

APARAJITA

Political Empowerment of Women

Bi Annual Report

December 14 - May 15



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

DEMOCRACYWATCH
Involving People. Building Democracy

Acronyms and Abbreviation

ACC	-	APARAJITA Coordination Committee
ADP	-	Annual Development Plan
A-NGO	-	Alliance NGO
CCMC	-	Community Clinic Management Committee
DW	-	Democracywatch
EWR	-	Elected Women Representative
KCE	-	Knowledge, Communication and Education
LG	-	Local Government
LGA	-	Local Government Association
LGI	-	Local Government Institute
NAV	-	Networks of Activist Volunteers
P-EWR	-	Potential Elected Women Representative
PIC	-	Project Implementation Committee
SDC	-	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SMC	-	School Management Committee
UDCC	-	Union Development Coordination Committee
UNUF	-	UpazilaNariUnnayan Forum
UP	-	Union Parishad
UZP	-	UpazilaParishad
VGd	-	Vulnerable Group Development
VGf	-	Vulnerable Group Feeding

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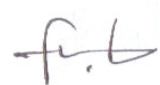
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Part 1: Summary (Snapshot), Strategic Review and Outlook

Implementing organization: Democracywatch		
Project name: APARAJITA- Political Empowerment of Women	Type of report: Bi-Annual Operational Report	
	Reporting period: December 2014 to May 2015	
Phase duration: December 2011 to November 2015	Receiver of the report: SDC and APARAJITA Coordination Committee (ACC)	
Main results achieved and implementation performance of the project: During the reporting period, it is observed that the EWRs have become ambitious to hold better positions in Upazila Parishad from their previous position in UPs and municipalities. In this regard, some of them have shown their capabilities in doing so but they have faced challenges regarding fill up the nomination papers and staff of DW assisted them accordingly. By this time they also have shown their ability to organize and conduct meeting as Chairs. Moreover, their capability to monitor the activities of service providing institutions as the chairs of standing committees has already been observed. In addition, they have also enhanced their skills to negotiate with their male counterpart including Chairmen and Secretaries in different issues. In this context, it is mentionable that a total of 122 EWRs contested for 57 reserve seats of Upazila Parishad in the last election of the Upazila Parishad; a total of 620 meetings of Standing Committee were held under the Chairmanship of EWRs; and many unresolved issues were raised very boldly in the monthly meetings of UP and Municipalities by them. Besides, 474 EWRs involved themselves in Project Implementation Committees and 474 EWRs in Ward Committees. From the above mentioned information it is clear that the leadership quality and decision making power of the EWRs have been increased within this time. Additionally, at present the EWRs and P-EWRs are working together on gender issues and gradually the P-EWRs are involving them into the Standing Committees and functional relations of EWRs with their male counterpart are being gradually increased at the LGI level. As part of their development activities 218 EWRs and 43 P-EWRs have visited the primary schools situated in their respective electoral areas and very prudently identified the problems pertaining to water and sanitation, environment of class rooms, and attendance of students that the schools under their inspection are going through. After their visit EWRs along with P-EWRs shared their findings with the Heads of the schools, SMC and concerning officers of the department of primary education and the mentioned problems solved accordingly. 276 EWRs visited 284 Community Clinics and provide their feedbacks to higher authority of concern department and the authority addressed those problems accordingly. A total of 38569 persons (M-23142 F-15427) became benefited from Union Digital Center in our working Union areas. During the reporting period 9 advocacy events have been organized at national and local level. Two Law Makers (MPs), 18 government officials, 21 members from civil society and 45 representatives from local government associations have participated in the events. Subsequently, the events were covered with due importance by different agencies including 23 newspapers (National-4, Local-14) and 5 Electronic media.		
As their own interest 595 persons including EWRs, P-EWRs, EMRs and community people (F-416 M-179) visited Gender Resource Center-GRC and received information on Gender, leadership and relevant Local government laws, circular, rule etc. In last reporting period a total 433 Persons visited the GRC for seeking information. In addition, one hundred and fifty-two contestants of reserve seats in Upazila Parishad Election have paid visit to the resource hub of Democracywatch to learn about the rules and regulations relating to electoral process and have been satisfied themselves by receiving the required information.		
Main steering implications for next period of interventions: During the election of Upazila Parishad EWRs faced a challenge regarding the TAX identification number. We think, the identified challenges will be an advocacy issue for next reporting period of the project. In order to strengthen the process of women empowerment, more emphasis will be given to local networking process of EWR with special focus to strengthen Upazila Nari Unnayan Forum, strengthening Women-headed Standing Committees, sharing good practices through vertical and horizontal learning process, gender mainstreaming, ensuring women participation in open Planning and Budgeting, involvement of EWRs in ensuring accountability to service mechanism and organizing national level advocacy. Strengthening outcome-based EWR, P-EWR and Volunteer-led monitoring process will also be another major intervention from the next period.		
Financial Information: Total Budget for the 4 th Year (December 2014 to November 2015) is BDT.23, 294,297 whereas APARAJITA Project of DW has managed to spend BDT10,010,062. The Budget Burn Rate is 43%.		
Date of report : 31 July 2015	Name and signature of responsible person Faisal M Rahman, Project Coordinator	

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Chapter 1: Introduction

The program titled 'APARAJITA: Political Empowerment of Women' was conceptualized and designed by an alliance of four implementing partner- Democracywatch (DW), Khan Foundation (KF), PRIP Trust (PRIP) and Steps Towards Development (Steps). In response to the requirement of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), these four Alliance NGOs developed a joint strategy, which would build on the combined strengths of the organizations and benefit from the resultant synergies. Subsequently, under the overall framework of APARAJITA, all four alliance NGOs (A-NGOs) have developed four separate projects in the area of local government and political empowerment of women. As an unique strategy four NGOs were contracted by SDC in November 2011 to implement their respective projects independently in 40 selected constituencies in 40 districts of Bangladesh (each A-NGO 10 districts) during the Phase-I commenced in December 2011.

Accordingly, DW started carrying out its APARAJITA project intervention in 10 selected constituencies in 10 districts with the overall goal "Rural and urban poor (especially women) in Bangladesh are getting information and enhanced, responsive and prompt local services". As the APARAJITA program DW has adopted the constituency-based approach for implementation, in the current Phase-I and working in 10 constituencies under the prescribed districts, i. e. Dinajpur, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Pabna, Sirajganj, Jessore, Narail, Magura, Mymensingh and Tangail in collaboration with the local administration and the civil society. Targeted activities have been carried out as per annual plan of operation. The representatives from UPs, Upazilas, Municipalities and civil society organizations have also been mobilized through capacity building and advocacy initiatives especially to draw their attention on pro-poor services to be provided by the local level service providers. The project is providing information service to EWSRs, P-EWSRs, LGI and local community through Gender Resource Center.

The bi-annual operational report is the document of the results of the reporting period from December 2014 to May 2015.

Update of the stakeholder analysis: DW has successfully completed three (03) and half years of APARAJITA operation through vigorous interactions with different stakeholders and has been able to adequately address the needs and interest of the primary target groups e.g. Elected Women Representatives (EWRs), potential women leaders and Networks of Activist Volunteers (NAV). In order to implement the planned activities smoothly, DW has interacted with relevant secondary stakeholders including Local Government Institutions (Union Parishad, Upazila Parishad and Municipality), Local Administrations, relevant Service Providers (GO-NGOs), Journalists and Community People.

Strategic link to the outcomes of SDC's Country strategy: According to Country Strategic Focus for Bangladesh on Local Governance, SDC in Bangladesh intends to facilitate decentralization and devolution of power to Local Government bodies by working directly with LGIs. Priority is given to enhance the role of the civil society in addressing the needs and rights of the poor and disadvantaged people. As APARAJITA project determined the expected 3 Outcomes, the focus of the project is very much in line with SDC's cooperation strategy including consideration of stakeholders, actors and local context.

Chapter 2: Outcomes Achieved for (Dec 2014 - May 2015)

From December 2014 to May 2015 the following achievements have been identified under the three Outcomes of the project:

Outcome # 1: Elected Women Representatives are accountable to their constituencies and together with potential future EWR and former EWR are collectively requiring gender and poverty sensitive practice in local service delivery and assuming leadership roles.

After completing the budgetary events and the activities regarding coaching and mentoring the following results have been achieved under outcome-1:

1.1: Increase in number of women contesting reserved seats (% with more than 3 women contesting). % Increase in women contesting general seats, % women elected in reserved seats seeking election to general seats.

- During the reporting period a total of 122 contestants submitted nomination paper for 57 reserve seats of the Upazila Parishad Election. After submitting the nomination paper 13 candidates withdrawn their candidature and 17 persons are elected without contest. Finally ninety two candidates have selected as the legal candidates of upcoming election for 40 clusters which supposed to hold on 15 June '15. Final result will be shown in next report (Detail information is attached in following Chart)

Status of Contestants and Withdrawn from APARAJITA Project of DW in Upazila Election '15 (Reserve Seat)

SL	Name of the Upazilla	Name of District	Number of Cluster	Nomination Paper Submitted	Number of withdrawn	Finally Contestants	Number of Elected/ Selected
1	Sadar	Magura	5	12	1	11	0
2	Sreepur		3	7	1	6	0
3	Lohagara	Narail	4	4	0	0	4
4	Sadar		5	7	1	2	4
5	Sadar	Nilphamari	5	13	0	13	0
6	Sadar	Mymensingh	5	9	1	8	0
7	Birampur	Dinajpur	3	7	0	7	0
8	Ghoraghat		2	4	0	4	0
9	Hakimpur		1	2	0	2	0
10	Nawabganj		3	3	0	0	3
11	Sadar	Jessore	5	13	8	0	5
12	Ullahpara	Sirajgonj	5	12	0	11	1
13	Sadar	Tangail	4	11	1	10	0
14	Sadar	Pabna	4	7	0	7	0
15	Gangachara	Rangpur	3	11	0	11	0
Total			57	122	13	92	17

Note: Total Cluster is 57, Nomination Paper Submitted 122, Total Withdrawn 13, Total Selected/Elected 17 and Finally Contestants 92

- Out of 474 EWRs from UP349 have shown their interest for contesting in reserve seat, 81 for general seat and 8 EWRs are interested for the position of Chairman. 36 EWRs are not interest for participating in next election
- Two EWRs have shown their interest for the position of Upazila Chairman, 27 for Upazila vice chairman, 1 for the position of Mayor, 4 for counselor of general seat and 25 are interested for counselor of reserve seat.
- A total of 440 EWRs have involved with the political party. Out of them 304 with Awami league, 116 with BNP, 2 with Jamat, 1 with workers party, 16 with Jatiya party and 1 with Communist Party.
- 114 EWRs are holding the designated position of political party at local level.

1.2:% increase in number of women in senior positions (e.g. Mayor, UZP/UP chair, Chair of Standing Committees, LGA, PIC, lead role in village court/shalish) (cf baseline)

- A total of 17 EWRs from UPs have been elected without contest as the member of UpazilaParishad.
- Sixty nine EWRs from UP are enlisted as the panel chairman
- As the acting chairman 5 EWRs have performed their responsibilities in absence of UP chairman
- UP implemented 1814 development schemes and 391 EWRs implemented 607 schemes as the chair of project implementation committee.
- UP conducted 2325 village court and 1224 EWRs were present during the court session along with EWRs involved in 467 sessions as the member of jury board.
- 2771 Shalish held during this period. 1358 EWRs were present in the shalish where 452 EWRs were involved in decision making process
- A total of 474 EWRs included as the chair of standing committees where 9 EWRs in Finance and establishment, 4 in Accounts and Audit, 133 in Education, Health and Family planning, 103 in Agriculture, Fisheries and livestock, 5 in Tax assessment, 18 in Tree plantation, environment protection and others, 44 in water and Sanitation, 5 in Rural infrastructure development, maintenance and others, 2 in Law and order, 129 in family conflict mitigation and woman and children welfare, 21 in Birth and death registration, 27 in Social welfare and disaster management, 11 in Culture and sports
- 371 persons from P-EWRs are involved as the member of standing committee
- A total of 87 P-EWRs have included in leadership position of various local organization such as: Club, Samity, Citizen Group etc.
- From NAVs 119 persons co-opted as the member of standing committee
- A total of 71 NAV have included in leadership position of various local organization such as: Club, Samity, Citizen Group etc.

1.3:% Rural and urban poor experience being listened to and responded to as citizens by their EWR and value EWR's effectiveness in improving local service provision (cf baseline)

- 526 EWRs involved as the member of Community Clinic Management Committee
- 276 EWRs visited 284 Community Clinics and provide their feedback to higher authority of concern department and the authority addressed those problems accordingly.

- 218 EWRs involved in school management committee and they visited 361 primary schools with pro-active role
- 176 EWRs involved for monitoring agriculture extension, livestock and fisheries services and 96 EWRs visited 94 plots, farms and ponds.
- A total of 99 EWRs actively involved in the committee of Union Disaster Management Committee.

1.4: Recognition/value of vertical and horizontal EWR networks (all party) by number/type of participation in policy debate on women issues (invited spaces). Frequency, type of inclusion of women and women's issues on APPGs

- 296 EWRs participated in 233 meeting of Union Development Coordination Committee-UDCC
- 277 EWRs attended in ward meeting and 225 EWRs attended in previous six months.
- 234 EWRs are newly involved in Bangladesh Union Parishad Forum (BUPF). In previous six months 39 EWRs were involved with BUPF.
- 44 EWRs are newly involved in Municipality Association of Bangladesh (MAB). In previous six months 15 EWRs were involved with MAB.
- It has been conducted 30 meeting of Upazila Nari Unnayan Forum by the active participation of 490 EWRs. In previous year 12 meeting held and 127 EWRs attended in the meeting.
- 10 EWRs participated in a national event regarding policy debate on women issues and they raised their voice accordingly.

1.5: Actions taken by EWR to promote pro poor & gender sensitive service provision (% over baseline and % success rate)

- **A total of 132504 persons received safety net support without any hassle in the project area**
- 275 EWRs attended in the preparatory meeting of open budget
- UP distributed 26734 VGD cards and 2999 VGD cards distributed by EWRs for poor and disadvantage people but in previous period UP distributed 22967 VGD cards and EWRs managed only 2756 VGD cards for their beneficiaries
- UP distributed 150531 VGF cards and 8155 VGF cards distributed by EWRs for poor and disadvantage people
- UP distributed 69437 cards for old ages people and 13024 cards distributed by EWRs for elder people but in previous year UP distributed 66467 cards and EWRs managed only 7311 cards for their beneficiaries
- UP confirmed the employment for 42427 people from "40 days program for employment". From this program EWRs confirmed the employment of 456 persons
- During the reporting period UP has distributed 29178 cards for widows out of which 7,088 cards has been distributed by EWRs; whereas, in previous year, UP distributed 26,599 cards for widows and from it only 4,521 cards were issued by EWRs for the same.
- 200 women got benefit under gender allocation schemes.

1.6: EWR more respected, assertive and influential (% opinions of baseline)

- A Total of 89 women leader from APARAJITA (EWR/P-EWR) have been nominated for the award of "JOYEETA" and 25 of them are awarded.

- 123 EWRs and P-EWRs got position in the political parties at Union, Upazila and District level.
- 426 EWRs protected 947 women from violence against women. They protected 456 women from violence in previous year
- 199 EWRs stopped 138 early marriages in their locality but they stopped 103 early marriages in previous year
- 87 EWRs protected 13 incident of child trafficking

Outcome # 2: Provisions (legal framework including ordinance & directives), political commitment and public opinion conducive for inclusion and participation of EWR (and potential EWR) and for promoting gender sensitive service provision at community level

2.1: Inclusion of proposals for reform in revised ordinances and directives (%uptake, % concessions)

- The news of APARAJITA intervention has published in different 23 newspapers (National-4, Local-14) and 5 Electronic media
- One advocacy event organized at National level
- Two participants from government, seven from civil society and 10 participants from local government associations participated in the national seminar who are in a position to influence in policy formulation
- 8 Advocacy events organized at local level. 18 participants from government, 21 from civil society and 45 participants from local government associations participated in the local advocacy events. We think the participants are in a position to influence in policy implementation at local level.

2.3: % increase in public opinion towards greater inclusion/participation of EWRs in facilitating service provision in the prioritized thematic area

- 526 EWRs involved as the member of Community Clinic Management Committee
- 276 EWRs visited 284 Community Clinics and provide their feedback to higher authority of concern department and previous six months 124 EWRs visited 179 community Clinics.
- 218 EWRs involved in school management committee and they visited 361 primary schools with pro-active role
- 176 EWRs involved for monitoring agriculture extension, livestock and fisheries services and 96 EWRs visited 94 plots, farms and ponds.

Outcome # 3: Information, technical and advisory support for EWR valued, used and continuing.

3.1: Year wise incremental % increase in requests for information and advice from KCE Hub by EWR

- As their own interest 595 persons including EWRs, P-EWRs, EMRs and community people (F-416 M-179) visited Gender Resource Center-GRC and received information on Gender, leadership and relevant Local government laws, circular, rule etc. In last reporting period a total 433 Persons visited the GRC for seeking information
- A total of 38569 persons (M-23142 F-15427) became benefited from Union Digital Center.
- As their own interest 93 EWRs received service from government hotline on UP and LGSP-II (Hot line # 16256).

3.2: Increasing % EWR value the local NGOs and volunteers supporting role

- 262 EWRs maintained diaries regularly out of total 537. Rest of the EWRs maintain same with the assistance of NGO's staff and NAVs.

Others outcomes:

- Bill boards on citizen charter established at Ups by the motivation of 141 EWRs.
- During the reporting period 521 EWRs exchanged their views and experience among EWRs of APARAJITA and non APARAJITA intervention area, EMRs, ANGOS Staff and government officials through exchange visit.
- 523 WERs, 693 P-EWRs and 841 member of NAV observe the International Women day and "RokeyaDibos" in different 10 intervention areas of APARAJITA

Chapter 3:

Outputs & Performance according to the Annual Plan of operation

According to the Annual plan of operation **Democracywatch** has performed to achieve outputs as follow:

Output 1.1.11:

- As per target 15 exchange visits conducted in APARAJITA area and EWRs, EMRs, ANGOS staff and government officials participated in the program.

Output 1.1.14:

- It has published and distributed 750 diaries among EWRs, EMRs and government officials as per plan.

Output 1.3.6:

- Out of planned 1404 number of ward assemblies it has conducted 147 ward assemblies by the participation of EWRs. Rest of the events will be held in next month (June'15) as per the decision of Union Parishads.

Output 1.3.7:

- It has conducted 30 numbers of quarterly coordination meeting with EWRs and service provider as per annual plan

Output 1.4.6:

- It has conducted 620 meetings of standing committee with the support of APARAJITA against the targeted number of 628 meetings.
- It has conducted 620 Monitoring visits against the targeted number of 628 meetings.

Output 1.5.6:

- Against the planned 10 meeting a total of 8 advocacy meeting held at district level among EWRs, BUPF, MAB and UZPAB.

Output 2.1.4: It has organized one policy advocacy seminar and 77 participants (M-47, F-30) from stakeholders participated in this seminar.

Output 2.1.5:

- It has conducted a study on constraints of political empowerment of women as per annual plan.

Output 2.2.7:

- As per plan it has organized a television talk show on "Women participation in City Corporation Election'15" by the participation of two numbers of women representative and one representative from civil society.

Output 3.2.2:

- As per plan refresher training has been conducted and 39 staffs of APARAJITA project (M-30 and F-9) participated there.

Output 4.8.2:

- As per plan 11 persons (F-8 and M-3) from APARAJITA including EWRs and project staff participated in an exposure visit in India for observing women led approaches.

Output at a glance December 2014 to May 2015

APO Code	Name of Activity	Target	Achievement	Detail number of Participants					
		(Number of event)	(Number of event)	Female	Male	Poor	Disadvantaged	Total	Number of Govt. Officers
b.1.1.1.1	Conduct exchange visits (year 4)	15	15	504	162	231	50	15	12
b.1.1.1.4	Printing & distribution of diaries to EWR & PEWR	750	750	0	0	0	0	750	0
b.1.3.6	Assist EWR to conduct ward shava	1404	147	4173	6270	2537	835	147	9
b.1.3.7	Conduct quarterly development coordination meeting among EWR & service providers	30	30	285	93	47	21	30	46
b.1.4.6	Assist in formation & activation of 4 standing committees in each LGUs per year	628	620	980	2158	731	659	620	103
	Assist in monitoring visits of standing committees	628	620	862	1636	438	298	620	264
b.1.5.6	Conduct district level meeting with EWR & LGAs	10	8	293	72	46	32	8	9
b.2.1.4	Conduct policy advocacy seminars	0	1	30	47	0	0	1	0
b.2.1.5	Conduct studies & researches	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
b.2.2.7	Promote debate and encourage airing of multiple perspectives (media, workshops, internet) on LG issues	1	1	3	1	0	0	1	0
b.3.2.2	2 days refresher training	1	1	9	30	0	0	1	0

Chapter 4: Finances and Management

The project expenditure was BDT 10,010,062- during last reporting period (December'14 to May'15) approved budget of BDT 23,294,297 (December'14 to November'15)

Expenditures of the period (Annual Budget)	Annual Budget	Actual	in %
Project implementation	14,211,796	6,587,898	46%
Project activities	6,316,100	2,154,724	34%
Overhead cost	2,766,401	1,267,440	46%
Total	23,294,297	10,010,062	43%
SDC's Contribution	22,388,217	9,557,020	43%
Democracywatch contribution	906,080	453,042	50%

(Please see in details in the Annex: Form 1(A) Key figures spend vs. planned)

Chapter 5: Lessons Learnt

Rapport Building with Stakeholders-Rapport building with elected male representatives, government officials of local administration, civil society members, and community people has created space and opportunity for accomplishing planned activities.

Performance of EWRs-It was evident that EWRs are more trust worthy than Elected EMRs in relation with service delivery. Community people shared that EWRs are less involved with irregularities and corruption, therefore, they always depend on EWRs for getting services from the LGIs

Yard meeting- Before open budget session the event helps to identify the actual needs and demands of community.

Challenges:

- Due to political unrest (Hartal and blocked), it was a little bit inconvenient to implement planned interventions as per Annual Plan of Operation (APO).
- Inadequate existing format for gender budget preparation.
- Inadequate information for expenditure tracking and monitoring
- Data and information limitation for developing advocacy strategy
- In some instances, Government Officials could not be reached even after repeated communication with EWRs.
- Delay in collecting Clearance Certificates from Deputy Commissioner's Offices was a challenge for timely disbursement of funds, which affected field operations to a great extent. NGO Bureau Clearance depends on Clearance from DC Office.

Recommendation

- It should need to explore alternative sources of funding to support EWRs in order to serve the community people.

Opportunities:

- APARAJITA Platform at National/District /Upazila Level.
- More Elected Chairperson and Member in general seat from EWRs (UP/UZP/Municipality)
- More leaders in leadership positions in Political Parties
- Pro-poor and disadvantage centered services.
- Gender sensitive planning and budgeting at LG.

Operational Report (Part 2, Annexes)**Finance and Management****Budget Variance note**

B.1.1.6: Not scheduled as per APO during this reporting period

B.1.1.7: Not scheduled as per APO during this reporting period

B.1.1.13: Due to Upazilla Parishad election, EWRs along with field staff who were participants of this visit were busy .So that the exposure visit was shifted from May to June.

B.1.3.6: Ward sabha are generally schedule between April-May which are fixed by UP. During this period in APARAJITA working area, DW assist to organize 147 ward sabhas with the collaboration of UP. We will try to meet as much of targeted ward sabha as possible.

B.1.4.6: As per APO, eight Standing committee activation and eight monitoring visit was not completed yet due to the political unrest. We will organize the activities in the remaining period.

B.2.2.6: As per APO Not scheduled during this reporting period

B.3.1.6: The event cost will spent throughout the year

B.3.1.8: The research study was completed in the end of May 2015 due to the publication was shifted in the remaining period.

B.3.2.1: This event has been planned for 3rd quarter

B.3.3.1: In APO this activity has been planned in 3rd quarter

B.4.7.4: In last APO it was decided that this event cost will be shared in creating central Data Bank within next 6 months.

Process Documentation and project Planning: It was planned in the last APO to share this cost for process documentation and Project planning which will be spent in next six months

B.4.8.3: Not scheduled during this reporting period forwarded to next six months

Annex-1: Success Cases

A) EWR ensures allowance to disadvantaged women

Sharala Roy, a poor woman of Shahabad UP, NarailSadar. She was married to Nripan Roy, a farmer of the next village. The family was so poor that both of them could not manage food and other needs to their child. Their hardship and sufferings continued as Nripan committed suicide leaving three members in inhuman conditions. It was very tough time for Sharala and was wondering how to manage her family. The only resource was her husband's nominal cultivable lands. Finding no other ways of income, she started to cultivate those lands. Since her husband demise, she has been doing the same task for their survival. The family could not come out of the poverty cycle and even could not educate their child.

Sharala, now is 55 years old widow who entitles **window allowance**. Several times she went to local chairman, male and female members for an allowance card. But nobody helped her. No chair and members paid any attention to her plights. In the meantime 5 widows of her village and 196 of the UP got the card. Some young lady got the widow allowance but still Sharala was waiting even at the age of 55. She found her lucky finding Sandha Rani, a popular EWR who stood by the poor women. Sandha managed a widow allowance card as one widow died in the village.



নড়াইল ও জেলা পর্যায়ে স্থানীয় সরকার এসোসিয়েশন এর সাথে মতবিনিময় সভায় বক্তব্য রাখছেন সন্ধ্যা রানী বিশ্বাস

But it has not been easy to manage as there was pressure to give the card to other widows from different members. She personally recommended Sarala's name for the card. Sandha also put pressure on the chair to issue the card and became successful. From the next month she will be entitled to get monthly widow allowance. In a reaction, Sandha Rani said, **local chairs only priority is voter and vote banks. They hardly give priority to people needs and do not have the mentality to serve people. We have been selected to serve people who need support most not to elude them but to ensure their rights.'**

Rokeya makes Community Clinic Functional

Since the beginning of the project, it has been training EWR's for enhancing their capacity on monitoring service delivery within in a view to ensuring better delivery service for poor and marginalized people. There were cases where members of UP's Standing Committee (SC) contributed identifying and brining solutions to the delivery



service of community clinics. Members also successfully influenced service providers and

Mss. Rokeya Begum visits Union Health and Family Planning Centre as member of concern Standing Committee

concern person to take effective measures for ensuring better service. **For instance, service delivery situation improved and concern person at the clinic became more regular after a EWR officially lodged complain to local administration related to irregularity. Currently the Sub-Assistant Community Medical Officer (SACMO) is attending office regularly and providing better service delivery to the community people.**

As part of regular monitoring visit the Standing Committee on Education, Health and Family Planning visited Morneya UP Community Clinic at GongachoraUpazilla,Rangpur. During the visit, committee found the (center in-charge/head) Sub-Assistant Community Medical Officer (SACMO) absent at her workplace during the office time. Under this circumstance, one of the EWRs Rokeya Begum recorded the situation as video. The footage was evidence that clinic was close and no persons were responsible to provide the health support during the office hour. After the monitoring visit, members of SC placed this issue before the UP Chairman who assured raising the concern before Upazila Officer for Health and Family planning. But there was progress to this solution. However, Rokeya again decided to raise this concern in a high profile meeting at Upazila. Later this vocal EWR displayed the video footage as evidence in the Union Development Coordination Meeting (UDDC) where the UNO and Upazilla Family Planning Officer were present. Being aware on this issue from the meeting, UNO ordered the Family Planning Officer to prepare a show-cause letter against the SAMCO. Later the concern SACMO was officially charged and had to answer all irregularities, personal negligence.

Currently, service delivery situation has improved in the clinic as SACMO is attending the office regularly and providing service to the community people. Several community people have ensured that the service quality of this center has improved significantly and people getting service more regularly.

Annex: 2 Chart of results framework including comparison and analysis between planned and achieved

Name of the Districts: Jessore, Narail, Magura, Nilphamari, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Pabna, Sirajgonj, Tangail and Mymensingh

Number of UP covered: 157

Number of Upazila covered: 15

Number of Municipality covered: 12

SL	Information	Baseline in 2012	2013	2014	2015-1st half
	1. Elected Women representatives are accountable to their constituencies and together with potential future EWR and former EWR are collectively requiring gender and poverty sensitive practice in local service delivery and assuming leadership roles.			0	0
1.1	Increase in number of women contesting reserved seats (% with more than 3 women contesting). % Increase in women contesting general seats, % women elected in reserved seats seeking election to general seats.				
	# of EWRs were contested in last Upazila election in 15 Upazila			51	
	# of EWRs participated for Upazila Chairman				
	# of PEWRs participated for Upazila Chairman				
	# of EWRs participated in general seat for Upazila Vice Chairman				
	# of PEWRs participated in general seat for Upazila Vice Chairman				
	# of EWRs participated in reserved seat for Upazila Vice Chairman				
	# of PEWRs participated in reserved seat for Upazila Vice Chairman				
	# of EWRs elected in last Upazila election				
	# of EWRs elected as Upazila Chairman				
	# of PEWRs elected as Upazila Chairman				
	# of EWRs elected in general seat as Upazila Vice Chairman				
	# of PEWRs elected in general seat as Upazila Vice Chairman				
	# of EWRs participated in reserved seat as Upazila Vice Chairman				
	# of PEWRs participated in reserved seat as Upazila Vice Chairman				
	# of EWRs were contested in Upazila Parishad for women reserved seats				109
	# of EWRs elected in Upazila Parishad for women reserved seats				17

	# of EWRs showed their interest to participate in next UP Election	350			474
	UP General seat	25			81
	UP Reserved Seat	17			349
	UP Chairman	36			8
	Not interested	9			36
	Upazila Chairman	16			2
	Upazila Vice Chairman				27
	Not interested				0
	Poura City Mayor	0			1
	Poura General seats for Counselor	33			4
	Pourashova Counselor Reserved				25
	# of EWRs have political attachment	144	0	0	440
	Awami League				304
	Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)				116
	Jamate-Islami				2
	Bangladesh Workers Party				1
	Bangladesh Communist Party				1
	Jatiyo Party				16
	# of EWRs are holding party position at local level				114
1.2	% increase in number of women in senior positions (e.g. Mayor, UZP/UP chair, Chair of Standing Committees, LGA, PIC, lead role in village court/shalish) (cf baseline)			0	0
	# of EWRs are enlisted in the panel Chairmen as of May 2015			69	69
	# of EWRs are working as Acting Chairmen			0	5
	# of Project implemented by the UP in the reporting period	0	1308	2936	1814
	# of Project implemented by EWR		300	646	607
	# of EWRs engaged in PIC as chair		300	646	391
	# of Village Court conducted during this Year	9045	2045	2636	2325
	# of Village Courts where EWRs were present		835	948	1224
	# of EWRs were in jury board of Village Courts	2854	830	499	467

	# of Salish held during this Year	4372	2899	5533	2771
	# of EWRs were involved in decision making process of Shalish			246	452
	# of Salish held during this Year where EWRs were present				1358
	# of Standing Committees where EWRs are in chair position				474
	Finance and Establishment				7
	Accounts and Audit				3
	Education, Health and Family Planning	64	81	105	133
	Agriculture, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and other development Activities	7	85	103	70
	Tax Assessment and Collection				6
	Tree Plantation, Environment Protection and others				18
	Water and Sanitation				51
	Rural Infrastructure development, maintenance and others				5
	Law and Order				2
	Family Conflict Mitigation and Women and Children Welfare				124
	Birth and Death Registration				21
	Social Welfare and Disaster Management				25
	Culture and Sports				9
	# of PEWRs involved/co-opted in the Standing Committees	0	167	371	371
	# of PEWRs are in leadership position		35	87	87
	# of NAV co opted in the different Standing Committees	0	33	119	119
	# of NAV are in leadership position		21	71	71
1.3	%Rural and urban poor experience being listened to and responded to as citizens by their EWR and value EWR's effectiveness in improving local service provision(cf baseline)				
	# of EWRs are involved in Community Clinic Management Committee (CCMC)	0	474	490	526
	# of Community Clinic Monitored/visited by EWRs	0	471	477	284
	# of EWRs visited Community Clinic	0	471	431	276
	# of EWRs are involved in School Management Committee (SMC).	41	48	323	218
	# of Schools Monitored/visited by EWRs	46	301	421	361
	# of EWRs visited schools and played proactive roles	0	301	421	200

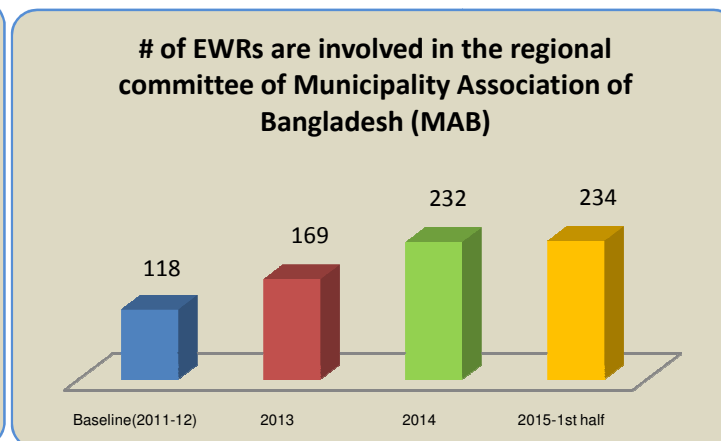
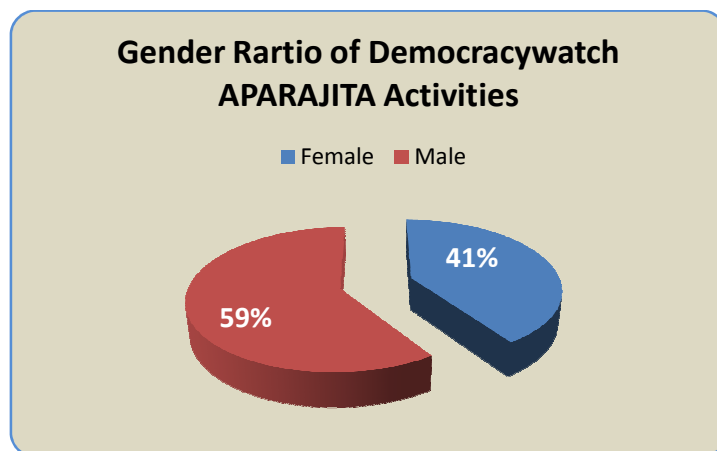
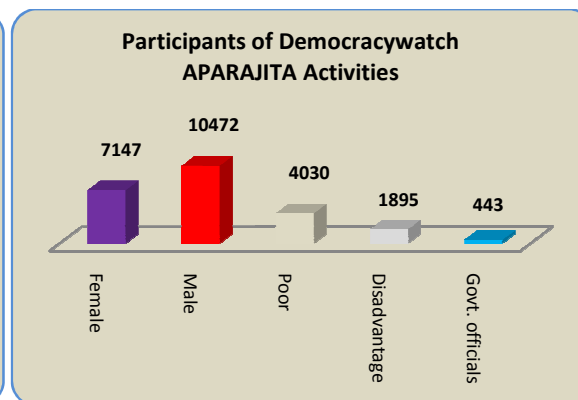
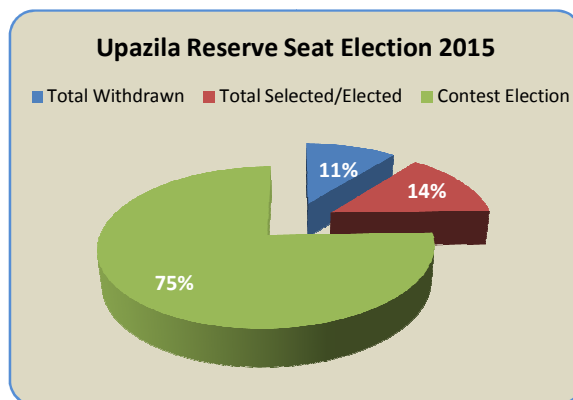
	# of EWRs are involved in Agriculture extension services.	7	85	103	176
	# of Agriculture plot/livestock/fisheries/poultry Monitored/visited by EWRs		42	55	94
	# of EWRs visited agriculture plot/livestock/fisheries and poultry firms				96
	# of EWRs are involved in Disaster Management.				99
1.4	Recognition/value of vertical and horizontal EWR networks (all party) by number/type of participation in policy debate on women issues (invited spaces). Frequency, type of inclusion of women and women's issues on APPGs				
	# of EWRs attended Union Development Coordination Committee (UDCC) meetings		256	358	296
	# of UDCC meeting held		319	485	233
	# of EWRs attended ward meeting				277
	# of EWRs are involved in Bangladesh Union Parishad Forum (BUPF)	118	169	232	234
	# of EWRs are involved in the regional committee of Municipality Association of Bangladesh (MAB)	19	30	44	44
	Quarterly meeting were conducted institutionalization of the Networks "UpazilaNariUnnayan Forum"				110
1.5	Actions taken by EWR to promote pro poor & gender sensitive service provision (% over baseline and % success rate)				
	Beneficiaries received Safety-net support (VGD, VGF, widow allowance, elderly allowance and other benefits) without any hassle in the project working areas				132504
	# of EWRs attended the Open Budget Preparation meeting				322
	# of Distribution of VGD Cards				30785
	# of Distribution of VGD Cards by EWR				6408
	# of EWRs assisted in distribution of VGD Cards in this reporting period	256	368	415	429
	# of Distribution of VGF Cards	1532	2756	5693	514950
	# of Distribution of VGF Cards by EWRs	23572 4	34563 9	639826	76570
	# of EWRs assisted in distribution of VGF Cards in this reporting period	296	312	352	364
	# of people received old ages allowance	49564	66467	103767	81513
	# of EWRs assisted for getting old age allowance	311	352	346	463
	# of poor people employed in "40 days program for employment"		38213	38457	42427

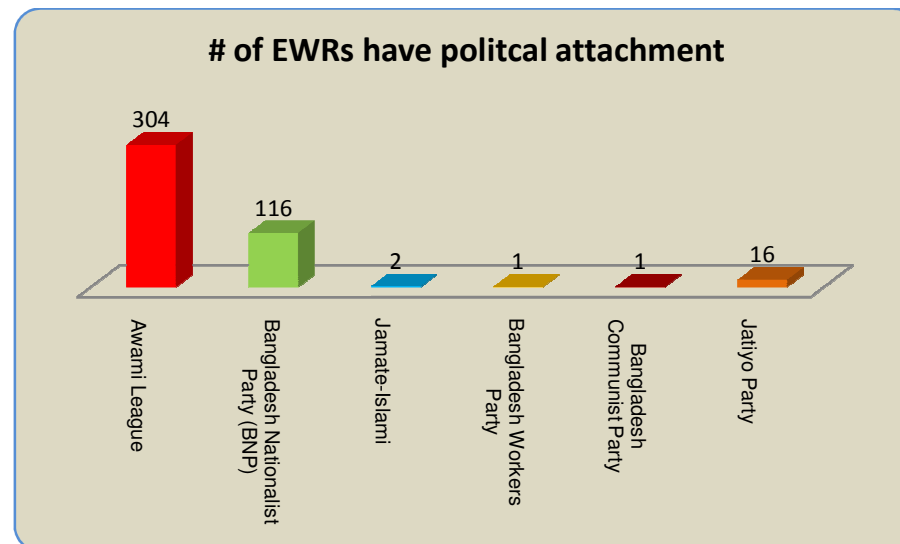
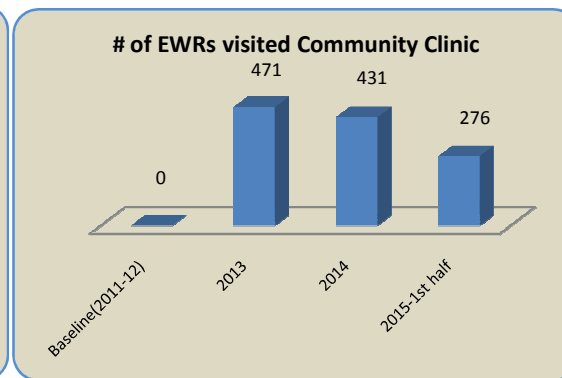
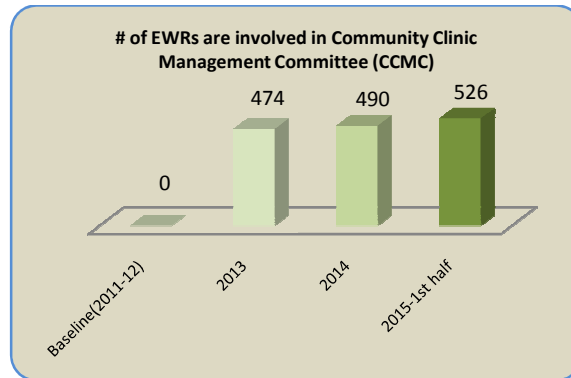
	# of EWRs provide assists of poor people to get employment through “40-day employment project		468	356	456
	# of Widow received allowance	24265	25248	32499	36290
	# of Widow received allowance by EWRs		12365	18521	7761
	# of EWRs assisted in Widow allowance	3254	412	435	431
	Amount allocated for gender allocation	0	40557 50	133697 059	16019036
	# of women got benefit under gender allocation scheme		134	354	275
	Expenditure of gender allocation 2013-2014	0			1794000
	Budget of Gender allocation 2014-2015	0			2831292
1.6	EWR more respected, assertive and influential (% opinions cf baseline)				
	# of Women from the APARAJITA project working Areas are nominated for Joyeeta Award December 2013				89
	# of Women from the APARAJITA project working Areas awarded for Joyeeta Award				25
	# of EWRs got position in the political parties at Union, Upazila and District level				123
	# of EWRs were involved in protecting social injust issues/incidents	180	456	583	42
	Violence against Women		94	103	426
	Early Marriage				199
	Child Trafficking				87
	Minority issues				105
	Others				17
	# of social issues/unjust incidents were protected by EWRs				
	Violence against Women				947
	Early Marriage				138
	Child Trafficking				13
	Minority issues				20
	Others				27
2. Provisions (legal framework including ordinance & directives) , political commitment and public opinion conducive for inclusion and participation of EWR (and potential EWR) and for promoting gender sensitive service provision at community level					

2.1	Inclusion of proposals for reform in revised ordinances and directives (% uptake, % concessions)				
	# of news published in different Printing and Electronic Media				23
	# of National events organized				1
	# of Persons who can influence in policy formulation attended in national advocacy events				
	Govt Official				8
	Law makers				2
	Civil Society				240
	Member of Local Govt Associations				10
	# of Local level events organized				137
	# of Persons who can influence in policy formulation attended in national advocacy events				
	Govt Official				188
	Law makers				3
	Civil Society				9222
	Member of Local Govt Associations				31
2.2	National Framework for LG Capacity Building highlights all new and special provisions for gender sensitive planning & budgeting				
2.3	% increase in public opinion towards greater inclusion/participation of EWRs in facilitating service provision in the prioritized thematic area				
	# of EWRs are involved in Community Clinic Management Committee (CCMC)				329
	# of EWRs are involved in School Management Committee (SMC).				204
	# of EWRs are involved in Agriculture extension services.				224
	# of Schools Monitored by PEWRs				87
	# of CC monitored by PEWR				77
3. Information, technical and advisory support for EWR valued, used and continuing					
3.1	Year wise incremental % increase in requests for information and advice from KCE Hub by EWR				0
	# of Persons (Female and Male) received gender and local government related information from Gender Resource Centre/local offices				595
	# of Persons (Female and Male) became benefited through getting information from Information				38569

	Centers				
3.2	Increasing % EWR value the local NGOs and volunteers supporting role				0
	# of EWRs maintained diaries		193	286	262
					0
	Additional Information				0
	Case study on services				0
	Case study on women network				0
	# of EWRs motivated UPs to established bill boards on Citizen Charter in UPs		151	238	141
	# of Exchange visit during this reporting period				12
	# of issue based events out of planned activites were organized				12
	# of Standing Committee Meeting held at UP		483	1168	1285
	# of Standing Committee Meeting held at UP under the Chairmanship of EWRs		471	508	475
	# of Standing Committee Meeting held at Municipality				64
	# of Standing Committee Meeting held at Municipality under the Chairmanship of EWRs				22
	# of EWRs were involved in protecting social injust issues/incidents				
	Sexual Harassment				259
	Gambling				49
	Drug Addiction				175
	Signature on blank paper				52
	Others				0

Annex-3: Graphs





Annex: 4 Photo Gallery of APARAJITA

Activity Picture



Agriculture Fair at Birampur, Dinajpur



Coordination Meeting at Jessore



Meeting with Local Government Association, Magura



International Women's Day at Mymensingh



Exchange Visit , Narail



Exchange Visit , Nilphamari



Exchange Visit , Sirajgonj



Ward shave at Gharinda UP, Tangail



International Women's Day at Jessore



Meeting with Local Government Association, Mymensingh



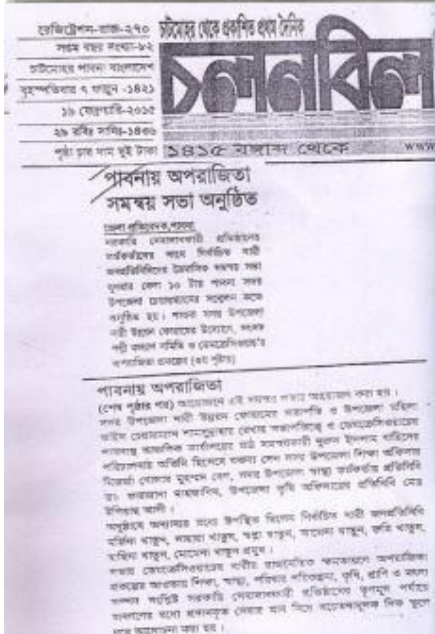
Meeting with Local Government Association, Narail



Coordination meeting with service provider, Nilphamari

Annex- 5: Paper Clippings

Paper Clippings



পাবনায় অপরাজিতা একল্পে নারী জনপ্রতিনিধিদের সমন্বয় সভা

নিম্নের প্রতিিনিধি : সরকারি সেবাদানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের কর্মকর্তাদের সাথে নির্বাচিত নারী জনপ্রতিনিধিদের ত্রৈমাসিক সমন্বয় সভা বুধবার বেলা ১০ টায় পাবনা সদর উপজেলা চেয়ারম্যানের সম্মেলন কক্ষে অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। পাবনা সদর উপজেলা নারী উন্নয়ন ফোরামের উদ্যোগে, সংসদ পটী কল্যাণ সমিতি ও ডেমক্রেসিওয়ার্সের অপরাজিতা প্রকল্পের আয়োজনে এই সমন্বয় সভার আয়োজন করা হয়। সদর উপজেলা নারী উন্নয়ন ফোরামের সভাপতি ও উপজেলা মহিলা ভাইস চেয়ারম্যান শাহসুন্নাহার খেবর সভাপতিত্বে ও ডেমক্রেসিওয়ার্সের পাবনা হু আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়ের মঠ সমন্বয়কারী নূরুল ইসলাম নাহিদে পরিচালনার অধিবেশনে বক্তব্য দেন সদর উপজেলা শিখা অফিসার মিজবী গোলাম মুহম্মদ বেগ, সদর উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য কর্মকর্তার প্রতিিনিধি ডাঃ ফারজানা মুহম্মদাবিন, উপজেলা কৃষি অফিসারের প্রতিিনিধি মোঃ ইগিয়াছ আলী। অনুষ্ঠানে অধ্যাপক মহো

উপস্থিত ছিলেন নির্বাচিত নারী জনপ্রতিনিধি মজিগা খাতুন, নাহার খাতুন, স্বপ্না খাতুন, আমেনা খাতুন, রুবি খাতুন, হুমিলা খাতুন, মোমেনা খাতুন প্রমূখ। সভায় ডেমক্রেসিওয়ার্সের নারী রাজনৈতিক ক্ষমতায়নে অপরাজিতা প্রকল্পের আওতায় শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, পরিবার পরিকল্পনা, কৃষি, গ্রানি ও মৎস্য সম্পদ সৃষ্টি সরঞ্জাম সেবাদানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের তুলনামূলক সেবার মান নিয়ে সর্তেনামূলক দিক তুলে ধরে আলোচনা করা হয়।

দৈনিক ইচ্ছাশক্তি

অপরাজিতার ত্রৈমাসিক সমন্বয় সভা অনুষ্ঠিত

টাক রিপোর্টার সদর উপজেলা নারী উন্নয়ন ফোরামের আয়োজনে ও অপরাজিতা প্রকল্পের সহযোগিতায় সরকারি সেবাদানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের কর্মকর্তাদের সাথে ত্রৈমাসিক সমন্বয় সভা গতকাল সকালে উপজেলা পরিষদের শেখ শহিদুল্লাহ হাট মিলনায়তনে অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। উপজেলা মহিলা ভাইস চেয়ারম্যান ও নারী উন্নয়ন ফোরামের সভাপতি শাহসুন্নাহার খেবর সভাপতিত্বে অনুষ্ঠিত সভায় বক্তব্য দেন সদর উপজেলা শিখা কর্মকর্তা মিজবী গোলাম মোহাম্মদ বেগ, উপজেলা কৃষি কর্মকর্তা কে জে আব্দুল আজিজ ও উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য কর্মকর্তার প্রতিিনিধি ডাঃ ফারজানা মুহম্মদাবিন, উপজেলা কৃষি কর্মকর্তা কে জে আব্দুল আজিজ ও উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য কর্মকর্তার প্রতিিনিধি ডাঃ ফারজানা মুহম্মদাবিন, উপজেলা কৃষি অফিসারের প্রতিিনিধি মোঃ ইগিয়াছ আলী। অনুষ্ঠানে অধ্যাপক মহো

মানুষের কল্যাণে

সমাজের কথা

যশোর □ শুক্রবার □ ২৭ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০১৫ □ ১৫ ফাল্গুন ১৪২১

নড়াইলে ইউপি মেম্বার সন্ধ্যা আমাদের কথা কেউ শুনতে চায় না

নড়াইল প্রতিিনিধি : আমাদের কথা কেউ শুনতে চায় না। সমাজিকের কথা বলা হলেও কার্যত তা কাগজ-কলমে। সর্বোচ্চ বৈধতা, ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের নারী সদস্যরা অবিরত বলছেন। যেখানে পুরুষ বাড়তি সুবিধা পেয়ে থাকে। ফলে সংরক্ষণ করতে না পেরে তথ্যগুলো বলশেপ নড়াইলের শাহাবান ইউনিয়নের নারী মেম্বার সন্ধ্যা হান্নী।

বুধবার বে-সরকারী উন্নয়ন সংস্থা নবায়ন ও ডেমক্রেসিওয়ার্স অপরাজিতার যৌথ আয়োজনে জেলা পর্যায়ে নির্বাচিত নারী প্রতিিনিধি ও স্থানীয় সরকার এনসিসিপেশনে সাথে সমন্বয়সভা নড়াইল সদরে ডেমক্রেসিওয়ার্সের হলকমে অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। সদর উপজেলা মহিলা ভাইস চেয়ারম্যান স্বপ্না সেনের সভাপতিত্বে প্রাঙ্গণ অতিথি ছিলেন অতিরিক্ত জেলা প্রশাসক (সার্বিক) আমিন কুয়ার বিশ্বাস। স্বাগত বক্তব্য রাখেন নবায়নের নির্বাহী পরিচালক সাহিদুল ইসলাম তুহিন।

অন্যদিকের অর্থ বক্তব্য রাখেন ডেমক্রেসিওয়ার্সের সভাপতি এনামুল কবীর টুটু, সোয়াগত উপজেলা ভাইস চেয়ারম্যান সাহেদা বেগম, জেলা নারী ফোরামের সভাপতি

ও সাংবাদিক সদর উপজেলা চেয়ারম্যান সালামা হুমায়ন কবিতা, ম্যায়ের বিজ্ঞানীয় ধর্মবিশ্বাস সম্পর্কে পৌর ডাক্তার নাজমীন সুলতানা হোসী, ডেমক্রেসিওয়ার্সের আঞ্চলিক সমন্বয়কারী রিজভিস ফার্ম, নাজমুল ইসলাম প্রমূখ। সভায় নারী জনপ্রতিনিধিরা অভিযোগ তুলে বলেন ইউনিয়নে বিবাহভাতা সংরক্ষিত আসল হিসাবে ও ওয়ার্ড মিলে মাত্র ২/৩টি কার্ড পান সেখানে প্রতি ওয়ার্ড পুরুষ সদস্যরা পান ২০/২৫টি কার্ড। কিন্তু একজন মহিলা সম্পর্কে একজন পুরুষের চেয়ে নারী বেশি জানেন। তারা বিবাহ ভাতার কার্ড প্রদানের জন্য এই কমিটির সভাপতি হিসাবে নারী জনপ্রতিনিধিদের সভাপতি নিয়োগের দাবি জানান। নিম্নবর্ণিত এই কর্মসূচিতে সদরের ১৫টি ইউনিয়নের নারী প্রতিিনিধি সহ বিভিন্ন সরকারী বেসরকারী কর্মকর্তার ৪৫জন অংশগ্রহণ করে উপস্থিত ছিলেন। এনজিও ও ইউই ডেমক্রেসিওয়ার্সের সহযোগী হিসাবে নড়াইলের নবায়ন বাজারদান করা হয়।

মানবকণ্ঠ

সংসদ সদস্যের সঙ্গে জনপ্রতিনিধিদের অভিজ্ঞতা বিনিময়

বিশেষ প্রতিিনিধি

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নীলফামারী

নীলফামারী-০১ আসনের সংসদ সদস্য আশরাফ উদ্দিন সরকারের সঙ্গে অভিজ্ঞতা বিনিময় করেছেন নীলফামারী সদর উপজেলার নির্বাচিত নারী জনপ্রতিনিধিরা। মঙ্গলবার ডিমলা উপজেলার গায়েবু ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ হলকমে অভিজ্ঞতা বিনিময় সভায় সভাপতিত্ব করেন ইউনিয়ন চেয়ারম্যান পটীত ইবনে কামাল মুন।

নীলফামারী সদর উপজেলা পরিষদের ভাইস চেয়ারম্যান ও জেলা নারী ফোরামের সভাপতি অফিসার সুফাতা নাহারী, সদর উপজেলা নারী ফোরামের সভাপতি সম্পর্কে শিউরি আক্তার, পঞ্চপুত্র ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ সদস্য জেলমি জাহা এবং ডেমক্রেসিওয়ার্স নীলফামারী আঞ্চলিক কো-অর্ডিনেটর কামেল হোসেন শাহ বক্তব্য রাখেন সভায়।

স্থানীয় সরকার নারী প্রতিিনিধির অধ্যয়নের উদ্যোগ আছে এখানে নিচে ডেমক্রেসিওয়ার্স অপরাজিতা-নারীদের রাজনৈতিক ক্ষমতায়ন প্রকল্প নীলফামারী সদর উপজেলা ১৫টি ইউনিয়ন, উপজেলা পরিষদ ও নীলফামারী পৌরসভায় নির্বাচিত নারী প্রতিিনিধিদের নিয়ে জাতীয় সড়ক সমন্বয় ও নির্বাচিত নারী প্রতিিনিধিদের অভিজ্ঞতা বিনিময় সভার আয়োজন করে।

অভিজ্ঞতা বিনিময় সভায় নির্বাচিত নারী প্রতিিনিধিরা তাদের সমস্যা বার্তা, অর্থ কৃষি জল, উৎসাহ না রাখার বিভিন্ন সুপারিশ জাতীয় সড়ক উন্নয়নে সংসদ সদস্যের কাছে আহবান জানান।

মানবকণ্ঠ/এনএ/০২৭৪৫৩