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## Constraints of Women Political Participation in the Local Government and Political Parties at Grassroots of Bangladesh.



CONSTRAINTS OF WOMEN POLITICAL PARTICIPATION  
IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL PARTIES  
AT GRASSROOTS OF BANGLADESH.

“Constraints of Women Political Participation in the Local  
Government and Political Parties at Grassroots of Bangladesh.”

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADR	: Alternative Dispute Resolution
BDT	: Bangladeshi Taka
DW	: Democracywatch
EGPP	: Employment Generation Program for the Poorest
EWR	: Elected Women Representatives
GNI	: Gross National Income
LG	: Local Government
LGSP	: Local Governance Support Program
LGU	: Local Government Unit
PIC	: Project Implementation Committee
NBD	: Nation Building Departments
NGO	: Non-Government Organization
NID	: National Immunization Day
P-EWR	: Potential Elected Women Representatives
SC	: Standing Committee
SSN	: Social Safety Net
TR	: Test Relief
UGIIP-iii	: 3rd Urban Governance and Infrastructure, Improvement (Sector) Project
UP	: Union Parishads
US\$	: United States Dollar
UzP	: Upazila Parishad
VAW	: Violence Against Women
VGD	: Vulnerable Group Development
VGf	: Vulnerable Group Feeding
WatSan	: Water-Sanitation



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## KEY WORD

**Political participation:** Any activity which aims at influencing the structure of a government, the appointment of leaders and the policies they execute. These activities can have the goal of supporting the existing structures and politics or changing them.

**Institutional political participation:** This refers to the activities involved in the government mechanisms for decision-making.

**Non-institutional political participation:** This includes actions that are not part of the official channels for the establishment of policies and that are aimed at exerting pressure on them such as demonstrations, electoral campaigns, individual or collective requests to public organizations, promotion of certain groups or social classes interests, and activities within political parties.

**Women's empowerment:** The process involves attaining women's necessary strength to change gender inequalities and particularly contributing impetus for women's development through access to and control over resources.

**Patriarchy:** Patriarchy is a social system in which males have greater accesses in occupying roles of political leadership, moral authority, and control of property. It implies the institutions of male rule and privilege, and entails female subordination.

**Shalish:** Traditional informal dispute resolution system to resolve petty offenses in the rural areas.



**Political vertical mobility:** EWRs and P-EWRs' political upward linkage with the senior leaders and upper tiers' committees of the respective political parties to place the grassroots demands.

**Major elements of good governance:**

1. Women's involvement in the institutional and non-institutional surroundings;
2. A process which ensures better, just and equitable and distribution resources (social safety net and development project);
3. Better maintenance of law and order to ensure peace and safety of the rural people specially women/minority community (social connection for peace (shalish/ADR) and local development;
4. More scope for women to participate in community activities and in the UP affairs within their mandates;
5. Vertical mobility in political parties and in local governance.



## EXECUTIVE SUMMERY

This study will give a notion to the project management to: oversee the effectiveness of these inputs/nurturing ; and update/further development of the training courses as needs of the relevant actors.

1. Women's equal participation in politics plays a key role in the development mainstream. Evidences show that social and cultural prejudice, traditional patriarchal values and political factors are affecting women's political empowerment. Since 'access to' and 'control over' resources are major indicators of social development as well as empowerment which are determined by political participation, this research is conducted to assess and trace the major hindrances of women against access to and control over resources.
2. In 2011, DW started 'APARAJITA-Political Empowerment of Women' project at 157 UPs, 12 municipalities of 15 upazilas of 10 selected districts with an overall aim to enhance women's political participation in the grassroots level especially in LGUs (UPs & municipalities) and in political parties. So far the project gradually included a total number of 537 EWRs and 1108 P-EWRs as direct project beneficiaries and provided training on different capacity issues. This study will give a notion to the project management to: oversee the effectiveness of these inputs/nurturing; and update/further development of the training courses as needs of the relevant actors. The study sample covered a total number of 195 EWRs and 188 P-EWRs from selected nine project districts and employed both qualitative and quantitative method.
3. The overall objective of the study is mainly focused on assessing the political empowerment of EWRs and P-EWRs in respect of their involvement in political parties as well as LGUs. Hence, the study directly depicts the governance scenario of aforesaid institutions where the project beneficiaries participated. The major elements of governance chalked out for the study are: institutional and non-institutional surroundings; transparency of LGU's project implementation; rule of law and practice of rural arbitration council/ADR; practice of local government act and



vertical political mobility. In other words, these are specific investigation areas of women in decision making positions under institutional power structures.

4. The findings show that most of the respective EWRs and P-EWRs' husbands are playing dominant role in the decision making that reflects patriarchal ideology of the society.
5. Recently World bank has declared Bangladesh as a lower-middle income country along with some other countries which raised its annual per capita income from US\$ 1046 to US\$ 4125. Notably around two-third of both categories' respondents annual income lie beneath the lower income threshold of becoming lower-middle income country. So, it can be said that overall economic condition of the respondents in comparison to the contemporary context is substandard.
6. Around three-fourth of the respondents (both categories) are involved in party political activities of which very meager portion faced obstacles from their family against attending political activities. And significant numbers of them (47% EWRs and 38% P-EWRs) are currently holding position in the respective political parties and most of them have vertical political mobility. For instance, they have linkage with upper tiers' political entities i.e. Upazila/zila/national level political committees/leaders. Opinions of the respondents are considered during the political party meetings, they added. Amazingly, 42% of designated P-EWRs political activist opined that their designated positions are achieved by their own initiatives rather than other's patronizations.
7. The initiatives on political capacity enhancement still remain a grey area which requires further interventions. Only 31% EWRs reported that they received training on political capacity building through which two issues mainly covered like 'women empowerment and rights entitlement during regular functions of LGUs' and 'leadership and communication'. On the other hand, only 10% of the P-EWRs are able to recall the political training contents. However, political capacity enhancement initiatives depict a dismal situation which requires further need assessment

Around two-third of both categories' respondents (EWRs and P-EWRs) annual income lie beneath the lower income threshold of becoming lower-middle income country. So, it can be said that overall economic condition of the respondents in comparison to the contemporary context is substandard.



The study recommended initiating monitoring mechanism of EWRs to increase better NBD service delivery of government.

Sensitization program for the political activists and EWRs are equally essential to change the party political culture and the patriarchal ideology of the male elected members respectively.

of these training courses. The present situation recommended to initiate an action oriented training course for the intended project beneficiaries so that they may practice the attained knowledge.

8. Among the interviewed EWRs, around 47% respondents said that they have attempted to compete in the UzP female reserved seat election of which 67% reported that they did not face any political interference when decided to participate in UzP reserved seat election. Rest of them reported that they had some political interference on same issue. The aforesaid scenario is likely the expression of EWRs' gradual upward mobility in their political participation. Even then the political subordination of EWRs is not only limited to their horizontal surroundings but also suppressed by their senior leaders i.e. Uz chairman.
9. Majority of EWRs opinions are moderately considered in the decision making process of LGUs. Around 90% of the EWRs reported that they have involvement in implementing LGU's development project. But in most cases they usually face interference from male elected representatives during project implementations. One fifth of the EWRs (around 20%) reported that they face local political interference during project implementations.
10. The study recommended initiating monitoring mechanism of EWRs to increase better NBD service delivery of government. So, it requires enhancing capacity of the EWRs in this specific area. Besides, sensitization program for the political activists and EWRs are equally essential to change the party political culture and the patriarchal ideology of the male elected members respectively. There is a strong positive correlation between 'volunteerism' and 'trend of political participation'. So, motivational training and activities related to different social connection/organizations need to be identified for fostering EWRs and P-EWRs political involvement.



## A. Background and rationale of the study

11. The reserved seats have ensured women's presence in the local government. Among women politicians, the older group entered politics through social work, while some others and the new generation of women have emerged from being involved in student politics. Despite many odds, statistics and analyses reveal a slow growing trend towards women's political participation.
12. There are so many factors constraining women empowerment in all spheres of life particularly hardening the political atmosphere for the women. Patriarchal society is one of the factors that ideologically limiting the gender roles and placing women in the private sphere as mothers and wives while men are associated with public sphere. This gender role is limiting the women's mobility in political parties. Besides, predominance of men in political structure and/in political parties is another obstacle for women's participation in formal political structures. Particularly in political parties, the male roles are prioritized and women's needs are ignored in the regular activities of political parties. Lack of 'access to' and 'control over' resources are two most important economic factors limiting women's vertical and horizontal mobility in the political arena.
13. In broader sense, apart from examining the specific objectives of the study, the researcher focused to embellish the designed interventions and explore the improvisation areas as consecutive needs of the APARAJITA project.

## B. Objectives of the study

- i. To assess the present situation of Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) and Potential Elected Women Representatives (P-EWRs) in the political decision making;
- ii. To identify the constraining 'determinants' those affecting EWR and PEWR in access to and control over political decision making in the local governance and in political parties;
- iii. To identify the policy advocacy issues of women political empowerment.

Predominance of men in political structure and/in political parties is another obstacle for women's participation in formal political structures.

Lack of 'access to' and 'control over' resources are two most important economic factors limiting women's vertical and horizontal mobility in the political arena.



**Factors  
hindering  
women's  
political  
empowerment:**

- a. lack of citizen's capacity/education;
- b. absence of party leaders' accountability;
- c. limited access to networks;
- d. lack of women's involvement in social club;
- e. socio-cultural norms (patriarchal ideology) and religious misinterpretation.

**C. Literature review**

14. Labani. S; Kaehler.CZ and Ruiz.P.D.D<sup>1</sup> (2009) depicted that political participation differs based on: capacity of citizens for demanding accountability for their leaders' actions and decisions; result obtained or to be obtained for the community; level of conflict experienced by these actions; and citizen's level of cooperation to carry out activities.
15. Findings of a survey conducted by DW (2009) shows<sup>2</sup>, prevalence of male domination of political life, lack of party support i.e. limited access to networks, limited financial support, lack of involvement with social clubs are the major affecting factors hindering women's political empowerment. One of the study objectives was to see the political violence against women during the election period. Among 302 respondents (including 50% female), 10% clearly distinguished evidence of VAW that female candidates faced while participating in political activities. The findings also shows that female candidates had to face same type of violence from multiple perpetrators i.e. husband, opposition party, LEBs, even from their own party members.
16. Khan. M.R and F. Ara (2006)<sup>3</sup> shows that patriarchal society, lower level of educational quality, socio cultural norms and religious misinterpretation enforces rules and laws in such a way that affects the self-confidence of women, limits their access on resources and information and thus keeps them in a lower status than men in political participation.
17. Khan.M.I (2014) found that the elected women representatives are not included in the Shalish process as they have been considered substandard by their male counterpart. Only 16% of the EWRs exercise their decisions in the shalish process where as the victims prefer to complain to the EWRs on marriage, divorce, polygamy and dowry issues. The report also depicts that most of the respondents get partial members' support from their family rather than all members.



<sup>1</sup> Gender analysis of women's political participation in 7 South-East Asian countries: Bangladesh,

<sup>2</sup> Cambodia, the Philippines, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, East Timor and Vietnam "Representation and violence against women in politics in Bangladesh"

<sup>3</sup> WOMEN, PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT: BANGLADESH UNION PARISHAD PERSPECTIVE; Asian Affairs, Vol. 29, No. 1 : 73-00, January-March, 2006

## D. Analytical framework of the research

Specific area	Lines of inquiry/broader indicators
Women in institutional power structures and decision-making positions	<p><b>Part one: In political parties:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Representation of women in decision-making process that are traditionally positioned by men;</li> <li>- Comparative trend of women representation in the party politics (comparison between present roles and prior to the APARAJITA project involvement);</li> <li>- Participation in the council/election of political parties for desired position.</li> </ul> <p><b>Part two: In local government:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EWRs and P-EWRs political representation in power structures and decision making i.e. as members of: SC; PIC; SSN committee;</li> <li>- Comparative trend of women representation in the power structure (comparison between present roles and prior to the APARAJITA project involvement);</li> <li>- Participation in electoral process;</li> <li>- Political mobility.</li> </ul> <p><b>Part three: Participation in other spheres/civil society:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Different social connection;</li> <li>- Participation in grassroots, district and nation level support networks for experience exchange and confidence building;</li> <li>- Collaboration among public institutions and civil society actors on women's political participation.</li> </ul>

The study employed mainly quantitative analyses of social data. Besides, few qualitative open ended lead questions were also placed in the questionnaire to extract the qualitative finding of the study those supplemented the quantitative findings.



## E. Methodology

18. The study employed mainly quantitative analyses of social data. Besides, few qualitative open ended lead questions were also placed in the questionnaire to extract the qualitative finding of the study those supplemented the quantitative findings. To ensure the internal and external validity of the research, secondary materials i.e. project documents, relevant research, article and journals are reviewed.

19. **Respondents' category:** The proposed research has included Elected Women Representatives (EWR) and Potential Elected Women Representatives (P-EWR) as respondents.

20. **Sampling:** In total 383 respondents from selected 103 LGUs of nine project implementation districts of which 195 EWRs and 188 P-EWRs were randomly interviewed. Both categories of respondents were selected from the following geographic locations:

**Distribution of Sample by Geographic Location (EWR)**

		Upazila							# respondents	# of LGU
		Birampur	Ghoraghat	Hakimpur	Lohagora	Nawabganj	Sadar	Ullapara		
District	Dinajpur	7	4	3		10			24	16
	Jessore						21		21	14
	Magura						21		21	9
	Mymensingh						21		21	12
	Narail				5		19		24	12
	Nilphamari						21		21	11
	Pabna						24		24	11
	Sirajganj							20	20	10
	Tangail						19		19	8
<b>Total</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>103</b>

**Distribution of Sample by Geographic Location (P-EWR)**

		District									# respondents
		Dinajpur	Jessore	Magura	Mymensingh	Narail	Nilphamari	Pabna	Sirajganj	Tangail	
Upazila	Birampur	7									7
	Ghoraghat	4									4
	Hakimpur	3									3
	Nawabganj	7									7
	Sadar		22	21	21	21	21	21		21	148
	Ullapara	19		19							
	<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>188</b>

In total 383 respondents from selected 103 LGUs of nine project implementation districts of which 195 EWRs and 188 P-EWRs were randomly interviewed.

Up to 5% of the standard errors were considered in this research.



## F. Data analysis and ethical consideration

21. The collected empirical data were analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Science software (version 20). Up to 5% of the standard errors were considered in this research. Besides, the enumerators ensured all respondents to keep the confidentiality of given information by saying that the compilation of all information might be shared publicly rather than disclosing specific questionnaires' information.

## 22. Limitations of the study

- a. The study sample covered 103 UPs/municipalities of targeted nine distantly located project implementation districts. It was a challenge to ensure data collection timely and simultaneously at these districts;
- b. The EWR used to remain busy with their daily functions at LGUs. Often they preferred office premises to attend interview which is to some extent tough to concentrate in such a noisy place;
- c. The study was conducted within a very short time. It could have been more intensive work from qualitative aspect if more time were allocated;
- d. The questionnaire contains so many open-ended questions consequently those required single handed coding to maintain the quality of the qualitative analyses. So, data preceding consumed more time.

## G. Respondents' profile and income level

### Profile of the respondents

23. The table 1 shows that EWRs mean age and year of schooling reported 42 and 8 years respectively. On the other hand, P-EWRs mean age and year of schooling reported 41 and 9 years respectively. However, the database represents that 10% EWRs and 9% P-EWRs did not enroll in school. In total 80% of the EWR respondents' are married, 16% are widowed, 5% are separated, and a very meager percentage reported as unmarried (1%) and divorced (0.5%). On the other hand, 84% of the P-EWRs are married, 11% are widowed and a few percent reported as separated (annex 1).

**Table1: Respondents' Age and Year of Schooling**

	Respondents' age		Year of schooling	
	EWR	P-EWR	EWR	P-EWR
Mean	41.79	40.77	7.69	8.81
Median	40.00	41.00	8.00	10.00
Std. Deviation	8.574	8.053	3.659	3.306



Apart from EWRs' regular activities at LGUs, most of them are involved as home manager (81%).

70% and 17% of the P-EWRs reported their occupation as home manager and private service respectively.

79% respondents of both categories (EWRs and P-EWRs) reported that they are living in single family.



24. Apart from EWRs' regular activities at LGUs, most of them are involved as home manager (81%). Besides, 11% and 4% EWRs said that they are involved in private service and business respectively. Only 2% of the respondents said that they are involved in agriculture to secure better livelihood. On the other hand, 70% and 17% of the P-EWRs reported their occupation as home manager and private service respectively. Rest of the very meager percent of P-EWRs' occupation mentioned as business and farmer (Annex 2).
25. 79% respondents of both categories (EWRs and P-EWRs) reported that they are living in single family while rests are living in joint family. On an average, each respondent's family consists of five members (Annex 3, 4 & 5).
26. The cross tabulation (table-2) between 'household head' and 'marital status' of EWRs shows that out of total 183 respondents<sup>4</sup>, 155 are married of which 117 said that their husband playing role as household head and only 21 respondents reported as household head due to aging constraints of their spouse and other reasons. Besides, all the widowed respondents (n=28) playing role as household head. In a nutshell, the table-2 depicts that husband of the EWRs are playing predominant role in the decision making of households that reflects patriarchal ideology of the society. On the other hand, in total 138 P-EWRs opined that their husbands are playing role as household head. Besides, 35 P-EWRs said that they play role as household head of which 13 are widow and 14 are married (annex 7)

**Table 2: Household head \* Respondents' Marital Status Cross Tabulation**

		Respondents' marital status					Total
		Unmarried	Married	Widowed	Separated	Divorced	
Household head	Self	0	21	28	2	1	52
	Husband	0	117	0	0	0	117
	Off-spring	0	4	3	2	0	9
	Father/father-in-law	1	2	0	0	0	3
	Mother/mother-in-law	1	0	0	1	0	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>183</b>

<sup>4</sup> 12 No answer counted

## 27. Respondents income

**Table 3: Respondents Income Distribution**

		EWR		P-EWR		World Bank Annual income threshold be coming lower middle income country <sup>5</sup>
		Frequency	%	Frequency	%	
Valid	Number of respondents earn less than or equal to BDT 81,357 (annual)	132	67.7	141	75.0	Less than US\$ 1,046 <sup>6</sup>
	Number of respondents earn more than BDT 81,575	58	29.7	45	23.9	More than US\$ 1,046
	Total	190	97.4	186	98.9	
	No Answer	5	2.6	2	1.1	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

In 01 July 2015, World Bank declared Bangladesh as Lower-middle income country along with some other countries those annual per capita income accomplished between US\$ 1046 to US\$ 4125. But the table-3 shows that 68% EWRs' and 75% P-EWRs' annual income underlies below the lower threshold of lower-middle income countries.

28. The table 3 shows EWRs annual income distribution compared to the World Bank's latest estimates of Gross National Income per capita (GNI) which is a threshold of becoming lower –middle income countries. In 01 July 2015, World Bank declared Bangladesh as Lower-middle income country along with some other countries those annual per capita income accomplished between US\$ 1046 to US\$ 4125. But the table-3 shows that 68% EWRs' and 75% P-EWRs' annual income underlies below the lower threshold of lower-middle income countries. To the contrary, 30% and 24% EWRs and P-EWRs' income level scaled up to the lower benchmark respectively. Though the income data influenced by upper extreme cases, the mean income of EWRs shows huge deviation from the lower threshold which is calculated only BDT 68,882 per annum (annex 8). On the other hand, the annual income of P-EWR also shows same trend which

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2015/07/01/new-world-bank-update-shows-bangladesh-kenya-myanmar-and-tajikistan-as-middle-income-while-south-sudan-falls-back-to-low-income>.

<sup>6</sup> Currency rate: US\$ 1=BDT 77.78 (1st July 2015)



is calculated only BDT 59,290. So, it can be predicted that overall economic condition of the EWRs and P-EWRs in comparison to the contemporary context of Bangladesh is not up to the mark.

42% (n=82) EWRs and 26% (n=48) P-EWRs are actively involved in the activities of political parties. Besides, 33% (n=64) EWRs and 38% P-EWRs said that somewhat they are indirectly involved in party political activities.

25% and 36% respondents of EWRs and P-EWRs respectively said that they are not involved in party politics anymore.

## H. Participation in the political parties

29. Since institutional political participation refers to the activities involved in the government mechanisms for decision-making, undoubtedly all EWRs and significant number of P-EWRs are participating in institutional political activities by involving themselves in the local governance at LGUs. Even then, the research team intended to know respondents' party political involvement reflected in table 4. This table shows that 42% (n=82) EWRs and 26% (n=48) P-EWRs are actively involved in the activities of political parties. Besides, 33% (n=64) EWRs and 38% P-EWRs said that somewhat they are indirectly involved in party political activities. Finally, 25% and 36% respondents of EWRs and P-EWRs respectively said that they are not involved in party politics anymore. However, among the respondents who are directly and indirectly involved in political parties, are mostly affiliated with Bangladesh Awami League (AL) (n=109 (75%)). On the other hand, 21% respondents are involved in the political activities of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). Rests of the respondents are involved in the activities of Bangladesh Jatiya Party and Jamat-e-Islami Bangladesh.

**Table 4: Respondents' Affiliation with Political Parties**

	EWR		P-EWR	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Actively involved	82	42.1	48	25.5
Indirectly involved	64	32.8	71	37.8
Not involved at all	49	25.1	67	35.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>98.9</b>
No answer			2	1.1



30. Among the EWRs respondents (n=146) who are affiliated with political parties' activities, in total 101 reported that they were affiliated with political parties before they were elected as LG representatives while 45 EWRs reported that they were involved with political parties after they had been elected. However, only 10 EWRs said that they have faced family obstacles during attending in political parties' meeting and participating parties' election campaigns. On the other hand, out of 188 P-EWRs respondents, 119 said that they are involved in party politics where a single case was found that faced obstacles from the family. So, it can be said that EWRs' political empowerment with respect to participation in political parties is increasing gradually. However, a negligible number of them faced obstacles from their family members (Annex 12).

### **Modes of participation in political parties**

31. General modes of respondents' political participation reported as attending: meetings (EWR 27%, P-EWR 25%); political campaigns (EWR 14%, P-EWR 13%) and both meeting and political campaigns (EWR 43%, P-EWR 53%). Optimistically, respondents who attended political meetings, their opinions are considered mostly (EWR 68%, P-EWR 59%) during decision making. On the other hand, 12% and 11% of the EWRs and P-EWRs said that the male elected members 'do not consider' EWRs opinions and technically avoid their opinions. However, 10% EWR respondents said that their opinions are rudely rejected by the male political activists. (Annex 15 & 15.1).

### **Vertical political mobility**

32. The research team purposively tried to assess the vertical political mobility of the EWRs especially who are involved in the party politics. The research data shows that most of the respondents (EWR 60%, P-EWR 65%) have political linkage with upper tiers i.e. Upazila, Zila and national level political entity/committees and leaders (annex 16). Among the parties' politically affiliated respondents, 47% EWR and 38% P-EWRs are currently holding designation in the committees of respective political parties. Mostly they got assistance from their senior leaders (EWR 38%,

EWRs' political empowerment with respect to participation in political parties is increasing gradually. However, a negligible number of them faced obstacles from their family members.

Most of the respondents (EWR 60%, P-EWR 65%) have political linkage with upper tiers i.e. Upazila, Zila and national level political entity/committees and leaders.



17% EWRs reported that they attained designation to the respective political parties by their own efforts. On the other hand, amazingly 42% of the politically involved P-EWRs opined that they achieved designation in political parties by their own efforts rather than backing from anyone else.

It can be predicted that the EWRs participation in political parties facilitate to change political culture (64%) of grassroots level.



P-EWR=29%) also from their family (PWR 30%, P-EWR 11%) to be designated in respective political parties. However, 13% of the EWRs opined that the respective chairmen and few often the male elected members assisted them to be designated in the political parties. 17% EWRs reported that they attained designation to the respective political parties by their own efforts. On the other hand, amazingly 42% of the politically involved P-EWRs opined that they achieved designation in political parties by their own efforts rather than backing from anyone else (annex 14 & 14.1). So, it can be predicted that EWRs upward political mobility within their political parties are gradually progressing.

### **Perception of male activist in women's party political participation**

33. Among the respondents involved with political parties, around one third of the EWRs and almost half of the P-EWR said that female participation in different political activities are respected by the male political activists. Besides, 30% EWRs and 49% P-EWRs said that female participations are moderately respected by the male political activists. On the other hand, 23% and 13% of the EWRs reported that 'female decisions are not respected' and 'decisions are directly opposed' respectively by the male political activists during decision making process. Confidently it can be predicted that the EWRs participation in political parties facilitate to change political culture (64%) of grassroots level. Such gradual development of political culture will certainly demolish the iron cage of patriarchal dominance (Annex 17).

### **Family members' involvement in political activities**

34. A number of total 62% (n=121) EWRs and 52% (n=98) P-EWRs said that their family members are affiliated with the political parties' activities. On the other hand, 38% EWRs and 44% P-EWRs opined that none of their family members are affiliated with political parties' activities (P-EWRs' no answer counted 7%). However, among the respondents' family members involved with political parties reported that 53% are actively and 47% indirectly involved. To the contrary, 50% of the P-EWRs are

actively involved with the political parties while rests of the 50% are involved indirectly (Annex 18 & 18.1).

### Training received on political capacity building

35. Out of total interviewed EWRs, only 31% reported that they received training on political capacity building which covered two issues mainly ‘women empowerment and rights entitlement during regular LGU functions (13%), ‘leadership and communication’ (15%) etc. Besides, small number of respondents said that the political capacity building training covered issues related to the enhancement of ‘political participation and ensuring voting rights’ and ‘advocacy’. It is important to note that all political capacity building initiatives/training were undertaken by the NGOs working in respective interviewed areas.
36. To the contrary, only 10% of the P-EWRs said that they have attended in party political capacity enhancement training mostly on ‘women empowerment and rights entitlements’ and ‘leadership and communication’. This tiny portion of EWRs said that the training knowledge enriched them to raise voice on rights entitlements at their respective LGUs. However, P-EWRs political capacity enhancement training areas mentioned as above depicts a dismal situation which requires further need assessment of these training courses. The ground reality demonstrates that action oriented training would be more helpful for the EWRs and PEWRs. (Annex 34, 34.1 & 34.2 multiple responses table).

## I. Political participation in the local government

### EWRs’ attempt to contest in upazila parishad’s reserved seat election

37. Among the interviewed EWRs, around 47% respondents said that they have attempted to contest in the recently scheduled UzP female reserved seat election of which 67% reported that they have not faced any political interference for their decision. On the other hand, 12% respondents said that have had some political interference on the same issue. In most cases, they were threatened

P-EWRs political capacity enhancement training areas mentioned as above depicts a dismal situation which requires further need assessment of these training courses. The ground reality demonstrates that action oriented training would be more helpful for the EWRs and P-EWRs.



by opponent parties' local political leaders. The aforesaid scenario is likely to be the expression of progressing EWRs' mobility in the political parties. Even then the political subordination of EWRs is not only limited to their horizontal surroundings but also vertically i.e. Uz chairman (Annex 19 & 19.1).

### Participation in meeting at LGU level

38. Around 80% of the respondents said that the bi-monthly SC meeting held timely of which 31% (n=60) and 56% (n=110) respondents said that their decisions during meeting were considered 'cordially' and 'moderately' respectively. Only 9% of the EWRs said that their decisions are not considered at all. Majority of the respondents (62% (n=120) reported that decisions/opinions are considered moderately during the monthly meeting. Besides, 21% (n=41) of the total respondents said that their decisions are properly considered during the meeting. On the other hand, only 16% of the respondents said that their decisions are not considered at all. Surprisingly three-fourth of the respondents said that to some extent their party political involvement encouraged them to control over decision making and proclaiming rights at LGU's regular functions. On the other hand, alarmingly majority of the total EWRs respondents said that party political involvement requires more money (Annex 20.1, 20.2, 20.3, 20.4 and 20.5).

39. Out of total 188 interviewed P-EWR, 51 respondents said that the SCs of LGUs are functional where 38 of them are involved as general member. Among the P-EWRs involved in SC, 25 and 10 respondents said that opinions are 'moderately' and 'cordially' considered in the meetings. A few number of P-EWRs said that their decisions are valued in the SC meeting. In total 67% of the P-EWRs also said that involvement in political parties' activity requires more economic solvency (Annex 21, 21.1 & 21.2).

### Involvement in the development project

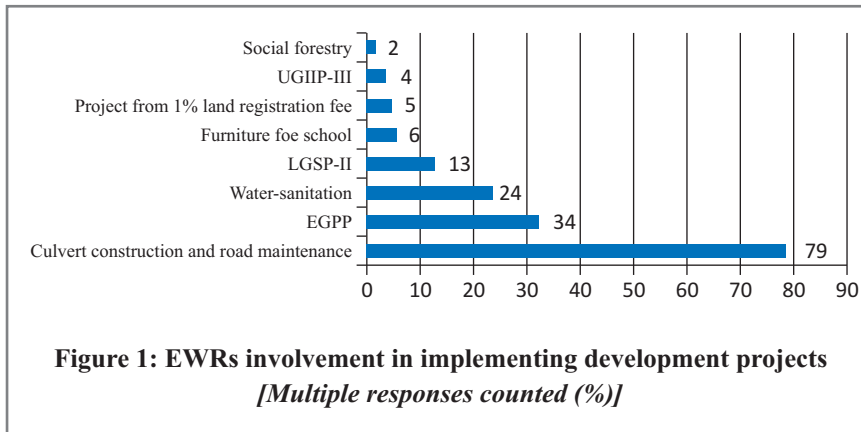
40. Around 90% of the EWRs reported that they have involvement in implementing development project at their respective LGUs. On the other hand, rest of the few EWRs reported that they are not involved anymore in implementing development project (Annex 23).

Surprisingly three-fourth of the respondents said that to some extent their party political involvement encouraged them to control over decision making and proclaiming rights at LGU's regular functions.



41. The figure 1 shows multiple responses of the EWRs involvement in implementing development project at their respective LGUs. The bottom bar represents 79% EWRs involved in culvert construction and road maintenance projects under different development budget including 'Kabikha' and Test Relief. The second largest project is Employment Generation Program for the Poorest (EGPP) which is reported by the 32% of the respondents. Chronologically the third and fourth bar represents 24% and 13% of the EWRs involved in Water-sanitation and LGSP-ii respectively. In addition to that the upper four diagrams are representing very meager percentage of providing furniture to schools, project from 1% land registration fees, UGIIP-iii projects at municipalities and social forestry. On the other hand, only 10% of P-EWRs reported that they have involvement in the different project implementation committees according to the mandates. On the other hand, rest of the 90% said that they are not involved in any development project implementation at their respective LGUs.

79% EWRs involved in culvert construction and road maintenance projects under different development budget including 'Kabikha' and Test Relief. The second largest project is Employment Generation Program for the Poorest (EGPP) which is reported by the 32% of the respondents.



### Access to information

42. According to the project implementation regulations there are some obligatory rules to disclose the project related information to the community people. But in practice, these rules are not followed accordingly by the LGU representatives. Among the total respondents, 31% (n=60) EWRs said that they get accurate information from the male elected representatives. Rest of the respondents said that they have been denied such information, for



39% respondents reported that EWR's decisions are neglected by the male elected representatives is one of the most frequent problems faced by the EWRs. Male elected representatives including LGU secretary neglect EWRs' opinion due to patriarchal ideology. Intentionally they do so aiming to conceal their irregularities i.e. corruption, political muscle power practices etc.



instance, 28% and 31% respondents' opinions reported that the male elected representatives try not to disclose the information and hide information respectively. Besides, in a few cases, the male elected representatives 'shows impatient attitude' and 'misbehave' when asked about any project related information (annex 23.1).

### Interference during project implementation

43. In total 39% respondents reported that EWR's decisions are neglected by the male elected representatives is one of the most frequent problems faced by the EWRs. Male elected representatives including LGU secretary neglect EWRs' opinion due to patriarchal ideology. Intentionally they do so aiming to conceal their irregularities i.e. corruption, political muscle power practices etc. Besides, 'non-co-operation of male elected representatives' reported as second most frequent problem (31%) by the respondents. 8% of the respondents said that lack of practicing policies and guidelines by the other members of LGUs is another type of obstacle faced by them. They argued that violation of rules and guidelines are causing improper project allocation and negligence to the EWRs. Besides, total 7% and 6% reported problems are 'LGUs' male members' tendency not to

**Table 5: Interference During Project Implementation**

	Frequency	Percent
EWR's Decisions are neglected by the male elected representatives	76	39.0
Non-co-operation of male elected representatives	61	31.3
No interference	24	12.3
Lack of practicing specific policies and guidelines	16	8.2
Male elected representatives' tendency of hiding information	13	6.7
Nepotism	11	5.6
Local political interference and other problem	39	20.0
Shortage of female labor	5	2.6
<i>[Multiple responses counted]</i>		

disclose information’ and ‘nepotism’. On the other hand, apart from the problem faced inside from the LGUs, EWRs usually face a significant number of problems within their jurisdiction while implementing the development project. In total 39% respondents said that their project implementation was hindered due to some local problems. For instance, local political interference and their corruptions during project implementation are also seen as major external constraints and also peoples’ unwillingness to provide soil from their fertile land during road maintenance/construction. Finally a small number of problem cases have been recorded (2.5%) regarding female labor. Project implementation guidelines have some legal obligations to include female labors from the respective areas. But nowadays, females are hardly found to be involved as labor in the project activities. However, only 12% EWRs said that they do not face any problem with project implementation.

44. The P-EWRs have limited scope of involving themselves in the project implementation. However, in total 26 P-EWRs said that they are involved in the project implementation committees especially in the VGD and VGF committees (Annex 24.1).

#### **EWRs involvement in the social protection program**

45. Out of total 195 respondents, 94% said that they have involvement in SSN selection and distribution process while rest

**Table 6: Involvement in SSN Selection and Distribution in ‘order of frequencies’ Mentioned by EWR**

		Frequency	%
1.	VGD	149	81.0
2.	VGF	148	80.4
3.	OAA	122	66.3
4.	AWDDW	104	56.5
5.	EGPP	71	38.6
6.	TR and Kabikha	63	34.2
7.	MA	61	33.2
8.	AFID	40	21.7
<i>[Multiple responses counted]</i>			

In total 39% respondents said that their project implementation was hindered due to some local problems. For instance, local political interference and their corruptions during project implementation are also seen as major external constraints and also peoples’ unwillingness to provide soil from their fertile land during road maintenance/co nstruction.



Almost half of the respondents opined that they are involved in monitoring of ‘road construction and miscellaneous maintenance’ related projects. Besides, in total 39% and 25% respondents reported that they are involved in monitoring of EGPP and ‘culvert construction and construction work’ respectively.



of the 6% said that they are not involved in this process (Annex 24). As an implementation entity of social protection program, lowest tiers LGUs (UPs) plays vital roles to select beneficiaries and distribute SSN services. The table 6 shows multiple responses of the EWRs in implementing different SSN programs. The programs mentioned in this table are the major SSN services considering money spent and coverage of government social protection system. However, the table represents chronological (in order of frequencies) involvement of the EWRs during the selection and distribution process of these safety net programs.

### EWRs monitoring role in project implementation

46. Among the respondents (EWRs), around 89% of them are involved in monitoring of project implementation (annex 24.1). Each EWR is involved in the monitoring of multiple project implementations. The table 7 shows that almost half of the respondents opined that they are involved in monitoring of ‘road construction and miscellaneous maintenance’ related projects. Besides, in total 39% and 25% respondents reported that they are involved in monitoring of EGPP and ‘culvert construction and construction work’ respectively. Besides, 15% of the respondents said that they used to monitor water-sanitation related project

**Table 7: Type of Project Monitored**

	Frequency	Percent
Road construction and miscellaneous maintenance	94	48.2
Culvert construction and monitoring of construction work	48	24.6
EGPP	75	38.5
Water-sanitation	30	15.4
VGD	12	6.2
LGSP-ii	17	8.7
‘Kabikha’ and ‘TR’	16	8.2
Project development from 1% land registration fee	3	1.5
<i>[Multiple responses counted]</i>		

implementations. However, a meager portion of respondents' opinion was recorded that they are also involved in the monitoring of VGD, LGSP-ii, 'Kabikha', TR 'and' project implementation by 1% land registration fees' The analyses of the figure 1 and table 7 separately shows EWRs role in project implementation and project monitoring respectively. The comparative analyses between the mentioned figure and table shows that apart from the project implementation role of EWRs, their involvement in monitoring of project implementation is an example of EWRs' political empowerment in having access to and control over resources of respective LGUs.

### Knowledge on local government act and circulars

47. In total 20% of the EWRs reported that they have good knowledge on local government act and different circulars. Besides, 29% and 45% respondents opined that they partly and moderately know their roles and responsibilities' respectively as per mandates. To the contrary, only 6% respondents reported that they do not know the local government act and circulars. On the other hand, only 7% of the P-EWRs attained good knowledge on local government act and circulars from different training provided by NGOs. Besides, 32% and 35% of the P-EWRs reported that they know 'partly' and 'moderately' about the local government act and circulars. Total 23% of the P-EWRs said that they are not aware of local government act and/circulars or they have forgotten. At the same time P-EWRs affirmed that in comparison to the EWRs, they have limited scope of practicing the local government act and circulars. (Annex 25).

### Respondents' recommendation to resolve aforesaid local government issues

48. The figure 2 shows EWRs recommendations to resolve different local governance issues for exercising EWRs role in control over decision making and access to resources at LGU level. The first column represents that 93 respondents recommended adopting separate guideline/policy for the EWRs. In the second column of the diagram depicts, 68 respondents opined, there should have sensitization training to the male elected representatives aiming

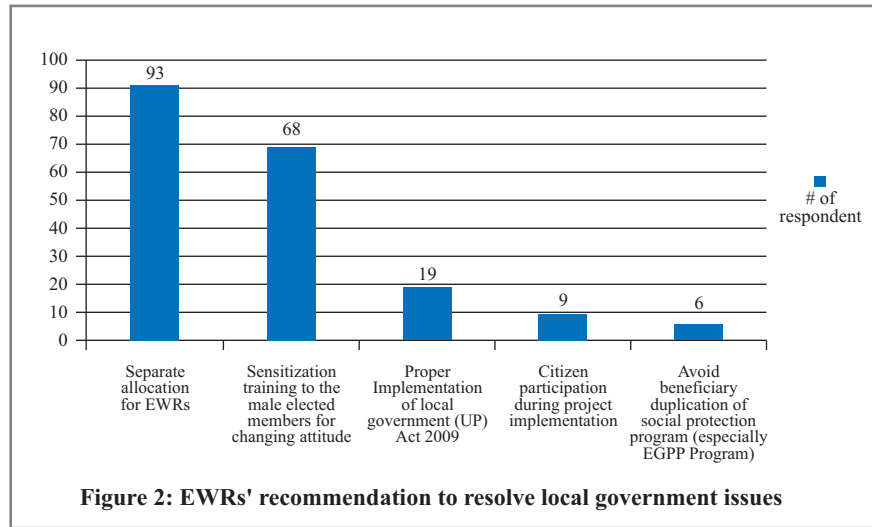
Involvement in monitoring of project implementation is an example of EWRs' political empowerment in having access to and control over resources of respective LGUs.



Around 39% of the interviewed P-EWRs recommended that there should be legally obligated circulars to involve more citizens in LGU activities. Besides, 25% and 20% P-EWRs realized that there should be ‘sensitizing training opportunity for the male elected representatives for changing attitude’ and ‘effective implementation of the local government act respectively.



to change their attitude towards EWRs’ functions. Besides, 19 and 9 respondents reported that ‘proper implementation and monitoring according to local government act 2009’ and ‘citizen participation during project implementation’ respectively might be helpful to enhance women’s empowerment in the local governance. The smallest column shows only six respondents reported that LGUs should avoid beneficiaries’ duplication during SSN distributions. They reported that same beneficiaries are in different schemes i.e. EGPP, VGD, VGF and WatSan project.



49. The pie chart (figure 3) represents recommendations of the P-EWRs to resolve aforesaid local governance issues. Around 39% of the interviewed P-EWRs recommended that there should be legally obligated circulars to involve more citizens in LGU activities. Besides, 25% and 20% P-EWRs realized that there should be ‘sensitizing training opportunity for the male elected representatives for changing attitude’ and ‘effective implementation of the local government act respectively. Besides, 15% of the respondents recommended raising community awareness on local government service delivery so that a hidden pressure is condensed towards the LEB.

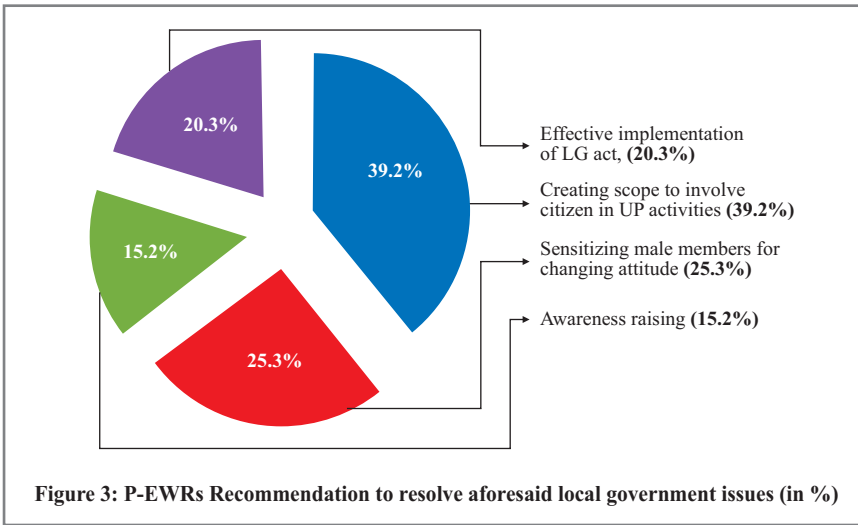


Figure 3: P-EWRs Recommendation to resolve aforesaid local government issues (in %)

38% of the training participants said that the training helped to increase the awareness level as well as make them vocal to speak out in the meeting and mass gathering. Besides, 26% and 22% respondents said that they are utilizing training knowledge during LGUs' regular functions and providing services to the citizen respectively.



### EWRs' capacity enhancement initiatives on local government

50. In total 96% EWRs said that they have attended some capacity building training organized by either GO or NGOs. Among the respondents, 60% said that they have attended training on 'LG capacity enhancement within the framework of local government act'; 42% said that the training contents cover the service delivery monitoring provision as mandates of the circulars/act; 30% reported that the contents cover LGSP-ii implementation and 29% respondents said that the training was more focused on democracy, transparency and accountability. However, 11-17% respondents said that the training covered the issues of 'Women empowerment and reducing VAW', 'Women political empowerment' and 'Village court and /ADR'. A few respondents said that they have attended training on livelihood i.e fishing, gardening etc (Annex 31 & Annex 31.1 (multiple responses)).
51. However, 38% of the training participants said that the training helped to increase the awareness level as well as make them vocal to speak out in the meeting and mass gathering. Besides, 26% and 22% respondents said that they are utilizing training knowledge during LGUs' regular functions and providing services to the citizen respectively. In addition to these, 'project implementation' and 'dispute resolution and protesting against VAW' are reported by 22% and 12% of the respondents

P-EWRs communication and leadership capacity have been increased to advocate on contextual/contemporary social issues.

86% of the total EWRs said that apart from the LGUs' regular functions they are involved in 'shalish' of which 34% and 44% of the respondents' opined that their opinions are valued 'highly' and 'moderately' respectively. On the other hand, 59% of the P-EWRs said that they are involved in the shalish process and similarly their opinions are valued by the jury.



respectively where the training knowledge has been utilized. A meager percent of respondents said that the training helped them to: “claiming allocated LGSP-ii project for EWRs (30%)”; conduct social audit to ensure better service delivery; reduce early marriage etc ((Annex 32 (multiple responses))).

### **P-EWRs capacity enhancement initiatives on leadership, governance and other issues**

52. In total 164 P-EWRs received training on different social issues provided by NGOs ever they could recall. However, 35% of them said that they have received training on communication and leadership. 10% and 7% respondents affirmed that they have received training on local government act and women empowerment respectively. However, a meager percent of the P-EWRs reported that they have attended different livelihood training i.e. sewing/stitching, agriculture and life skills. In a nutshell, at this stage, only 60% of them are able to recall the issues of these training. 40% of the total P-EWRs could not distinguish the training issues they have attended. However, the interviewed P-EWRs have utilized their attained training knowledge on different social issues (13%). Besides, 19% of the respondents opined that the training courses helped them to raise voice on different social issues. In other words, P-EWRs communication and leadership capacity have been increased to advocate on contextual/contemporary social issues (Annex 33, 33.1, 33.2).

## **J. Participation in other spheres/civil society**

### **Different social connection**

53. In total 86% of the total EWRs said that apart from the LGUs' regular functions they are involved in shalish of which 34% and 44% of the respondents' opined that their opinions are valued 'highly' and 'moderately' respectively. On the other hand, 59% of the P-EWRs said that they are involved in the 'shalish' process and similarly their opinions are valued by the jury (annex 22 and 22.1).

### **Connection with different social activities**

54. Only 37% of the EWR reported that they are involved in different social activities i.e. sports organizing through club, distribution of

warm clothes during winter, assist people to get maternal health care services. On the other hand, 32% of the interviewed P-EWRs said that they are connected with same social occasions (Annex 26). The cross tabulation of ‘social connection’ by their ‘political affiliation’ (Annex 27) shows that the EWRs who are not voluntarily involved with different social organizations, also do not tend to be involved in party political activities. Same trend also followed while research team explored the cross relation between social connection and political affiliation of the P-EWRs (Annex 28).

### **Desired social demand of the community people**

55. All EWRs said that citizens come to LGUs to meet their different desired needs. For instance, in total 70% and 57% EWRs said that grassroots people mostly demand to get ‘SSN services’ and ‘miscellaneous certificate’ respectively which is followed by 14% seeking health care services i.e. pregnancy care, NID etc, 13% seeking donation and 9% to solve women's problem especially to resolve family conflict and VAW. In addition to these, a small percent of desired peoples’ demand are ‘Seeking services from Government’s Nation Building Department’, ‘Road maintenance’, ‘Ensure social harmony/law and order’ and ‘Legal aid services’ etc (multiple responses table; Annex29). However, around one-third (35%) of the respondents said that they are capable of meeting the citizens’ demand. Whereas, two-third of the respondents are not capable to meet the citizen’s need (Annex29.1).
56. To the contrary, 71% P-EWRs reported that grassroots citizen come to them to meet their desired demand of which 55% said that citizens come to them for advisory/counseling support on different social issues. Besides, 18% and 22% respondents said that people meet them aiming to get legal aid assistance and health care services respectively. Besides, 13% of them demanded to get financial assistance in different social and family affairs (Annex 30 & Annex 30.1).

70% and 57% EWRs said that grassroots people mostly demand to get ‘SSN services’ and ‘miscellaneous certificate’ respectively.

71% P-EWRs reported that grassroots citizen come to them to meet their desired demand of which 55% said that citizens come to them for advisory/counseling support on different social issues.



## K. Conclusion and recommendations

- i. A few EWRs are concerned about NBD service delivery monitoring which limits providing quality services to the actual beneficiaries. As a result, NBD professionals are reluctant to be involved in their routine duties especially health care services, education and agriculture extension services whereas most of the EWRs noted that they are involved as member of these relevant SCs. So, steps should be taken to enhance EWRs monitoring capacity for ensuring better service delivery.
- ii. Involvement in party political activities help EWRs to some extent to have some control over decision making and access to resources at the respective LGUs. It is depicted that contemporary party political participation requires more economic solvency which is difficult for them to attain. This situation arises due to decay of political culture. Hence, sensitization program should be taken for the political party activists.
- iii. There is a strong positive correlation between ‘volunteerism’ and ‘trend of political participation’. The findings show that the citizens who have different social connections are more likely to be involved in the party political activities. So, motivational training on volunteerism might be an effective tool to encourage the P-EWRs and EWRs to play their roles more effectively in political participation.
- iv. Most of the EWRs and P-EWRs annual income is below the lower-middle income thresholds (minimum US\$ 1,046). That means the APARAJITA project has successfully motivated the grassroots level women to be politically empowered. However, the beneficiaries recommended more training. So, an action oriented training course on political participation should be developed through appropriate gap analysis so that the P-EWRs and EWRs can practice the attained knowledge in their respective political grounds.
- v. There should be separate guidelines for women to participate in local governance. This concentrated idea evoked from the respondents about the local government act is not practiced at grassroots level. Transparent and effective monitoring mechanism from government’s end may reduce the fallacy on policy adaptation. Because EWRs role in project implementation are already defined in respective circulars and guidelines but these are only on papers. So, local government ministry can ensure their participation by introducing special monitoring mechanism.



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## ANNEXURE

### Annex 1: Respondents' Marital Status

	EWR		P-EWR	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Unmarried	2	1.0	5	2.7
Married	155	79.5	158	84.0
Widowed	32	16.4	20	10.6
Separated	5	2.6	1	.5
Divorced	1	.5	4	2.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### Annex 2: Respondents Occupation

	EWR		P-EWR	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Business	8	4.1	6	3.2
Home manager	157	80.5	131	69.7
Farmer (agriculture)	5	2.6	3	1.6
Private service	11	5.6	32	17.0
Other	9	4.6	14	7.4
Total	190	97.4	186	98.9
No answer	5	2.6	2	1.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### Annex 3: Family Size (# of Household Members)

		EWR	P-EWR
N	Valid	186	183
	No answer	9	5
Mean		4.94	4.67
Median		5.00	4.00
Mode		4	4
Std. Deviation		1.947	1.727
Variance		3.790	2.982
Range		14	12
Minimum		1	1
Maximum		15	13

#### Annex 4: P-EWRs Family Type

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Nuclear	151	80.3	80.3	80.3
	Joint	36	19.1	19.1	99.5
	3	1	.5	.5	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

#### Annex 5: EWRs Family Type

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	0	3	1.5	1.5	1.5
	Nuclear	154	79.0	79.0	80.5
	Joint	37	19.0	19.0	99.5
	4	1	.5	.5	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

#### Annex 6: Respondents' Religion

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Islam	173	88.7	88.7	88.7
	Hindu	21	10.8	10.8	99.5
	Christian	1	.5	.5	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

#### Annex 7: Household head \* Respondents' marital status Crosstabulation

Household head	Count	Respondents' marital status					Total
		Unmarried	Married	Widowed	Separated	Divorced	
	Self	3	14	13	1	4	
Husband	0	137	1	0	0	138	
off-spring	0	1	6	0	0	7	
Father/father-in-law	1	5	0	0	0	6	
Mother/mother-in-law	1	0	0	0	0	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>187</b>	



#### Annex 8: EWRs' Annual Income

N	Valid	190
	No answer	5
Mean		68881.89
Std. Deviation		51377.709
Range		300000
Minimum		0
Maximum		300000

#### Annex 9:P-EWRs' Annual Income

N	Valid	186
	No answer	2
Mean		59290.3226
Median		36000.0000
Mode		.00
Std. Deviation		63760.24359
Range		300000.00
Minimum		.00
Maximum		300000.00

#### Annex 10: Respondents' Involvement in the Political Parties

Name of political parties	Frequency	Percent
Bangladesh Awami League	109	75
Bangladesh Nationalist Party	30	21
Bangladesh Jatiya Party	4	3
Jamat-E-Islami Bangladesh	2	1
Other	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>100</b>

#### Annex 11: Duration of Party Political Involvement (EWR)

	Frequency	Percent
Prior to be elected as UP member	101	52
After elected as UP member	45	23
Not affiliated with any political party	49	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>100</b>

**Annex 12: Respondents Faced Family Obstacles while Participating in Political Activities**

		EWR		P-EWR	
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	10	5.1	1	0.53
	No	136	69.7	118	62.77
	Total	146	74.9	119	63.30
No answer		49	25.1	69	36.70
<b>Total</b>		<b>195</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>100</b>

**Annex 13: EWRs Family Obstacles during Participation in Party Political Activities**

	Frequency (n=10)	Percent
While attending in political parties' meeting	6	
interference in participating election	2	
Different political activist in same family creates	2	

**Annex 14: Respondents' having Designation in the Political Parties**

		EWR		P-EWR	
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Yes		69	47	45	37.8
No		77	53	74	62.2
<b>Total</b>		<b>146</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Annex 14.1: Received Assistance to be a Designated Political Activist**

		EWR		P-EWR	
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Senior leader		26	38	13	28.9
Family member		21	30	5	11.1
None		12	17	19	42.2
Chairman/member		9	13	3	6.7
Other		1	1	5	11.1
<b>Total</b>		<b>69</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### Annex 15: Type of Political Participation

	EWR		P-EWR	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Only attend the meeting	39	27	30	25.2
Only attend in political campaign	21	14	16	13.4
Attend both in meeting and political campaign	63	43	63	52.9
Other	23	16	10	8.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>100</b>

### Annex 15.1: How the Opinions are Considered in the Meeting

	EWR		P-EWR	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Opinions are considered	71	67.6	41	58.6
Do not show importance on the given decision	13	12.4	10	14.3
Technically avoid the opinions	11	10.5	12	17.1
Opinions are rejected rudely	10	9.5	7	10.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### Annex 16: Participation in Upper Political Tiers (upazila, Zila and National Level)

	EWR		P-EWR	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Yes	87	60	77	64.7
No	59	40	42	35.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### Annex 17: Perception of Male Activist During Party Political Participation

	EWR		P-EWR	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Participation is respected properly	50	34	53	44.5
Moderately respect the participation	44	30	58	48.7
Do not respect the participation	33	23	6	5.0
Directly oppose during decision making process	19	13	2	1.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### Annex 18: Family Members' Involvement in Political Activities

	EWR		P-EWR	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Yes	121	62	98	52.1
No	74	38	83	44.1
No answer			7	3.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>100</b>

### Annex 18.1: Family Members' Type of Involvements in the Political Parties

	EWR		P-EWR	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Actively involved	64	53	49	50
Indirectly involved	57	47	49	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>100</b>

### Annex 19: Whether EWRs Attempted to Compete in the Upazila Parishads Reserved Seat

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	91	46.7	48.4	48.4
	No	97	49.7	51.6	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>96.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	
No answer		7	3.6		
<b>Total</b>		<b>195</b>	<b>100.0</b>		

### Annex 19.1: Whether EWRs Faced any Political Interference on your Decision to Compete in UzP Reserved Seat Election Decided to Participate

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	0	104	53.3	53.3	53.3
	Yes	24	12.3	12.3	65.6
	No	67	34.4	34.4	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

### Annex 20: Whether the SC Meeting Held Regularly

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	157	80.5	80.5	80.5
	No	35	17.9	17.9	98.5
	Don't know	3	1.5	1.5	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

**Annex 20.1: Whether EWRs' Decisions are Considered during the SC Meeting**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	cordially consider the decision	60	30.8	31.9	31.9
	moderately consider the decision	110	56.4	58.5	90.4
	do not consider at all	18	9.2	9.6	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>96.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	
No answer		7	3.6		
<b>Total</b>		<b>195</b>	<b>100.0</b>		

**Annex20.3. Whether EWRs' Decisions are Considered during the LGU Monthly Meeting**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	0	2	1.0	1.0	1.0
	properly consider the decision	41	21.0	21.0	22.1
	moderately consider the decision	120	61.5	61.5	83.6
	Do not consider the decision	32	16.4	16.4	100.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>195</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

**Annex 20.4: Whether EWRs' Involvement in Party Politics to Some Extent Assist to Control Over Decision Making and Proclaiming Rights at LGU Level**

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	146	75
No	32	16
All LGU female members involvement preferred to proclaim rights or control over decision making	17	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>100</b>

**Annex 20.5: Whether Political Involvement Requires Economic Solvency or Not**

		EWR		P-EWR	
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	107	54.9	126	67.0
	No	88	45.1	62	33.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Annex 21: Functional Status of Standing Committees (P-EWR)**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	0	1	.5	.5	.5
	Yes	51	27.1	27.6	28.1
	No	14	7.4	7.6	35.7
	Don't know	119	63.3	64.3	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>98.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	
No answer		3	1.6		
<b>Total</b>		<b>188</b>	<b>100.0</b>		

**Annex 21.1: Whether the P-EWR Involved in SC**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	0	136	72.3	72.3	72.3
	Yes	38	20.2	20.2	92.6
	No	14	7.4	7.4	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

**Annex 21.2: Whether P-EWRs Decisions are Considered during the SC Meeting**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Cordially consider the decision	10	5.3	26.3	26.3
	Moderately consider the decision	25	13.3	65.8	92.1
	Do not consider at all	3	1.6	7.9	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	
No answer		150	79.8		
<b>Total</b>		<b>188</b>	<b>100.0</b>		

### Annex 22: Do You Attend in 'Shalish'

	EWR		P-EWR	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Yes	167	86	110	58.5
No	28	14	70	37.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>188<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>100.0</b>

### Annex 22.1: Juri Board Members' Perception on Your Decision

	EWR		P-EWR	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Opinions are valued highly	56	34	23	20.9
Opinions are valued moderately	74	44	59	53.6
Juri board members technically avoid the decision	5	3	3	2.7
Opinions are not valued rather directly embarrassed	1	1	1	0.9
Few often decisions are valued	31	19	24	21.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### Annex 23: Involvement in the Development Project

		EWR		P-EWR	
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	169	86.7	18	9.6
	No	25	12.8	162	86.2
	Total	194	99.5	180	95.7
No answer		1	.5	8	4.3
<b>Total</b>		<b>195</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Annex 23.1: Whether Project Related Information Disclosed by the Male Members when Asked**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Try to avoid the issue	55	28.2	29.4	29.4
	Tendency of hiding information	60	30.8	32.1	61.5
	Show Impatient attitude	8	4.1	4.3	65.8
	Misbehaved when asking questions	4	2.1	2.1	67.9
	Provide accurate information	60	30.8	32.1	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>95.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	
No answer		8	4.1		
<b>Total</b>		<b>195</b>	<b>100.0</b>		

**Annex 24: EWRs Involvement in SSN Selection and Distribution**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	184	94.4	26	13.8
	No	11	5.6	155	82.4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>192<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>98.5</b>	<b>181<sup>9</sup></b>	<b>96.2</b>

**Annex 24.1: EWRs' Involvement in Monitoring of Project Implementation**

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	173	88.7
	No	17	8.7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>97.4</b>
No answer		5	2.6
<b>Total</b>		<b>195</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>8</sup> Three No answer

<sup>9</sup> Seven 'No Answer'

### Annex 25: Knowledge on Local Government Act 2009 and Circulars

		EWR		P-EWR	
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Valid	Good knowledge on local government act and circulars	39	20.0	13	6.9
	Partly know the roles and responsibilities	57	29.2	60	31.9
	Moderately know the roles and responsibilities	88	45.1	66	35.1
	Do not know	11	5.6	43	22.9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>182<sup>10</sup></b>	<b>96.8</b>

### Annex 26: Connection with Social Organization or Club

		EWR		P-EWR	
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	72	36.9	60	31.9
	No	123	63.1	124	66.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>184<sup>11</sup></b>	<b>97.9</b>

### Annex 27: EWRs' 'Political Affiliation' by 'Connection with Social Organization or Club' (Cross Tabulation)

Count				
		Connection with social organization or club		Total
		Yes	No	
Respondents' political affiliation	Actively involved	38	44	82
	Indirectly involved	25	39	64
	Not involved at all	9	40	49
<b>Total</b>		<b>72</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>195</b>

<sup>10</sup> Six 'No Answer'

<sup>11</sup> Four 'No Answer'

#### Annex 24: EWRs Involvement in SSN Selection and Distribution

	Frequency	Percent
To be involved in SSN programme	136	69.7
citizen's miscellaneous certificate	111	56.9
Seeking health service (i.e. pregnancy care, NID etc.)	28	14.4
Donation	26	13.3
Social conflict resolution	20	10.3
To solve women's problem especially to resolve family conflict and VAW	17	8.7
Services from Government's Nation Building Department	13	7.1
Road maintenance	6	3.1
To ensure social harmony/law and order	5	2.6
Legal aid services	2	1.0
<i>[Multiple responses counted]</i>		

#### Annex 29.1: Whether the EWRs are Able to Meet Citizen's Demands

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	67	34.4	35.1	35.1
	No	124	63.6	64.9	100.0
	Total	191	97.9	100.0	
No answer		4	2.1		
<b>Total</b>		<b>195</b>	<b>100.0</b>		

#### Annex 30: Whether People Come to the P-EWRs to Meet their Desired Social Demand

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	134	71.3	74.0	74.0
	No	47	25.0	26.0	100.0
	Total	181	96.3	100.0	
No answer		7	3.7		
<b>Total</b>		<b>188</b>	<b>100.0</b>		

### Annex 30.1: Citizen's Type of Desired Demand to the P-EWRs

	Frequency	Percent
Advisory/counseling on different social issues	73	54.5
Assistance on legal aid services	24	17.9
Health care services	30	22.4
Financial help	17	12.7
Birth and death registration	3	2.2
Seeking information	2	1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>111.2</b>
<i>Multiple Responses counted</i>		

### Annex 31: EWRs Received Local Governance Related Training for Capacity Enhancement

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	188	96.4	96.4	99.5
	No	7	3.6	.5	100.0
	Total	195	100.0	100.0	

### Annex 31.1: Mention type of LG Capacity Building Training Received by EWR

	Frequency	Percent
LG capacity enhancement within the framework of local government act	117	60.0
LG service delivery monitoring	81	41.5
LGSP-ii implementation	58	29.7
Democracy, transparency and accountability	56	28.7
Women empowerment and reducing VAW	34	17.4
Women political empowerment	29	14.9
Village court and/ADR	22	11.3
Livelihood training i.e fishing, gardening etc	4	2.1
<i>[Multiple responses counted]</i>		

### Annex 32: Training Knowledge Utilization by EWR

	Frequency	Percent
Self awareness increased to speak in meeting and gathering	74	37.9
UP's regular functions	51	26.2
Proper service delivery to the citizen	43	22.1
Project implementation	42	21.5
Dispute resolution and protesting against VAW	23	11.8
Increase transparency and accountability	9	4.6
LGSP-ii Project claiming (30%)	9	4.6
Social audit	8	4.1
Reducing early marriage	6	3.1
<i>[Multiple responses counted]</i>		

### Annex 33: P-EWRs' Capacity Enhancement Training

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	164	87.2	87.2	90.4
	No	18	9.6	9.6	100.0
	No answer	6	3.2	3.2	3.2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

### Annex 33.1: Type of Capacity Building Training Received by P-EWRs

	Frequency	Percent
Training on agriculture	5	2.7
Sewing training	3	1.6
Women empowerment	13	6.9
Communication and leadership	66	35.1
UP/municipality function	18	9.6
SBA training	1	.5
Democracy, transparency and accountability	5	2.7
Advocacy	1	.5
Youth development	1	.5

### Annex 34: Received Training on Political Capacity Enhancement

		EWR		P-EWR	
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	60	30.8	19	10.1
	No	135	69.2	165	87.8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>184<sup>12</sup></b>	<b>97.9</b>

### Annex 34.1: Type of Political Capacity Building Training

	EWR		P-EWR	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Women empowerment and rights entitlement	25	12.8	15	8
Enhancing political participation and ensuring voting rights	7	3.6		
Leadership and communication	30	15.4	1	.5
Advocacy	2	1.0		
<i>[Multiple responses counted]</i>				

### Annex 34.2: How the Political Training Knowledge Utilized

	EWR		P-EWR	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
To raise voice on rights entitlements at UP	32	16.4	11	5.9
Encouraged ward level women to participate in UP reserved seat election	6	3.1		
Exercise voting rights during election	4	2.1		
Exercise rights during project implementation	19	9.7	2	1.1
Participate in political parties	7	3.6		
<i>[Multiple responses counted]</i>				

<sup>12</sup> Four No answer

বাংলাদেশের মানচিত্রে প্রকল্প এলাকা

# Bangladesh

APARAJITA

Working areas of alliance NGOs



- Democracywatch
- Khan Foundation
- Prip Trust
- Step Towards Development

