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Women's work: Unrecognised and undervalued

SHAHEEN ANAM

Conventionally, work is defined as any activity undertaken in lieu of remuneration. The value of work is determined by the level of remuneration. Therefore, any work undertaken without remuneration is considered non-valuable and non-work. On the other hand, any work done outside, such as office, factory, field is considered more valuable than work done at home. The conclusion therefore is, men work outside, get remuneration so their work is valuable. Women work at home, get no remuneration, therefore their work is considered non-work having no or little value. This is the reality of women's work across the world. Their contribution to the family and society is not valued as

most of their work is considered as household work which as women and the role given to them by society they are obliged to perform. It remains unseen, invisible and unrecognised and in conventional terms, yielding no economic benefits. The under valuation of women's work is a global phenomenon. Based on several research and surveys, women produce 60-80% of basic foodstuffs in sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean and perform over 50% of the labour involved in intensive rice cultivation in Asia. Women head 60% of households in some regions of Africa and meet 90% of household water and fuel needs in Africa. They also process 100% of basic household foodstuffs in Africa. However, in spite of these statistics,

500 million women in the world live below the poverty line in rural areas. One in four women will experience physical violence during their life time and the phenomenon of 'missing women', where girl children are subject to foeticide through sex selection in many parts of the world is still in force. The reason is, women in general are not valued. Their contribution to the family and society remains unevaluated, unrecognised and undervalued. An objective evaluation of women's work in all its many dimensions is rarely undertaken. Because of lack of evaluation, it does not get the respect, appreciation and status that it deserves. In Bangladesh, the scenario is not very different. There is no doubt that women have made great progress in the

last two decades. They have attained a level of political, social and economic empowerment and today, there are many more options open for women than ever before. Yet, in their personal lives, their decision making ability is severely constrained by traditions, norms and customs leaving millions of women disempowered. Women continue to face discrimination and violence in their private and public lives. The BBS a study in 2013 reports that about 60% women are subjected to physical violence by their spouse or close relatives. 65% girls are married before the age of 17 or 18, which is child marriage, and according to reports, there has been 803 incidents of rape since January to November 2015. (source Ain O Salish Kendro)

Violence and discrimination against women revolves around their status in society and in their families. Women face violence and discrimination because of lower status as compared to males. One of the reasons is non-recognition of their contribution to society or to their families. The non-recognition of their contribution leads to devaluation and disrespect resulting in discrimination and violence. In spite of taking on the major burden of household work, such as caring for children and the elderly, cleaning, looking after poultry, cattle etc. including the many activities related to food production and preservation, women's work remains invisible as most of these activities are

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হাত থেকেই ছড়ায় জীবাণু। সেখান থেকেই শরীর পড়ে নানা অসুখ-বিসুখের ফাঁদে। তাই ব্যবহার করুন Savlon Antiseptic Handwash & Soap, যা জীবাণু থেকে হাতকে দেয় সম্পূর্ণ সুরক্ষা। তাহলে আজ থেকেই শুরু হোক Savlon Control

