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Context

Water management in Bangladesh was traditionally a male-dominated domain, with women being limited to handling only domestic water.

The Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB)'s Participatory Water Management (PWM) Guidelines of 2000 stipulate that 30% of the Executive Committee (EC) members of Water Management Organisations (WMOs) should be made up of women.

Situation before Blue Gold Program (BGP)

According to a 2014 study, 30% of many ECs of Water Management Groups (WMOs) in coastal areas were indeed composed of women. But in practice, these women were only members on paper, and were often not involved in WMO meetings. Sometimes, they were not even notified.

BGP aimed to change this, and ensure women's participation in water management in a more meaningful way.

Realising the importance of water management is crucial to involving women further.

The importance of water management for women

- Improved water management benefits agricultural production and economic development
- Women feel the need for water management more, as they are more active in agricultural activities
- Women realise that WMO decision-making also affects their needs and interests
- Water management also benefits homesteads

The importance of women in water management

- Larger pool of potential WMO leaders
- Better representation of the interest of local communities, including women polder dwellers
- The 'neutral', less politically biased viewpoint of some women led to more successful conflict resolutions
- Women contribute to maintenance ("cleaning water hyacinths") and in-polder Water Management (IPWM)

"Women dig most of the small channels," said a member of the polder team in Patuakhali.

BGP's multi-faceted interventions



Create awareness of why PWM is in the interest of all



Encourage women to become active WMO members (43% of WMO membership is now female)



Ensure that the best suited available women were selected as candidates for EC members, in particular for key positions



Gender and leadership training



BGP staff encourage women in WMOs to speak out and take leadership

Case study: water heroes v2 16 January 2020



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Summary[[edit](#) | [edit source](#)]

Women water heroes: women championing good water management, 2-pager, case study

human intervention in the capture, conveyance, utilisation and drainage of surface and/or ground water in a certain area: a process of social interaction between stakeholders around the issue of water control.

File history

Click on a date/time to view the file as it appeared at that time.

Date/Time	Thumbnail	Dimensions	User	Comment
current 07:16, 4 February 2021		1,240 × 1,753, 2 pages (2.4 MB)	Bigblue (talk contribs)	Women water heroes: women championing good water management, 2-pager, case study

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Blue Gold Program Wiki

The wiki version of the Lessons Learnt Report of the Blue Gold program, documents the experiences of a technical assistance (TA) team working in a development project implemented by the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) and the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) over an eight+ year period from March 2013 to December 2021. The wiki lessons learnt report (LLR) is intended to complement the BWDB and DAE project completion reports (PCRs), with the aim of recording lessons learnt for use in the design and implementation of future interventions in the coastal zone.

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