

শেখ হাসিনার বারতা
নারী-পুরুষ সমতা

“Women
Empowerment,
Protection & Uphold
the Rights of
Women and
Children”

Vision

Society with
gender equality
and child
protection.

Mission

Establishing the rights
of women and children
and women
empowerment through
mainstreaming in
development



Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) is the lead ministry in promoting gender equality, women empowerment, protection and uphold the rights of women and children. Department of Women Affairs, Jatiya Mohila Sangstha (National Women Organization), Joyeeta Foundation, Bangladesh Shishu Academy and the newly established Department of DNA Laboratory Management are conducting various activities for the development and protection of women and children under this ministry.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's groundbreaking attempts

The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman started the process of uplifting the status of women in 1972 by establishing equal rights of women and men in all spheres of life and made special provisions for protection and empowerment of women in the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh depicted in the Articles 17, 19, 27, 28, 29. He started women's development through the establishment of "Women Rehabilitation Board" in the year 1972 for the women who tortured and suffered during the War of Liberation. In course of time it has later upgraded to the Department of Women Affairs. Free primary education for boys and girls was his most visionary decision. Apart from many others initiatives, Children Act, 1974 was passed to ensure overall protection of the children and their rights way before the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1989.

Initiatives of the present government for the development of women and children

The gender vision of the 8th five year plan (2020-2025) is that of establishing "a country where men and women will have equal opportunities and rights and women will be recognized as equal contributors in economic, social and political development".

A. Political and Administrative Empowerment of Women

Political Empowerment

□ Hon'ble Prime Minister of the Government Sheikh Hasina MP is a woman and she elected as the Prime Minister for the four different periods. Speaker of the Parliament is also a woman since 2013. Deputy leader of the House of Parliament and Leader of the opposition are women too. Some chairmans and members of the Standing Committees in the Parliament are women.

□ The number of seats of the National Parliament has been increased from 300 to 350 and number of reserved seats for women has been increased from 45 to 50 in 2011. At present (February 2023) 20 women directly elected and 50 women occupied reserved seats as Member of the Parliament.

□ Provision has been created for 33 percent women's representation by 2020 in all committees including the central committee according to the Representation of the People Order, 1972 (amended 2013).

□ In Union Parishad (lowest tier of elected representative) three seats out of nine are reserved for women to be elected by direct vote. In addition to the three reserved seats, women can take part in direct elections for general seats. One third of the counsellor's seats in municipality areas are reserved for women candidates and women can also contest for direct election for the general seats.

□ The Upazilla Parishad Act, 2009 ensured one seat for women among the two elected vice chairpersons. Women are elected here also in reserved seats for the number of which is equal to one third of the regular seats.

Administrative Empowerment

□ Hon'ble Prime Minister has pledged to make 50:50 participation of women in the job sector by 2030.

- ❑ Government introduced using the name of mother to identify citizenship of every person by amending Citizenship Act.
- ❑ In 2010, it was made mandatory to add the mother's name to the father's name for identification of children at all levels of public life.
- ❑ At present (February 2023) there are 6 women justice in High Court Division, 10 women occupying the position of Secretary. A total of 10 women are working as Deputy Commissioners of 10 Districts who are in fact, chief of district level administration out of 64 districts and 145 women are working as Upazila Executive Officer, who are also the head of sub-district level administration.
- ❑ Bangladesh Army started recruiting female soldiers from 2013 and since then opportunities for women has opened in different wings of armed forces including in combat roles in the Navy, Airforce, BGB, Police and Ansar. The number of women in political leadership, including high-ranking government officials is steadily increasing.
- ❑ 60% of positions of teachers have been reserved for women in government primary schools. There is also special quota for different government jobs.

B. Other initiatives for Empowerment

i. Training

Department of Women Affairs, Jatiyo Mohila Sangstha and Joyeeta Foundation are providing different skill development training for empowering women through their own regular programmes and also through various projects in the different areas of the country. These are:

Department of Women Affairs

- ❑ Fashion design
- ❑ Beautification
- ❑ Vermicompost, mushroom and apiculture
- ❑ Shatranchi and handicrafts
- ❑ Crystal showpiece and candle making
- ❑ Food processing
- ❑ Baby care and housekeeping
- ❑ Computer servicing and repairing
- ❑ Mobile servicing and repairing
- ❑ Computer application program
- ❑ Motor driving for the poor and underprivileged women
- ❑ Packaging and binding
- ❑ Poultry
- ❑ Sewing and cutting
- ❑ Value chain management
- ❑ Financial management
- ❑ Human resource development
- ❑ Mushroom cultivation
- ❑ Shrimp and crab cultivation
- ❑ Dry fish production
- ❑ Nakshikatha
- ❑ Salinity induced crop cultivation
- ❑ Tailoring
- ❑ Block, batik and tie-dye
- ❑ Embroidery
- ❑ Housekeeping and caregiving
- ❑ Modern garments
- ❑ Computer office application
- ❑ Mushroom and organic farming
- ❑ Pastry and bakery production
- ❑ Dress making and tailoring
- ❑ Basic computer
- ❑ Horticulture and nursery
- ❑ Mobile phone servicing
- ❑ Industrial sewing machine operator and maintenance
- ❑ Inclusive agriculture and fish farming
- ❑ Consumer electronics
- ❑ Motor cycle service mechanics
- ❑ Electrician
- ❑ Candle making
- ❑ Show piece making
- ❑ Stitch craft
- ❑ Food processing
- ❑ Paper bag making
- ❑ Kitchen garden
- ❑ Sewing machine operation
- ❑ Computer literacy.

Jatiyo Mohila Sangstha

- ❑ Sewing and embroidery
- ❑ Block-batik and screen print
- ❑ Soap, candle and show piece making
- ❑ Binding and packaging
- ❑ Development of poultry
- ❑ Food processing and preservation
- ❑ Leather product making
- ❑ Nakshikatha and cutting
- ❑ Mobile servicing
- ❑ Beautification
- ❑ Catering
- ❑ Fashion design
- ❑ Business management and e-commerce
- ❑ Event management and interior design
- ❑ Different computer training courses.

Joyeeta Foundation

- ❑ Fashion design
- ❑ Beautification
- ❑ Day care training
- ❑ Driving training
- ❑ Quality control of goods and services
- ❑ Craftsmanship design development
- ❑ Salesmanship development course
- ❑ Development

and branding of products produced by entrepreneurs □ E-commerce training □ Food processing □ Food and beverage production □ Food court and kitchen management and storage and sales management.

ii. Digital Bangladesh/ Digital Literacy

□ 'Info Lady' or 'Tottho Apa' is a large project for women empowerment through digital literacy and provide service through information and communication technology. This programme is widespread to all over the country and aimed to create a 'Digital Bangladesh' across the country by empowering 12.5 million women through information and communication technology.

□ In Vulnerable Women Benefit Programme 10,40,000 number of beneficiaries have been selected through online system.

□ Under Mother and Child Benefit Programme allowance is being transferred to beneficiaries through G2P.

□ The National Helpline Center 109, the mobile apps 'JOY' and virtual monitoring database on VAWC to prevent violence against women and children are operational under the Multisectoral Program for Prevention of Violence against Women.

□ CCTV cameras have been installed and functional in 100 buses on four routes in and around Dhaka within the current year under a pilot project.

□ '64 district based women computer training project' is being provided information technology and computer training to the educated unemployed women to increase their skills in work place.

□ E-commerce platform laalsobuj.com and ejoyeeta.com has been created through the 'Tottho Apa' and 'Joyeeta Foundation' for making it easier to sales and display the products of grass-root level women entrepreneurs.

□ Ministry of Women and Children Affairs has successfully implemented several ICT literacy-based training program for the last couple of years dedicated for women. Some of them are - Self-reliant E-Training (SET) Programme for Women, Freelancing/outourcing training programs for women's skill development and empowerment, Union Level Training Program on Basic IT/ICT Literacy and Women's Livelihood Development for women in marginalized enclaves, My Internet is my Income program, Information and Technology Training Program for Women Empowerment, Women ICT Freelancer and Entrepreneur Development Programme.

iii. Awareness and Empowering Adolescent

A total of 8000 Adolescent Clubs are being implemented in Union and Pourashava level (grass root level). The clubs are creating awareness on health education, impact of child marriage, dowry, violence, SRHR etc. In addition, different projects are also being implemented in order to expand adolescent clubs to empower the adolescents to perform as 'Agents of Change' in the hard to reach areas.

C. Self Employment and Development of Entrepreneurship

□ Self employment and entrepreneurship development is the utmost priority of the government. Already there is a linkage mechanism for the products producer to showcasing their products in different sales centres of the government. Apart from that, to give it a momentum, Joyeeta Foundation has been established for branding the activities of women entrepreneurs.

□ Joyeeta Tower is being built in Dhanmondi, Dhaka to facilitate the women entrepreneurs to develop and marketing their products in home and abroad. Besides, three Joyeeta Towers will be established in 03 divisional cities also in order to organize women entrepreneurs in grass root level. A total number of 283 registered Women entrepreneurs and Women associations were given 20 (Twenty) crore Taka in the financial year 2021-22.

□ Bangladesh Bank established refinancing schemes and has encouraged all banks and financial institutions to finance women owned enterprises and to allow collateral free loans.

- ❑ SME sector women entrepreneurs are getting loans at 5 percent interest.
- ❑ A dedicated Women Entrepreneurs Desk has been established in Bangladesh Bank and all the banks and financial institutions have been directed to establish Women's Desk at head office and at branch levels.
- ❑ Bangladesh Police established a dedicated desk for women, child, old age and disable people of all police station Bangladesh.

Protection and Prevention

- ❑ 14 One-Stop Crisis Centres established in Public Medical College Hospitals in order to provide comprehensive services to the victim of violence and rape.
- ❑ 47 One-Stop Crisis Cells at District General Hospital and 20 One-Stop Crisis Cells at Upazila Health Complexes provides services to the women and children victims of violence.
- ❑ National Forensic DNA Profiling Laboratory in Dhaka and seven Divisional DNA Screening Laboratories are situated at district and divisions. Department of DNA Laboratory Management has been established.
- ❑ National Trauma Counseling Centre in Dhaka and 8 Regional Trauma Counseling Centres have been established for providing psychosocial counseling to the women and children.
- ❑ National Toll Free helpline **109** and Joy Mobile Apps provides 24 hours services to the women and children victims of violence.



Hon'ble State Minister Fazilatun Nessa Indira MP, of the MoWCA visits 24 hours National Helpline Center for Violence Against Woman and Children (**109**)

- ❑ One-Stop Crisis Cell and a Regional Trauma Counseling Centre along with 8 Mental Health Service Centres are established in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar for support to Rohingya women and children.
- ❑ Violence Against Women Prevention Cell in Dhaka and temporary shelter homes have been established at 6 divisional level. This Cell provides legal assistance and family settlement issues to the abused women through legal aid. The shelter home provides training and shelter to women in various trades, including free meal, clothing, medical care and primary education along with two children under 12 years of age.
- ❑ A Safe custody for Women, Children and Adolescent girls has been established to support them during the trial period.
- ❑ Women and Children Repression Prevention (Amendment) Act, 2020 has been incorporated in extreme penalty for rapist and compulsory of DNA test both for the accused and survivors. Other laws has also given sufficient attention to women's rights wherever relevant.
- ❑ A total of 101 Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal have been established.

- ❑ Various committees have also been formed from central level to local level to build a violence free and peaceful society such as: Central, National, Divisional, District, Upazila and Union level Committee for Preventing Violence Against Women and Children and to Prevent Child Marriage.



Hon'ble State Minister Fazilatun Nessa Indira, MP of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, as chief guest in the Launching of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence on 25 November 2022.

Women Friendly Job Environment

- ❑ Maternity leave increased from 3 months to 4 months in 2009 and from 4 months to 6 months eventually with full salary and benefits.
- ❑ Daycare facilities for the children of working women are being provided by establishing 122 Daycare centers. Hostel facilities are being provided for working women through working women hostels in Dhaka and divisional headquarters.
- ❑ For increasing working women's hostels and day care centres in district and divisional level, building constructions are in process.
- ❑ 9 seats in public transport are reserved for women, children and the disabled. Seperate bus and programme on safe transport for women also been taken on pilot basis.

Acts, Rules, Policies and Action Plans

A. Acts:

- ❑ Child Day Care Centre Act, 2021
- ❑ Women and Children Repression Prevention (Amendment) Act, 2020
- ❑ Dowry Prohibition Act, 2018
- ❑ Bangladesh Shishu Academy Act, 2018
- ❑ Mental Health Act, 2018
- ❑ Digital Security Act, 2018
- ❑ Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2017
- ❑ Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) Act, 2014
- ❑ Children Act, 2013
- ❑ Rights and Protection of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2013
- ❑ The Parents Maintenance Act, 2013
- ❑ The Pornography Control Act, 2012
- ❑ Human Trafficking (Deterrence and Suppression) Act, 2012
- ❑ Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010
- ❑ Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2009
- ❑ Mobile Court Act, 2009
- ❑ The Right to Information Act, 2009
- ❑ Acid Crime Prevention Act, 2002 (Amended 2010)
- ❑ Legal Aid Services Act, 2000
- ❑ Evidence (Amendment) Act, 2022



Hon'ble State Minister Fazilatun Nessa Indira MP, of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs visits Adolescent Club in Bagerhat District

B. Rules:

- Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) Rules 2018
- Child Marriage Restraint Rules 2018
- National Human Trafficking Suppression Agency Rules 2017
- Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Rules 2013

C. Action Plans:

- National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children 2018-2030
- National Action Plan to End Child Marriage 2018-2030
- National Plan of Action for Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking 2018-2022
- National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2019-2022

D. Policies:

- National Education Policy 2011
- National Women Development Policy 2011
- National Children Policy 2011
- National Occupational Health and Safety Policy 2013
- National Child Labour Elimination Policy 2010
- Legal Aid Services Policy 2014
- Domestic Worker Protection and Welfare Policy 2015
- Comprehensive Early Childhood Care and Development Policy 2013

Social Safety-net Programme

Vulnerable Women Benefit Programme (VWBP): Vulnerable Women Benefit Programme (VWBP) is the transformed name of Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) programme. Government is supporting to the most vulnerable women of Bangladesh with 30kg food grains in a month under the VWBP under social safety-net initiatives 1.4 million women are getting support as of now. They are also receiving life skill and income generating trainings. Government is providing normal rice in 323 Upazila and fortified rice in 170 upzila. The number of beneficiaries will be 15 lakh by 2025-2026. There are plans to expand the (VWB) Programme to rural as well as urban vulnerable group.

Mother and Child Benefit Programme: Mother and Child Benefit Programme is the combination and improved version of existing maternity allowance programme for rural poor women and lactating mother allowance programme for urban working women implemented by Department of Women Affairs (DWA) under Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA). This programme designed to improve the nutritional status and cognitive development of children from 0 to 4 years of age by introducing number of reforms instructed under National Social Security Strategy (NSSS).



Hon'ble State Minister Fazilatun Nessa Indira MP, of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs inaugurated CCTV installation at Public Transport for women safety

□ This programme start with a robust campaign where community received information on the programme objective, eligibility criteria along with information on the importance of nutrition in first 1000 days of children. This information empowers pregnant women to enroll to the Management Information System (MIS) developed for this programme. Beneficiaries can self-enroll on a rolling basis by visiting their Union Digital Centre with their national ID card, Ante-Natal Card and preferred account information. Once the beneficiaries' data is put in the MIS, it is linked to the Government to Person (G2P) payment system, which enables payments to be made on a monthly basis, effective immediately after verification and approval from authority. Under this programme (MCBP) 1.25 million women and children are getting support as of now.

□ By February 2022 Mother and Child Benefit Programme implemented in total 68 Upazilas, 42 Municipalities, 2 City Corporations and 6 Garments factory where nearly 200,000 beneficiaries enrolled and received monthly benefit from the programme. The Ministry aim to reach 6 million children under this programme by 2025-26 following the plan of NSSS 2nd phase (2021-26) action plan.

Combating Child Marriage

□ Government of Bangladesh has undertaken a number of initiatives to prevent the child marriage.

□ Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2017 has created the provisions of formation of child marriage prevention committees at national, district, upazila and union level. Child Marriage Restraint Rules 2018 and a National Action Plan to End Child Marriage 2018-2030 have also been formulated. Different projects are also working on it.

- ❑ The Mobile Court Act, 2009 empowers executive magistrates to prevent child marriage.
- ❑ National Helpline **109** is playing an effective role for preventing child marriage. Adolescent clubs are also playing role to prevent child marriage.



Hon'ble State Minister Fazilatun Nessa Indira MP, of the MoWCA received One Million pledges from Commitment to Action: Ending Child Marriage in Bangladesh

Activities for Children

- ❑ The head office, 64 district office and 6 Upazila branch offices of Bangladesh Shishu Academy are working for the development of children's literature, culture, science and entertainment and latent talents. Every year, training is being imparted in 14 creative subjects including music, dance, painting, recitation, acting and chess through shishu academy across the country.
- ❑ A total of 6 child development centers are running through Bangladesh Shishu Academy for the development and rehabilitation of ultra poor children. In each center, activities are being carried out for the development and rehabilitation of 750 destitute and underprivileged children by providing food, shelter, education, medical treatment and various cultural activities.
- ❑ Bangladesh Shishu Academy under its various activities for the welfare of poor children provides pre-primary education to the children aged 4 to 5+ for making them suitable to admit in primary schools through 01 child development and 01 pre-primary education center of 71 offices including head office, 64 districts and 06 upazila branches.

Rehabilitation of Street Children

Ministry of Women and Children Affairs established two shelter homes for rehabilitation of Street Children. Initiative has been adopted to develop a comprehensive project to rehabilitate the street and disadvantaged children throughout the country.

Projects and Programme (Fiscal year 2022-23)

A. Projects:

There are 17 development projects have been taken:

1. Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence Against Women (4th Phase)
2. Accelerating Protection for Children (APC)
3. Strengthening Gender Responsive Budgeting in Bangladesh
4. Income Generating Activities of Women at Upazila Level.
5. Establishment of Adolescent Clubs
6. National Resilience Programme
7. Investment Component of Vulnerable Group Development (ICVGD) 2nd Phase.
8. Enhancing Adaptive Communities of Coastal Communities, Especially Women, to Cope with Climate Induced Salinity' project.
9. District based Women Computer Training (64 District) project.
10. Info Apa: Women's Empowerment (2nd phase) through Information Communication Technology in order to building Digital Bangladesh.
11. Promotion of Women Entrepreneurs for Economic Empowerment at Grassroot Level (3rd Phase).

12. Early Learning Childhood Development ELCD (3rd Phase).
13. Joyeeta Foundation Capacity Building Project.
14. Establishment of Working Women Hostel and Training Centre at Sonaimuri, Kaliganj, Araihaajar and Mothbaria Upazila.
15. Establishment of 20 Child Day Care Centers.
16. Establishment of Working Women Hostel Cum Training Centre at Shibchar Upazila of Madaripur district.
17. Construction of Joyeeta Tower Project.

B. Programmes:

There are 32 different special programmes have been taken in order to development of Women and Children including their capacity building in the financial year 2022-2023.

The important programmes are like Different life skill development training and development of technical skills, Creation of job employment and entrepreneurship, Training on domestic chicken raising, Training on bio flock technology, fish farming, Improved variety cow rearing, agriculture based various training, Jute products production, Exportable bamboo, cane, jute, wood goods, High yield (around the year) vegetable production (Cumilla), mushroom cultivation, other different entrepreneurial development activities.

Awareness on health issues and education of children of 'Horijon community', Quality of life improvement in the 'Chitmahal' (enclave) and Coastal and Haor area, Entrepreneurship development programme in Natore, Livelihood improvement programme climate change affected area in Haor at Sunamgonj. Income and employment generating programme for disadvantaged women in Magura, Entrepreneurship development in Patuakhali district.

Construction of academic building for orphans and helpless girls, Sales center and 'Mohila Biponi Kendra (display center) in Kaligonj, Gazipur and Munshiganj district.

Awareness building programme for parents and drop out children, Swimming training programme in different areas, Physical and mental development of the children programme, Day care center for the children's of working women of the garment factories, Safe transportation management of women in public transport. Branding of MoWCA and campaign of different activities programme.

Gender Gap and Gender Budgeting:

Global Gender Gap: Bangladesh has been named as the most gender-equal country in South Asia for the eighth consecutive years in the Global Gender Gap Report 2022. Bangladesh closed 71.4% of its overall gender gap and obtained 71th position out of 146 countries globally (Global Gender Gap Report 2022- World Economic Forum)

Gender Responsive Budgeting: The present government has introduced Gender Responsive Budget since 2009 with the aim for the development of the status of women. A total of Tk 229,434 crore has been allocated to 44 ministries for gender issues and the development of women.

International Recognition for Women's Empowerment

Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina received number of awards in recognition of her effort and commitment on women development issues:

- Planet 50-50 Champion by UN Women and Agent of Change Award 2016 by Global Partnership Forum for her outstanding contributions to women empowerment.
- MDG award from United Nations for reducing child mortality in 2010.
- Gold Medal in 2011 by the Dauphin University, Paris for her contribution to the women empowerment.
- South South award in 2011 and 2013 from UN for her success in poverty alleviation and reduction in maternal mortality rate through ICT.
- Peace Award 2013 for the reduction of child mortality, polio eradication and UN Peacekeeping Mission.
- Memento of Tree of Peace from UNESCO for promotion of girls and women's education in 2014.
- Women in Parliaments Global Forum award for her significant contribution to the political empowerment of women at the regional level and the elimination of gender inequality in 2015.
- Champions of the Earth award in the Policy Leadership category from UNEP in 2015.



Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina received SDG Progress Award from the UN sponsored Sustainable Development Solutions Network in recognition of Bangladesh's achievement in **Sustainable Development Goals** on 21st September 2021

- Global Women's Leadership Award from Global Summit of Women 2018 in Sydney for her outstanding contribution to promote women rights and empowerment.
- SDG progress award 2021 for Bangladesh steady course in responding to the universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure peace and prosperity for all.

Observance of Important Days and Awards:

A. Observance of Important Days organized by MoWCA

- 8 March, International Women Day
- 17 March, Birthday of the Father of the Nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Children Day
- 8 August, Birthday of Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnessa Mujib
- 1st week of October, World Children Day and Children Rights week
- 18 October, Sheikh Russel Day
- 16 days of Activism Against Gender based Violence (25 November-10 December)
- 9 December, Begum Rokeya Day

B. Different National Award for Women offered from MoWCA:

- Begum Rokeya Award
- Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnessa Mujib Award
- Joyeeta Award



Hon'ble State Minister Fazilatun Nessa Indira MP, of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs rewarded Joyeeta Award at Barishal Division



Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina MP and State Minister Fazilatun Nessa Indra MP, of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs DristIBUTE the award of Begum Rokeya Award 2022

Special initiatives for Combating COVID 19

- ❑ Hon'ble Prime Minister has declared 20 thousand crore taka as incentive package in COVID- 19 situation. Joyeeta Foundation has disbursed 1,39,49,000 taka soft loan to 30 women entrepreneurs as incentive. In addition, under 1,500 crore taka incentive package of the Government, 50 crore taka soft loan has been allotted for Joyeeta Foundation in order to the development of entrepreneurs among marginalized community. In the mean time a total loan of 10 crore taka has been distributed to 99 women entrepreneurs.
- ❑ Ministry of Women and Children Affairs has taken many initiatives during COVID-19 pandemic like awareness programme in TV spots disseminated through TV channels. Promoting virtual meeting for adolescents at the adolescent clubs. Besides, Adolescents and their parents, friends and relatives are being made aware of the prevention of Covid-19 through the apps prepared for adolescents. Publicity of National Helpline and psychosocial counseling has put an impact.
- ❑ The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs distributed health protection items, cash, sewing machines and laptops to meritorious students during COVID period.
- ❑ All the outlets of the Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence Against Women i.e One-Stop Crisis Centres, One-Stop Crisis Cells, National Trauma Counseling Centres, Regional Trauma Counseling Centres, Helpline Centre, DNA laboratories have provided services during the lock down situations.
- ❑ Clinical Psychologists provide online and tele-counseling from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm through cell phones and email. 'Psychosocial Support for Corona Virus' face book page also opened during the pandemic and providing counseling from 27 April 2020.
- ❑ National Toll Free Helpline **109** is operating 24 hours during COVID-19 pandemic. Helpline **109** has been uploaded in the websites of Directorate General Health Services of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and www.corona.gov.bd. National Number **109** has also been linked with Health Window 16263 and can establish linkage directly between the callers and doctors working for COVID-19. The mother tele-health service has been launched to provide pregnant mothers, new borns and nutrition services.

Websites of Ministry of Women and Children Affairs

Ministry of Women and Children Affairs	: www.mowca.gov.bd
Department of Women Affairs	: www.dwa.gov.bd
Jatiyo Mahila Sangstha	: www.jms.gov.bd/bn
Bangladesh Shishu Academy	: www.shishuacademy.gov.bd
Joyeeta Foundation	: www.joyeeta.portal.gov.bd