

Bangladesh Water development Board
Blue Gold Program
Celebrating International Women's Day 8th March, 2020

International Women's Day: International Women's Day is a worldwide event that celebrates women's achievements – from the political to the social – while calling for gender equality.

It has been observed since the early 1900s and is now recognized each year on March 8 March .It is not affiliated with any one group, but brings together governments,



women's organizations, corporations and charities. The day is marked around the world with arts performances, talks, and rallies, networking events, conferences and marches.is celebrated in many countries around the world. It is a day when women are recognized for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political. International Women's Day first emerged from the activities of labour movements at the turn of the twentieth century in North America and across Europe.

For the past couple of years, women's rights have dominated the news, following a global reckoning on sexual misconduct rippling through industries. Following the outpouring of allegations against Harvey Weinstein and other prominent men in power (and Weinstein's watershed trial), the #MeToo movement gave a voice to women on the abuse and harassment they suffer in film, fashion, music, politics and art.



The theme for IWD 2020 is **# Generation Equality: Realizing women's rights for an equal future** recognizing all of the actions we can take as individuals to challenge stereotypes, fight prejudice and celebrate women's achievements. Bangladesh Government following the UN theme **"cÖRb¥ †nvK mgZvi ,mKj bvixi AwaKvi**

The year 2020 is an important one for gender equality.The year 2020 is an important one for gender equality. It is the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the most advanced blueprint for achieving gender equality in the world. It also marks 10 years since the

establishment of UN Women, and the 20th anniversary of the UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security.

Objective of the IWD celebration : The objective of the International Women's Day is to recognize women's as human being and their contribution to our lives and society and reflect about how to achieve more equality among men and women. It honors the power and struggles of women who have broken barriers and achieved their rights and became equally valued as men.

Description: BGP have celebrated International Women's Day on 8th March 2020 at Dhaka and Zonal level Khulna, Patuakhali and Satkhira with Rally and discussion sessions and Commitment for future planning on gender issues following UN theme. Near about 1200 participants were participated in the rally with different slogan like 'Each for Equal' 'Process for progress' 'Build a gender balance world'. At Dhaka Mr.Aminul Haque DG BWDB, Mohammad Ali - Additional DG- BWDB, Amirul Hossain-PCD, Team Leader of BGP and other team member of BGP TA team and BWDB attended discussion sessions.



At at field level attended participants are WMG and WMA members, Upazila Vice chairman , UP chairman and other representatives, elite person ,journalist , local organization, School going adolescent and BGP Colleagues participated in the rally and discussion sessions. More than 1000 male female joined the marches in the coastal districts Patuakhali, Khulna, Satkhira and Dhaka to raise their voice for Gender balance World, women's rights, Justice and gender equity and anti-sexual harassment. 90% participants were female.

Rallies: The slogan of this year "Each for equal " 'Better for balance' They raised their voice gender equity, justice and gender balance world. One of the objectives of the rally was to don't treat us a think as human being to take up the leadership roles within the society. Also many people surprised as the women were walking and giving slogan by raising their hands because 'They are not used to see women raising their voice to ask for change and for rights.

Discussion session:

IWD discussions issues are below:

1. Importance of the IWD celebration.
2. What are the barriers or challenges to achieve more gender equality in Blue Gold?
3. How can we overcome the challenges?
4. How can we achieve gender equity to reduce gender in equality?

As part of the IWD celebrations, BGP also organised discussion sessions in the same locations in the rallies. In discussion sessions DG, PCD of BWDB, TL, DTL, TA team, Upazila Vice chairman, UP chairman



, WMA & WMG leaders , Potential Women leaders and school going adolescent give their speech. They mention that 50% of the population are female so if we don't recognize them as a human being and their valuable contribution never country will develop like other development country. This the high time to start work for gender equity and change our traditional thinking about female. Blue Gold also aims for gender equality and gender balance. Achieving a gender-equal world

requires social innovations that work for both women and men and leave no one behind. Within Blue Gold we have to make sure that women's and girls' needs and experiences are integrated in all the work we are doing.

Gender equality means that men and women are equally valued, have equal opportunities and equal access to resources, participate equally in decision-making and enjoy an equal level of well-being.

Conclusion: Now a days the situation has improved to a great extent compared to the past and it has only been possible for the continuous movements and initiatives by the women from different stages. But it needs to be improved more as the security of women is still not ensured, they are still being sexually harassed and opportunities are still narrow for them. As a result ,if the continuation of movement can be



ensured then someday women can find equality in the society , can enjoy all the rights , will not be a victim of sexual harassment anymore, and they don't have to lack behind due to religious or social barriers and all the discrimination will be eliminated from the society.