

Report
On
The Project RETA: 6008 Gender And Good Governance
Issues In Local Government
Implemented By Khan Foundation

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1 Introduction

Abdul Momen Khan Memorial Foundation was formed more than a decade ago by the basic concept of democracy for development vis-a-vis development for democracy espoused by the Foundation from international and national levels down to various grass roots level action programmes at the remotest of our villages. Towards these objectives Khan Foundation is facilitating rural women's access to local politics monitoring providing novel credit facilities for the disadvantaged women at an initial 0% interest rate as well as supporting international and national dialogues on sustainable development involving public representatives, academicians, professionals, civil society leaders and administrators.

The major emphasis in any activity undertaken by Khan Foundation is to put the people first, to take a people centered approach and facilitate the empowerment of the underprivileged at all levels. Programmes of Khan Foundation are conducted in an inter disciplinary approach through its various activities in the areas of democracy and development like strengthening of local government and cultivating bonds of friendship between parliamentarians across the party lines, empowerment of women, realization of children's rights as well as well advocacy and mobilization efforts through its training and reforms activities.

With the assistance of the Asian Development Bank Khan Foundation is implementing a project under RETA:6008 namely Gender and Good Governance Issues in Local Government.

Goal of the project is to create competent local government that will ensure effective participation of the community through their representatives at all levels of administrations and promote good governance at the grass roots and institutionalized democracy in Bangladesh.

As a part of the policy and advocacy work under RETA:6008 Good Governance Issues In Local Government Project, Khan Foundation was supposed to do field visits to observe training programs, 2 advocacy workshops at the policy level people, 2 workshops to raise voices, 4 round table meetings and review of local government acts. Up to November 2003, Khan Foundation had conducted the works in the following way:

At A Glance Sheet: Progress of Activities (Upto November 2003)

Meetings	Progress		No of people attended the meeting	Comments
	Date	Place	Achievement	
Policy level	21-12-2003	Khulna	85	
	3-8-2003	Dhaka	87	
	15.12.2003	Dhaka	60	
Round Table Meetings	28-7-2003	Mymensingh	73	
	11-8-2003	Pabna	70	
	11-9-2003	Satkhira	79	
	29.9.2003	B. Baria	75	

Detail information on different meetings and news paper cuttings has been placed below.

2 Report On Workshop Held In Dhaka On August 3, 2003 To Raise Voice of The Women Representatives

The Khan Foundation organized a workshop In Dhaka on August 3, 2003 to Raise Voice of The Women Representatives in its Democracy Auditorium. The women members of the Union Parishad, women commissioners of the City Corporation, women representatives attended the workshop from NGOs, representatives from the government, ADB and other development partners, members of the civil societies and researchers on local government. Honorable State Minister for Cultural Affairs was the Chief guest. Advisor of the previous caretaker government Ms Rokeya A Rahman also attended the meeting.

2.1 Discussions of the meeting

Theme of the workshop was *Role of elected members in the development works at the local level*.

All the participants took active part in discussion. Major points that came out from discussion are as follows:

- 1) There was no provision of direct election in the country, but now the situation has totally changed women, now they are being elected directly. Very recently system of reserved seat has been introduced in our local government systems. But reserved seat system has not helped to enhance the status of women in the society. In the workplace these women members elected against reserve seat are facing severe problems.
- 2) Women at the grass-root level has to be integrated with the development work and without that it is not possible to ensure proper development of the country.
- 3) To ensure effective participation of women in the development at the grass-root, structural changes are needed at the local level, but they themselves have to come forward for this change.
- 4) The system of election against reserve seat at the national as well at the local level is the barrier for political empowerment for women. The policy makers should reconsider this issue.
- 5) Political empowerment of women can be done in two ways: one through creating awareness about their rights and by helping them to carry out their duties properly.
- 6) Local government is important tier of all development. Women at the local level are now willing to contest against general seats. It is an example of political empowerment of women, the elected women members are now realizing that they should work effectively with her made colleagues.
- 7) Women who elected directly reserved seats still fighting for their existence. The roles of women members in the Union Parishad have not clearly spelled out in the ordinance. They do not have the copy of the ordinance of the Union Parishad and have not also received the circulars indicating the involvement of women members in the parishad.
- 8) As per the circular issued by the LG Division in 2002, women can now take part in one third of the development work of the government. In the meeting doubts on the effectiveness of these directives were expressed.
- 9) There is no specific job for women commissioners to do. It is harmful for their effective participation.

- 10) Women in local government are elected against three seats, they have to work in three areas/wards which is both time and money consuming. But in reality it is not appreciated or properly evaluated. Women are neglected in the Union Parishad because they are elected against the reserved seats.
- 11) Women members have to work more than male. Even if they work hard, they are not considered as the colleagues of the male members of UP. But this situation would have different if they were selected against general seats. This system should be changed. System of direct election should be introduced for actual empowerment of women.
- 12) Women are not involved in judicial activities.
- 13) There are problems in education, creating of awareness, involving them in economic development and also in political empowerment. For actual development of women their equal participation has to be ensured.
- 14) Since they are not economically strong, they face problems in contesting elections. Due to reserved seat system, they are bound to work against three seats. They cannot keep their electoral promise.
- 15) Political parties do not nominate more women for contesting in the local as well in the national election. For full participation of women in UP activities, the ordinance has to be modified.
- 16) Reserve seat members are avoided in the meetings where decisions are taken for implementation of the development programs like food for works. They are not even made the secretary of the development committee.

2.2 Recommendations

Some valid suggestions have come out from the workshop. These are:

- ❑ System of election against reserved seat should be abolished.
- ❑ Participation of women as members in local level development should be enhanced. Women members should be integrated in all the development works at the grass root.
- ❑ To ensure equal and quantitative performance of women members, the last circulars of the LGD should be revised and copies to be send to all the members.
- ❑ Women members should be directly involved in all the development works at the grass root level.
- ❑ Women members should be empowered both politically and economically.

- ❑ Political parties should nominate more women candidates for the political empowerment of women.
- ❑ They should be encouraged to take part in election not only against reserved seat but also against general seats.
- ❑ For training on gender equality should be provided to all the members of the Union Parishad including the chairmen. They should be made aware of their rights.
- ❑ Steps should be taken so that they can raise their voice against all kinds of discriminations. They should be made capable of taking part in development activities along with their male colleagues.

3 *Report on Round Table Meetings Organized by Khan Foundation In Different Districts of Bangladesh*

Under the Asian Development Bank's, RETA Gender and Good Governance, Khan Foundation has organized four Round Table Meetings in Mymensingh, Pabna, Satkhira and B.Barua districts. Newly elected women members and chairmen of different union parishads of the related districts, women lawyers, local elites, journalists, officials of different government departments and representatives of different NGOs attended the Round Table Meetings.

In every meeting, after the inaugural session, floor was open for collecting the views of the participants on the present position of women members. Detail information on those meetings is as follows.

4 *Round Table Meeting Held in Mymensingh on July 28th 2003*

The Khan Foundation organized the Round Table Meeting in Mymensingh on 28th July 2003 in the Zila Parishad Auditorium. Mr. Shafiqul Islam, District Commissioner, Mymensingh was the Chief Guest. Special guest was Mr. Nazrul Islam, Chief Executive Officer of Mymensingh. Total number of participants was 73.

The theme of the Round Table Meeting in Mymensingh was: *Position of Public Representatives in the Local Government Structures*.

4.1 *Discussions*

- 1) The women elected members at the grass roots are far behind the development procedures. Most of them are elected for the first time, are less educated, have not yet received training on local government issues or received the copy of the ordinance of the Union Parishad from the proper authority.
- 2) The women members of the Union Parishad do not have much knowledge on their own terms of reference. Round table meetings are necessary for solving

problems at the grassroots. Through round table meetings at the district level, the elected women members of Union Parishad can get opportunities to come across many issues related to local government.

- 3) The local government members have to perform 38 different kinds of works whereas in the central government, one ministry has been created to perform one or two particular works. But the members especially the women members do not have much knowledge to carry out their duties effectively for which they need training.
- 4) The local government leaders live near the people at the grass roots. So they clearly know the problems and needs of the people who live at the grass root very well.
- 5) The elected women members should have clear idea on why they have been elected and what are their assigned functions. As because a woman member is selected from three wards against reserved seat, she has to work more than the member elected against general seat. To improve communication and development skill, they need training on their job, responsibilities and also on the UP manuals.
- 6) Due to ignorance of the newly elected members on their assigned jobs, in many places, different problems had arisen during the last take over and handing over charge ceremony. For the same reason many of the members are getting less cooperation from the local administration.
- 7) In Bangladesh there are four types of rural local governments. For strengthening these local governments need the cooperation of the existing administration.
- 8) For having strong local government in the country, joint efforts of all are necessary. For this purpose both the members of the Union Parishad (including women, chairmen) and local administration should work together. The UP chairman should help the members to perform their job properly. At the same time local administration need to be accountable to people.
- 9) At present involvement of Union Parishad women members in NGO activities is not visible. Since they represent the womenfolk living at the grass root, their participation in all the development works at the union level is necessary.
- 10) Importance was given on the intensive coordination and cooperation between the Union Parishad with the government / semi government organizations.
- 11) The male members do not give much importance to the women members. If they bare engaged in some activities, the situation may be changed The work of the Union Parishad is not distributed equally among its members.
- 12) The newly elected members do not have clear idea on their duties. So to make them aware on their duties and to make them confident, these types of round table meetings should be arranged.

- 13) Although the system of reserve seat has been provided in the local government ordinance for the Union Parishad, their activities have not been mentioned at all.

4.2 Recommendations

Following were the recommendations of the Round Table Meeting held in Mymensingh:

- ❑ To improve the position of women members, work distribution should immediately be done among the members as per the last circular of government.
- ❑ The local government ordinance for the Union Parishad should be revised to incorporate the activities of the women members.
- ❑ On the basis of the quality, experience and popularity, women members should be nominated for the position of chairman/ general secretary.
- ❑ As she is being elected against three wards, important activities should be allocated to the woman members so that they can fulfill their election promises.
- ❑ Women members along with their male colleagues should also be involved in judicial activities.
- ❑ Provision should be kept to select women as the chairman of different development project committees at the grass roots.
- ❑ The honorarium of the Union Parishad members especially that of women members who have to travel in three wards should be enhanced.

5 Round Table Meeting in Held in Pabna

The Khan Foundation organized the Round Table Meeting in Pabna on the 11th August 2003 in the Zila Parishad Auditorium. Mr.A.K.M. Zahangir, District Commissioner, Pabna was the Chief Guest. Mr. Ayezuddin Ahmed, Chief Executive Officer and Mirza Md Iftekar Ali, Asst Engineer, of LGED were the special guests.

The theme of the Round Table Meeting in Pabna was: *Role of Public Representatives in Establishing Good Governance At the Grass Roots*. In her inaugural speech, the representative of Khan Foundation explained the background of the meeting arranged by Khan Foundation with the assistance of the ADB and thanked all the participants for attending the meeting. She requested all concern to take active part in discussion for finding out necessary solution.

5.1 Discussions of the meeting

- 1) Women in general do not have much interest in decision-making procedures. But for their proper empowerment, they need to take part in the decision making process.
- 2) For ensuring good governance at the grass root, the elected members could play a major role. During the election, they make lot of commitments including establishing good governance. They are elected in a democratic way, and they are accountable to the people. For this reason the local government leaders have to engage themselves in the field of poverty alleviation, socio economic development and maintenance of peace.
- 3) Many departments are now working down at the union level but they do not maintain regular connection with the parishad. The participants of the meeting felt that the local leaders should monitor works of these organizations.
- 4) Local government leaders who live near the people at the grass roots know their problems and needs of the very well. But they do not know how to involve themselves in the development works at the grass root. So local government members especially the women have to be trained and involved in the poverty alleviation, income generation as well as in infra structure building activities. These members can then guide and help the people of the union and involve them in the development works.
- 5) As per ordinance the Union Parishad members/Chairman have to perform 38 different kinds of works whereas in the central government, one ministry has been created to perform one or two particular works. Hence, for making the local government effective, all the members especially the women members should be trained.
- 6) Although women are elected against reserve seat, but there is no job specified for them in the ordinance. They are ignored and under estimated by their male colleagues. To involve them actively in the development works the ordinance have to be revised.
- 7) Good governance can be established only when all the people participate in all of its activities. Equal participation of male and female is essential for the purpose. But due to lack of education, skill or fund women cannot take part in the development work effectively.
- 8) The members especially the female members are quite ignorant about their roles and responsibilities. They do not have any copy of the ordinance or have any operational guidelines. Elected members have to be made aware on their roles and responsibilities.
- 9) At the local level Union Parishad is the focal point of all development activities.

- 10) Round table meetings are necessary for creating awareness among all concern. If the elected members carry out their duties effectively only then good governance can be established.
- 11) In many unions many elected members cannot even carry out their duties. Their capabilities are not being evaluated properly. She urged all concerned to help them to establish good governance.
- 12) Becoming the member of the Union Parishad through direct election is one of the major achievements of women. It is one of their sources of the political empowerment in Bangladesh. An environment has to be created for them to carry out their duties effectively in their constituency. Their participation in each and every activities should be equal, their knowledge and skill have to be enhanced.
- 13) If LG Division earmarks the activities for women members, then they will be able to participate equally in all activities of the UP and then perhaps the Chairmen would respect them.

5.2 Recommendations

- ❑ For establishing good governance, employment opportunities have to be created at the grass root.
- ❑ To create employment among women, some income generating activities as well as education programs have to be undertaken for all the women in the area.
- ❑ LG Division should immediately issue directives/circulars regarding involvement of women members in all the activities of local government.
- ❑ Provision of reserve seat should be abolished. Both male and female should contest against the general seats. It will enhance the respect and status of women members in their constituencies.
- ❑ For establishment of good governance, improvement of law and order situation is required.
- ❑ Environment Committee has to be formed to maintain natural environment in the area and the women members should chair it.
- ❑ Measures should be taken to ensure equal participation of women at all levels.
- ❑ Awareness should be created among the members in such a way so that the activities of the Union Parishad become gender balanced.
- ❑ Government should take special measures for distribution of the copy ordinance as well as the circulars among the women members.

- ❑ Government should provide training opportunities for all the members on different issues of local government as well as on gender equality.

6 Round Table Meeting in Satkhira

Khan Foundation organized the Round Table Meeting in Satkhira Zila Parishad Auditorium on 11.9.2003. Chief Guest of the Round Table meeting was the Deputy Commissioner of Satkhira District. It was organized under the ADB finance project RETA 6008: Gender and Good Governance Issues in Local Government Project. Government officials, NGO representatives, women lawyers, social workers and women members of different Union Parishad of that Zila attended the meeting. Theme of the meeting was *Upazila Forum and the Elected Women Members*. Representative of Khan Foundation presented the keynote paper where she mentioned about the importance of forum formed under the ADB financed project. She said that if the women members work together under the forum, they would be benefited in many ways because the objectives of the forum are:

- ❑ To create work opportunities for the elected women members,
- ❑ To utilize the services provided by the Union Parishads,
- ❑ To find out the problems and its solutions,
- ❑ To increase the co-ordination and co-operation among the forum members, women lawyers network and network of NGOs formed under Khan Foundation, and
- ❑ To maintain regular liaison with others.

6.1 Discussion of the meeting

- 1) Fifty percent of the total population of Bangladesh is women. So, in each and every activity women should be involved along with men.
- 2) Women are now taking parts in direct election at the local governments. It is an example of increasing political awareness and empowerment and it is also a case of social progress.
- 3) Women are the barriers of their own development. But to improve the situation they have to be united to utilize the services provided by the Union Parishads. Women in general play different roles in different situations and whatever they do, they do it very effectively and sincerely. Forum of women members can play an important role in political and economic empowerment of women.
- 4) This time many women have become members for the first time. These members have to be made aware of their responsibilities of the Union Parishad and mobilize them to come forward to take active part in various community development activities like tree plantation, fish culture, poultry and cattle raising, vegetable gardening and other income generating activities.
- 5) In our country empowerment of women has to be started from the grass root level. But at the grass root most of the elected women members are less educated and they do not know much about their roles and responsibilities.

They should be made aware on the problems of their own areas and find out ways to solve them.

- 6) Women member's involvement in women and child trafficking, women and child abuse etc is very important. If specific responsibilities are given to them, then in addition to the above duties they can stand firmly against early marriage, polygamy, dowry, etc. They will be able to carry out these duties effectively if arrangement is made to link them up with the lawyer or with NGO network for legal and management support
- 8) The elected women members do not know much about the source of income of the Union Parishad, how to prepare the budget or even their roles and responsibilities in different committees. Through formation of women forum it would be easier to aware them on the about subjects.
- 9) Elected women members have every right to look after development projects at union levels. In our country there is lack of strong women leadership. To be a good leader women have to be educated, knowledgeable on their roles and duties and on social spheres. To be a good leader, women members have to work hard and sincerely at all levels of union, upazila and zila . If they want to contest in the national election, they have to be qualified and skill. A strong forum can help women to fulfil this target.
- 10) Through formation of forum, women at the grass root will be able to assert their right.
- 11) Through formation of forum, lots of problems at the union level can be solved, Because it creates solidarity among women members. Forum will be helpful for ensuring equal participation of members in all aspects of development works.
- 12) Male members are more powerful than the female members due to various reasons. For example, uneven distribution of resources/assets, preference for male child, purda system etc. So the women at the grass root have to tackle the situation very carefully. They have to be united and forum is the best way for the purpose. The women members need to be vocal in the meetings and express their opinions on different issues and select their forum leader carefully. Participation in the forum meetings and training programmes will help them to become capable as elected representatives.
- 13) Women members are deprived of their rights. Their male colleagues tends to ignore and under estimate them. Forum will help them to fight against the negative attitudes of the male members. To start with, all the three reserved seat members of the same union have to be united.
- 14) Empowerment of women is not possible to achieve without any work,. They do not have any manual, no work to do and even do not have guidelines. They face various problems. It is better if the Chairman invites women members in all the meetings of the Parishad.

- 15} From the one-day training provided by Khan Foundation they know about their roles, UP activities and other community responsibilities. It is felt that UP Chairmen do not evaluate their capabilities. Most of the women members have guilty feelings for not fulfilling their election promises.
- 16) Usually a Chairman has a tendency not to involve the elected women members in the existing activities of the Union Parishad and deprived them from their rights. Woman members are elected by the vote of minimum 5000 people of three wards. Due to negative attitude of the male members they can not fulfill their election promise. The participants urged that this problem should be solved.

6.2 Recommendations

In the meeting following recommendations were made:

- ❑ for creating awareness as well as for fighting against injustice towards women in our country, it is needed to form Forum for the elected women of the Union Parishad
- ❑ Forum for elected women members should be formed in each upazila.
- ❑ Measures should be taken to link up Elected Women Members' Forum at the grass root with the existing Women Lawyers Network and with the NGO network so that the members of the. As a result of which by getting legal and organizational support from them, members of the Forum can play a vital role in stopping the violation/terrorism.
- ❑ Measures should be taken to aware elected women on their status and rights, help them to increase their knowledge and encourage them to practice it in their day to day activities.
- ❑ Formation of the Forum will help them to find out and solve their problems at the grass root.
- ❑ Forum helps to strengthen the local government as well as increase co-ordination among other members of the society. To cover all the elected members of the country, NGOs should start helping women members to form Forum immediately.
- ❑ In the forum meetings the members should be vocal and express their opinions on different issues tactfully and select their forum leader carefully. By become capable Because forum is the best vehicle to unite all the women members of the upazila for fighting against all types of discrimination against them.
- ❑ Women member's forum should mobilize its members to come forward and take active part in various community development activities like tree plantation, fish culture, poultry and cattle raising, vegetable gardening and other income generating activities.

- Forum should take initiatives to aware its members on their roles and responsibilities. The forum leaders should collect the copies of the union Parishad manual/ ordinance/ circulars etc and distribute them among the forum members. It should create pressure on the Union Parishad for equal participation of women members.
- Each and every member of the forum should work actively for reducing trafficking and abuse of children and women in the area, and maintain close relationship with the NGO and Women Lawyer's network.

7 Round table meeting In Brahmanbaria

The Khan Foundation organized the meeting in Brahmanbaria Paurashava Auditorium on September 29, 2003. The Union Parishad women and male members, chairmen, lawyers, NGO representatives, journalists, government officials and members of civil society attended the Round Table meeting. The theme of the Round Table meeting in Brahmanbaria was: *Participation of the women members in local government constituency: perspective problem & solution.*

7.1 Discussion of the meeting

- 1) For good governance elected women members at the grass root should play an important role in their constituency.
- 2) In the local government system women members are now elected in a democratic way. They are accountable to the people. In this situation, for ensuring good governance at the grassroots, the elected members could play a major role.
- 4) As an elected member they should be involved in all activities of the Parishad. They should take active part in infrastructure building that includes construction of roads, bridge culverts, improvement of literacy rate of the area and also improvement of socio economic development of the area.
- 5) They should work against all kind of discrimination against women in the area which includes reducing the rate of abuses of women and children, early marriage, acid throwing, divorce etc.
- 6) Since they are the representatives of women in the area, they should aware them on the economic empowerment and help them to involve in various income generation activities.
- 7) It is the women members who can play effective role in reducing rate of trafficking of women and child.
- 8) The elected women can help in reducing poverty, establishing rights of women and in increasing the rate of education in the union. They can motivate rural women to take training for taking part in the income generation activities. It is

them who can motivate the union people to send their children to school, use sanitary latrines, registrar birth etc.

- 9) It was discussed that to integrate women members in different activities, they have to be qualified and skilled for their future performance. For the purpose they need training and awareness.
- 10) The newly elected members do not know their roles and responsibilities properly. It is also not written clearly in the local governance ordinance. Hence there is a tendency among the male members to avoid the women members and not to involve them in the activities of the Parishad. If all the UP members could work together, it would have been helpful for them to learn something.
- 11) Most of the women members have not received any training on their roles and responsibilities. There is no system to distribute copies of the ordinance, circulars or operational guidelines to the members especially the women members.
- 12) As they have been elected against the reserve seat, the chairman and the members elected against general seat always maintain a step sisterly attitude towards the reserve seat members.
- 13) At present many NGOs are working at grass root for the socio-political empowerment of women. But these NGOs do not maintain liason with the union parishad or with its women members.

7.2 Recommendations

Following were the recommendations of the Round Table Meeting held in Brahmanbaria:

- ❑ All the member of the Union Parishad should maintain high cooperation and unity among themselves.
- ❑ Union Parishad should ensure equal participation of male and female representatives.
- ❑ The honourarium of the Union Parishad members should be enhanced.
- ❑ Ensure training facilities for the Women members.
- ❑ Increase the literacy rate of the women.
- ❑ Immediate distribution of work must be given to the women members as per the latest government circulation.
- ❑ All NGOs working in the Union levels should be involved with the activities of the local development.
- ❑ Union Parishad should be accountable to the people.
- ❑ Bureaucratic types of problems should be sorted out.
- ❑ The circular issued by the Local Government should be strengthened and properly implemented.

8 Actions To be Taken

On the basis of the recommendations of different meetings, actions should be taken immediately. Name of the organizations that will take action have been suggested in following table. Actions can be taken by

Sl no.	Recommendations	Actions to be taken by
1	Women members should be empowered both politically and economically.	
2	Provision of reserve seat should be abolished. Both male and female should contest against the general seats. It will enhance the respect and status of women members in their constituencies.	Government /LGD to take action for abolishment of reserve seat. Government / NGo to aware and motivate people.
3	Women should be encouraged to take part in direct election against general seats	Government / NGo to aware and motivate people
4	Nomination of more women candidates for the political empowerment of women.	Political parties to nominate more women to against general seats.
5	Participation on elected women members in local level development should be enhanced. Women members should be integrated in all the development works at the grass root. They should be made capable of taking part in development activities along with their male colleagues.	Government / Union Parishad / NGOs
6	For establishing good governance, employment opportunities have to be created at the grass root.	Government / NGOs
7	Training on gender equality should be provided to all the members of the Union Parishad including the chairmen. They should be made aware of their rights.	Government / NGOs
8	Steps should be taken so that the women can raise their voice against all kinds of discriminations.	Government / NGOs
9	To improve the position of women members, work distribution should immediately be done among the members as per the last circular of government. As she is being elected against three wards, important activities should be allocated to the woman members so that they can fulfill their election promises.	Government /LGD /Union Parishad
10	The local government ordinance for the Union Parishad should be revised to in corporate the activities of the women members.	LG Division should immediately issue directives/circulars regarding involvement of women members in all the activities of local government.
11	On the basis of the quality, experience and popularity, women members should be nominated for the position of chairman/ general secretary.	Political parties ?eople
12	Women members along with their male colleagues should also be involved in judicial activities.	LGD/ Union Parishad
13	The honorarium of the Union Parishad members especially that of women members who have to travel in three wards should be enhanced.	Government / LGD

14	Distribution of ordinance as well as the circulars among the women members should be ensured.	Government should take special measures for distribution
15	For creating awareness as well as for fighting against injustice towards women in our country, it is needed to form Forum in each upazila for the elected women of the Union Parishad	NGOs
16	Measures should be taken to link up Elected Women Members' Forum at the grass root with the existing Women Lawyers Network and with the NGO network so that the members of the members of the Forum can play a vital role in stopping the violation/terrorism.	NGOs
17	All NGOs working in the Union levels should be involved with the activities of the local development.	Government /NGOs
18	Union Parishad should be accountable to the people.	Government
19	Bureaucratic types of problems should be sorted out.	Government /NGOs
20	The circular issued by the Local Government should be strengthened and properly implemented.	Government /Union Parishad

News Paper Cuttings

List of Participants

Letter No KF/ ADB/ DO-

Date: 5th November 2003

Ms Monawar Sultana
Social Development Specialist
Social Sector's Division South Asia Department
Asian Development Bank
Metro Manila, Philipines

Subject : ***Progress Report on Gender and Good Governance Issues In Local Government Project (Project No. RETA :6008)***

Dear Monawar

Regards. I am sending here with the progress report on the activities under the *Gender and Good Governance Issues In Local Government Project (Project No. RETA :6008* up to December 2003 for your kind information.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully

Advocate Rokhsana Khondker