

International Women's Day observed Women's role in establishing sustainable good governance

Gender inequality spreads corruption and women are more likely to become victims of corruption than men. A TIB study in 2015 found that women are being forced to accept corruption as a way of life, and at the same time they are becoming victims, agents and in some cases beneficiaries of corruption. To ensure women's adequate representation at all stages of governance framework, it is important to mainstream gender in anti-corruption activities.



To generate larger awareness and capacity building of agents of change, TIB has undertaken number of events to observe International Women's Day 2018 with the theme: "Sustainable development Goals, good governance and Women". Series of events at national level included a workshop with women government officials and a national debate competition in participation with 32 teams from different universities of the country. The day was also observed in 45 CCC areas by organizing rally, street theatre, discussion meeting and cultural programmes.

On 1 March, 2018, TIB organised a workshop titled 'Sustainable development goals, good governance and women' at Meghomala Conference room of TIB to discuss about the status and role of women in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ensuring good governance. 15 female Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNO) of fifteen upazila from all the administrative divisions of the country participated in the event with the approval and assistance of Bangladesh government's Cabinet Division. Besides, humanitarian activist Advocate U. M. Habibun Nessa and TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman; Adviser – Executive Management Professor Dr. Sumaiya Khair; and Outreach and Communication Director Dr. Rezwan ul Alam attended.

Welcoming the participants to the event, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said that there is an intensive connection between Government's vision 2021 and seventh five-year plan, and SDGs 5 and 16. He said, to achieve inclusive development in establishing good governance with ensuring transparency and accountability in administration through increased women's participation in

decision-making process and women empowerment, from central to grassroots, there is no alternative to carry on from the gender sensitive perspective. Dr. Zaman congratulated the participants for their courageous contribution in implementing governments development plans especially at the field level, despite numerous challenges and lack of adequate support and logistics.



The workshop kicked off with a presentation made by Dr. Rezwan ul Alam on ‘Sustainable Development Goals, good governance and women’, highlighting the synergy between SDG 16 and 5 with the 7th Five-year plan of Bangladesh, women rights and empowerment in SDG, intra-relationship between women and good governance and required actions to deal the challenges of women rights and empowerment. Advocate U. M. Habibun Nessa facilitated an open interactive session on ‘Inclusive strategy in ensuring sustainable development: no one will be left behind’. The female officials participated in group activities on ‘Good governance in women right and empowerment process: Recommendation for Upazila level’ and later presented their findings.

At the concluding session, Dr. Iftekharuzzaman gave away the certificates among the participants. He urged the female officers to continue their crucial role in inspiring, encouraging, organising and empowering women. Appreciating the initiative of TIB, the participants expressed that this forum inspired them positively and they expected to share and apply these experiences among their networks. The workshop aimed to inform and encourage the female government officials to play effective role in implementing the gender related goal 5 and good governance related goal 16 of SDGs.

TIB members reiterate to fight corruption, placed 9-point demand for a corruption free country

The Members of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) reiterated to fight corruption with woken up conscience for bringing transparency, accountability and good governance in the beloved motherland. They expressed their collective determination to hate and stand against corruption of all forms, types and levels at their annual meeting held on March 15, 2018 at TIB’s Dhanmondi office. The Members again vowed to engage more people both at national and local

level for catalyzing a more effective social movement against corruption. They also voiced a nine-point demand in the declaration of the meeting to free Bangladesh from all types of corruption and irregularities.



Members participated.

Advocate Sultana Kamal, Chairperson, Board of Trustees of TIB and M Haizuddin Kahan, Member, Board of Trustees of TIB were present at the meeting which was moderated by TIB Executive Director Dr. Iftekharuzzaman. Representative of TIB Members at the General Assembly of TIB Professor Dr A. K. M. Fazlul Haque chaired the meeting in which 46

TIB Members expressed deep concern over the continued question leakages at different public examinations across the country. They observed, question leakage will ruin the whole education system of the country by making the dream of establishing a merit based Bangladesh unreachable. Expressing deep dissatisfaction over the government's failure to check the suicidal menace, TIB Members urged the government to ensure exemplary punishment against those involved in question leakage as well as unfair admission in public university and unfair public recruitment. They said, free flow of information and freedom of the mass media is a prerequisite of democracy and good governance which acts as an important and effective tool to fight corruption. They called on the government for an effective implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2009 along with the whistleblowers' protection act.



Advocate Sultana Kamal said, fighting corruption is not an easy task. There are various obstacles at different stages from different quarters in fighting corruption. She called on the people to play active role from own position as per own capacity. Executive Director of TIB Dr. Iftekharuzzaman shared the

information of TIB's recent activities including research work, advocacy and campaign through a power point presentation in the meeting.

A nine-point demand was placed in the declaration of the meeting for transparency, accountability, integrity and participation in all sectors towards a corruption free Bangladesh of justice and equal rights.

Call for mainstreaming gender in anti-corruption activities for sustainable development



Youth debaters stressed on reducing corruption to attain SDG 5 through women empowerment, inclusion of women in decision-making process and mainstreaming gender in anti-corruption activities. The unanimous call was made in the final round of two-day national inter-

university debate competition held on 4 March 2018.

Organised by TIB at its Dhaka office to generate awareness on role of women, development and good governance, a total of 96 debaters from 32 universities, both public and private, competed in the parliamentary-styled debate competition on the theme 'Sustainable Development Goals, Good Governance and Women' from 3 March to mark International Women's Day 2018.

The debaters emphasized on good governance, transparency, accountability, participation, gender parity, equal rights and equal opportunity in implementing the SDGs at every stage from centre to the root levels. Achievement of the SDGs



would be far reaching without the effective participation of women keeping their rights and proper empowerment unaddressed, the debaters summarized in the concluding session.

The topic of the final round was 'corruption and economic debilitation are the main obstacle in achieving SDG 5'. In the final of the competition, Bangladesh University of Textiles (BUTEX) emerged Champion by defeating Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP) while Mr. Jalal Md. Ashraf of BUTEX bagged the coveted 'Best Debater' award. TIB's Outreach and Communication Director of TIB Dr. Rezwan-ul-Alam distributed prizes among the participants.

Water integrity important for effective climate adaptation

To cope with dire impact of climate change especially towards the water sector, promotion of integrity in the water management can play crucial role in climate adaption. In parallel with various initiatives by government and other organisations to counter climate change effects in Bangladesh, awareness campaigns and advocacy initiatives highlighting water integrity practices and linkages with SDGs should be prioritized in program planning for effective adaptation.



These points came up in an inter-university anti-corruption debate competition participated by young debaters from different universities. Held on 21 March 2018 to mark the World Water Day 2018, TIB organized the Barowari style Debate competition at its Dhaka office with participation of 55 debaters from 26 universities, selected through online registration process.



Dr. Rezwan-ul-Alam, Director – Outreach and Communications of TIB inaugurated the day-long event. Followed by a short speech on the objectives of the competition and youth engagement, he administered anti-corruption oath.

After debates in two stages of primary round, in the final round, 10 debaters competed in the final round and Rifat Afsar Khan from the University of Dhaka became Champion and first, second, third and fourth runner-up were Prosanto Kumar Sen from Dhaka College, Afrida Zinnurain Urbi from DU, Muhammad Farhan Rahman from Jahangirnagar University, Mosabbira Rahman Mousumi from the State University of Bangladesh respectively.

The other 5 finalists were Kazi Amanuzzaman, Md. Ziaur Rahman and Afrose Shachchu Shahnewaz from the University of Dhaka, Hasan Mahmud Samrat from Jahangirnagar University and Rumman Jahan from the University of Asia Pacific respectively.



Mr. Hasan Mahmud Biplob, former President of Bangladesh Debate Federation attended the final round as Chair and handed away prizes and crests to the winners accompanied by senior TIB officials and eminent debate personalities who also acted as judges in different levels of the competition.

Welcoming Govt's nod to draft national defense policy TIB calls for policy enactment through a participatory process

TIB welcomed the government's move of endorsing the draft of National Defense Policy-2018 terming it as a landmark decision of the government in establishing good governance in the country. In a statement released on March 20, 2018 Executive Director of TIB Dr. Iftekharuzzaman said, "It is a landmark decision of the government and consistent with its policy in establishing good governance."

In the statement, Dr. Zaman also urged the government to create an opportunity for people as stakeholder so that they can put forward their opinion before giving final nod to the policy.

Dr. Zaman said, "The policy is very imperative for the national defense and security. TIB expects that a scope to formulate the policy in a participatory manner will be created where people can put forward their opinion in this regard."

The people have rights to know the pros and cons of the defense policy, Dr. Zaman said adding that the people's engagement in formulating the policy is an integral part of democratic practice. The national defense policy will be more people friendly if they are given the scope to place their opinion, he said. Dr. Zaman hoped that the key focus of the policy would be transparency, accountability and people's participation in the true sense.

Information Fairs revealing government services organized in 6 CCC areas



With an aim to effective implementation of Right to Information (RTI) Act-2009 and sensitize people about their rights of information according to the Act, six Committee of Concerned Citizens (CCC) organized Information Fairs in March 2018 at their local areas in association with local administrations.

Around 144 govt. and non-government institutions disseminated their service related information among thousands visitors of the fair. Few service providing institutions like municipalities, passport & visa offices attended in Face the Public events organized in these fairs to develop the quality of its services. CCC of Jamalpur, Barisal, Savar, Rangpur, Rangamati and Patuakhali organized the information fairs.

Alhaz Rezaul Karim Hira, Member of the Parliament (MP) and chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Land inaugurated the two-day long information fair in Jamalpur and Dr. Md Enamur Rahman, MP of Dhaka-19 (Savar) inaugurated the two-day long information fair at Savar. Ms. Ferhana Ferdous was also present at the inaugural session of the fair held at Savar.



Discussion meetings, Face the Public, rally, information discloser, debate, cartoon, quiz & art competitions and anti-corruption cultural events were organized in these fairs by which the participants and audiences became aware about the cost of corruption and way to protest corruption. Among others, Mayor of city corporation and municipalities, Additional Divisional Commissioner, Police Commissioner, Divisional Director and other officials of Anti-Corruption Commission, Deputy Commissioner (DC) and Additional DC of different districts, Civil Surgeon, Director of Medical College Hospital, Chairman of Education Board, District Primary & Secondary Education Officers, Upazila Parsihad Chairman and other locally elected representatives, Director of TIB, NGO representative and other government officials from different institutions attended in these events.

Youth Engagement and Support (YES) members of respective CCCs oriented citizens about RTI Act-2009 and the procedure of submitting RTI application according to the Act. They also organized Satellite Advice and Information Desk on different services in the fairs.

Women's participation shall resist corruption

With the theme of 'Sustainable Development Goal, Good Governance and Women', CCCs



celebrated the International Women's Day on 8 March 2018 with various awareness raising activities at their local areas. In few areas, CCC observed the day in association with District or Upazilla administration. CCCs organized rallies, discussions, orientations, human chain, seminar,

women development fair and quiz/essay/debate competitions across 45 locations in the country to mark the International Women's Day. Deputy Commissioner (DC), Municipality Mayor, Upazila Chairman, Vice-Chairman and other locally elected representatives, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) along with other officials, different professionals, civil society members, media representatives and young people were attended these events.

A concept note with a set of 12 demands was circulated among stakeholders where TIB stated that movement for women's rights and social movement against corrupt is bounded in a rope, because corruption directly interrupts women's development and empowerment. Political wills along with legal and institutional obligations can resist corruption that will also ensure women's development and empowerment.

Speakers of different events said that lack of accountability in power structures increases corruption and prohibits social justice, rule of law and equal rights. This is a pre-requisite for establishing women empowerment, the speakers added. They also made importance to effective participation of women in development process for the goal of achieving SDGs.

Face the Public held at Union Parishad

Authorities urge citizens to become aware about their rights and entitlements

Deputy Director - Local Government of Kishoreganj district Mr. Zahirul Islam said that concerned citizens can ensure good governance and resist corruption in service provider institutions. He asked citizens to be sensitized about own rights and entitlements while speaking as chief guest in Face the Public event organized on 20 March 2018 at 4 No Mohinondo Union Parishad of

Kishoreganj District. The union parishad organized the event with assistance of CCC, Kishoreganj based on the slogan 'Joint initiative of Citizens and UP can strengthen the local government'.



Mr. Abdullah Al Masud, Upazilla Nirbahi Officer of Kishoreganj Sadar, delivered the welcome speech in the programme held at Mohinondo Union Parishad premises. He said, this type of programme creates opportunity to build up a good relation between service providers and service recipients. Citizens can express their expectations and union parishad can take necessary measures to meet the expectations. He asked the UP chairman to display the budgets and progress of ongoing projects at notice

board of UP so that citizens become aware.

About three hundred citizens of the union participated in the event and some of them raised questions to the chairman and members of the respective wards regarding different services. UP Chairman Md. Monsur Ali and members of parishad answered the questions and shared the progress of development projects. Two aged and vulnerable women claimed Old Age Allowance at the event and relevant Social Service Officer took initiative for ensure these instantly. Among others, president of CCC, Kishoreganj Professor Abdul Gani delivered his speech focusing the importance of such type events to reduce corruption.

World Water Day observed

Integrity in water management ensures effective adaptation of climate change



Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCC) across the country observed the 22 March World Water Day under Climate Finance Governance (CFG) of TIB with great enthusiasm on the international theme 'Nature for Water'. Speakers mentioned that the theme focuses the importance of nature for ensuring clean water.

CCCs observed the day with a slogan 'Integrity in water sector for effective climate adaptation', which emphasized to ensure good governance in water resource management. Rally, discussion meeting, human chain and seminar were organized across 45 locations to aware people

on their rights to water and its importance at ease. CCCs organized these events in joint initiative with government institutions and non-government organizations.

Different level stakeholders including civil society members, teachers, students, professionals, developments workers and members of CCC, Sochchotar Jonno Nagorik (SWAJON), YES and YES Friends participated in these events. Speakers asked to secure the sources of clean water. Water management will be a vital issue in future. So we should ensure accountability and transparency in water management for the sake of a secured future, speakers added while speaking at different events. A concept note with a set of 09 demands was circulated among relevant stakeholders to mark the day.

Editor: S M Rezwan-ul-Alam

Sub-Editor: Mohammad Zahidul Islam, Shakil Md. Faisal, Md. Hozzatul Islam
Saddam Hossen

Write us: Transparency International Bangladesh | email: advocacy@ti-bangladesh.org

Join us: www.ti-bangladesh.org
www.facebook.com/TIBangladesh

