

Panel 1.b Women in rural areas, women's employment in informal sector and informal employment, an unpaid work

# Economic Empowerment of Women in Bangladesh

(based on Labour Force Surveys and  
Household Income & Expenditure Surveys)

Dipankar Roy, PhD

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

# Introduction

- In the developing countries like Bangladesh, the informal economy plays an important role in national economy through generating a big part of employment
- Female participation rate in labour force particularly in informal sector has been increasing drastically

# Background

- Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics has been conducting Labour Force Survey (LFS) since 1980
- We discuss here the issues on women in rural area, women's employment in informal sector and unpaid work using the last three rounds of LFS 2002-03, 2005-06, and 2010
- Besides we use three rounds of Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2000, 2005 and 2010

# Economic Activities of the Employed Population

Type of worker	Formal			Informal		
	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All
Employee	79.43	83.38	80.19	5.41	2.63	4.55
Employer	0.57	0.45	0.55	0.26	0.11	0.21
Self-employed in agriculture	1.65	0.70	1.47	22.31	12.66	19.31
Self-employed in non-agriculture	2.43	0.73	2.10	20.06	7.68	16.20
Unpaid family worker	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.58	65.22	27.59
Casual/irregular paid worker	5.19	7.39	5.61	3.22	1.76	2.76
Day labour in agriculture	3.80	2.16	3.48	19.45	3.24	14.41
Day labour in non-agriculture	4.25	4.08	4.22	15.77	3.82	12.05
Domestic worker in private household	2.68	1.11	2.38	2.94	2.88	2.92
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Bangladesh Informal Sector Survey 2010 (provisional)

# Labour Force at a glance

	2002-03	2005-06	2010
Labour Force 15+ (in million)	46.3	49.5	56.7
Male	36.0	37.3	39.5
Female	10.3	12.1	17.2
Employed population	44.3	47.4	54.1
Male	34.5	36.1	37.9
Female	9.8	11.3	16.2
Unemployed population	2.0	2.1	2.6
Male	1.5	1.2	1.6
Female	0.5	0.9	1.0
NOT in labour force	34.5	35.1	38.9
Male	5.2	5.7	8.4
Female	29.3	29.4	30.5
Unemployment rate (%)	4.32	4.24	4.59
Male	4.17	3.22	4.05
Female	4.85	7.44	5.81

# Female Labour Force

<b>Female labour force (million)</b>			
	2002-03	2005-06	2010
<b>Bangladesh</b>	10.3	12.1	17.2
Urban	2.7	2.8	4.0
Rural	7.6	9.3	13.2
<b>Female labour force participation rate (%)</b>			
	2002-03	2005-06	2010
<b>Bangladesh</b>	26.1	29.2	36.0
Urban	27.4	27.4	34.5
Rural	25.6	29.8	36.4

# Formal Sector vs. Informal Sector

<b>Employment by sector (million)</b>			
<b>Formal sector</b>			
	2002-03	2005-06	2010
Total	9.2	10.2	6.8
Male	7.3	8.6	5.5
Female	2.0	1.6	1.3
<b>Informal sector</b>			
	2002-03	2005-06	2010
Total	35.1	37.2	47.3
Male	27.2	27.5	32.4
Female	7.9	9.7	14.9

# Consumption Expenditure

Subgroup/subpopulation	HIES2000		HIES2005		HIES2010	
	Consumption expenditure (BDT)	Per capita consumption expenditure (BDT)	Consumption expenditure (BDT)	Per capita consumption expenditure (BDT)	Consumption expenditure (BDT)	Per capita consumption expenditure (BDT)
Rural	3879 (41)	747 (6)	5082 (54)	1037 (10)	9436 (82)	2083 (16)
Urban	7125 (169)	1390 (31)	7724 (158)	1640 (31)	15276 (293)	3468 (60)
Male-headed HH	4641 (51)	871 (9)	5968 (62)	1192 (11)	11346 (113)	2427 (22)
Female-headed HH	3471 (134)	950 (32)	4959 (234)	1439 (62)	8874 (222)	2616 (56)
Bangladesh (national)	4537 (47)	876 (8)	5864 (60)	1210 (11)	11003 (102)	2447 (21)
*Parentheses show standard errors						



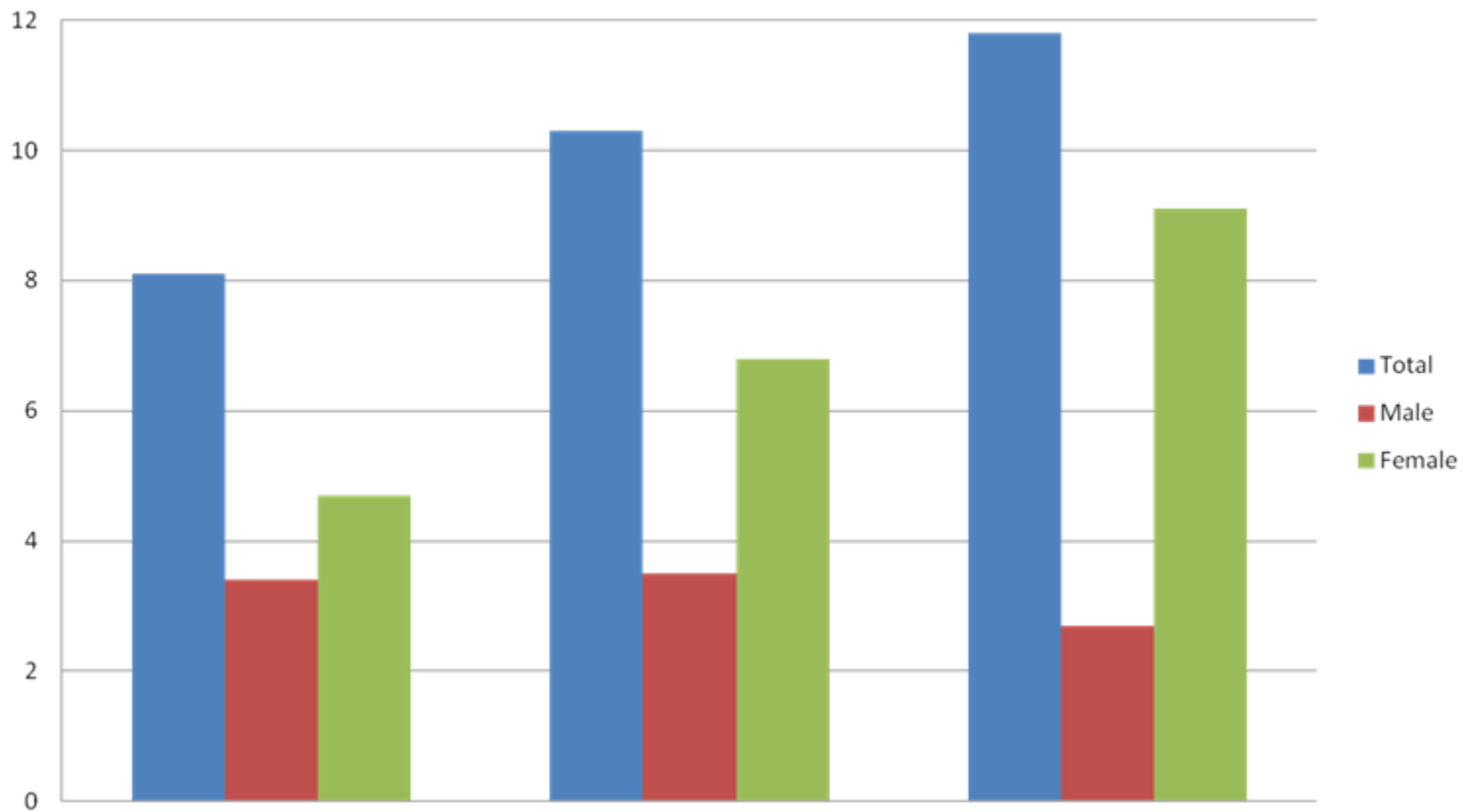
# Social Welfare

Subgroup/subpopulation	HIES2000			HIES2005			HIES2010		
	Mean consumption	Inequality	Social welfare	Mean consumption	Inequality	Social welfare	Mean consumption	Inequality	Social welfare
Rural	747	0.279	539	1037	0.283	744	2083	0.275	1510
Urban	1390	0.373	872	1640	0.362	1046	3468	0.338	2296
Male-headed HH	871	0.332	582	1192	0.326	803	2427	0.321	1648
Female-headed HH	950	0.357	611	1439	0.376	898	2616	0.324	1768
Bangladesh (national)	876	0.334	583	1210	0.331	809	2447	0.321	1662

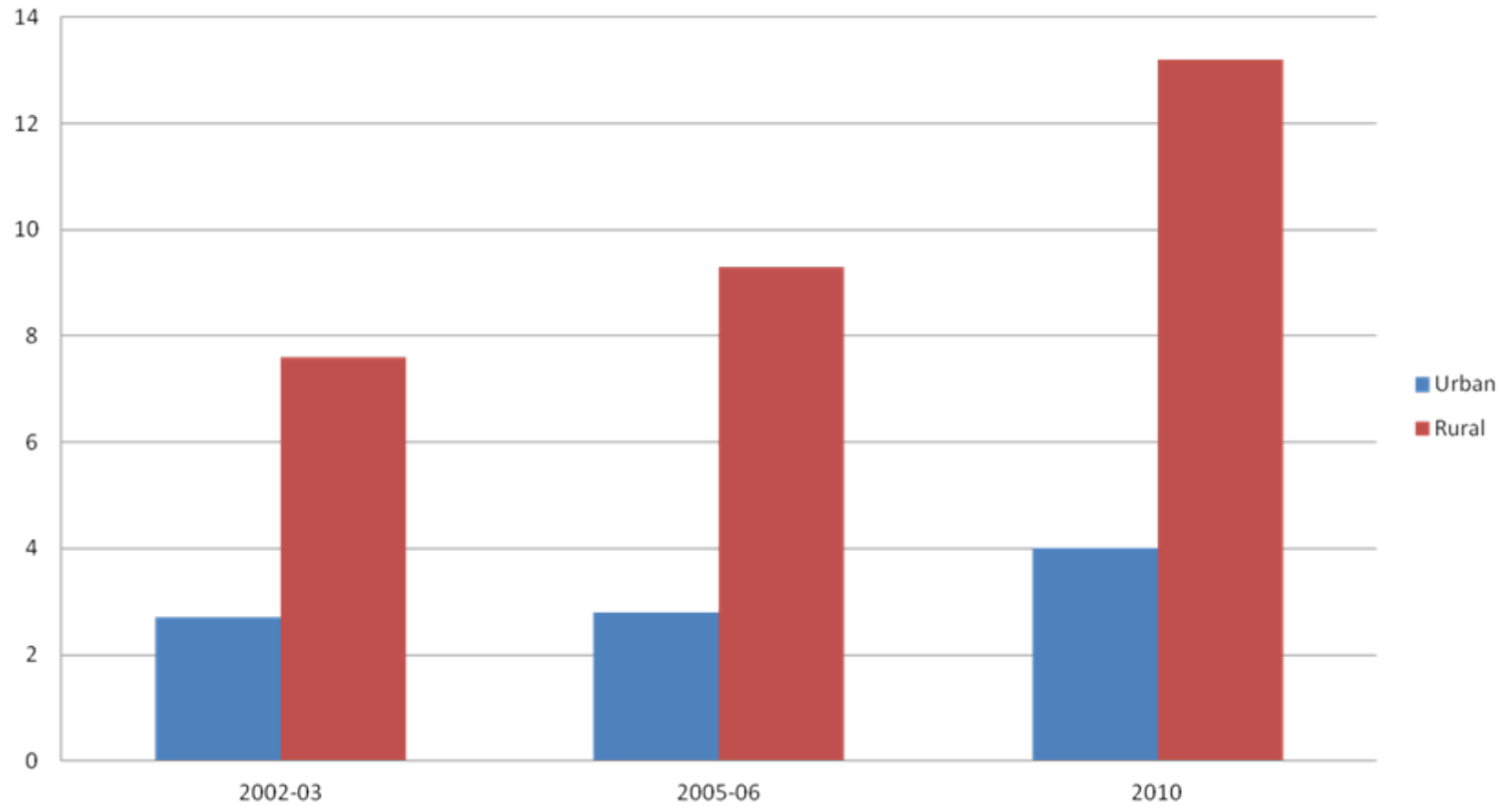
# Poverty

Subgroup/subpopulation	HIES2010							
	Poverty incidence	Poverty depth	Poverty severity	Poverty share of incidence	Poverty risk of incidence	Standard error of incidence	Population share	Income share
Rural	0.352	0.07	0.02	0.82	1.11	0.006	0.74	0.62
Urban	0.213	0.04	0.01	0.18	0.68	0.008	0.26	0.38
Male-headed HH	0.321	0.07	0.02	0.91	1.02	0.005	0.89	0.88
Female-headed HH	0.266	0.06	0.02	0.09	0.85	0.013	0.11	0.12
Bangladesh (national)	0.315	0.06	0.02	1.00	1.00	0.005	1.00	1.00

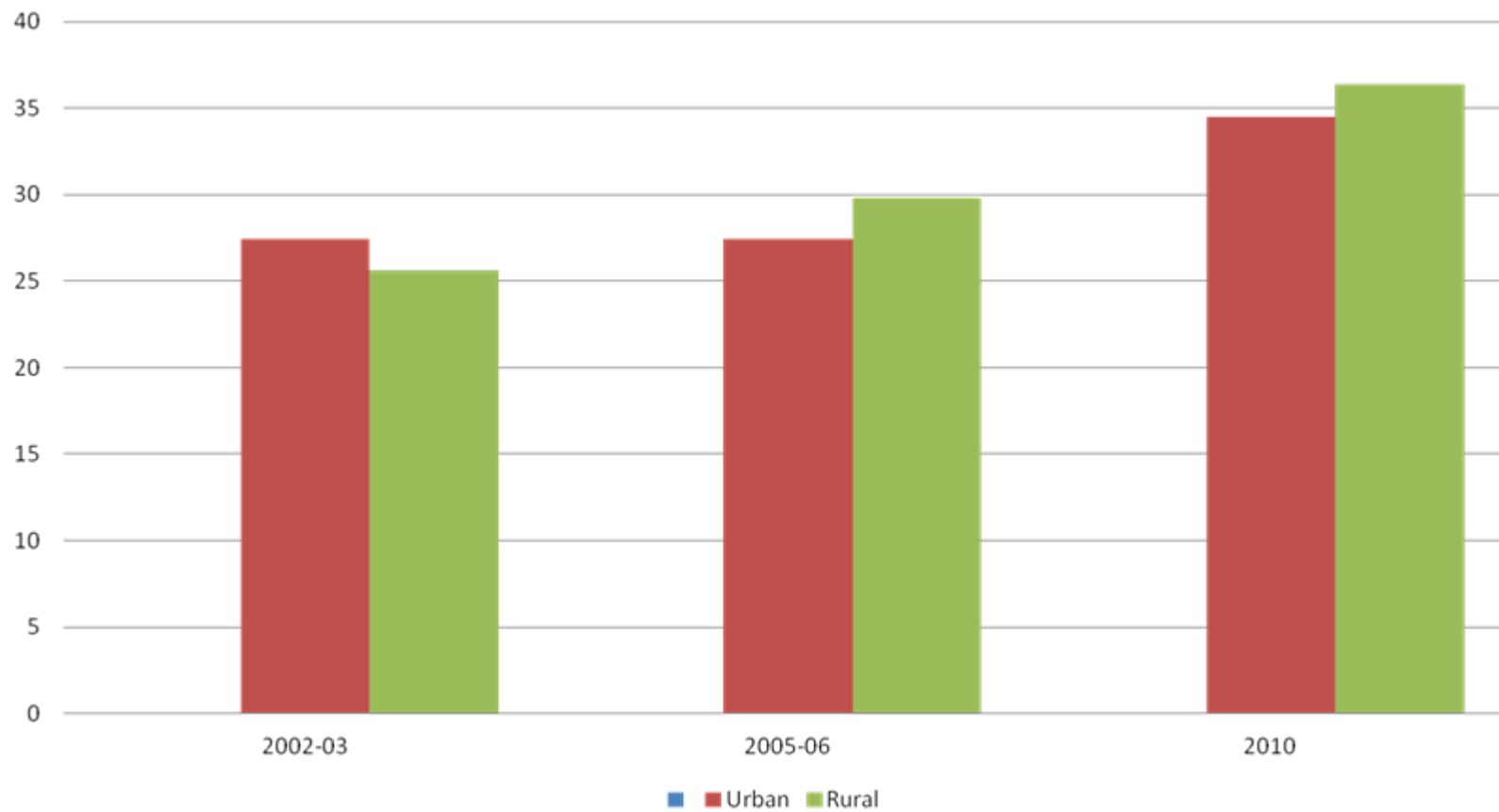
## Unpaid family worker (million)



## Female labour force (million)



## Female labour force participation rate (%)



- Labour Statistics
- Poverty and Inequality

# Conclusions (1)

- Female dominates in unpaid family work
- There has been an increasing trend in female labour force participation and rural dominates urban
- Informal sector absorbs a big part of female labour force
- During last five years unemployment rate for female has declined

# Conclusions (2)

- Female-headed household (FHH) experiences lower level of poverty with relatively lower poverty gaps
- FHH witnesses a relatively higher inequality in consumption
- FHH (among poor) experiences higher inequality both in income and consumption compared to MHH (among poor)
- FHH enjoys more welfare than MHH does