WOMEN AND MEN IN BANGLADESH

Facts and Figures 2018

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Contributors

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Contents

Introduction

1.1 Background

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) offered advanced International Training Program (ITP) 307, 2018 on Gender Statistics organized by Statistics Sweden in five participating countries including Bangladesh, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Palestine to contribute to increased gender equality and equity between men and women by using statistics as a tool. The main objectives for the programme is that an organizational change should take place so that participating organizations implement gender statistics in their ongoing work. The specific objective is to increase the capacity for the participants to use existing statistics to analyze gender equality and equity in accordance with user needs. The total duration of the programme was about 13 (thirteen) months which was long divided into five compulsory phases. The participants are committed to communicate the results, which should be documented in a written final report.

1.2 Objectives

a) To compile gender statistics from existing statistics;
b) To use existing statistics to analyze gender equality issues;
c) To transfer knowledge on gender statistics into the organizations, policymakers and other stakeholders;
d) To identify relevant gender indicators
e) To disseminate gender statistics in a user friendly in holistic manner

1.3 Methodology

The information in this booklet has been primarily extracted from the publications of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and other relevant government departments and agencies. The sources are acknowledged beside each table or graph.

Most tables and graphs provide absolute numbers and/or proportions (%) for certain attributes for both women and men.

Some charts and graphs reflect both the absolute numbers and sex distribution for various groups. The total figures in the tables are not always in agreement with the partial figures because of rounding off.

For information on data quality, please refer to the sources quoted.

Gender Equality

2.1 Concepts of Key Terms:

Sex refers to the biological differences between women and men. These differences are universal and do not change between cultures.

Gender is a social and cultural construct. The concept of gender includes the expectations held about the roles and behaviors of women and men (femininity and masculinity). These expectations are learned. Gender-based roles and other attributes change over time and vary with different cultural contexts.

Gender equality means that women and men have equal power to shape society and their own lives. Individuals of both sexes are free to develop their personal abilities and make choices without the limitations imposed by strict gender roles. This implies the same opportunities, rights and obligations in all spheres of life for realizing their full potential and for contributing to and benefiting from economic, social, cultural, and political development.

Gender issues are issues that affect one gender more the other.

Gender statistics are defined as statistics that adequately reflect differences and inequalities in the situation of women and men in all areas of life. Gender statistics have to reflect gender issues, questions, problems and concerns related to all aspects of women's and men's lives, including their specific needs, opportunities or contribution to society.

Mainstreaming a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in any area and at all levels.

To achieve gender equality in society, it is necessary to have a gender equality perspective in all areas. This strategy is called gender mainstreaming. This means that analyses of women's and men's, girl's and boy's situations and conditions shall be included in decision making data and that the consequences of the proposals analyzed with consideration

It is a strategy for making the concerns and experiences of women as well as of men an integral part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres, so that women and men benefit equally, and inequality is not perpetuated.

Sex-disaggregated data is data that is cross-classified by sex, presenting information separately for men and women, boys and girls.

2.2 Women Development policy of Bangladesh 2010
On the policy front, the most important step has been to ratify the National Women Development Policy (NWDP) in 2011. Its vision is to "create a society where men and women will have equal opportunities and will enjoy all fundamental rights on an equal basis".

The Objectives of National Women Development Policy are as follows:

1. To establish equal rights of men and women in areas of state and public life in the light of the constitution of Bangladesh.
2. To ensure security and safety of women in all areas of state, social and family life.
3. To ensure the socio-economic, political, administrative and legal empowerment;
4. To establish human rights of women.

5. To ensure full and equal participation of women in the mainstream socioeconomic development.
6. To bring up women as educated and skilled human resources.
7. To deliver the women from the curse of poverty.
8. To remove existing male-female disparities.
9. To give appropriate recognition to women's contribution in socio-economic areas.
10. To eliminate all forms of abuse of women and female children.
11. To eliminate discrimination to women and female children.
12. To establish gender equality in politics, administration, other areas of activity, socio-economic activity, education, culture, sports and in all areas of family life.
13. To innovate and import technology favoring the interest of women and prohibit anti-women technologies.
14. To ensure taking appropriate steps to ensure sound health and nutrition of the women.
15. To ensure priority of women in provision for proper shelter and housing;
16. To arrange rehabilitation of the women affected in natural calamities and armed conflicts.
17. To extend overall assistance to ensure rights of the disabled women and women belonging to the smaller ethnic groups.
18. To arrange safety of the widow, aged, guardianless, husband abandoned, unmarried and childless women.
19. To reflect gender perspective in the mass media including positive image of the women and female children.
20. To assist in flowering of Talented, genius women of their creative potentials.

21. To provide necessary support services for development of women.
22. To provide overall assistance in ensuring the growth of women entrepreneurs.

2.3. 7th five year plan of Bangladesh 2016-2020

The gender vision of the 7th Five Year Plan is that of establishing "a country where men and women will have equal opportunities and rights and women will be recognized as equal contributors in economic, social and political development".

Targets:

1. Female to male ratio in tertiary education to be raised from current 70 percent to 100 percent
2. The ratio of literate female to male for age group 20-24 to be raised to 100 percent from the current 86 percent
3. Encourage female enrolment in technical and vocational education raising from current 27 percent to 40 percent.

2.4. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL (SDG) 5:

SDG adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of which goal 5 is achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

TARGETS AND INDICATORS

5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and nondiscrimination on the basis of sex

5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age

5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence

5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18

5.3.2 Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age

5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location

5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments

5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions

5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care

5.6.2 Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee women aged 15-49 years access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education

5.A Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

5.A.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure

5.A.2 Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control

5.B Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women

5.B.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex

5.C Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

5.C.1 Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment

Population

This chapter contains population scenario of Bangladesh as well as some basic features. The country emerged as an independent and sovereign country in 1971. It is one of the largest deltas of the world with a total area of 147,570 sq. km.

In 2017, the population of Bangladesh is estimated 162.7 million, women are 81.3 million and men are 81.4 million making it one of the densely populated countries in the world.

Population in 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011
Number in million
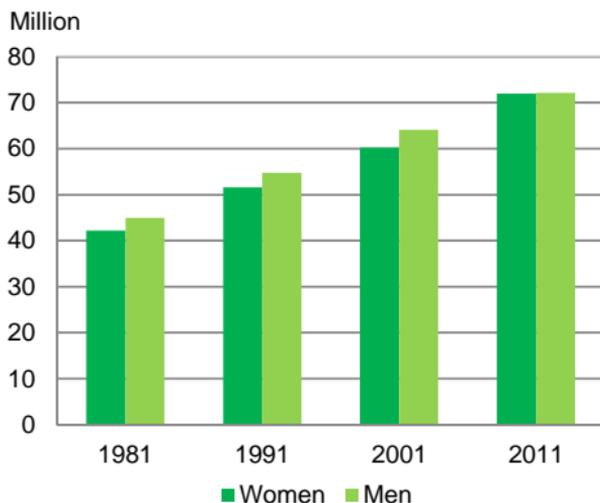
Source: Population & housing census 2011

In 1981, the number of women was 42.2 million while men were 44.9. After that the population increased gradually. In 2011, the enumerated women were 71.9 and adjusted were 74.8 while enumerated men were 72.1 and adjusted were 74.9

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Population by area, 2011

Percentage distribution
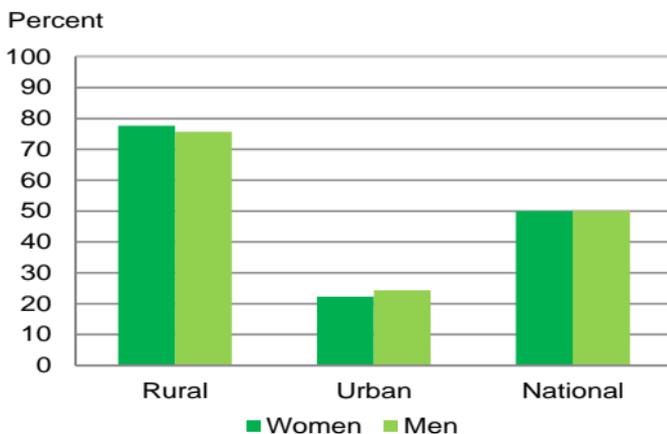
Percent

In rural area, the percentage of women are higher than men and in urban area, the scenario is different in this perspective though the percentage of women and men are almost similar at national level.

Population by division, 2011

Percentage distribution
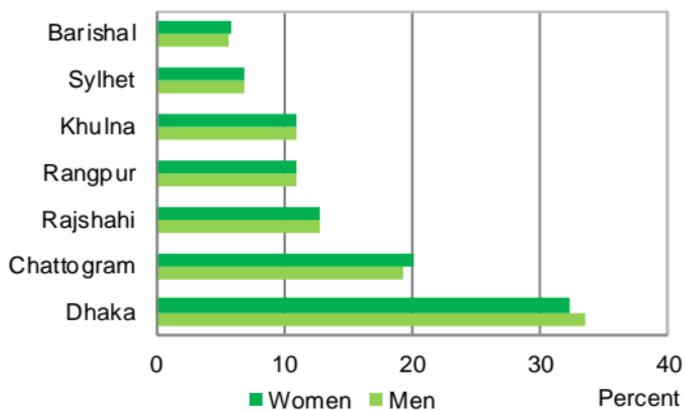
Population by age 2011
Percentage distribution and numbers in thousands
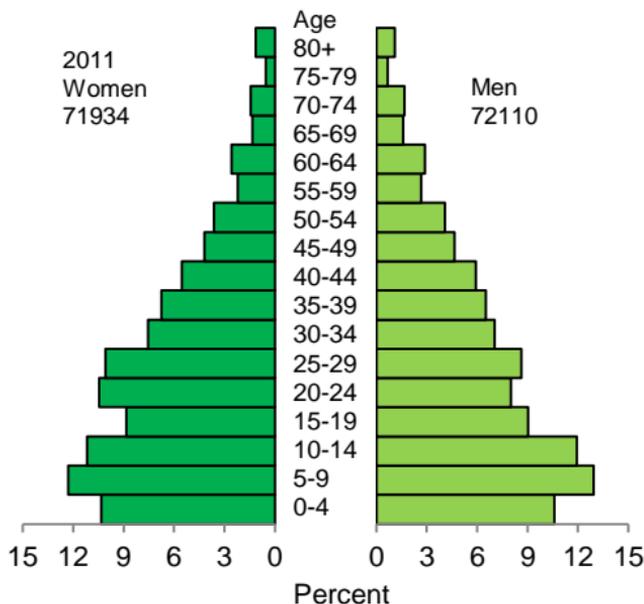
Source: Population & housing census 2011

In 2011, one third of the population (women 33.8% and men 35.5%) is less than 15 years old while more than half (women 61.8% and men 59.4%) is 15-64 years old and a few (women 4.4 and men 5.1) is 65 and above years old. In 2061, the population of Bangladesh is projected to be 223.3 million in the medium variant fertility level. The projected population for less than 15 years old (women 16.7% and men 17.5%) will decrease and the proportion of 15-64 years (women 64.2% and men 66.9%) and 65 and above years old persons(women 19.1% and men 15.7%) will increase

Population by age 2016, 2021, 2041 and 2061
Percentage distribution and numbers in thousands
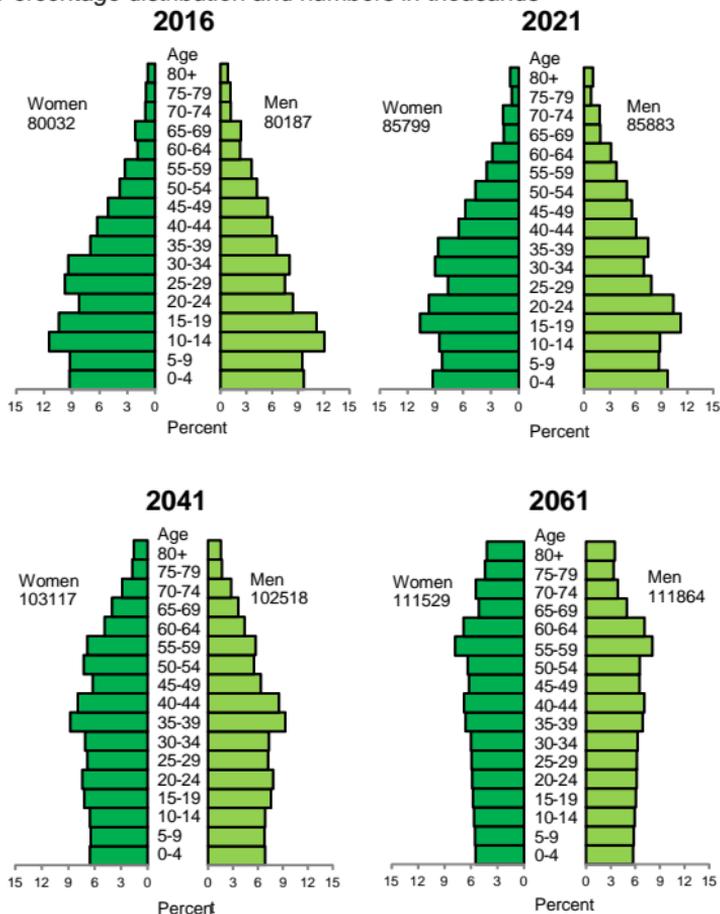
Source: Population projection of Bangladesh Dynamics and trends 2011-2061

Trends of sex ratio 2003-17
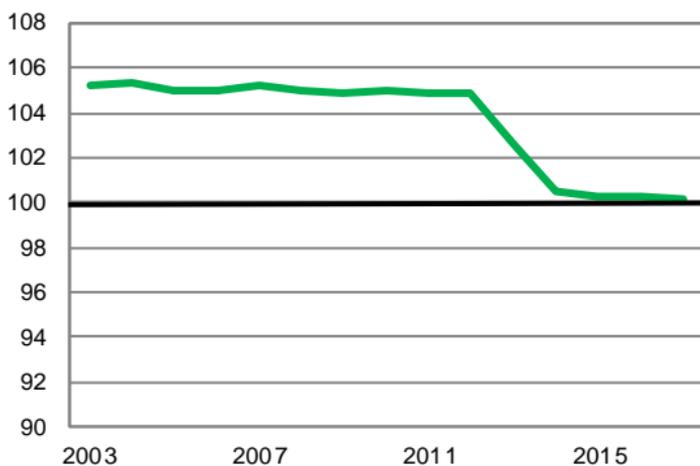
Sex ratio: The ratio of males to females in a given population usually expressed as the number of males per 100 females. In 2017, survey recorded an overall sex ratio of 100.2 males per 100 females.

Average life expectancy at birth, 1981-2017

Age
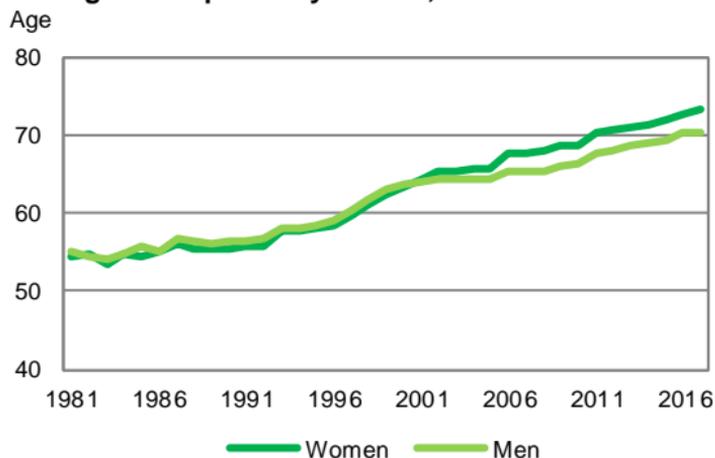
Average life expectancy at birth is a summary measure of mortality that portrays the average longevity of life of an individual. The vital registration system in Bangladesh provides the estimates of life expectancy over the last 30 years. The expectations of life at birth for women and men were 54.5 and 55.3 in 1981. These increased to 73.5 and 70.6 years in 2017 over a period of 36 years, implying an average annual increase 0.53 years for women and 0.43 years for men.

Marital status by age 2017

Percentage distribution. Women and men aged 10 and above

Women

Age

Single Married Widowed Divorced/Separated

Men

Age

Single Married Widowed Divorced/Separated
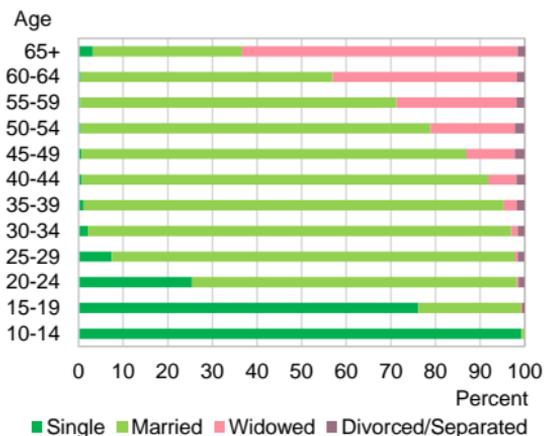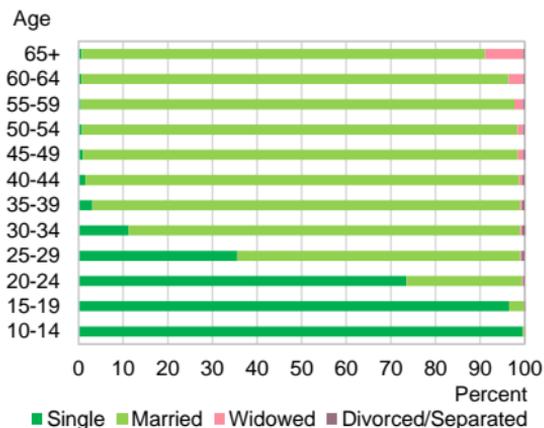
Source: Bangladesh sample vital statistics 2017

About 60 percent of the men and a little over 63 percent of the women are currently married. Single population accounts for 38.6 percent in the case of men and 26.2 percent of women. The incidence of widowhood is more prevalent among the women (9.1%) than among the men (1.1%) for the overall sample. Women are at higher risk (1.4%) than their male counterparts (0.4) to end their marriage in divorce.

The drop in the proportion of being single is steeper among women than among men as age advances. Nearly 100 percent of the men are single in age group 10–14, this drop to 96.5 percent when they are aged 15–19, and further to about 74 percent when they reach to 20–24. The corresponding proportions among the women are 99.3, 76.2 and 25.4 percent. The data also show that the child marriage is still prevalent among both women and men in Bangladesh.

Incidence of poverty by sex of the head of household, 2016

Percentage

Lower poverty line

Percent
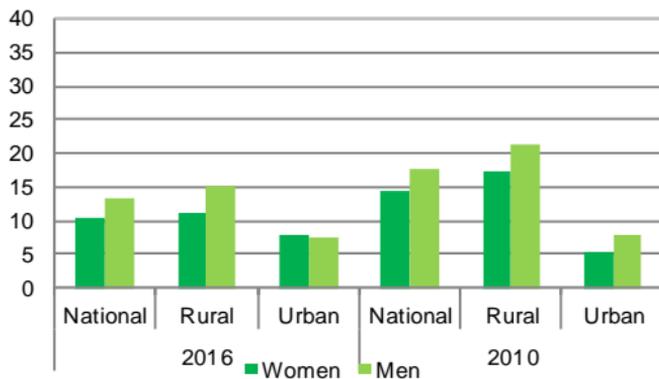
Upper poverty line

Percent
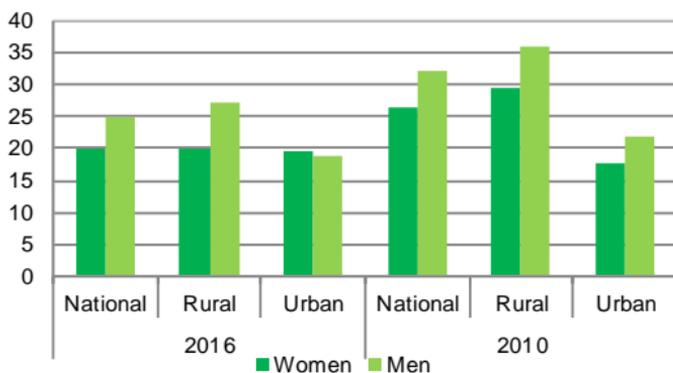
Source: Preliminary report on household income and expenditure survey 2016

Lower Poverty Line: The extreme poor households are those households whose total expenditures are equal to the food poverty line.

Upper Poverty Line: The moderate poor households are those households whose food expenditure is at the level of food poverty line.

The Head Count Rates (HCR) of incidence of poverty by using CBN method is found significantly less for the female headed households than that of male headed households. Using the upper poverty line, in 2016, the HCR of incidence of poverty by sex of head of household is estimated at 19.9% for the female headed household, whereas, it is 24.8% for the male heads. In the rural areas, HCR is 20.0% for the female head and 27.1% for the male head. In the urban areas, the HCR of male household is lower than female headed household. It is 18.8% for the male headed household and 19.7% for the female headed household.

Distribution of head of household by division and type of residence, 2017

Percentage distribution
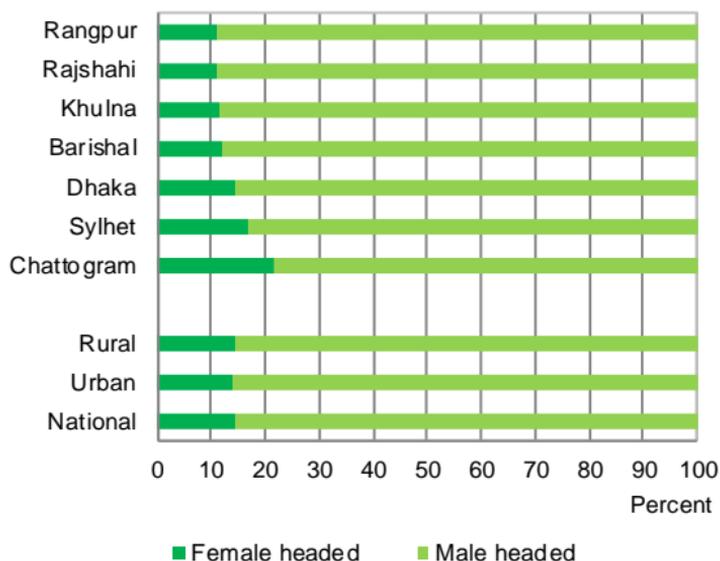
Source: Bangladesh sample vital statistics 2017

Bangladesh society is primarily a male dominant society and as a consequence of this, most families are headed by males. However, this feature is changing over time. Overall, 85.8 percent of the households are headed by males with 85.6 percent in the rural area and 86.2 percent in the urban area and the remaining 14.2 percent by their counterpart women with 14.4 percent in the rural area and 13.8 percent in the urban area.

Education

The effort of the Bangladesh Government is to bring all children into the education system providing all sorts of supports, such as, supply of free textbooks and teaching learning materials, food, etc. to make primary education accessible for all children under the slogan, 'Education for All'. It is mandatory to get every child in the primary education system to ensure the rights of basic education for all children. This chapter deals with literacy rates, level of education, school enrolment, net enrolment rate (NER), gross enrolment rate (GER) and dropout etc.

Literacy rate by area, 2014

Proportion (%) of population aged 7 or above
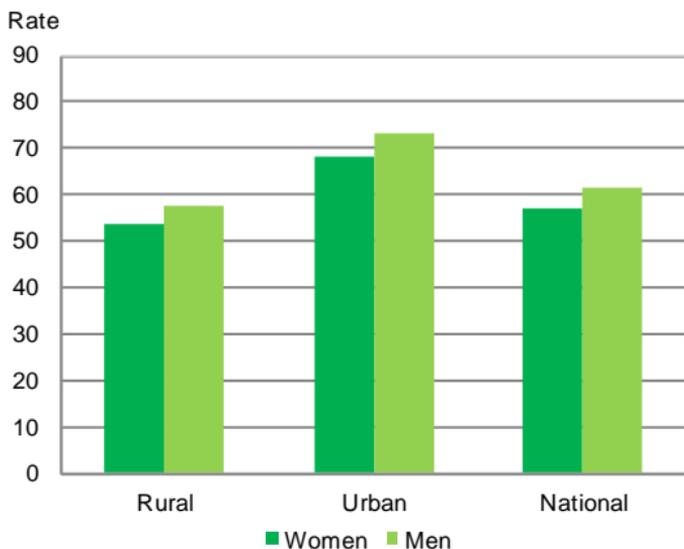
Source: Education Household Survey 2014

Literacy rate of population 7 years and above has been defined by the ratio of population 7 years and above who can write a letter to the total population in the same age group expressed in percentage. The literacy rate for women (56.87) is in the lower than men (61.28) and for the total population of Bangladesh stood at 59.09%.

Literacy rate by division, 2014

Population aged 7 or above, proportion (%) of each division
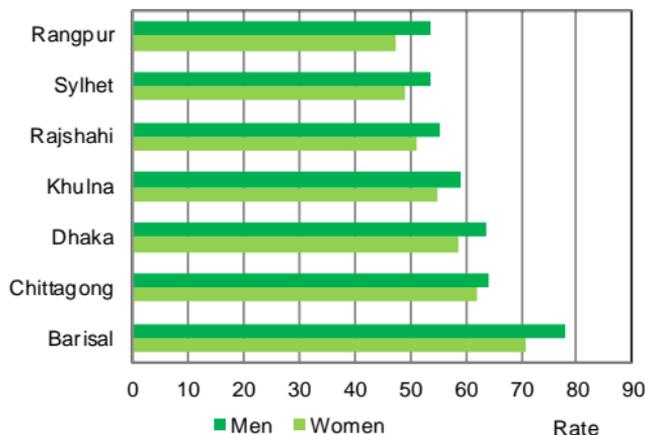
Literacy rate by age, 2014

Population aged 7 or above, proportion (%) of age group

Source: Education Household Survey 2014

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Net enrolment rate at primary by area 2014

Proportion (%) of students aged 6-10 years

Rate
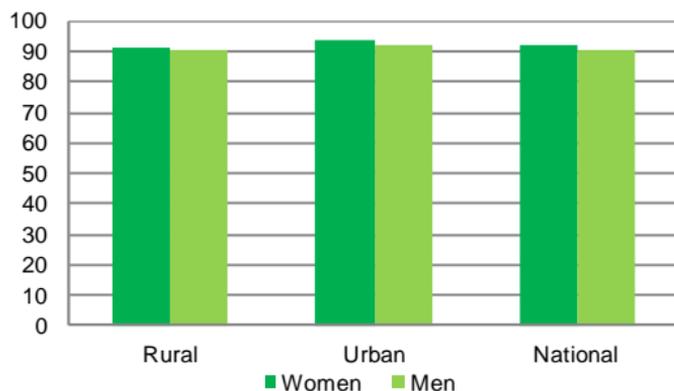
Net enrolment rate at primary by division 2014
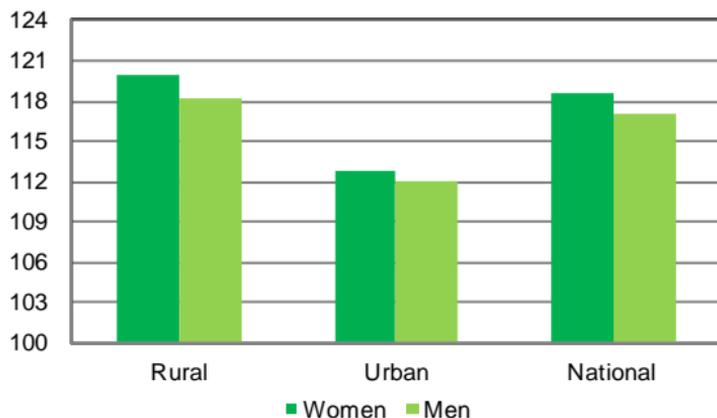
Proportion (%) of students in each division
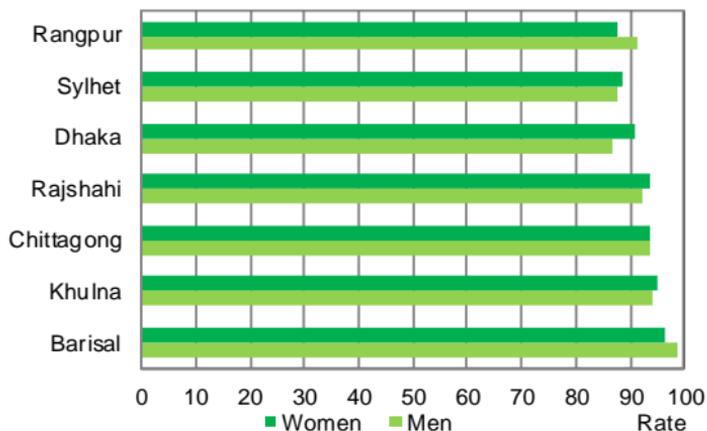
Source: Education Household Survey 2014

Gross enrolment rate at primary educational institutions by area 2014

Proportion (%) of students aged 5 and above

Rate

Source: Education Household Survey 2014

Net enrolment is defined by the number of children (aged 6-10 yrs.) enrolled in primary level (i.e. class I-V) divided by no. of children aged 6-10 yrs. multiplied by 100.

Gross enrolment is defined by the number of students (5 yrs. and above) enrolled in primary level (I-V class) to the total population of school age children 6-10 years expressed in percentage. For universal primary education, the gross enrolment ratios may exceed 100 percent because some pupils are below or above the official primary educational institute's age (6-10 yrs.).

Gross enrolment rate at primary educational institutions by division 2014

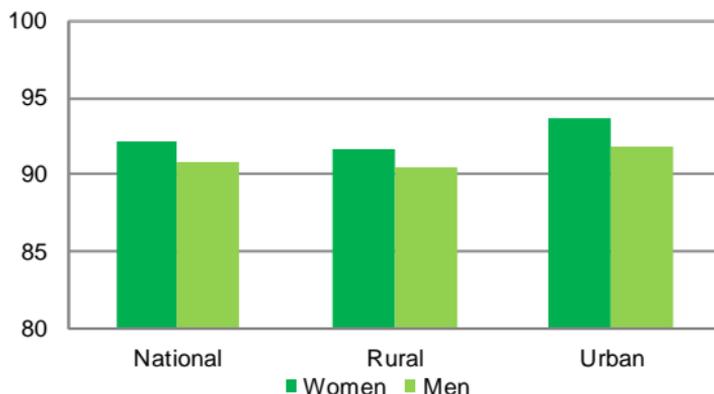*Proportion (%) of students aged 5 and above in each division*
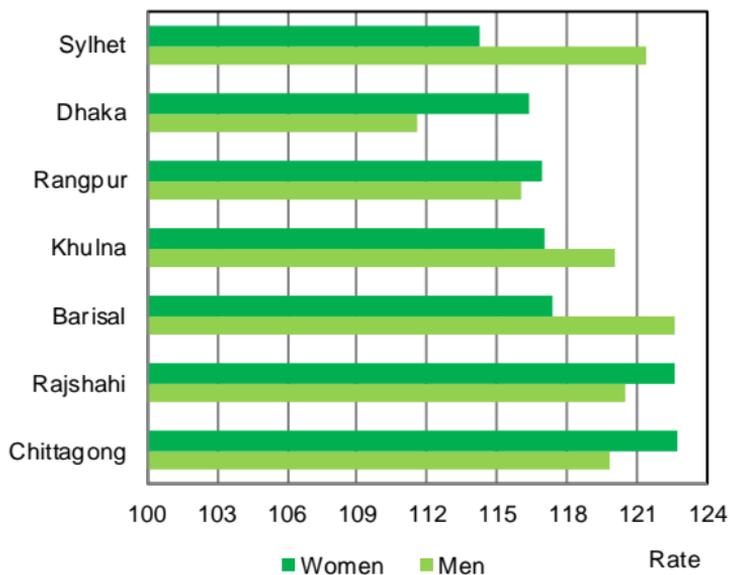
Source: Education Household Survey 2014

School enrolment among 6-10 years old by area 2014

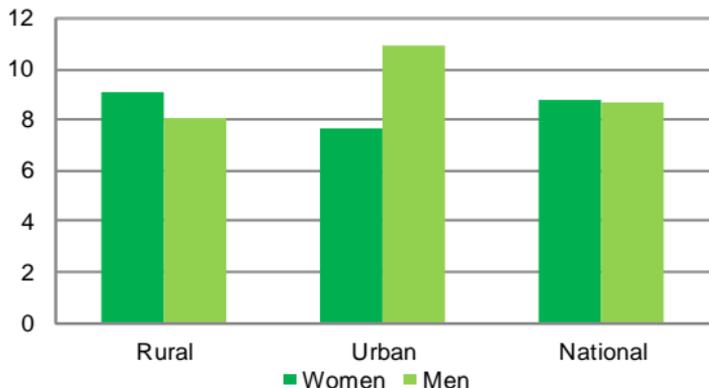*Population in primary school going ages, Percent*

Percent

Dropout rate among students in primary school by area, 2014

Students enrolled in school but dropout before grade V. Percent
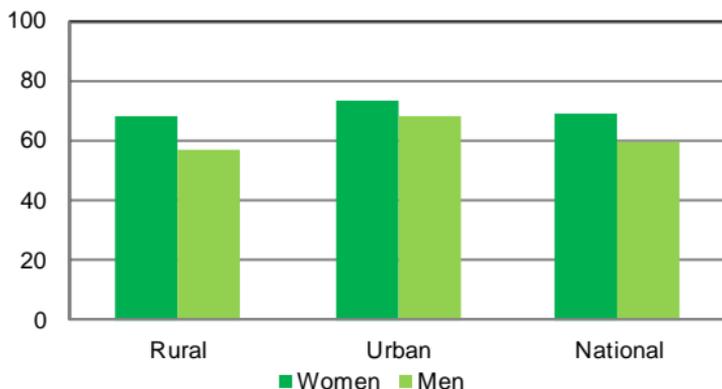
Percent

Source: Education Household Survey 2014

Gross enrolment rate at secondary educational by area 2014

*Percentage of students aged 11 years and above.*

Rate

Source: Education Household Survey 2014

The gross enrolment rate (GER) is the total enrolment at a specific level of education, regardless of age, expressed as the percentage of the eligible official school-age population corresponding to the same level of education in a given school years. The GER is used to show the general level of participation in education, regardless of age.

At a national level, the GER is almost 70 among women and about 60 among men. The general level of participation in secondary educational institutions is higher in urban than rural areas and the differences between women and men are larger in rural areas.

Net enrolment rate at secondary education by area 2014

Percentage (%) of students aged 11-15 years.
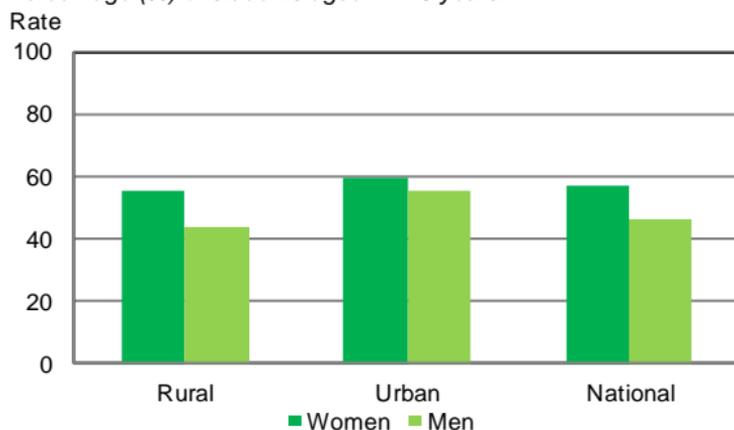
Source: Education Household Survey 2014

The net enrolment (NER) is the enrolment at a given level of education of the official school age group for that level expressed as a percentage of the corresponding population. The NER is expressed as a percentage of the eligible official school-age population for that level in a given school year corresponding population.

Women aged 11-15 years in urban areas have the highest net enrolment ratio, 6 out of 10 are enrolled in secondary education while it is slightly lower among men in urban areas. Men in rural areas have the lowest NER.

Level of education of the population by area, 2014
Population aged 5 and above. Percentage distribution

| Highest Grade Passed	National		Rural		Urban	
	W	M	W	M	W	M
No grade passed/never enrolled	34	30	37	33	25	20
Preprimary	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grade I-IV	24	26	25	27	19	20
Grade V	9	9	9	9	9	8
Grade VI-VII	10	8	10	8	10	9
Grade VIII	6	6	6	5	7	7
Grade IX	5	5	5	5	7	5
SSC/HSC	9	12	7	9	17	20
Graduate & above	2	4	1	2	5	10
Technical/Voc-ational/Nurs-ing/Diploma/ Others	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Education Household Survey 2014

Health

The importance of nutrition to achieve optimal health is unquestionable. Balanced nutrition is central to maintain good health in a dilapidated environment, fight against disease, correct imbalances in the body and provide energy and enthusiasm for life. This chapter deals with the data on age-specific maternal mortality ratio, causes of maternal death, neonatal mortality, births attended by skilled health personnel, number of antenatal care (ANC) visits, delivery places, specific antenatal care services etc.

Trends in age-specific maternal mortality ratio by residence, 2010-2017
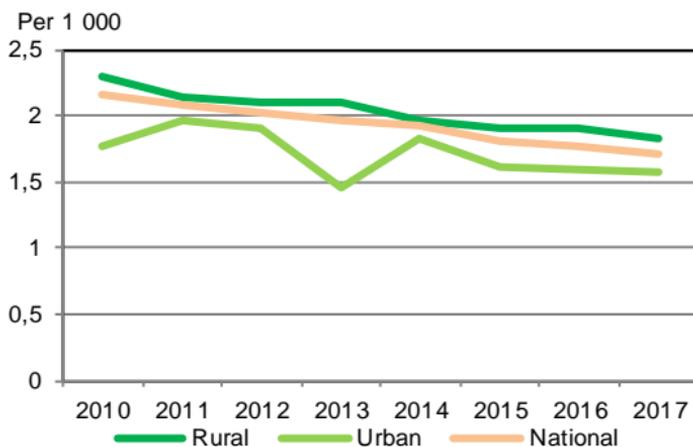
Number of deaths per 1000 live births

The maternal mortality ratio obtained from the reported maternal deaths and numbers of live births are presented in the above chart by residence of the country. In 2017 the overall maternal mortality ratio was estimated to be 1.72 maternal deaths per 1000 live births. Since 2010 to 2017 the ratio is significantly higher in rural area than in urban area, though both are in declining pattern throughout the years

Age-specific maternal mortality ratio 2017 by division

Number of deaths per 1000 live births
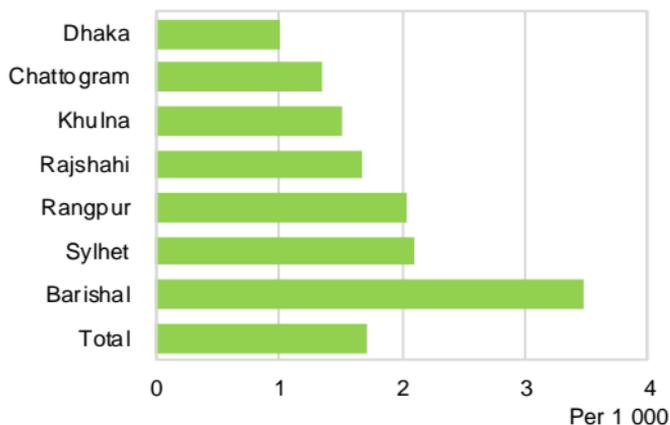
Source: Sample vital registration system 2017, BBS

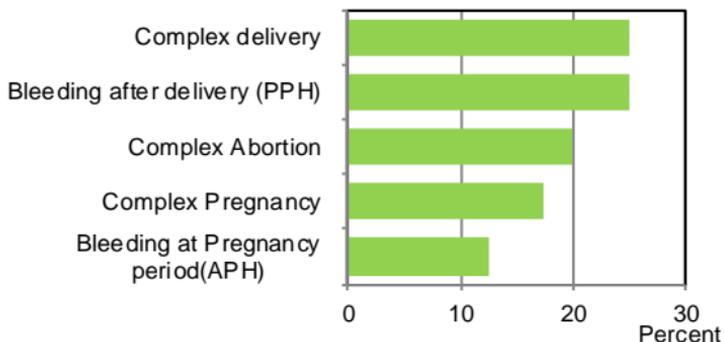**Age-specific maternal mortality ratio 2017 by age**

Number of deaths per 1000 live births
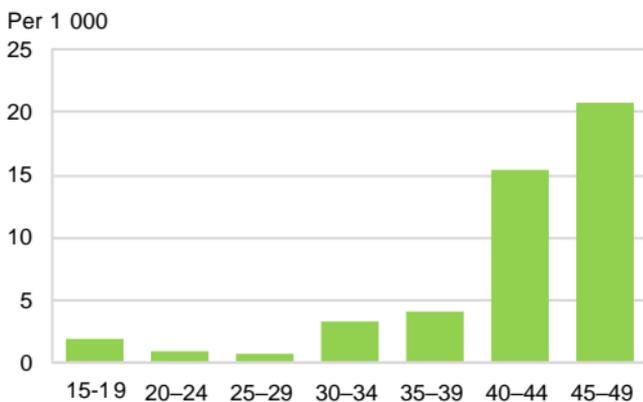
Source: Sample vital registration system 2017, BBS

Causes of maternal deaths, 2017
Percentage distribution

Source: Sample vital registration system 2017, BBS

In 2017, complex delivery (25%) and hemorrhage after delivery (25%) were the leading causes of maternal mortality, which was 50% of total maternal deaths. The second cause was complex abortion (20%). Complex pregnancy and bleeding at pregnancy period were also the causes for maternal deaths.

Maternal deaths by causes, 2017
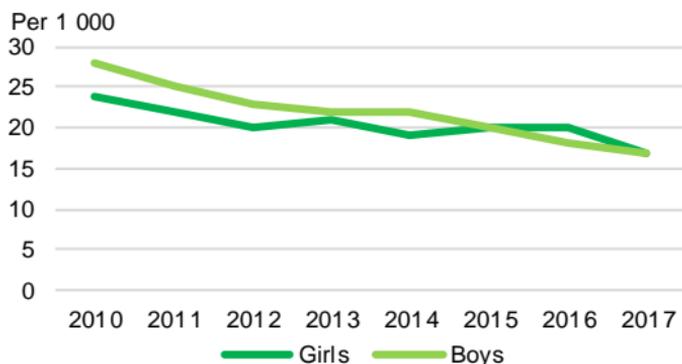*Number of deaths per 1000 live births*

Causes	Maternal deaths
Complex delivery	0.43
Bleeding after delivery (PPH)	0.43
Complex Abortion	0.35
Complex Pregnancy	0.30
Bleeding at Pregnancy period(APH)	0.22

Source: Sample vital registration system 2017, BBS

About 0.4 maternal deaths per 1 000 live births were due to a complex delivery. About the same number of deaths occurred due to bleeding after delivery. Deaths from complex abortion caused 0.35 maternal deaths per 1 000 live births.

Neonatal mortality by sex, 2010-2017

Number of deaths per 1000 live births

The Neo-natal mortality rate (NMR) is defined as the number of infants less than one month of age during a year per 1000 live births in the same year. The overall NMR is estimated to be 17.0 deaths per 1000 live births in 2017. In 2010 the Neo-natal mortality rate for girls was 24 and for the boys it was 28 per thousand live births. In 2017 it was sharply declined and the rates were 17 for girls and 17 for boys.

Births attended by skilled health personnel by age and residence, 2014

Percent

	Percent
Residence	
Urban	60.5
Rural	35.6
Age group	
<20	41.8
20-34	42.8
35-49	32.0
Total	42.1

Source: Bangladesh demographic and health survey2014, NIPORT

Number of antenatal care (ANC) visits for the most recent live birth by residence, 2014

Women aged 15-49 who had a live birth in the three years preceding the survey.

Number of ANC visits	Urban	Rural	Total
None	10.5	25.3	21.4
1	12.2	19.9	17.9
2	16.8	15.9	16.2
3	14.7	12.7	13.2
4 or more	45.5	26.1	31.2
Don't know/missing	0.2	0.1	0.1
Median number of visits(for those with ANC)	4.1	3.1	3.4

Source: Bangladesh demographic and health survey 2014, NIPORT

Early marriage

Marriage before the age of 18 is a reality for many young girls. In many parts of the world parents encourage the marriage of their daughters while they are still children in hopes that the marriage will benefit them both financially and socially, while also relieving financial burdens on the family. In actual fact, child marriage is a violation of human rights, compromising the development of girls and often resulting in early pregnancy and social isolation, with little education and poor vocational training reinforcing the gendered nature of poverty.

Age-specific marriage rates by type of residence and age, 2017

Per 1 000

Age Group	Rural		Urban		National	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
15-19	165.9	17.9	64.6	7.8	119.6	13.7
20-24	41.6	76.9	29.7	35.6	36.0	58.5
25-29	11.7	62.7	13.0	33.9	12.3	49.2
30-34	2.7	29.7	3.3	24.1	3.0	27.0
35+	0.5	3.6	0.4	2.6	0.4	3.2
Total	28.6	23.6	15.0	13.2	22.4	18.9

Source: Sample vital registration system 2017,BBS

Because marriage is highly age-specific and demographers are primarily interested in age patterns of marriage, it is commonplace to construct age-specific marriage rates. Age-specific marriage rate is defined as the number of marriages to persons of a given age group per 1000 persons in the same age group. Age-specific marriage rates are defined in terms of persons marrying, rather than marriages. The resulting age–sex specific marriage rates are displayed in the above table by urban –rural residence and sex.

Mean age at first marriage, 2013-2017
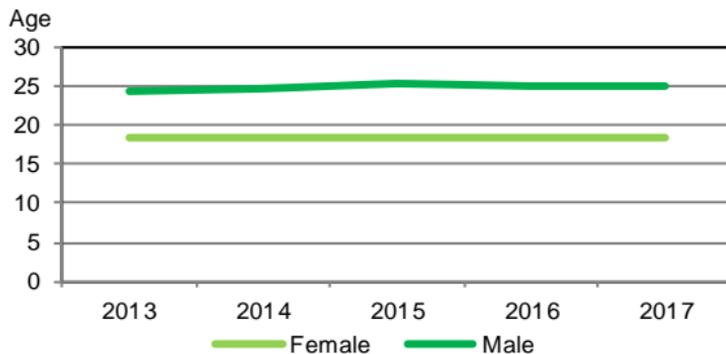
Source: sample vital registration system 2013-2017, BBS

Women who married before age 15 and 18 by type of residence, 2012
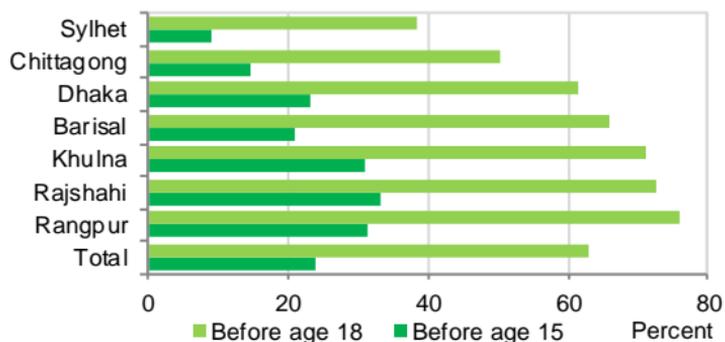
Ever married women aged 15-49
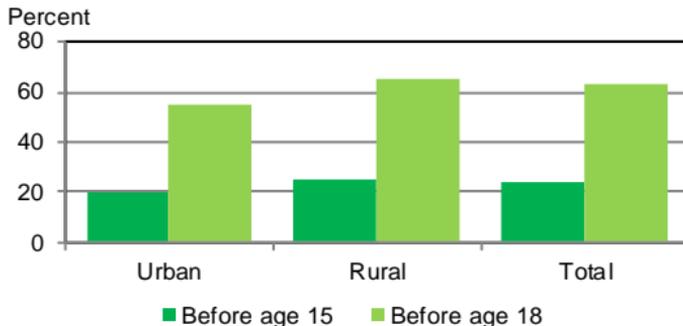
Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey -2012-2013, BBS

From the above chart it is evident that, marriage before age 15 is higher in rural areas than that of in urban areas. It is also same in the case of marriage before age 18.

Women who married before age 15 and 18 by division, 2012-13

Ever married women aged 15-49. Percent

Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey -2012-2013, BBS

The proportion of women aged 15-49 who were married before the age of 15 varies significantly between divisions with the lowest 9.2 percent in Sylhet and the highest 33.3 per cent in Rajshahi division.

Women who married before age 15 and 18 by age, 2012–2013

Ever married women aged 15–49. Percent

Age group	Before age 15	Before age 18
15-19	7.5	na
20-24	18.1	52.3
25-29	26.2	61.6
30-34	28.5	64.9
35-39	31.2	67.7
40-44	31.4	69.0
45-49	33.7	67.2
Total	23.8	62.8

Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey -2012-2013, BBS

Spousal age difference by type of residence and division, 2012

Currently married women aged 20–24 years. Percentage distribution

	Husband is				
	Youn-ger	0-4 years older	5-9 years older	10+ years older	age unkn-own
Residence					
Urban	0.7	33.0	40.7	24.4	1.2
Rural	0.6	35.2	41.8	21.0	1.5
District					
Barisal	0.6	35.3	46.6	17.1	0.5
Chittagong	0.3	29.1	40.8	27.7	2.1
Dhaka	0.5	35.2	43.0	19.9	1.5
Khulna	0.7	34.4	40.8	23.6	0.5
Rajshahi	0.8	40.3	37.8	19.0	2.1
Rangpur	1.6	41.9	40.7	15.3	0.6
Sylhet	0.1	23.5	42.3	32.8	1.2

Source: Multiple indicator cluster survey 2012-2013,BBS

Spousal age difference indicates the percentage of women in a marriage or union whose current spouse is ten or more years older. Table 6 presents the results of the age difference between husbands and wives in Bangladesh MICS. The results show that there are some important spousal age differences in Bangladesh. Marrying an older spouse is more widely practiced in urban areas, and divisions also differ, although the general pattern remains the same in all divisions.

Fertility

The term fertility refers to the state of being fertile, or in other words, it is the capability of producing offspring. For a human population, it is the state of being capable to produce offspring by a woman. Fertility is thus the frequency of childbearing among the population. The importance of fertility measurement stems from the fact that it is one of the three principal components of population dynamics that determine the size, structure, and composition of the population in any country. In this chapter, we will discuss a few of these measures that include, among others, the following:

a) Age-specific fertility rate (ASFR): The age-specific fertility rates are defined as the number of live births during a specified period to women of reproductive period divided by the number of women lived in that age group during the specified period. The age-specific fertility rates (ASFRs) are considered as valuable measures of fertility to assess the current age pattern of child-bearing.

b) Total fertility rate (TFR): Total Fertility Rate (TFR) defines as the sum of the Age-Specific Fertility Rates (ASFR) over the whole range of reproductive ages for a particular period (usually a year). It can be interpreted as the number of children; a woman would have during her lifetime if she were to experience the fertility rates of period at each age.

c) Crude birth rate (CBR): The crude birth rate (CBR) is the frequency of birth in a general population and is formally defined as the number of live births during a specified period (usually a calendar year) in a delineated area per 1000 mid-year population.

Age-specific fertility rates (ASFR), selected years
Number of births per 1000 women
Per 1 000
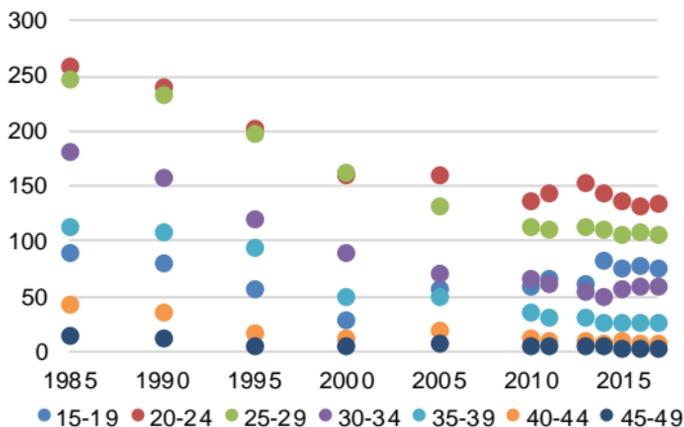
Source: Sample Vital Registration System 2017, BBS

Among 20-24 year olds, the age specific fertility rate have decreased from about 260 per 1000 women in 1985 to about 130 in 2017. The same pattern could be found among most of the age groups. The age specific fertility rate have also decreased among the oldest group, from 14 per 1000 to 3 per 1000. During recent years, women aged 30-34 have increased their fertility.

Total fertility rate (TFR) by residence, 2010-2017

Average number of children per woman aged 15-49
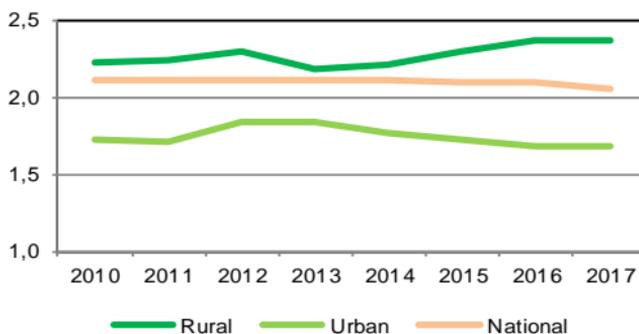
Crude birth rate (CBR) by residence and religion, 2017

Background characteristics	CBR
Residence	
Rural	20.4
Urban	16.1
Religion	
Muslim	19.0
Hindu	16.2
Others	14.0
Total	18.5

The table shows the crude birth rates (CBR) by residence, and religion. The overall CBR was computed to be 18.5 for 2017. The rural CBR, as expected, is higher (20.4) compared to the urban CBR (16.1) by a little more than four births per 1000 population. A marked variation in CBR is also noted among the religious groups with the highest (19.0) among the Muslims, Hindus the intermediate (16.2) and the followers of other religions, the lowest (14.0).

Women who had a live birth before age 15 and 18 by type of residence, 2012–2013

Percentage of women aged 15–19 and 20–24

	Aged 15-19 who had a live birth	Aged 15-19 who had a live birth before age 15	Aged 30-24 who had a live birth before age 18
Urban	12.4	0.2	21.8
Rural	14.6	1.3	25.3
Total	14.1	1.0	24.4

Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2012-13, BBS

Women who have had a live birth by age 15 and 18 by age group, 2012–2013

Percent

Percent
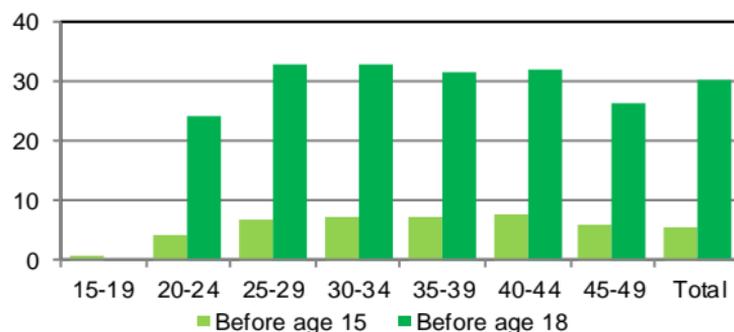
Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2012-13, BBS

The percentage of women with a live birth before age 15 has dropped significantly during 2012-13. It is 4.5% of women of the age group of 20-24 who had a live birth before age 15. Nationally, it is observed that the percentage of women with a live birth before 15 is very lower than that of age before 18.

Women with an unmet need for family planning by type of residence, 2012–2013
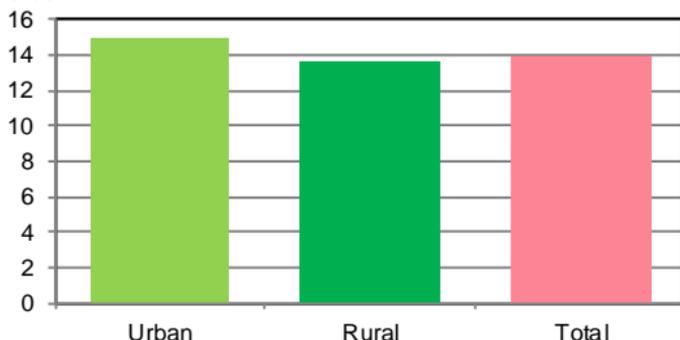
Percentage

Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2012-13, BBS

Women with an unmet need for family planning by age, 2012–2013

Percentage
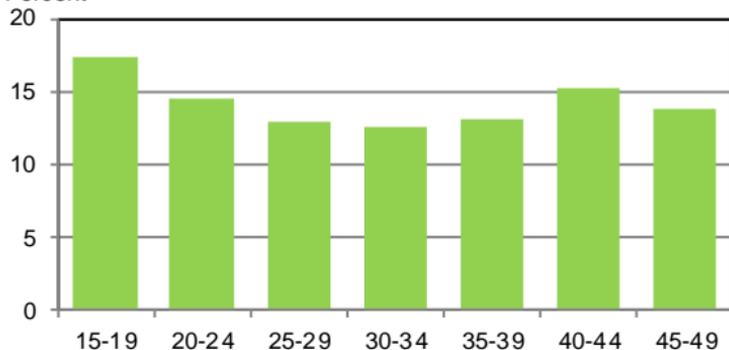
Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2012-13, BBS

Employment

This chapter presents information on labour force participation rate, employment rate, formal/Informal employment, wage/salary, time-related underemployment, unemployment rate and outside labour force etc.

Related terms are explained below:

Labour Force: Labour force refers to persons 15 years or older who contribute or are available to contribute to the production of goods and services in the country. They are either employed or unemployed during the reference week prior to the survey.

Working age population: Working age population includes all population aged 15 years or older.

Employment: The employed comprises all persons older than a specified age who, during a specified brief period, either one week, were in (a) paid employment or (b) self-employment categories.

Informal sector: The informal sector consists of unregistered and/or small unincorporated private enterprises engaged in the production of goods or services for sale or barter.

Time related underemployment: This indicator relates to the number of employed persons whose hours of work in the reference period are insufficient (usually below 40 hours in a week) in relation to a more desirable employment situation in which the person is willing and available to engage.

Unemployment: The unemployed comprises all persons older than a specified age who during the reference period were (a) without work, (b) currently available for work and (c) seeking work.

Provision of services: Provision of services (beyond the 2008 SNA production boundary) covers general production boundary such as household accounting, preparing meal cleaning and caring for dependent household members.

Labour force participation rate 2010, 2013, 2015–2016 and 2016–2017

Population aged 15 years and above. Percent.
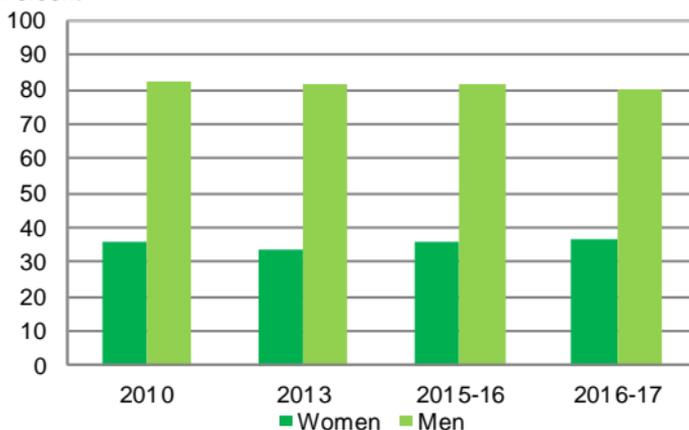
Percent

Source: Labour Force Survey 2010, 2013, 2015-16 and 2016-17

Bangladesh's labour force participation rate in 2016-17 was estimated at 58.2 per cent. By sex, the labour force participation rate was 36.3 per cent for women and 80.5 per cent for men

Labour force participation rate by type of residence 2016-17
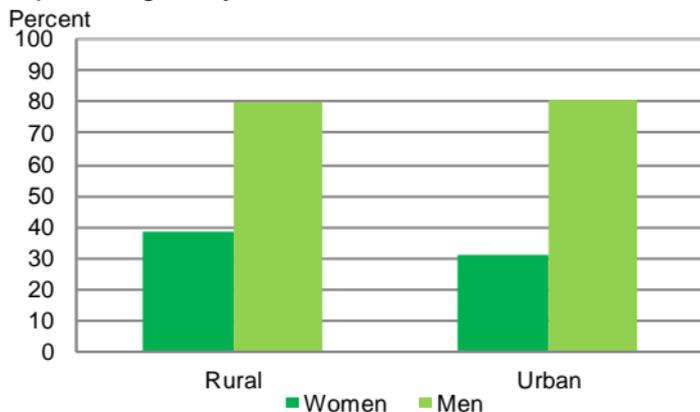
Population aged 15 years and above

Percent

Labour force participation rate by age 2016-17

Population aged 15 years and above
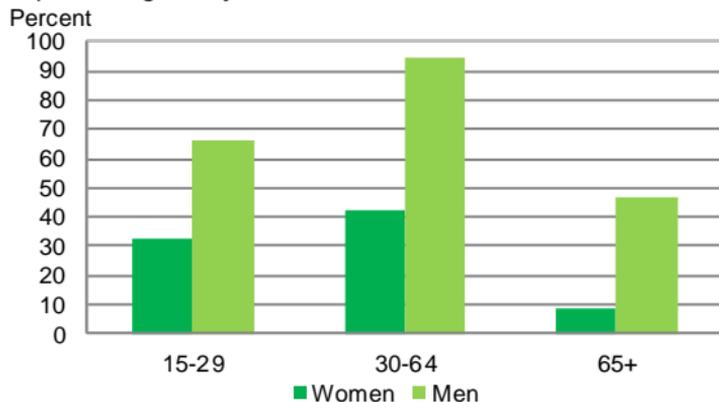
Percent

Source: Labour Force Survey 2016-17

Employment rate by type of residence, 2016-17
Population aged 15 years and above
Percent
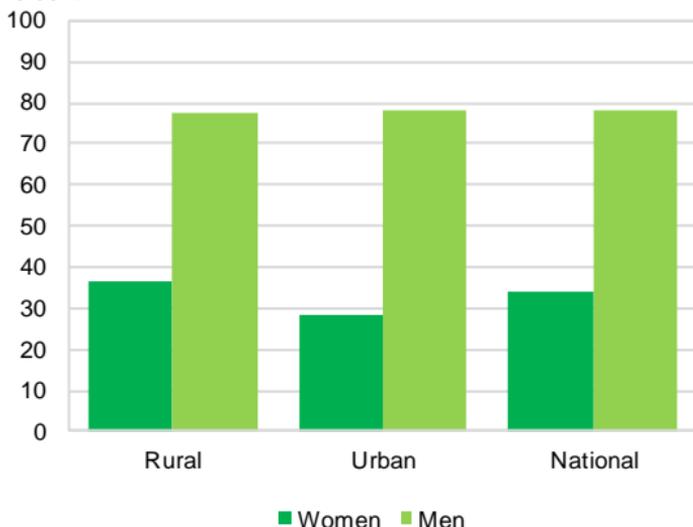
In 2016-17, of the 55 million women aged 15 years or older, 34 percent of them are in employment or engaged in economic activity. Among men, the employment rate, measured as the number of employed I relation to the working age population, are 78 percent. Employment rate are somewhat higher for women in rural areas than in urban areas while it is about the same for men.

Employment rate by age, 2016-17

Population aged 15 years and above. Percent
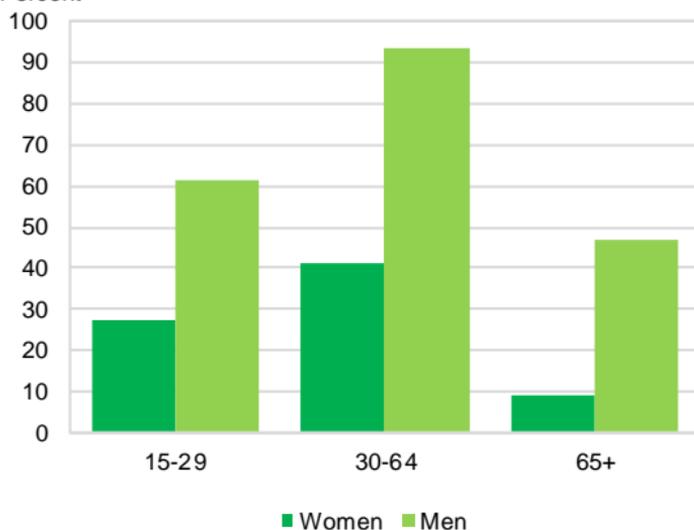
Percent

Source: Labour Force Survey 2016-17

The highest share of employed women and men are found in the ages 20 to 64 were 41 percent of the women and 94 percent of the men are employed. The lowest employment rate is found among those ages 65 or older.

Employed population by occupation 2016–17

Number in thousand and sex distribution of employed population aged 15 or above

Women: 18646   Men:42182
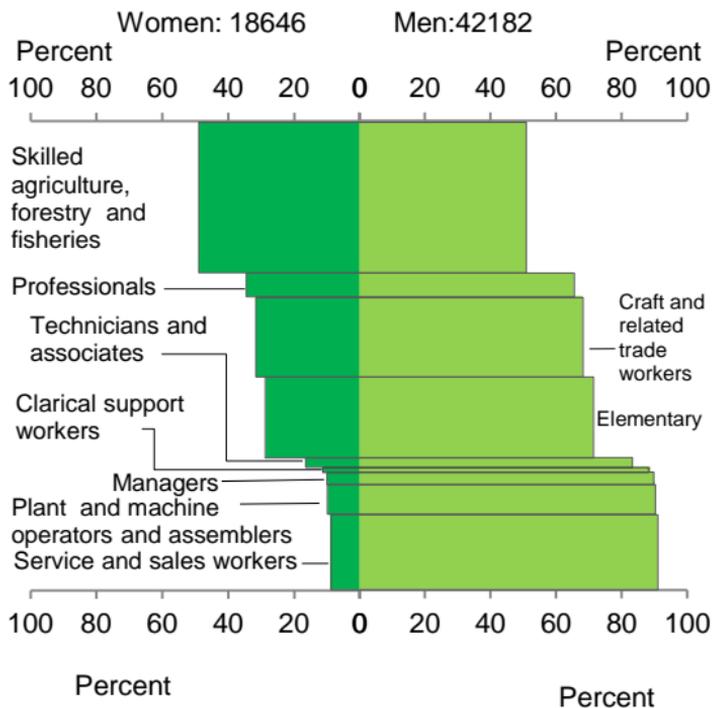
Source: Labour Force Survey 2016-17

## Employed population by status in employment 2016–17

Numbers in thousand, Percentage distribution and sex distribution of employed population aged 15 or above

Status in employment	Percentage distribution		Sex distribution	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Employer	1	6	4	96
Own account worker	39	47	27	73
Contributing family helper	28	4	76	24
Employee	31	43	24	76
Others	0	1	22	78
Total	100	100	31	69
Numbers	18 646	42 182		

Employed population by broad economic sector 2016–17

Numbers in thousand, Percentage and Sex distribution (%) of population aged 15 or above

Economic sector of employment	Percentage distribution		Sex distribution	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Agriculture	60	32	45	55
Industry	17	22	25	75
Service	23	46	18	82
Total	100	100	31	69
Number	18 646	42 182		

Source: Labour Force Survey 2016-17

Formal/Informal employment by broad economic sector 2016–17

Percentage distribution
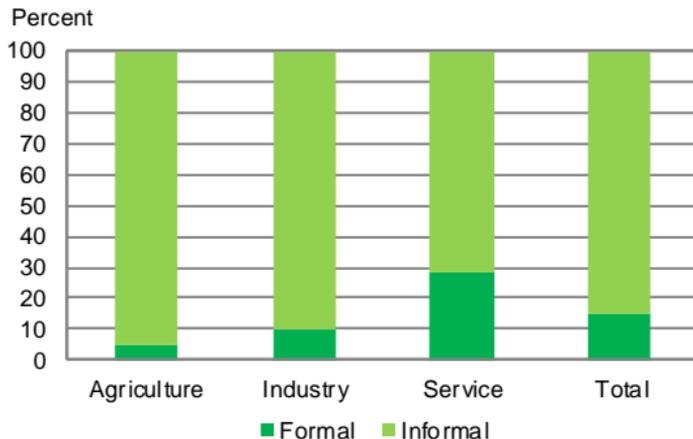
Source: Labour Force Survey 2016-17

Informal employment is dominating in the country and at the national level, 85.1 per cent of the employed population engaged in informal employment.

Employed population by formal/informal sector 2016–17

Numbers in thousand, percentage distribution and sex distribution of populations aged 15 or above

Sector of employment	Percentage distribution		Sex distribution	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Formal	8	18	17	83
Informal	92	82	33	67
Total	100	100	31	69
Numbers	18646	42182		

Source: Labour Force Survey 2016-17

Average monthly income from employment (wage/salary) by age group 2016–2017

Population aged 15 years and above
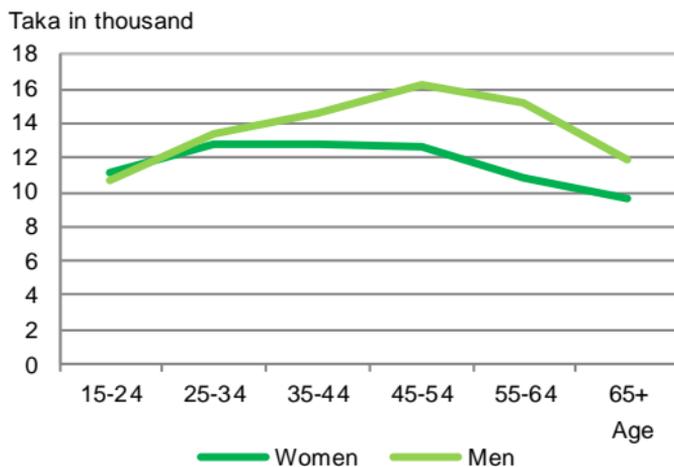
Taka in thousand

Source: Labour Force Survey 2016-17

Average monthly income (wage/salary) by occupation 2016–2017

Population aged 15 years and above. Taka in thousand
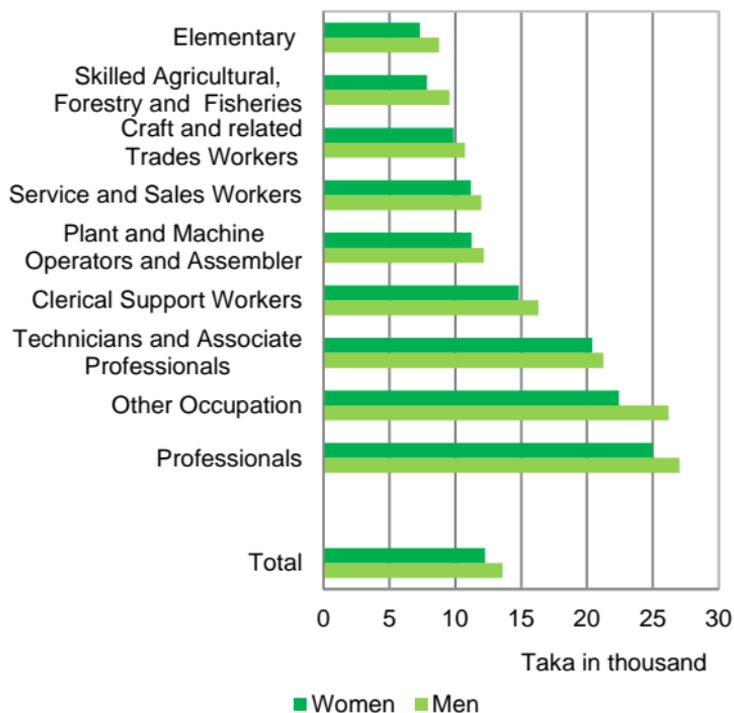
Source: Labour Force Survey 2016-17

Working age population engaged in provision of Services for own use 2016–2017

Proportion (%) of working age population aged 15 or above
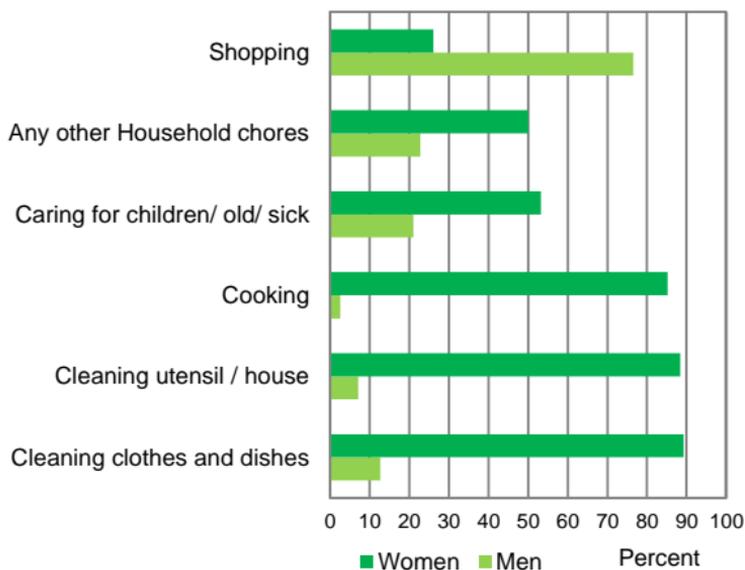
Source: Labour Force Survey 2016-17

Time-related underemployment (less than 40 hours) by broad age group 2016–2017
Percent of employed population

Percent

Women Men
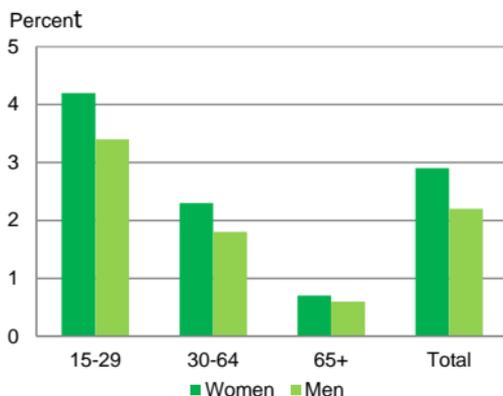
Time-related underemployment (40 hours) by sector 2016–2017
Percentage distribution

Percent

Women Men

Source: Labour Force Survey 2016-17

64

Time-related underemployment (40 hours) by education 2016–2017

Percent of employed population
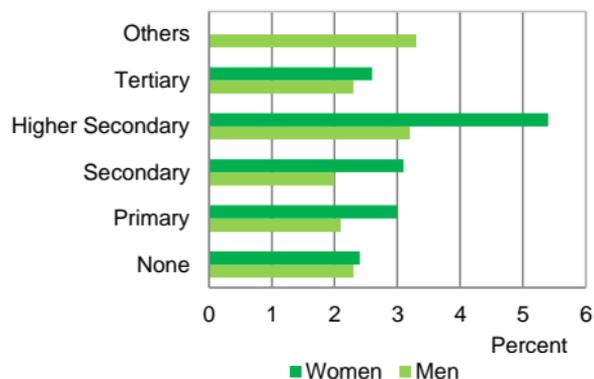
Persons looking for additional hours/new work by underemployed (40 hours) 2016–2017

Percent of employed population

Looking for additional work /new job	Women	Men
Yes (Additional work)	1.2	0.8
Yes(New job)	1.7	1.4
Total Looking for additional job	2.9	2.2

Source: Labour Force Survey 2016-17

Reason of looking for additional/new job of underemployed population, 2016–2017
Percentage distribution

Unemployment rate by type of residence, 2016–2017

Population aged 15 years and above. Percent
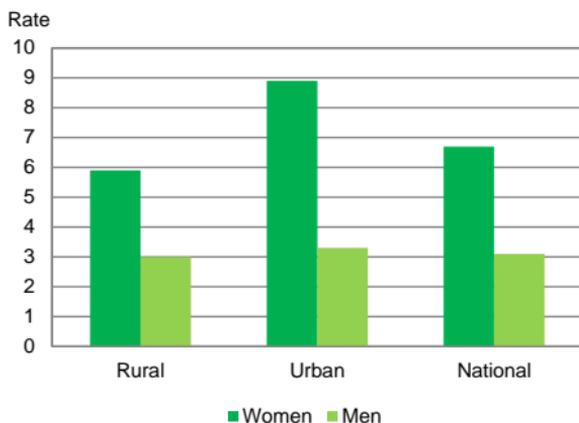
The unemployment rate, measured as the number of unemployed in relation to the number in the labour force, are almost 7 among women and 3 among men. Among women in the labour force living in rural areas almost 6 percent are considered unemployed while the unemployment rate among women in urban areas are almost 9 percent. The unemployment rate among men are similar in rural and urban areas.

Unemployment rate by age 2016–2017

Population aged 15 years and above. Percent
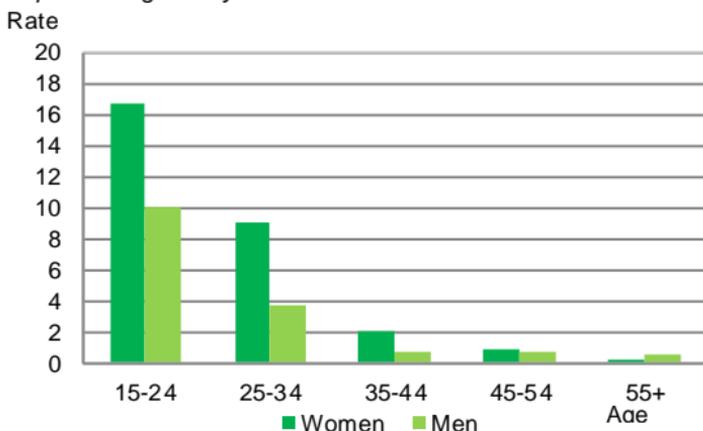
Source: Labour Force Survey 2016-17

Unemployed population by education level 2016–2017

Percentage and Sex distribution of unemployed population aged 15 or above

Education level	Percentage distribution		Sex distribution	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
None	13	9	58	42
Primary	17	15	53	47
Secondary	36	31	53	47
Higher Secondary	21	26	45	55
Tertiary	13	17	42	58
Others	0	1	0	100
Total	100	100		

Source: Labour Force Survey 2016-17

Outside labour force participation rate by area 2016-17
Population aged 15 or above
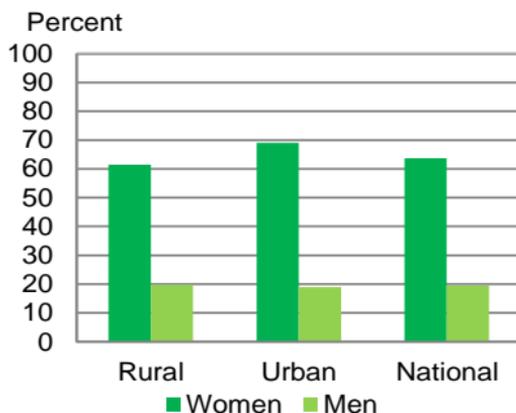
Percent

Outside labour force participation rate by age 2016-17
Population aged 15 or above
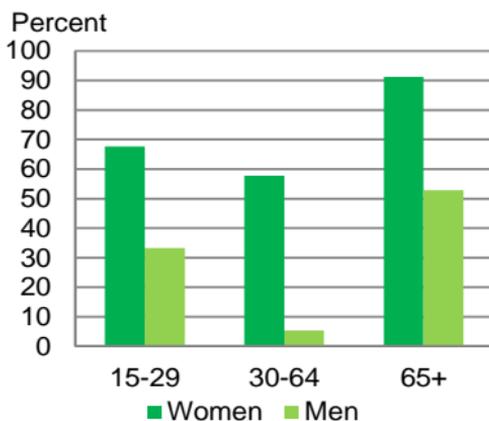
Percent

Source: Labour Force Survey 2016-17

Reason of not looking for job outside labour force 2016–2017

Percentage distribution of outside labour force
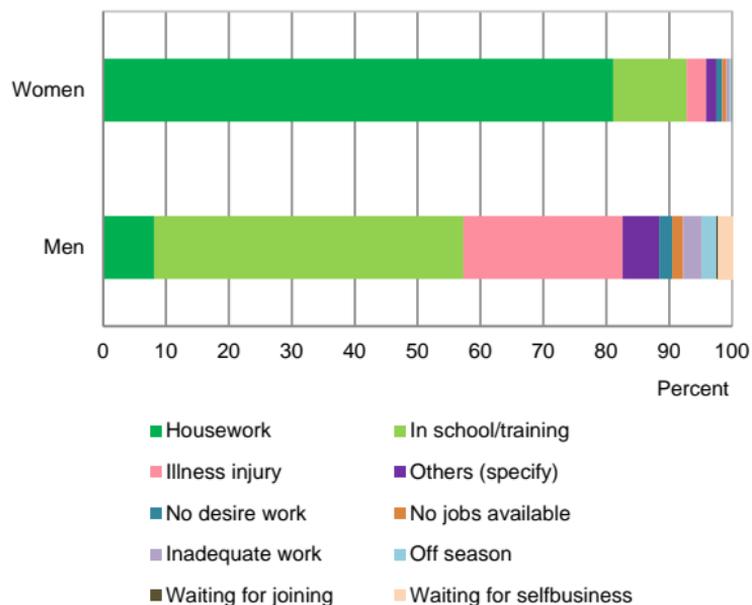
Source: Labour Force Survey 2016-17

Housework/family work was the prime reason (81.1 percent) for not looking for job at the national level for women whereas it was only 8.1 percent among men.

Youth rate not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) by area 2016–2017
Population aged 15 to 29 years

Percent
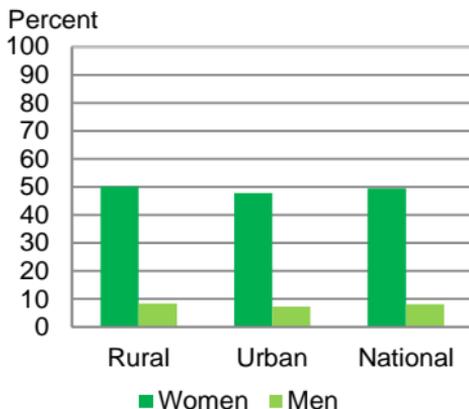
Youth rate not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) by age 2016–2017
Population aged 15 to 29 years

Percent
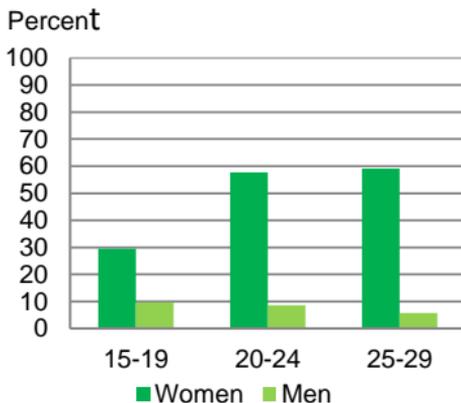
Source: Labour Force Survey 2016-17

Time use

This chapter presents comprehensive statistics on time spent by status of employment, average hours spent in doing paid work, unpaid work, average hours spent in leisure activity and other activities. The data on this issue will be helpful to assess the contribution of women and men in different activities.

Average number of hours by area 2016
Average of hours per week. Employed person
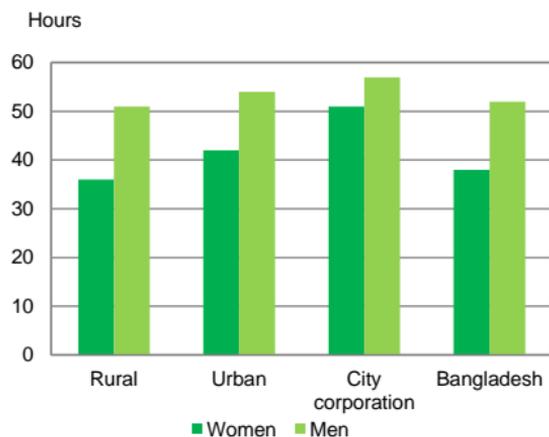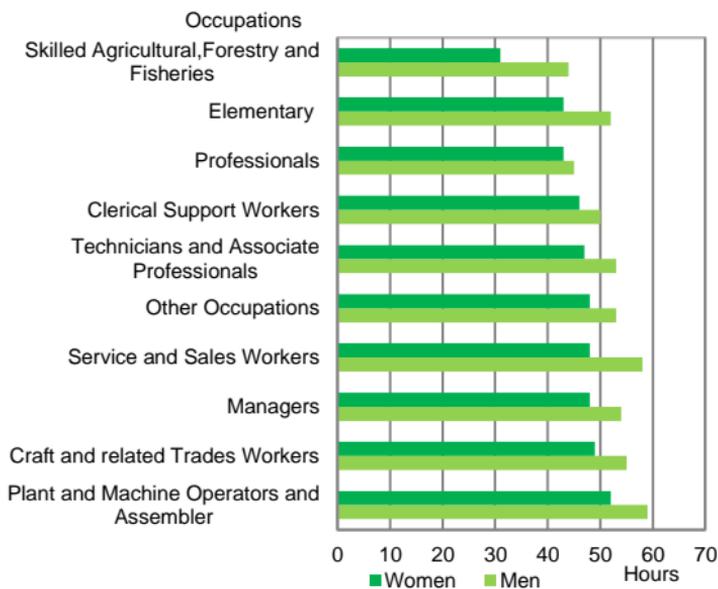
Hours

Number of hours worked by sector 2016
Average of hours per week. Employed person

Sector
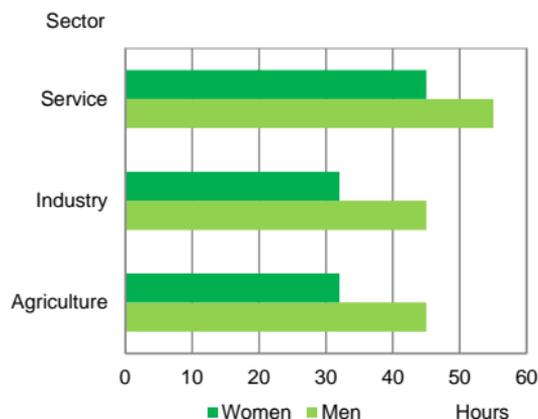
Source: Labour Force Survey 2016

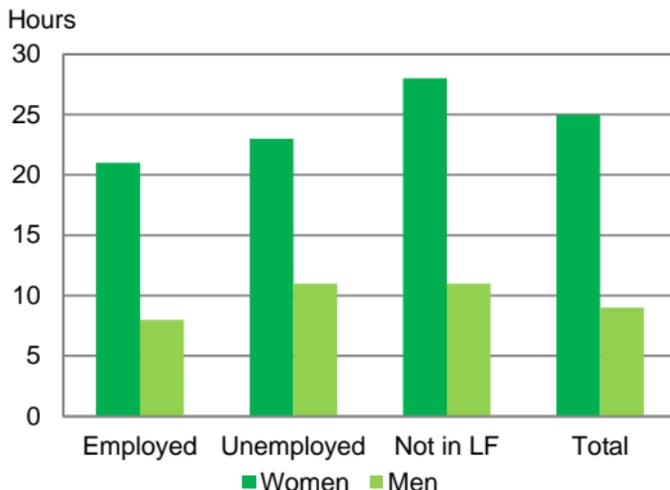# Number of hours worked by occupations, 2016

Average of hours per week. Employed persons

Source: Labour Force Survey 2016

Number of hours spent in provision of services by labour force status 2016

Average of hours per week

Source: Labour Force Survey 2016

Provision of services (beyond the 2008 SNA production boundary) covers general production boundary such as household accounting, preparing meal cleaning and caring for dependent household members.

Number of hours spent in doing paid work, household work, leisure and other work 2012
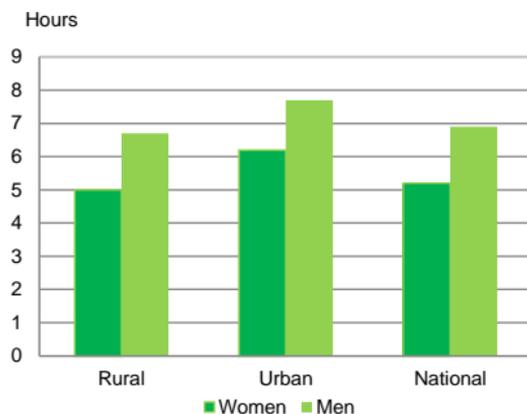
Average of hours per day. Employed population
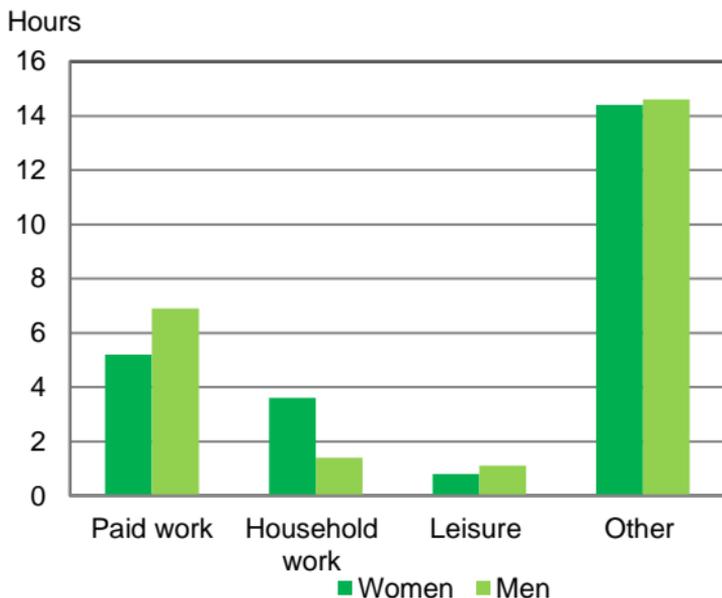
Hours

Source:Time Use Pilot Survey 2012

The highest time in paid work was done by men (6.9 hours) followed by women (5.2 hours). On the other hand women spent more time in household work (3.6 hours) followed by men (1.4 hours). There are no significant differences in time spent on leisure work and other work between men and women.
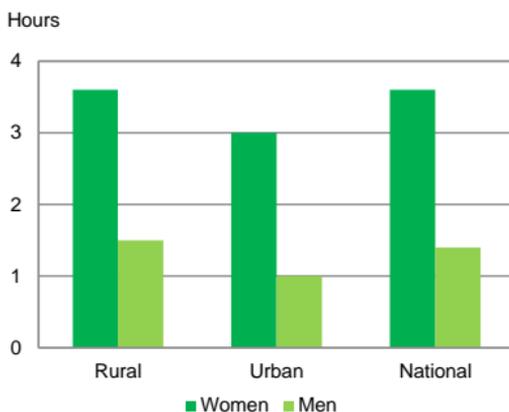
Number of hours in doing paid work by area 2012

Average of hours per day. Employed population

Hours

	Rural	Urban	National
Women	5.0	6.2	5.2
Men	6.7	7.7	6.9

Number of hours in doing household work by area 2012

Average of hours per day. Employed population

Hours

	Rural	Urban	National
Women	3.6	3.0	3.6
Men	1.5	1.0	1.4

Source: Time Use Pilot Survey 2012

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Number of hours in doing leisure time by area 2012

Average of hours per day. Employed population

Hours

■Women ■Men

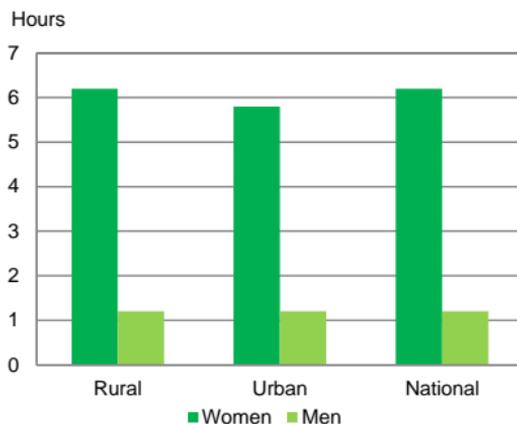**Number of hours doing household work, leisure and other work 2012**

Average of hours per day. Not employed population

Hours

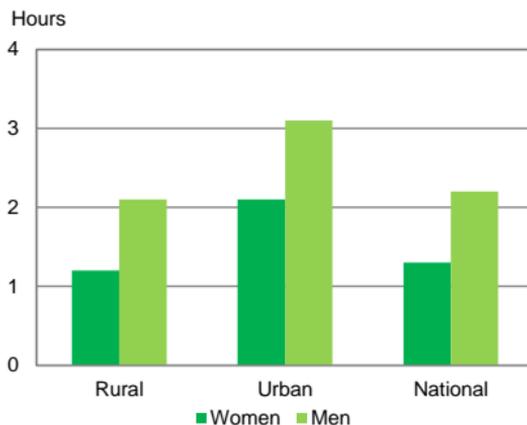■Women ■Men

Source:Time Use Pilot Survey 2012

Number of hours in doing household work by area 2012

Average of hours per day. Not employed population

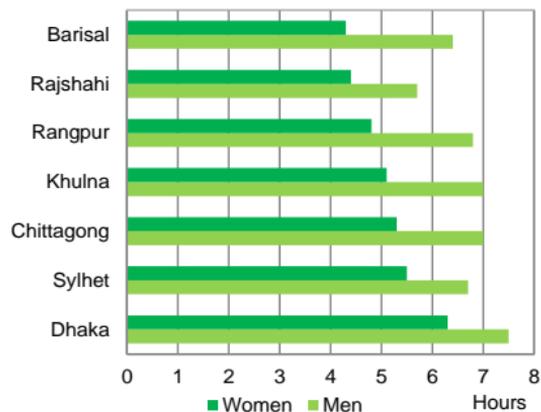Hours

Number of hours doing leisure by area 2012

Average of hours per day. Not employed population

Hours

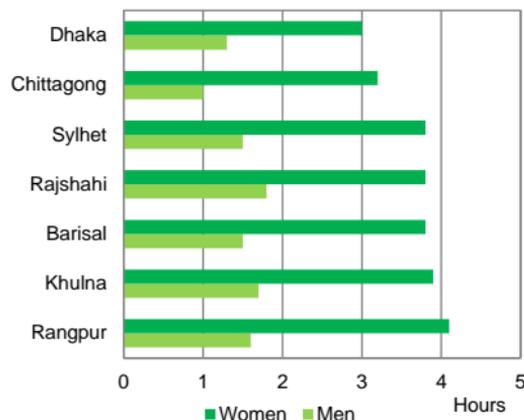Source: Time Use Pilot Survey 2012

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Number of hours doing paid work by division 2012

Average of hours per day. Employed population

Number of hours doing household work by division 2012

Average of hours per day. Employed population

Source: Time Use Pilot Survey 2012

Number of hours doing household work, leisure and other work by division 2012
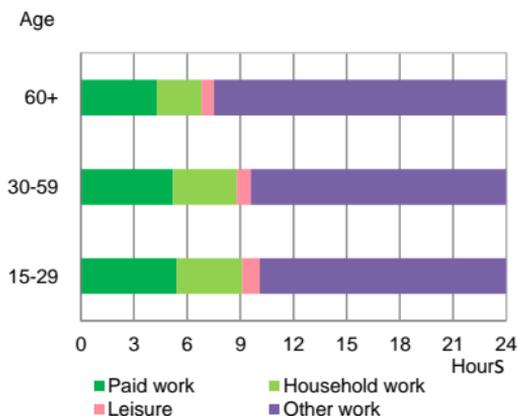
Average of hours per day. Not employed population

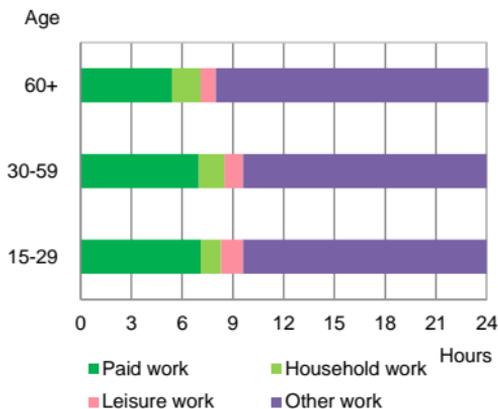|	Household work		Leisure work		Other work	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Barisal	1.1	5.7	2.1	1	20.8	17.3
Chittagong	1.4	5.8	2.1	1.2	20.5	17
Dhaka	1.3	6.4	2.1	1.5	20.7	16.1
Khulna	0.8	6.5	2	1.4	21.1	16.1
Rajshahi	1.3	5.8	2.3	1.5	20.3	16.7
Rangpur	1.2	6.7	2.3	1.3	20.4	15.9
Sylhet	1.5	6.6	2	0.9	20.5	16.5
Total	1.2	6.2	2.1	1.3	20.6	16.5

Source:Time Use Pilot Survey 2012

Number of hours doing paid work, household work, leisure and other work by broad age group 2012

Average of hours per day in broad age group. Employed population
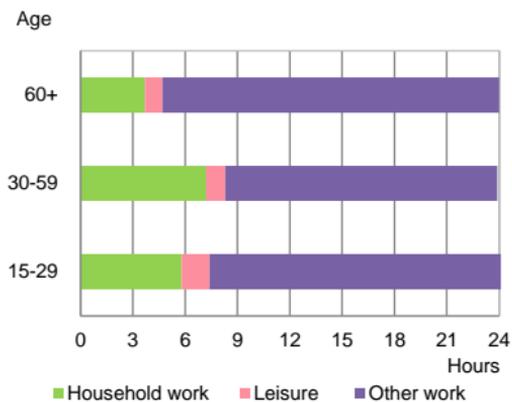

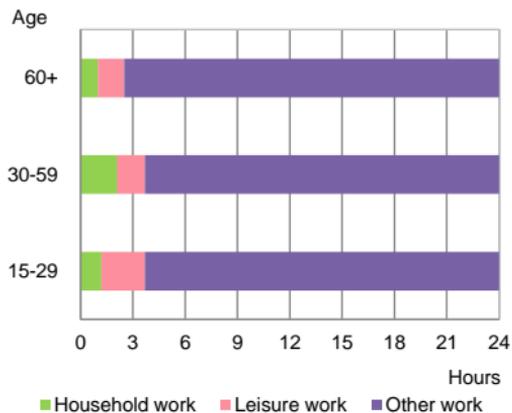**Women**

Men

Source: Time Use Pilot Survey 2012

Number of hours doing paid work, household work, leisure and other work by broad age group 2012

Average of hours per day in broad age group. Not employed population

Women
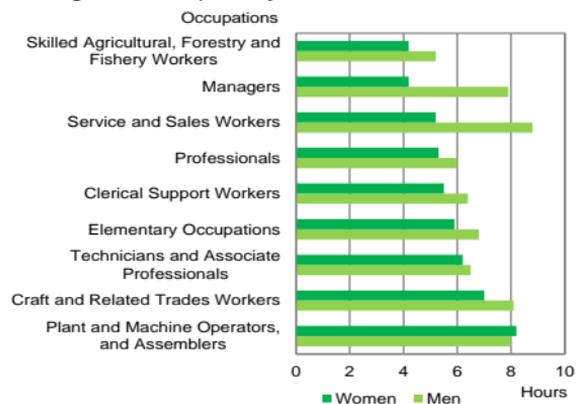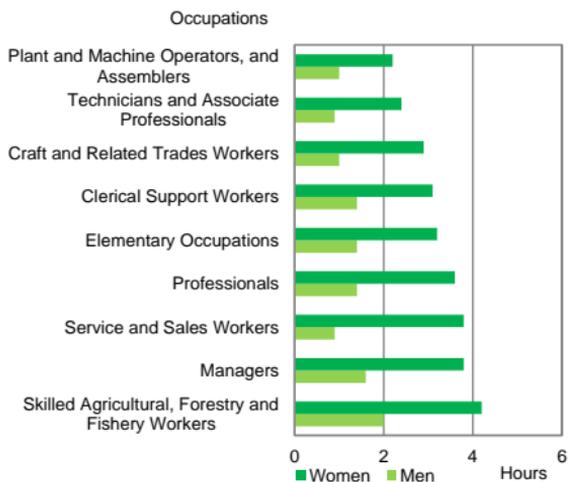

Men

Number of hours doing paid work by occupation 2012

Average of hours per day

Occupations

Number of hours doing household work by occupation 2012

Average of hours per day

Occupations


Source: Time Use Pilot Survey 2012

Decision-making

Empowerment refers to increasing of the multidimensional qualities of individuals and communities relating to spiritual, political, social, educational and economic strength based on gender issues. Women's empowerment lays emphasis on women's freedom of choice and power to control their own lives. This is applicable for both the personal level within the household and at the societal level within the process of social and economic change. Women represent half of the population and gender inequality exists in every nation. Without the participation of women in all spheres of life, the comprehensive sustainable social and economic development could not be achieved.

The chapter on decision-making includes information about the composition of chairmen and members in the union parishads, civil officers and staff, freedom of movement and decision-making within the household.

Chairmen and members in Union Parishad, 2009 and 2017

Sex distribution
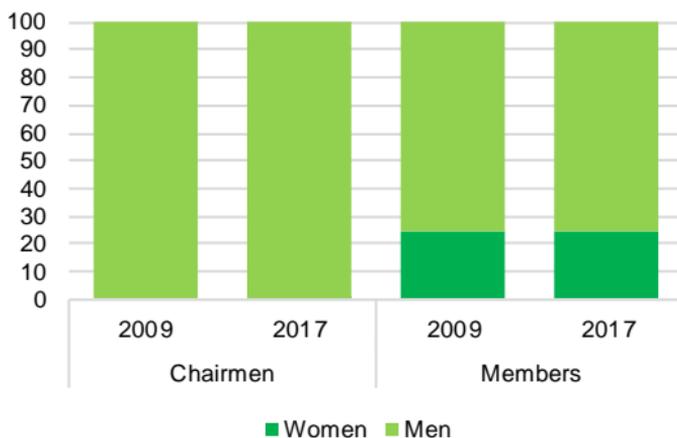
■ Women ■ Men

Source: Local Government Division, Bangladesh Secretariat

Of all chairmen in Bangladesh in 2009 and 2017, about 4 500 each year, none of them are women. Of about 54 000 members in Union Parishad, 25 percent in 2009 and 2017 were women.

Civil officers and staff in the ministries and directorates by category, 2010

Percentage distribution, sex distribution and numbers in thousands

Category of officers and staff	Percentage distribution		Sex distribution	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Class-1	5	7	18	82
Class-2	2	3	18	82
Class-3	72	70	25	75
Class-4	21	20	26	74
Total	100	100	25	75
Numbers	209	637		

Source: Statistics of Civil Officers and Staff, 2010

Civil officers and staff in the autonomous bodies and corporations by category, 2010
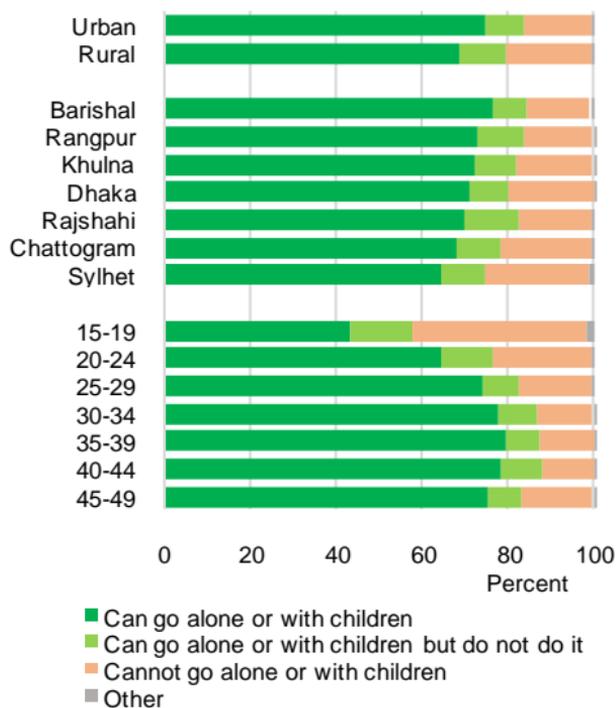
Percentage distribution, sex distribution and numbers in thousands

Category of officers and staff	Percentage distribution		Sex distribution	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Class-1	29	20	11	89
Class-2	16	13	10	90
Class-3	39	38	8	92
Class-4	16	29	5	95
Total	100	100	8	92
Numbers	18	214		

Source: Statistics of Civil Officers and Staff, 2010

Freedom of movement to go to a hospital or health center by type of residence, division and age, 2014
Currently married women aged 15–49. Percentage distribution

■ Can go alone or with children
■ Can go alone or with children but do not do it
■ Cannot go alone or with children
■ Other

Source: Demographic and health survey, Bangladesh, 2014

Married women in urban areas can go alone or with children to a hospital or health center in a larger extend than women in rural areas. Of married women in the different districts, those living in Barishal have the highest percentage who are free to go alone or with children. Among the different ages, the youngest women are those who in the largest extend cannot go alone or with children to a hospital or health center.

Participation in decision-making by person who makes the decisions in various issues, 2014

Currently married women aged 1549. Percentage
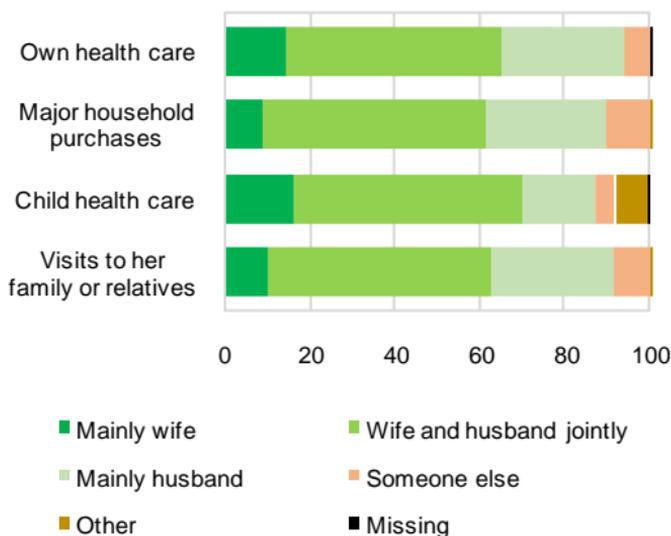
Source: Demographic and health survey, Bangladesh, 2014

Participation in decision-making by residence, division and age, 2014

Currently married women aged 1549 who usually make decisions by themselves or jointly with their husbands. Percentage

	Specific decisions					
	Woman's own health care	Making major house-hold purch-ases	Child hea-lth care	Visits to her family or rela-tives	All four deci-sions	None of the four deci-sions
15-19	49	41	40	44	21	33
20-24	61	54	62	56	37	21
25-29	67	64	74	64	46	14
30-34	70	68	78	69	51	11
35-39	72	71	81	70	54	10
40-44	69	37	77	69	50	12
45-49	65	65	76	68	47	13
Barishal	56	53	66	58	36	20
Chatto-gram	68	62	71	63	48	18
Dhaka	69	66	75	69	49	12
Khulna	60	57	64	58	37	19
Rajshahi	64	60	69	62	40	15
Rangpur	63	32	68	59	39	16
Sylhet	55	48	61	51	33	24
Urban	69	67	73	69	47	13
Rural	63	59	69	60	42	18

Source: Demographic and health survey, Bangladesh, 2014

Violence against women

Violence against women (VAW) is a global phenomenon in both developed and developing countries. Many women suffer from controlling behaviors, physical, economic, emotional and sexual violence, causing physical and mental harm. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by global leaders in September 2015, highlight the importance of statistics on VAW. This chapter will discuss about physical, sexual, psychological violence by different types of background.

Women who experienced intimate partner physical violence by type of residence, 2015
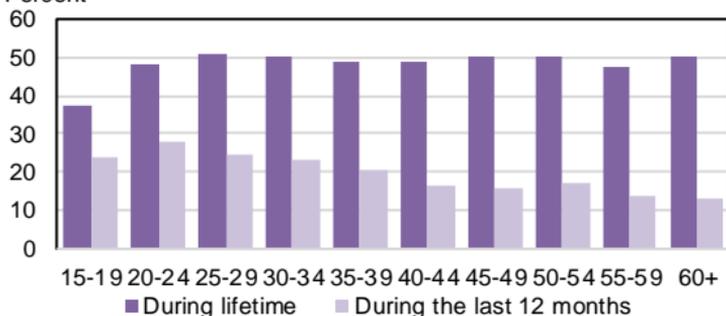
Percentage of ever-married women

Percent
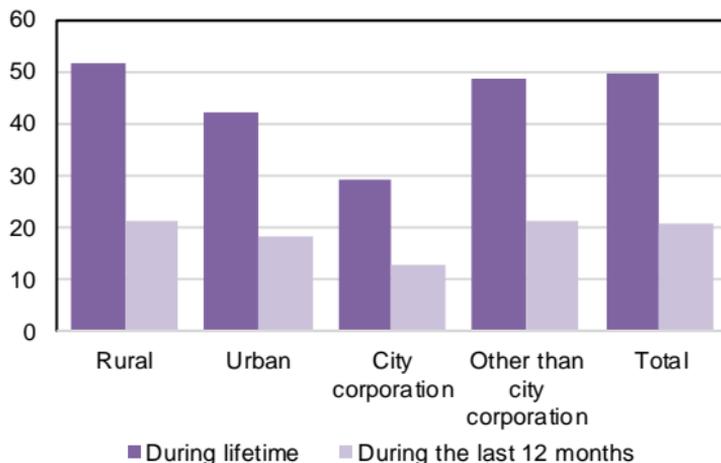
Experiences of physical violence differ based on geographical area of residence. More than half of ever-married women in rural areas (51.8%), and close to half of those in urban areas outside city corporations (48.5%), have experienced partner physical violence in their lifetime.

Women who experienced intimate partner physical violence by age, 2015

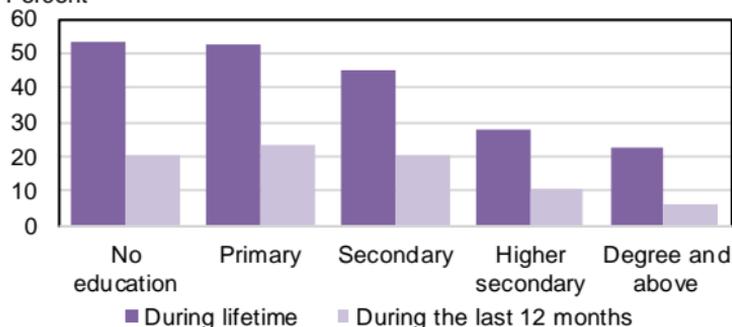*Percentage of ever-married women aged 15 or above*

Percent

Source: Violence Against Women Survey 2015, BBS

Women who experienced intimate partner physical violence by level of education, 2015
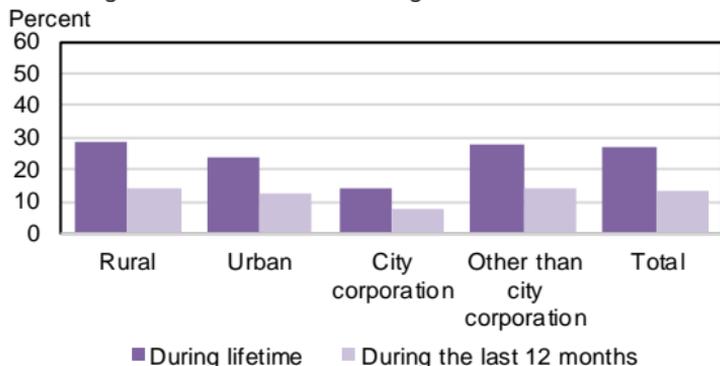
Percentage of ever-married women

Percent

Source: Violence Against Women Survey 2015, BBS

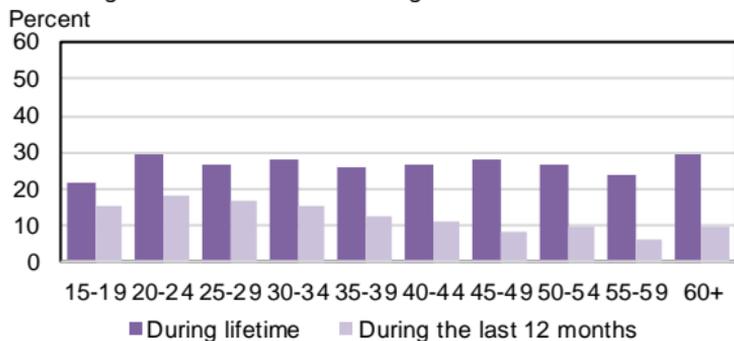**Women who experienced intimate partner sexual violence by type of residence, 2015**

Percentage of ever-married women aged 15 or above

Percent

Source: Violence Against Women Survey 2015, BBS

Women who experienced intimate partner sexual violence by age, 2015

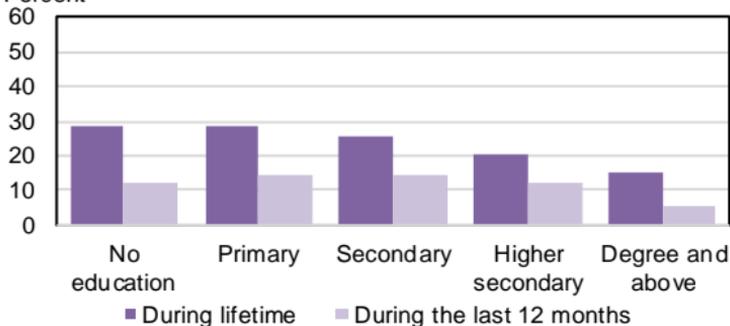*Percentage of ever-married women aged 15 or above*

Percent

Source: Violence Against Women Survey 2015, BBS

Women who experienced intimate partner sexual violence by level of education, 2015
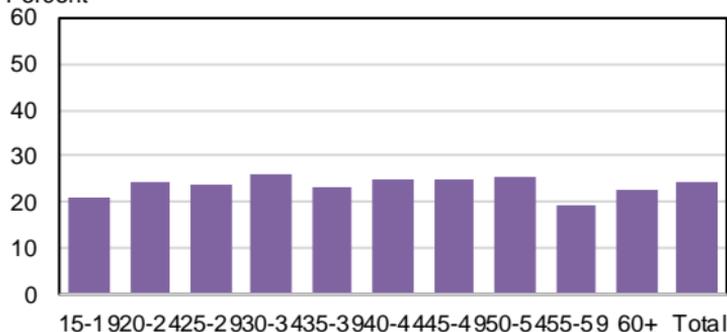
Percentage of ever married women

Percent

Source: Violence Against Women Survey 2015, BBS

Women who experienced intimate partner psychological violence in the last 12 months by age, 2015

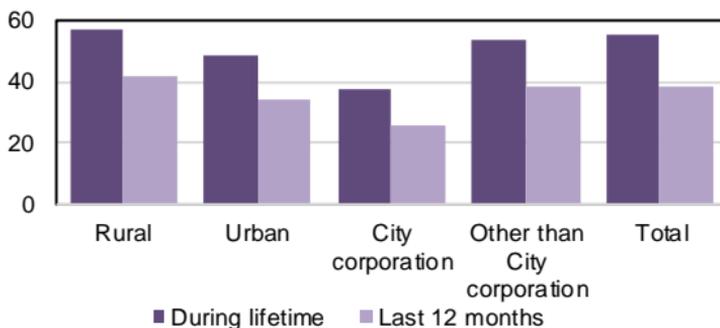*Percentage of ever-married women aged 15 and above*

Percent

Source: Violence Against Women Survey 2015, BBS

Women who experienced intimate partner emotional violence by type of residence, 2015

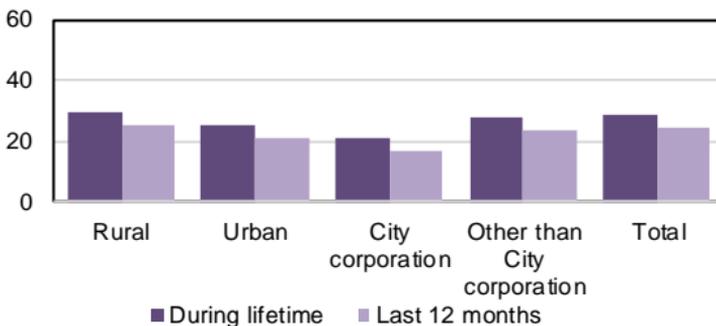*Percentage of ever-married women*

Percent

Source: Violence Against Women Survey 2015, BBS

Women who experienced intimate partner economic violence by type of residence, 2015

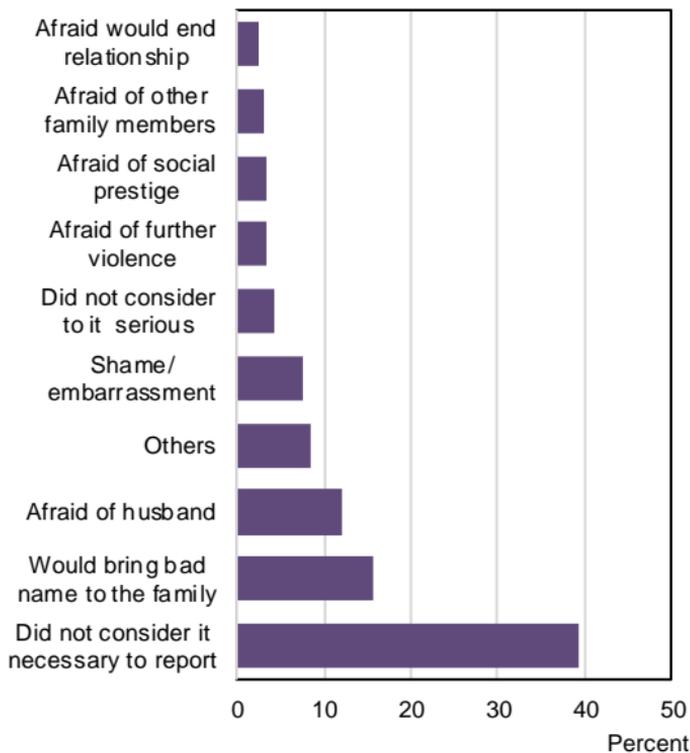*Percentage of ever-married women*

Percent

Source: Violence Against Women Survey 2015, BBS

Reasons for not telling others about intimate physical or sexual violence, 2015

Percentage of ever-married women who experienced such violence and did not disclose

Source: Violence Against Women Survey 2015, BBS

Women who know where to report partner violence by type of residence
Percentage of ever-married women

	Total	Rural	Urban	City corporation	Other than city corporation
Know where to report	41.3	40.4	44	42.5	44.8
Place where to report					
Police/ Thana	27.8	26.5	31.9	32.4	31.6
Village court	7.4	8	6	3	7.5
Union Parishad/ Paurashava	12.1	12.4	11	6	13.4
Court	4.2	4.1	4.6	4.6	4.6
Gov. organi-sation	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.2	0.8
Know about the govt. helpline no 10921	2.4	1.9	3.8	4.4	3.5

Source: Violence Against Women Survey 2015, BBS

Disclosing experiences of partner physical or sexual violence by person/authority, 2015

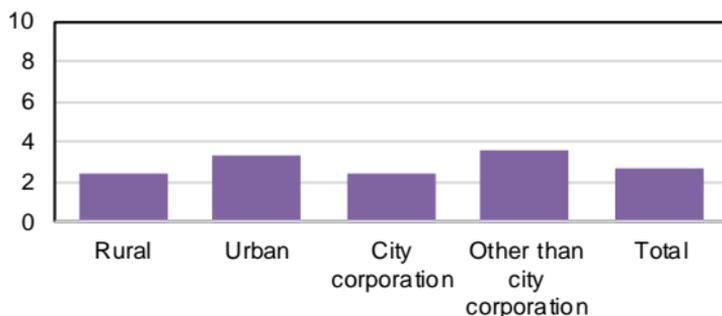*Percentage of ever-married women who experienced such violence*

Disclosed to		Disclosed to	
No one	72.7	Others	1.1
Own parents	16.6	Friends	0.8
Husband's parents	10.3	Others relatives	0.1
Neighbor	9.1	Doctor/ Health workers	0.1
Sibling	6.7	Religious Leaders	0.1
Husband's siblings	4.1	NGO	0.1
Local leaders	2.1		

Source: Violence Against Women Survey 2015, BBS

Women experiencing physical or sexual violence who took legal action by type of residence, 2015

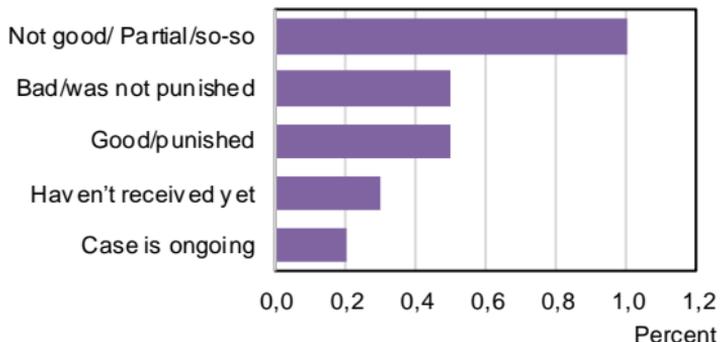Percentage of ever-married women who experienced such violence

Source: Violence Against Women Survey 2015, BBS

Women experiencing physical or sexual violence who took legal action by outcome of the action, 2015

Percentage of ever-married women who experienced such violence

Source: Violence Against Women Survey 2015, BBS

Women exposed to non-partner physical violence by type of residence

Percentage of all women

Residence	During lifetime	During the last 12 months
Rural	29.2	6.4
Urban	23.7	4.9
City corporation	15.6	2.3
Other than city corporation	27.9	6.2
Total	27.8	6.2

Source: Violence Against Women Survey 2015, BBS

Women exposed to non-partner physical violence by age

Percentage of all women

Percent

■ During lifetime ■ During the last 12 months

Source: Violence Against Women Survey 2015, BBS

Women exposed to non-partner physical violence by level of education

Percentage of all women

Percent

■ During the last 12 months ■ During lifetime

Source: Violence Against Women Survey 2015, BBS

Women exposed to non-partner sexual violence by type of residence
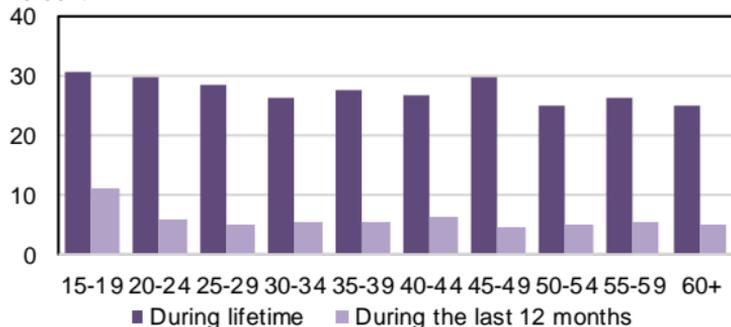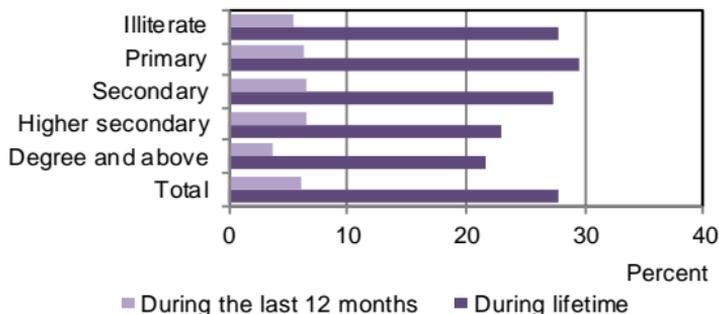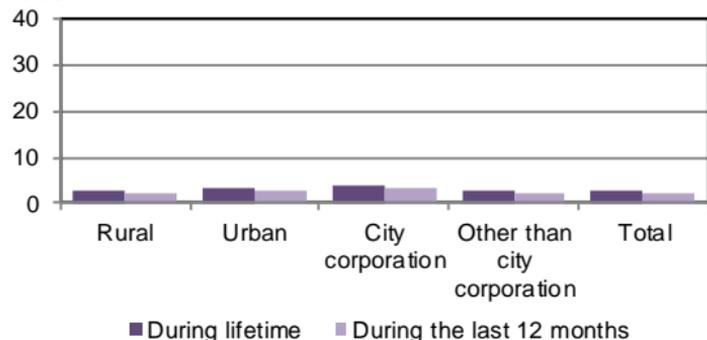
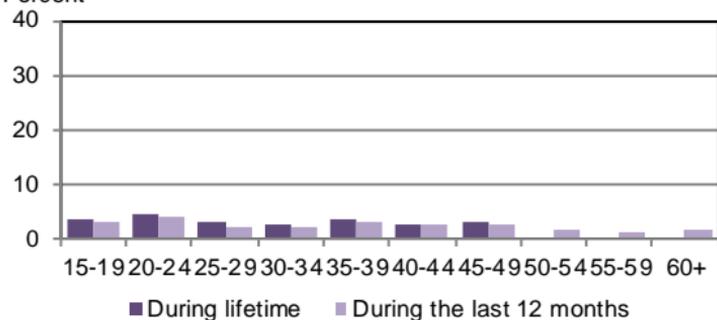*Percentage of all women*

Percent

Source: Violence Against Women Survey 2015, BBS

Women exposed to non-partner sexual violence by age

Percentage of all women

Percent

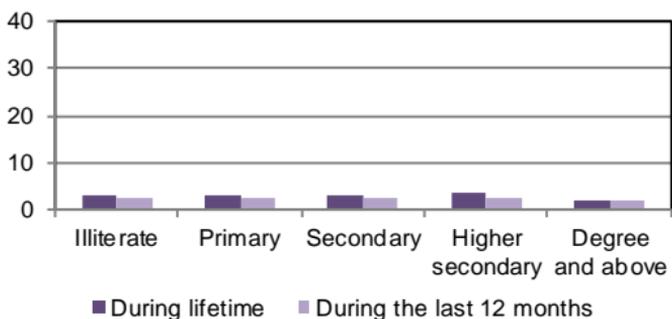Source: Violence Against Women Survey 2015, BBS

Women exposed to non-partner sexual violence by type of level of education

Percentage of all women
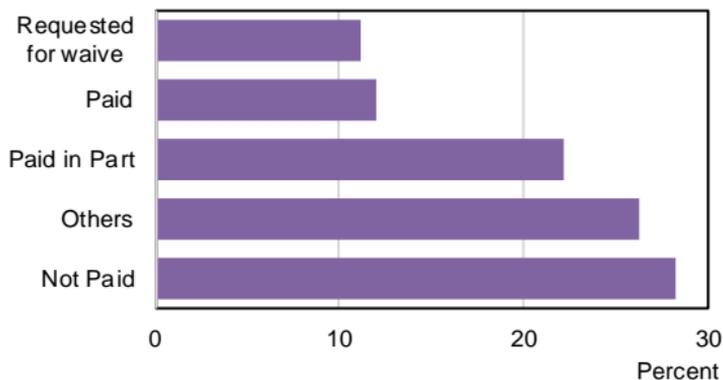
Percent

■ During lifetime ■ During the last 12 months

Source: Violence Against Women Survey 2015, BBS

Denmohor payment status, 2015

Percentage of ever-married Muslim women

Percent

Source: Violence Against Women Survey 2015, BBS

Conclusion

Bangladesh adopted and aligned the Global Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals to the National Development Plan, specifically, Goal 5 targets and indicators on achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls. This booklet therefore, presents key gender responsive statistics on various indicators required in planning, development and decision making processes of the Government and other stakeholders:

- ➢ In 2017, the population of Bangladesh is estimated 162.7 million and women are 81.3 million and men are 81.4 million. So women can play vital role to develop Bangladesh.
- ➢ The age-specific projected values show that at the age of 30-34 and onwards, population increases sharply. This indicates movement of the population towards the older age groups, the increase in the old age population will pose a formidable challenge to the policy makers if necessary measures to take care of the old age population are not considered with top priority.
- ➢ In 2017, the overall maternal mortality ratio was estimated to be 1.72 maternal deaths per 1000 live births. In rural and urban areas both are in declining pattern throughout the years.
- ➢ Women are married at early ages compared to men.
- ➢ Incidence of poverty is found significantly less for the female headed households than that of male headed households in 2016.
- ➢ Literacy rate is still less for women than men at national level, rural and urban area also.
- ➢ Girls' net and gross enrollment rate surpassed boys rate in primary and secondary education.
- ➢ Dropout rate is higher than boy's rate in primary school.

- ➤ In 2016-17, the labour force participation rate of the population aged 15 or older is 58.2 percent of which 80.5 per cent for men and only 36.3 percent for women presents a significant gender gap.
- ➤ Though the sex ratio of Bangladesh is 100.2, women are less employed or engaged in economic activity than men.
- ➤ By occupation, skilled agriculture workers accounted for the largest share of the total employed population, at 32.4 per cent. The percentage of women worker in this sector is significantly higher than men.
- ➤ Sex distribution of status in employment presents that 76% women are working as contributing family helper and only 4% is employer.
- ➤ In 2016-17, 92% per cent of the employed women engaged in informal employment.
- ➤ Average monthly income presents gender gap between women and men. Women don't get equal wage/salary to men.
- ➤ Time-related underemployment is higher for women than men at national, rural and urban area.
- ➤ In 2016-17, the unemployment rate is 4.2 per cent at national level of which 3.1 is for men and 6.7 for women.
- ➤ For doing household/family work, a large portion of women belong to outside the labour force.
- ➤ In provision of services, women work about three times more than male counterpart.
- ➤ Household activities are generally done by females. Among the employed population 15 years and over, they spent 3.6 hours in 24 hours for such work compared to only 1.4 hours by the males and among not employed population in the mentioned age, they spent 6.2 hours in 24 hours compared to only 1.2 hours by the males. This

indicate the burden of household work to females which include unpaid domestic services for own final consumption and care giving services to household members.

➢ Women have less participation than men for both the personal level within the household and at the societal level.

➢ A large percentage of women do not tell others about their experiences with partner violence, mainly because they do not consider it necessary to report it, they are concerned about the social stigma towards the family, or the impact it may have on their children's future.

➢ Knowledge about the government helpline was low and the role of government institutes and the one stop crisis center are not yet widely known.