



Church of Bangladesh

Enabling women Leadership in our Churches

"She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue"
Proverbs: 31:26

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International Anglican Women's Network

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Policy and Institutions

to take the women leadership forward

- Synod constitution is supportive to build women's leadership and participation
- All ministries are aligned with the Synod constitution and have policies to promote that.
- There is specific ministry to look after women interests and capacity building
- There is gender policy to empower the women
- At every parish there is women committee to work for women needs and capacity building
- Has policy for inclusion of women pastors
- In all committees 1/3 should be women

The specific ministry for women evolved from Mothers' Union in 60s then Women's Committee in 80s and later in 2000 to Women's Fellowship, and that presently is functioning



Process and Strategies

- Appraisal to understand the context, situation, needs and priority initiatives
- Setting vision, mission, objectives and targets
- Systematic orientation to let all understand the vision mission , objectives, roles and responsibilities
- Education, training, seminar, workshop, exposure visit to build the capacity to act on effectively
- Review the progress, understand the lessons and challenges, and reset the way forward

Initiatives

- **Conducting Bible study**
- **Initiating social work: cleaning church, graveyard, visiting patient and elderly people etc.**
- Attending elderly and people with disabilities
- Responding to disasters
- Seeking professional training
- Seeking higher education
- Arranging workshop and seminar for women capacity building
- Fund raising for supporting poor
- Conducting Sunday school
- Arranging prayer meeting
- Initiating family reconciliation
- Day/event observation including religious, cultural and development such as Lent prayer, Bangla New Year, International Women's Day
- Arranging Exposure visit



Initiatives



Key outcomes

- Women are more organized in different activities including: evangelic, development, welfare, education, and health services
- Have two women pastors
- Women got enrolled in competitive international standard higher education
- Domestic violence reduced within families
- Elderly women are being attended and their inclusion in society increased
- Voices of women increased in policy decision
- More women staff at different levels
- Cooperative of women formed at rural level for their economic empowerment
- Women capacity improved to address natural and climatic disasters



Lessons

- Women are core in Church activities
- Women are pivotal in caring elderly people
- Women are viable to restore peace in family and society
- women lead the family to establish Christian faith in family
- Women are front-liners to support the needy families
- In disaster they play significant effective and stable roles

Key challenges

- Losing Christian values in society and family
- Economic crisis is overriding the stability of family and society
- Young women are less interest in church societal activities
- As minority we are oppressed and being women we are the most oppressed than anyone else
- Lack of sufficient education
- Lack for financial support in capacity building of women

Way forwards

- Scope of higher education for women is to be mainstreamed
- More capacity development trainings are to be ensured
- Scope of knowledge sharing need to be broaden
- Church should have detailed update Gender Policy for promoting gender justice
- Scope for economic empowerment of women need to be further increased

Thank you
....*for kind hearing*