychological violence.
  - O Non-response to queries
  - O Pressure for dowry
  - O Threat of separation
  - O To marry other women in addition to existing wife
  - O Do not pay attention to the children
  - O Expel from the house
  - O Disregard the opinion of the females in household decision making
  - O To compel to do hard work during pregnancy
  - O To rebuke for giving birth to female child
- 47. The relationship of perpetrators, classification of frequency, characteristics of victim may be the same as physical violence.
- 48. As regards severity of violence, in case of psychological violence, it is very difficult to determine. However, psychological violence which leads to mental disorder, sleeplessness, lack of appetite or any other physical weakness may be termed as severe type of psychological violence.

49. The other type of psychological violence may be termed as "moderate".							
6.5. Economic Violence							
50. In case of indicators of economic violence, the following items may be considered.							
O Not providing financial support for livelihood							
O Sale of household appliances							
O Do not support to children's education							
O Absconding from household by taking loan							
O To incur expenses beyond means and abuse wife for such expenditure							
51. Starvation, eviction from house, sale of property, high interest loan from moneylenders etc. may							
be classified as severe.							
52. The other type may be termed as "moderate".							
53. The relationship to the perpetrators, classification of frequency, characteristics of victim may be							
the same as physical violence.							
6.6. Harmful Practices							
54. Harmful practices that lead to violence are very important. In case of harmful practices the							
following indicators may be considered.							
O Early Marriage (Up to 18 years of age)							
O Forced Marriage							
O Marriage to a Deceased Husband's Brother							
O Misuse of Religious Practices							

O Stigmatize

O Ostracize
 Dowry
 Child Labour
 Use of Domestic Maid Servant
 Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (Up to 18 years of age)
 Pornography

# 7. Regional Co-operation on the Activities of the FOC by the United Nations

O Harmful Movies

- 55. So far, no such initiative was observed in the countries of the SAARC (South Asian Association of Regional Co-operation) regions by the United Nations. However, under the framework of SARRC which is a forum of inter-governmental co-operation of the South Asian countries made some steps for improvement of the situation of the women of SAARC member states.
- 56. In January 5 2002, convention on prevention and combating the trafficking in women and children for prostitution was adopted.
- 57. The latest SAARC summit of August 2-3, 2008 also gave emphasis on the development of women. The declaration of 15th SAARC summit under the heading "Women and Children" mentioned the following.
- 58. "The Heads of state or government noted with satisfaction the increased co-operation in the region towards achieving the all important goal of bringing women fully into the main stream of development, on the basis of gender equality.
- 59. They called for focused attention on women's economic empowerment and skill development, while addressing key health issues and violence against women. The leaders directed to work for a regional co-operation for the elimination of all forms of discrimination and abuse against

women in general and widows in particular and guarantee their rights to live in the society in a dignified manner".

### 8. Conclusion

60. The government of Bangladesh, the civil societies, the social activists and the organization working for upholding the sight and privileges of the women are very much aware about the issue of violence against women. It is worth mentioning that there exists dearth of data in this area. Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) could conduct a nation-wide survey on the issue subject to availability of fund from the government or from development partners. This survey can be done in two ways. One of the methods may be conducting of a separate survey on the VAW, which will be costly, and the other method may be to use a separate module in any household survey to be conducted by BBS in near future. BBS will explore the possibility of using a separate module on VAW in the upcoming Child and Mother Nutrition Survey (CMNS). It may also be included in the next round of Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), which is suggested by the UNECE. In the survey, in addition to age specific data, socio-economic characteristics of the victims and perpetrators may also be collected. The age classification will be made in light of the country context. This information is essential for policy intervention by the government. Technical and financial support from UNSD or other development partners will be needed to conduct such survey.

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