Point that needs to be noted is that, 64 percent of women and girls are victimized by a current or former husband, cohabiting partner, boyfriends or a familiar person (findings from National Violence Against Women Survey). This clearly defines that the message is not disseminating properly, or the right people are not taking actions even though the message has reached them.

So we ask ourselves- Is fighting against violence concerning women and girls is a single gender issue? Or is it an issue that disquiets every individual?

Men are more politically involved and are denoted to be the dominant sex in the society. In many families they are the single source of income as well as the decision makers. On the contrary, because of men, women are still struggling for equality, peace, justice and development. Therefore, men's involvement in women's rights issues will not only add on to the overall agenda to overcome problems in the society, but will also act as a catalyst to solve them.

About half of the population in Bangladesh is women, the majority of whom are underprivileged, undernourished, illiterate and poor. If the other half of Bangladesh's population- the men, stands up to proclaim women's rights and assists them to build a safer environment, then empowerment of women would increase vastly in the coming years.



About women empowerment

8th March is marked as the International Women's Day. In regard to this very significant day *Star Campus* collected views from various people, some of whom who are working with young women everyday while others represent their empowerment in the social sectors. We asked them about the significance of International Woman's Day and what womanhood means to them. Stressing on this year's theme, which is "Men And Women United To End Violence Against Women And Girls", we also asked how this year's theme contributes to our society.

Interviewed by Tanzina Rahman

Janannatul Mawa
Assistant News Producer in abc Radio

Why do we celebrate womanhood once a year? International Women's Day has been given such preference and importance that I think people often forget that womanhood is not only a "one day" thing. I think all 365 days should be equally considered to stand for woman's rights and to help build a world that will inspire women every day.

Mahfuza Rahman
Housewife

In the past, photographs of women would appear in the packaging of products or in advertisements; it was a technique that was used to grasp consumers' attention. But as we look around our society today, the same tricks of portraying women are being practiced. Yes, in terms of empowerment we have managed to reach the bar. But the wrong way of depicting women still continues. I think the society should stop portraying women as products and instead give them the reputable stand that they deserve.

Kuntala Shabnam
MA Applied Linguistics and ELT student, DU (English Department)

I think this year's theme is a wonderful way to tell our society that both men and women should work together to create awareness for women's rights. Together we will be able to make a safer society.