

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON GENDER POLICY IN BANGLADESH: STRATEGIES, CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES



As a part of its gender mainstreaming initiative of the MPPG Program, a day-long national seminar was held on Saturday the 5th of October, 2013 at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel, Dhaka, Bangladesh. The seminar topic was “Gender Policy in Bangladesh: Strategies, Constraints and Challenges.” It was jointly organized by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA), Government of Bangladesh and Master in Public Policy and Governance (MPPG) Program of North South University (NSU). One of the prime objectives of the seminar was to generate better understanding and clarity of the gender policies and various approaches to address gender issues, with particular focus on domestic violence. The seminar also aimed at reviewing the existing gender policies, identifying and assessing the problems and challenges of existing gender related rules/ regulations and its implementations, with particular focus on violence against women.

Professor Dr. Sadeka Halim, Commissioner, Information Commission of Bangladesh was present at the seminar as Chief Guest and Mr. Tariq-ul- Islam, Secretary, MoWCA chaired the inaugural session. Professor Amin U. Sarkar, the Vice Chancellor of NSU and co-host of the seminar was present during the inaugural session. Professor Dr. Nazmunnessa Mahtab, former Chairman, Department of Women and Gender Studies, Dhaka University and Ms. Mushfeka Ikgat, Secretary, Ministry of Food chaired the other sessions. Professor Dr. Khaliqzaman M. Elias, Coordinator of MPPG Program delivered the welcome speech and Mrs. Rehana Rahman, Hon’ble Member of the Board of Trustees, NSU was present as special guest.

A total of 4 papers were presented at the seminar in different sessions. The first paper titled on “Gender Sensitivity of Public Policies– A Review of Selected Public Policies of Bangladesh” was presented by Professor Salahuddin M. Aminuzzaman, Adviser of MPPG Program, the second paper titled on “Gender Mainstreaming in Bangladesh: Major Strategies, Progress and Challenges” was presented by Mr. Md. Ashraf Hossain, Director General, Directorate of Women Affairs (DWA), the third paper titled on “Domestic Violence, An Issue of Human Security in Bangladesh” was presented by Dr. Sk. Tawfique M. Haque, Associate Professor, MPPG Program, and the last paper titled on “Violence against Women: An Overview and Assessment of the Multi-Sectoral Program” was presented by Ms. Sabina Sultana, DWA. The core participants of the seminar were the officials of Ministry of Women Affairs who are working in different local areas of the country such as ‘Upazila Mohila Bishoyok Kormokorta’, ‘Zila Mohila Bishoyok Kormokorta’ and student and faculty members of NSU.