

Women on the Move

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN Identifying the Impediments

by Our Staff Correspondent

Workshop on Gender Issues in Export-Based Industrialisation in Bangladesh, jointly organised by Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) in Geneva...

The workshop discussed the features of the domestic labour market, particularly, the impact of rural-urban migration and labour market segmentation...

The employers, too, mentioned that remuneration was not gender-specific but skill-specific. Some contrary propositions brought out in the discussion suggested that it was the greater vulnerability of women in Bangladesh...

It was pointed out that inherited traditions of male domination in many households with wage-earning women still persisted. However, capacity to earn an income dependent income has given working women greater influence over household expenditure patterns.

This has led to serious economic problems for the employed girls. This loss of earnings by the girls cannot be compensated by the educational provisions of the MOU signed by the BGMEA...

as well as diversify their skills, improve their working conditions, as well as their housing facilities. The importance of creating awareness about the plight and rights of working women was emphasised...

Because I am a Woman

by Meher Akhter

W EAK, vulnerable and fragile; timid, cowardly and petrified; retarded, paralysed and handicapped against the time in the hands of the waiting beast lurking in the dark...

Faces of Coercion



Traditional Practices that Act as Barriers to Empowerment

by Farhana Azim

POVERTY is everywhere in Bangladesh. It is endemic in the economy and equally evident in socio-political and cultural arena.

According to the traditional practice of Islam, after puberty a girl should maintain 'purdah' which means that she should not expose herself in front of men.

Women's work is complementary or auxiliary to that of men. But women's work and labour do not have direct access to the marketplace. At every step, it comes up against boundaries beyond which male intermediaries are necessary...



Tradition frowns upon men and women waking together.

and their exclusion from economic activities. Thus, women have become more vulnerable to poverty in the rural areas while urban situation is changing slowly due to their access in informal job sector, particularly in garments.

Women's participation in farm based economic activities is restricted and limited. So, society in general, does not get input from the better half of it. Women folk of Bangladesh are indirectly contributing to agricultural and economic productivity of the country...

domain is her home and therefore housekeeping is completely a woman's work. This results in the segregated roles of men and women and this has been due to the unequal and inferior position of women determined by religious practice and time-old social values.

'War is What Happens Afterwards'

WAR is not the shelling and the shooting, the moments shown on TV — 'war is what happens afterwards, the years of suffering hopelessly with a disabled husband and no money, or struggling to rebuild when all your property has been destroyed.'

been combatants, but in terms of exposure to fire the distinction between combatants and civilians is of little significance today — the UN Children's Fund estimates are that about 80 per cent of those killed in war civilians, compared with only 10-15 per cent at the turn of the century.

that they take on new responsibilities, most notably economic provision for their families, but also new forms of management, decision-making and administrative tasks, such as dealing with officials and governments.

learning masonry and carpentry and about building their own homes. Just imagine that woman coming home. She can open her own masonry firm. Right now, women are bus, drivers, drivers for international agencies. You could not find that before. They had to have a secretarial or office job.

is a typical comment. Many widows of Sikhs during anti-Sikh violence in India after Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's assassination became bread-winners and transformed their economic status. But sons and in-laws were unable to accept the new reality.

Shomnilito Nari Samaj Faridpur rally protesting rape and murder of Yasmin. While the Shomnilito Nari Samaj held its Dhaka rally on October 30, to protest the rape and murder of Yasmin a child domestic worker, in Dinaipur, they received a letter of solidarity from the Asian Women's Rights Council (AWHRC), Philippines...

A Statement of Support for the Protest Action Concerning the Case of Yasmin, a Rape-Murder Victim

We join you today as you protest the rape-murder of Yasmin. May the blood that she was forced to shed serve as a bond that will unite all of us in our common quest for justice. Today, we also join you in spirit as we gather in front of the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in the Philippines and other parts of the world to demand the acquittal of Sarah Balabagan, a 16-year old Filipino domestic worker who sought retribution for her rape by killing her violator.



Victims of insurgency: Khagrachari