

Gender Budget and Women Empowerment

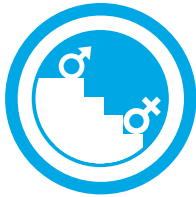
Gender Needs

Women and men usually have different needs and priorities. While planning development interventions women's needs are often not highlighted.



Practical Gender Needs (PGN):

PGNs are practical in nature and often concern inadequacies in living conditions such as health care. PGN are a response to immediate and perceived needs, but are not directly linked with women empowerment.



Strategic gender needs (SGN):

SGN are the needs women identify because of their subordinate position in society. SGN assist to achieve greater equality and change existing roles.

Mainstreaming of Gender Equality

HOW?

Move concerns of gender equality from the backwaters and side streams into the mainstream.

WHY?

To achieve social justice and democracy and equitable and sustainable development.

Gender Budgeting

- ♂ Gender budgeting transforms government's gender commitment into budgetary commitments.
- ♂ Gender budgeting ensures that gender perspectives are taken into account and attention is given to the goal of gender equality (gender mainstreaming).
- ♂ Implies spending **adequate** amount on women's and men's needs rather than **equal** expenditures.
- ♂ Aims to provide policy support to empower women.
- ♂ More than 60 countries around the world do it.

History of Gender Budgeting



Australia was the first country to introduce a gender-sensitive budget analysis in 1984



On the Asian continent, the gender budgeting initiatives are the most developed in India, Bangladesh and in the Philippines



Gender sensitive budgeting was mentioned for the first time in the European Commission in October 2001

Why does gender budgeting focus on women?



Two thirds of the illiterate people are women



Maternal mortality



Under-represented in decision making



Engaged in less formal work



Do most of unpaid work

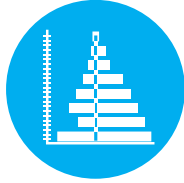
Issues need to be considered

- ♂ Women should benefit equally from public expenditure dedicated for employment.
- ♂ Women should have equal access to government social security schemes, pensions as men.
- ♂ Women and men have different time-use patterns. Women work longer hours per week than men. Budget allocations may increase or decrease the workload of either gender.
- ♂ Women-specific policies should be implemented and sufficient funds should be allocated to them.

Data needs for gender budgeting

Good gender budgeting relies on data. Gender related data consists of two types :

Sex-disaggregated data



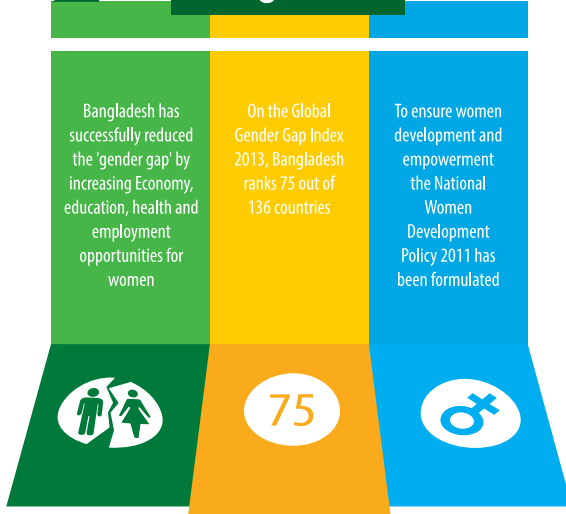
Given separately for male and female

Data on gender issues



Affect only one sex e.g. data on maternal mortality, or violence against women.

Bangladesh



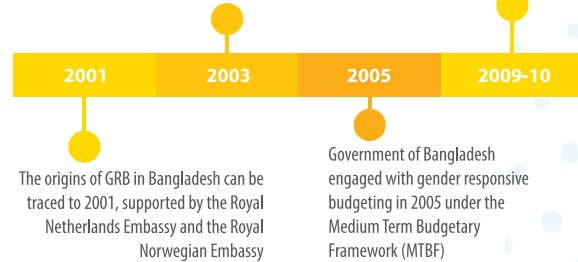
Gender Budget Quantifying Mechanisms of Bangladesh

- ✧ The Government of Bangladesh has under taken the process of rolling out Medium Term Budgetary Framework (MTBF) in formulating the national budget.
- ✧ Under MTBF, a Government budget is to be prepared within a medium-term context.
- ✧ Medium Term Budgetary Framework (MTBF) was introduced in 2003 under the donor assisted Financial Management Reform Programme.
- ✧ Gender issues are embedded on rolling out MTBF process.

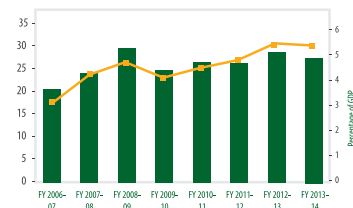
Gender budgeting history of Bangladesh

In August 2003 Ministry of Finance undertook an exercise to develop Recurrent, Capital, Gender and Poverty (RCGP) data base

In FY2009-10, for the first time, an analysis on gender budgeting titled 'Women's Advancements and Rights' was placed before the parliament along with the annual budget

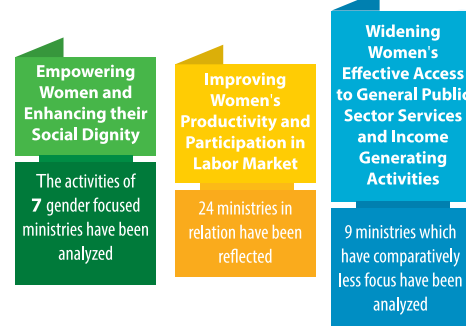


Gender budget in percentage of National Budget and GDP of Bangladesh



Gender Budget 2014-15

- ✧ In the Gender Budget Report 2014-15 forty ministries have been divided into three sections.



- ✧ Allocation for gender budget in FY 2015 is Tk. 66,739 crore which is 4.98 % of GDP and 27.64% of total budget .
- ✧ FY 2015's gender budget allocation is 11.68% higher than FY 2014.
- ✧ Tax free income for women has been raised from Tk. 2.5 lacs in FY 2014 to Tk. 2.75 lacs in FY 2015.
- ✧ Special allocation of Tk. 100 crore is allocated for development of women.