



Research Paper

## Women in Political Power Structures and Decision Making: Bangladesh Context

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### Abstract

Bangladesh gained independence from Pakistan on 16 December 1971. The constitution of independent Bangladesh came into effect on 16th December 1972. The head of state of independent Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, took various steps to empower women, but on August 15, 1975, when he was killed in a military coup, the empowerment of women was interrupted. This military rule continued until 1990. In 1991 the military regime was abolished and democracy was restored. This democratic government adopted various programs on women's empowerment until 1991-2022. Therefore, in this article, the position of women in the political structure and decision-making of Bangladesh has been discussed. To discuss this, we have analyzed women in politics and political parties, women in legislative assemblies, women in the cabinet, women in administration, women in the judiciary and local government systems.

**Keyword:** Women, Government, Empowerment, Political party, Administration, Participation.

*Received 18 Nov., 2022; Revised 30 Nov., 2022; Accepted 02 Dec., 2022 © The author(s) 2022.*

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### I. Introduction

People have united in their own needs. This united complete population is called society. The basic elements of society formation are geographical location and cohesion, linguistic unity, economic linkages, culture, history and traditions. The society of Bangladesh has become today's form due to the changes of the past era. In the existing socio-economic context of Bangladesh, the position of women is not different. In the patriarchal social system of Bangladesh, the position of women is subordinate. For many centuries, injustice, exploitation, deprivation, oppression, torture have been going on for these women. Conservatism, clinging to old traditions, social barriers have stifled women. In a male-dominated society, women have to bear all the oppression and oppression with their faces closed. Women's right to freedom is still unreal. Generally they are deprived of education, training, information, experience and economic rights. They are considered as the personal property of men. Vulnerable and vulnerable to all other forms of oppression, including sexual. Even today, they have not got rid of this chain due to their attachment to the specific boundaries of gender. Analyzing the social context of Bangladesh like many developing countries in the world, it can be seen that despite the majority of the population of the country being women, women's rights are neglected. In this male-dominated society, women are basically independent and dependent on men. This dependency has kept them inferior. Such a low attitude towards women has brought insecurity, neglect and insecurity in women's lives. They are born as servants to bear children, rear them, perform worthless household chores and serve men. Even though women are housewife and bear the responsibility of all household chores, their work has no economic value in the society. As an oppressed class, they are ambivalent today from being subjected to long exploitation- deprivation and oppression. A section of women are still clinging to the traditional reforms and living a confined life at home. On the other hand, a small part has come out of the confinement of the household through equality, awareness and various lucrative professions by getting education. And in this, some development organizations have extended their hand of cooperation, ignoring the bloodshed of the fundamentalist and existing social system with a brave role.

### **Rationale of the study**

Although there is extensive research on the socio-economic and political context and status of women in different countries of the world, most of the researches conducted so far on women's development in Bangladesh are limited to women's liberation movement, women's oppression, feminism and other issues. Research on socio-economic and political status and problems and possibilities of empowerment of women at all levels on the basis of scientific evidence. Public-private initiatives have looked at various aspects of rural women's socio-social and oppression. About 80 percent of the country's women live in villages.

So it is undeniable to conduct a comprehensive study of the life of this large part of the population. Although Bangladesh is rural, urban-centric politics is controlling the country and urban areas are gradually expanding. And in this context, a change is happening in the life of women in the city. And in changing this condition and way of life, their participation in various economic activities, leaving the house and entering the outside sector, acceptance or rejection of domestic work, various social and cultural practices, government initiatives, laws and policies and also non-governmental. The steps taken by organizations for the development of women have brought changes in their way of life, indicating progress or backwardness, that is, in this situation, we took the initiative to do the research because of the need for research on women's power structure and progress in decision-making.

### **Research methods and data collection**

Research Approach is the prime concern of any research work. For present research, mixed method approach has been used. Both qualitative and quantitative data have been used to address the set objectives and both of the results have been incorporated through cross sectional description. The researcher thinks that for conducting this research work efficiently, there is no alternative of mixed method. Therefore, this research approach has been selected to conduct this research work. Research data has been collected mainly from primary sources. Newspapers and periodicals are important components of liberation war research. I have collected data from various newspapers published in the period 1973-2022. Besides, we have also collected information from various political programs broadcast on Bangladesh Betar BTV and BBC. If necessary, I participated in the meetings of various women's organizations and collected information. Moreover, I interviewed women participating in politics at the national and local levels.

### **Limitations of research**

This study has several limitations. In Bangladesh of 1,47,570 square kilometers, from the local government to the national government, the government has reserved seats for women with the aim of empowering women in almost every sphere. So it is difficult to get a true picture of this issue with only 100 women political activists interviewed. Research on such a large issue needed to interview more women. Apart from this, various complications arise during the interview. For example, I had to spend time and money on travel because the respondents' homes were far away. Again, many of the respondents could not be found at home on time, so they had to go there again and again. Furthermore, many respondents did not want to be interviewed for fear of public embarrassment and many respondents did not answer all questions for fear of family and social insecurity. Despite these limitations, the study is logical to understand women in political power structure and decision making in Bangladesh. Moreover, future research on this topic can be aided by current research.

## **II. Literature Review**

An important part of scientific method based research is relevant books, periodicals, journals, peer reviews or literature surveys. Because selecting the content of social research, formulating projects, determining hypotheses, inventing methods, comparing results, in many cases literature survey or theoretical basis and applied skills are equally helpful in carrying out research activities. This research has been taken with the help of books.

1. In *Empowerment of Women in South Asia* (2000), edited by Kalpana Sinha, R.R. Prasad Ges Sushma Sahay in his article *Models for Empowering Women* explained the empowerment of women in the light of several approaches. The approaches given by them are, The Welfare Approach, The Equity Approach, The Efficiency Approach, The Antipoverty Approach, in the light of these approaches, they show that women are outside the power structure all over the world. Men are in the highest decision-making positions in the country, women are not able to exert even the slightest influence in this field. But in order to show people, in some cases of lower level, women are brought into decision-making and it is widely promoted.

2. M. Carl Juvay in *Women and Empowerment: Participation in the Decision Making* (1995) and PK Garba emphasized on women's empowerment. From 4 perspectives they emphasized the need for women's empowerment. These are- Awareness, Capacity Building and Skills Development Participation and Greater Control in Decision Making Ges Action for Change.

3. Robert A. Dahl in his seminal book *Modern Political Analysis* (1970) showed that the degree to which an individual participates in politics depends on various factors and environmental conditions. The political level mainly consists of political participants. And based on the differences between these participants, differences can be observed in different political systems. As the reason behind this, Robert A. Dahl identified the gap between the birth path, the inequality of educational opportunities and the motivation to get education.

4. In *Who? Votes* (1988), Raymond E. Wolfinger and Steven J. Rosemstone analyzed political participation in the United States in light of several demographic variables. Among these demographic drivers are age, residence, ethnicity etc. They, like Thabatandh, Gharb, and Kors, have shown in their research that wealth, education, and experience play an important role in voting in the United States. And because of the reaction of these elements, voting in the United States is decreasing. He was able to explain with statistics that the women's society is also involved in all this.

5. *Women in Popular Movements: India and Thailand During the Decade of Women* (1986) In the book, Edharash Nsabha explains how participation movements started in Thailand and India. In particular, she shows that it gave birth to a new women's movement in the wake of the Women's Decade. Even before the women's decade, the position of women in Thailand and India, their participation has been analyzed in books. That is, Gail Ombed wants to explain the difference in the context of the larger movement of women's participation.

6. Lise Ostergaard Ges Routledge Edited *Gender and Development: A Practical Guide* (1992) The book analyzes the socio-economic and political position of women in European Union countries. In the third world, even if women work for the socio-economic development of the country, they are not happy. But in Europe, women are ranked very high in terms of human rights and justice, and a woman can wield influence at the highest levels of decision-making. capable of And it is recognized in the Communities Policy. In this book, women's empowerment explains how a country can move forward and it can be followed by other countries.

7. In the book *The Fifty Percent: Women in Development and Policy in Bangladesh* (1993) written by Salma Khan, she analyzed in detail the obstacles in the field of women's education, health, legal rights, job opportunities etc. He mentioned in the book that it is necessary to take positive steps by the government to increase the participation of women in politics and other national activities and for the socio-social development of women.

8. Rounaq Jahan Zuvi Aci in the book *Women in Bangladesh* (1975) analyzed the backward position of women in Bangladesh in the socio-economic field. He shows in the analysis that, ideally, the role of women in Bangladesh is determined in the family and the action is determined between socializing the human child as an animal into a civilized human being and turning natural unripe food into processed food. According to the prevailing ideas of the society, women are inherently less capable than men and their role will be limited to the family sphere. Conducting a research in this regard, he showed that 70 percent of rural and 80 percent of urban men in Bangladesh consider women less worthy than them and consider motherhood as the most desirable role for women.

9. T. Yasmeen Zuvi in *A Real Picture of Women Work and NGOs* (1995) proves that NGO activity is not a helper of women's empowerment, but a hindrance. In it, he shows that NGOs create women's groups for the development of women. And keep them away from the outside range by keeping them always involved in group activities. Yet this society seeks to maintain male dominance and undermines the creation of any alternative power base. But from this, women stay away from the involvement of NGOs.

10. Md. Ferdous Hossain has shown the reasons of socio-economic backwardness and empowerment of Bangladeshi women in a different manner in his seminal essay on the socio-economic and political position of Bangladeshi women: an analysis (1998). He highlighted that in the male-dominated society, the women of Bangladesh also consider themselves to be members of a worthy husband's household. Due to the combination of these conditions, Bangladeshi women are less social and backward than men in terms of socio-economics.

At the end of the review of the above books, it can be seen that any chapter or place has written about the empowerment of women. In other words, none of the mentioned books have said anything about women's decision-making. So after analyzing the above books, we are motivated to write an essay on political power structure and women in decision-making: Bangladesh context.

### **Empowerment and decision making process**

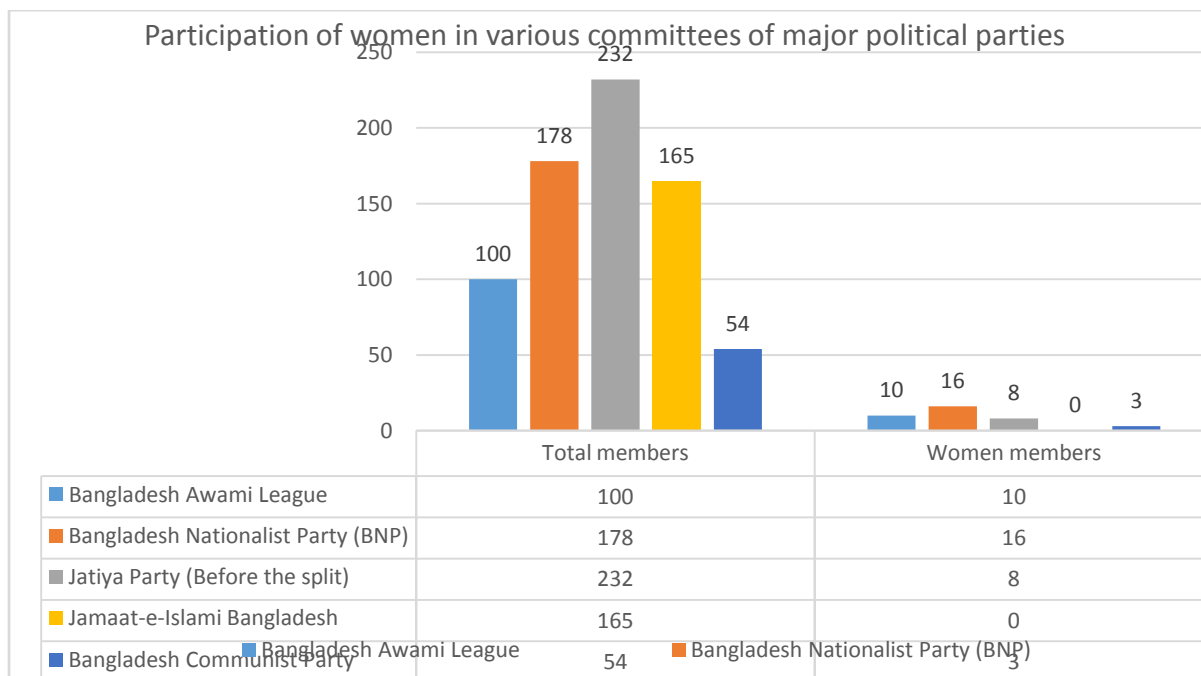
The achievement of democracy presupposes a genuine partnership between men and women in the conduct of the affairs of society in which they work in equality and complementary drawing mutual enrichment from their differences. The strategy of politics and state management is directed towards the overall welfare of the people. And the people i.e. both men and women are equal partners in the state management strategy. Empowerment that hinders women's fulfillment in life is active at various levels in our society. These barriers will be removed through equal participation of men and women in decision making. That is, through women

empowerment, a balanced social system will be created and this system will help the democracy to work strong and well. It is never possible to establish a true democracy without the proportional representation of half of the population in the political and power structure (Sultana, 2000). Equal participation of women in decision-making is not only necessary for general justice or democracy, but it is a necessary condition for considering women's well-being. Even if the real power in decision-making is not acquired, there is a lot of doubt whether it is possible to bring equality in the real sense of government policy. For this reason, the issue of equal participation of women in political life is a central issue for the advancement of women. It is not possible to achieve the goals of power, development and peace without women's active participation and inclusion of women's context at all levels of decision-making. And the real empowerment of women in politics, administration and decision-making is interrelated with the development of the overall position of women. In this research, an attempt has been made to find a form of representation of women in politics, administration and decision-making in Bangladesh (Khan, 1985).

Whatever the social, political, economic, legal rights of a woman in the patriarchal social system of Bangladesh, it must be admitted that there is a lot of discrimination compared to men. In a male-dominated society women have long been victims of oppression, superstition, bigotry, inequality and discrimination (Bhuiyan, 1985). Basically the history of women in Bangladesh is a history of oppression and neglect for ages. In this country, women's talent and labor are reserved for domestic use only. Women have never been included or accepted in leading the development and reconstruction of our society and nation (Tawheed, 2000). But the constitution of Bangladesh has provided basic rights to all men and women regardless of caste, religion, caste. Besides, according to the articles 26, 27, 28(1), 28(2), 28(3), 28(4), 29(1) and 65(3) of the constitution, there is no discrimination between men and women (Constitution, 1972). Even then, it can be seen that the positional discrimination of men and women exists in almost all levels of Bangladesh. The participation of women in all areas of administration, state policy formulation and implementation is very negligible. The patriarchal society of Bangladesh is one of the reasons for the backwardness of women in the decision-making process and empowerment. Apart from the male dominance of the patriarchal society, other social barriers are also actively at work here. Religious misinterpretation, age-old conservative values of women's multi-dimensional responsibility in the family and economic dependence etc. prevent women from empowerment and participation in direct decision-making process or make them inactive (Chowdhury, 1994). Below is a discussion about women's position in empowerment and decision-making in the context of Bangladesh.

### **Women in politics and political parties**

In the arena of politics of Bangladesh, there is almost no female leadership in addition to the predominance of two leaders and the great spectacle. From the local level to the national level, at all levels, especially in structural politics, the position of women is not at all comprehensive, organized or coherent (Alamgir, 1977). That is, the reality of women's position in the arena of politics is contradictory. The position in the superstructure is not reflected in the superstructure. Women are almost completely absent especially in the broad areas of decision-making. Observing the important committees of various political parties, it is clear that women are not only in politics, but also in the important committees of political parties. The following table shows the truth of the matter-

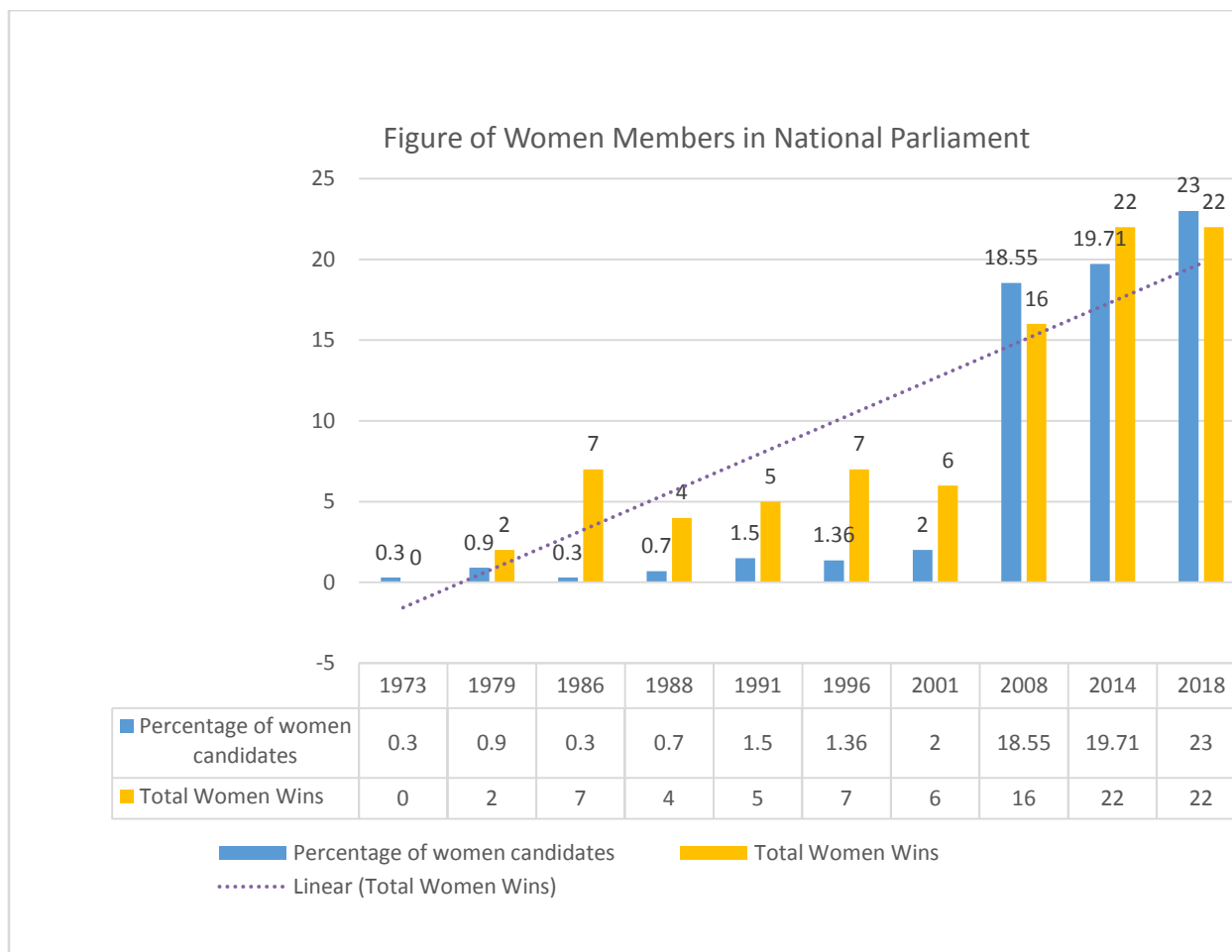


It is clear from the above figure that due to the lack of participation of women in political parties, women's problems have not been transformed into political issues in political parties' pledges or declarations. As a result, no political party gives rights to women's problems. In this regard, the party has no agenda, no action plan or any legislative or electoral reform recommendations. However, it has been included in the election manifesto. In this context, the election manifesto of Awami League says that women's equal rights are guaranteed, BNP's manifesto guarantees women's participation in all kinds of development activities, Jatiya Party is an effort for women's emancipation socially and economically, and Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh in their manifesto asserts women's rights and dignity has inserted a pledge to uphold (Ishtiyar, 2001). Therefore, it can be said that in Bangladesh, women's opportunities to be involved in politics are limited and the possibility of influencing the policy-making sphere is extremely weak (Chowdhury, 1994). So women should be involved in the main stream of politics. The political party is the main driving force in the state life. Therefore, women's participation in politics and decision-making and the analysis of the real nature of women's problems in the sphere of politics is an important factor in increasing the political status of women. It is on the basis of this status that they can participate in policy making and thereby contribute to building a society without gender discrimination. Otherwise, what women can do is the result of the kindness of the patriarchal society (Menon, 1994).

In addition, due to gross under-representation at the political decision-making level, all decisions related to women's equality and empowerment remain in the jurisdiction of men, who may not have similar interest in such topics (Afshar, 1985). As a result, women are subjugated through state policies or strong measures or policies are not being adopted to eliminate gender inequality (Alam, 1985). And it is self-evident that political parties play a vital role in improving the condition of any privileged class (Almasud, 1997). Moreover, in general, it can be said that the responsibility of making the political parties and society at large aware of the possible ways to solve women's problems lies with those women who have earned the right to lead in this male-dominated society.

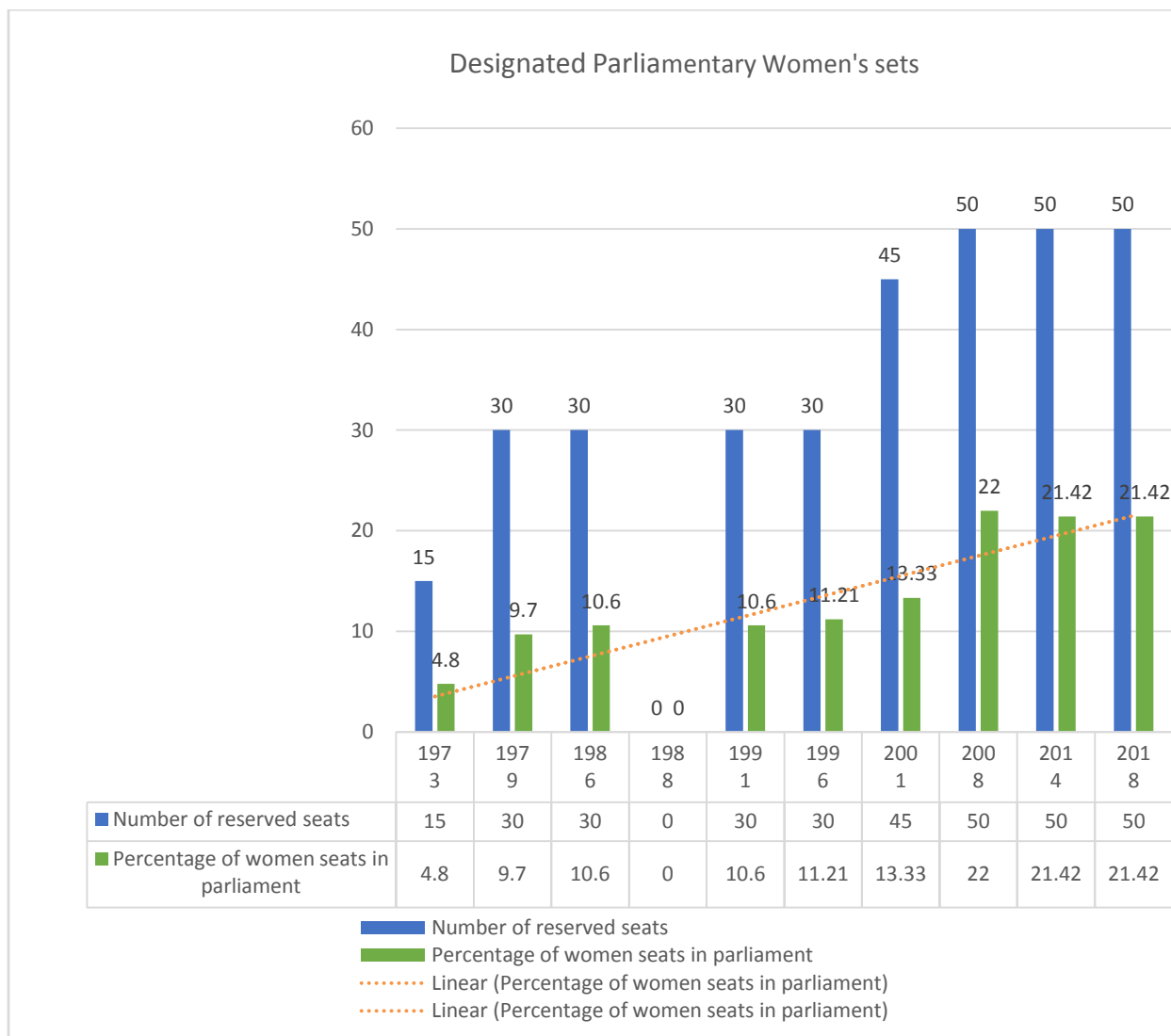
### Women in the Legislature

384 women MPs have been nominated in the reserved seats from the first parliament to the twelfth parliament. 12 of them have become members of Parliament more than once. Comparing the results of the previous years and the votes obtained, it can be seen that women candidates have been able to gradually increase their political acceptance to the voters and they are establishing themselves as worthy candidates by dealing with the gender issues in the political arena (Andersen, 1988). The following table shows the participation and victory of women candidates in the National Parliament elections:



Source: Information obtained from Bangladesh Parliament Library 2022.

As can be seen in the above table, there is a positive trend of women's participation in electoral politics from 1973-2022.

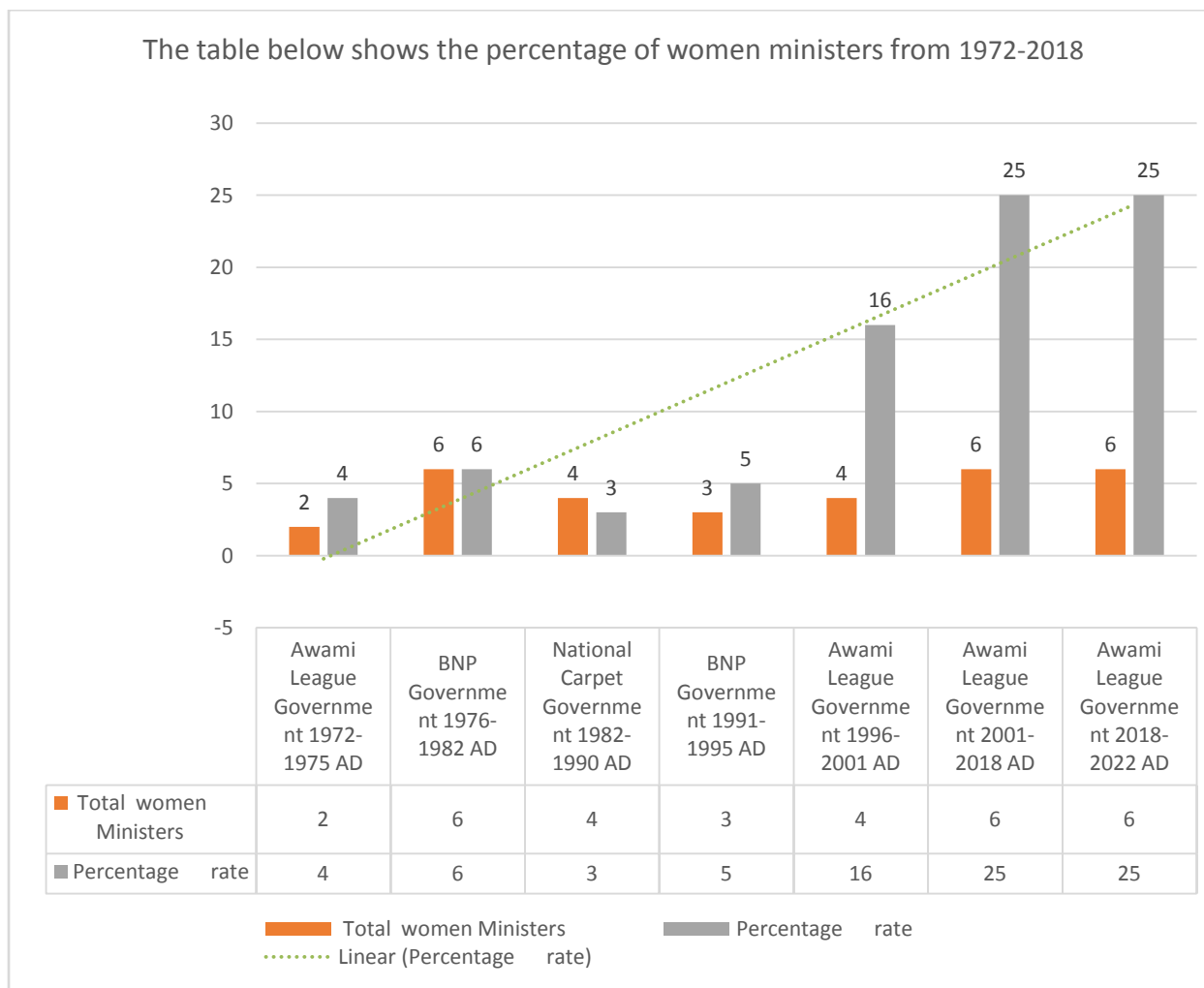


Source: Information obtained from Bangladesh Parliament Library 2022.

Meanwhile, the election of women in the 50 reserved seats is mainly by indirect voting of the members of the party that won the majority of seats in the elections. As a result, women MPs do not consider themselves responsible for the work of the country's women's society. Therefore, in the conventional system, women are not able to create equal opportunities in terms of decision-making and power sharing (Sultana, 2000).

### Women in the Cabinet

In the history of Bangladesh, women ministers have been appointed as ministers, state ministers, deputy ministers of ministries that are not considered important. In other words, the trend of distributing the responsibilities of ministries that are not important to women ministers worldwide was also prevalent in Bangladesh. However, there is an exception in this case from 1996 to 2018 parliament. So women are also getting a place in the important positions of the cabinet of Bangladesh (Abdulah, 1974).



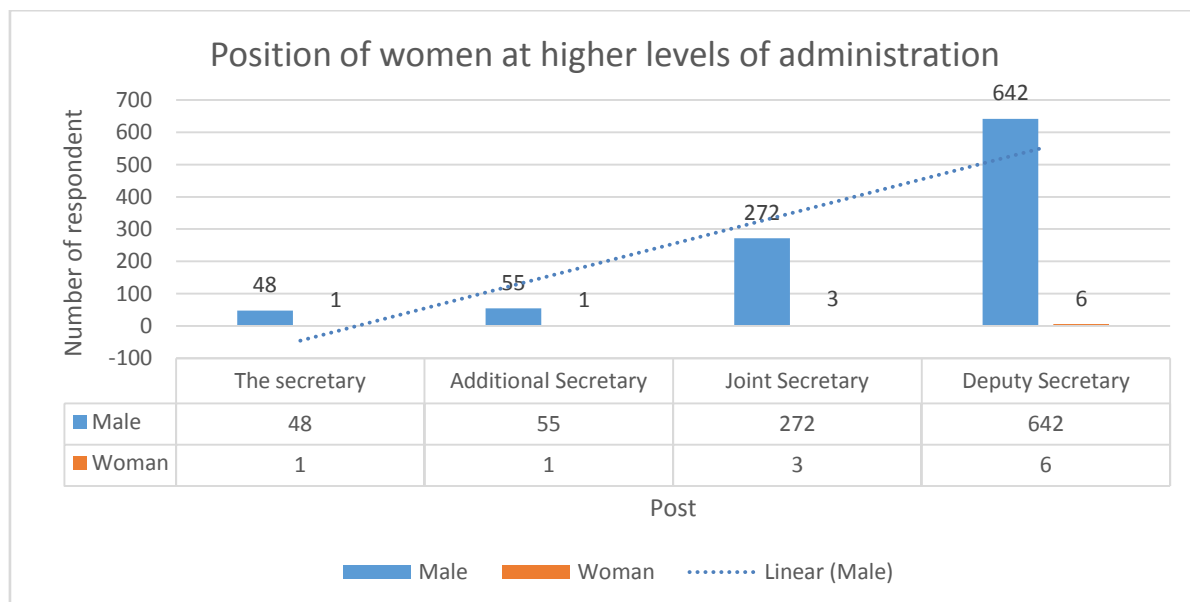
Source: Bangladesh Government report presented at the World Conference on Women 1995 and recent data collected from the Select Commission, 2022.

So from the above table it is clear that women are weak in political power in parties, parliaments and constituencies. This aspect can be linked to his weak position in the Council of Ministers.

### Women in Administration

In modern times, policy making and decision making is related to administration. Women in the top positions of the bureaucracy in Bangladesh could not hold their own. However, women's empowerment and women's participation in decision-making along with political commitment, purpose and desire, as well as women's voice and women's vision in the management of the state administration and in the determination of the state's policy, need to be added to the higher levels of administration to a significant extent. Because equality in decision-making is about women's empowerment not just an as irrational goal, but an important strategy (Jahan, 1995). The table below shows the participation rate of women at higher levels of administration in Bangladesh (Abdul & Haque, 2003) :

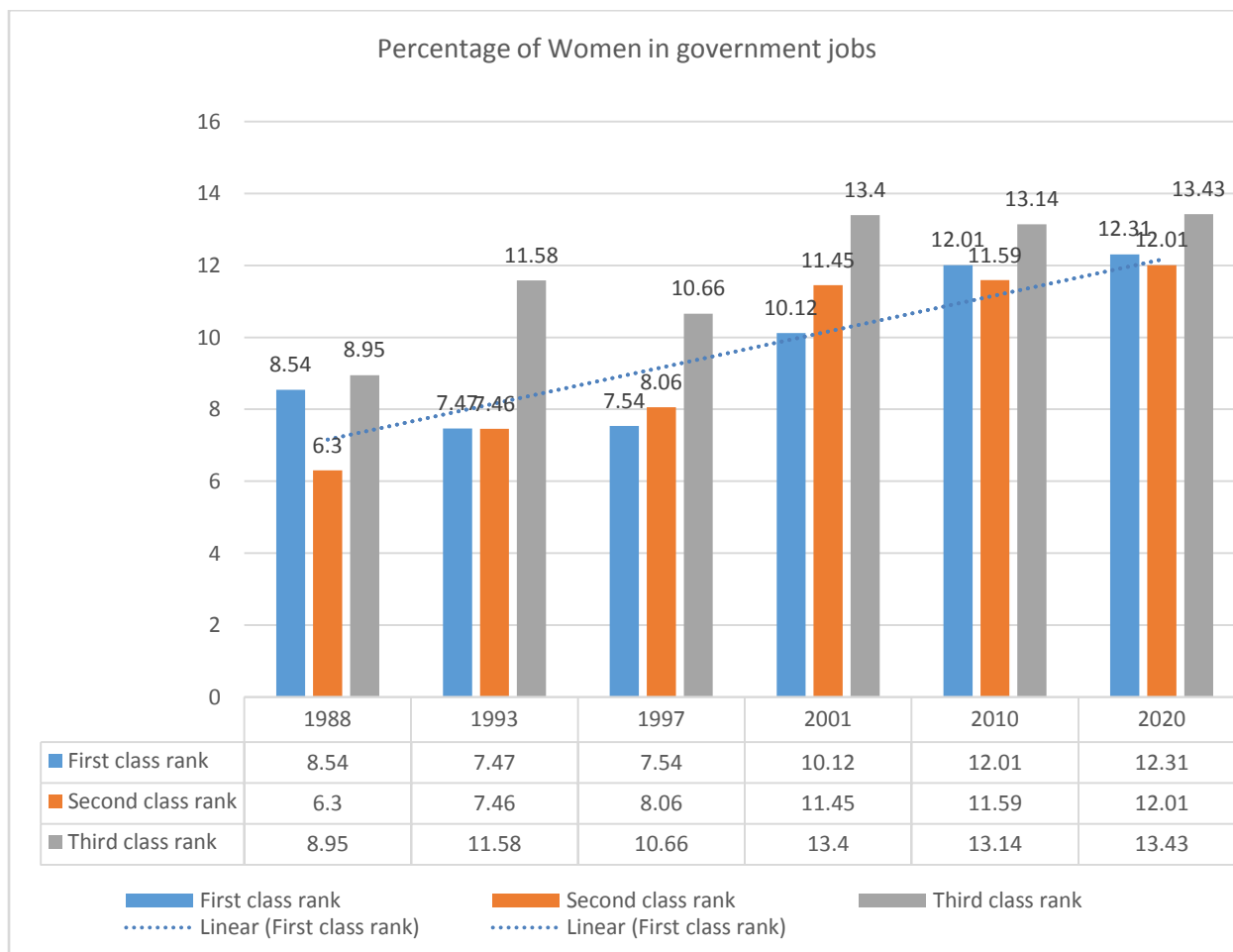




Source: Ministry of Establishment, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 2022.

The above table shows that the participation of women at higher levels of administration is not significant. However, it is noticeable that the participation of women at the higher levels of administration is low but gradually increasing.

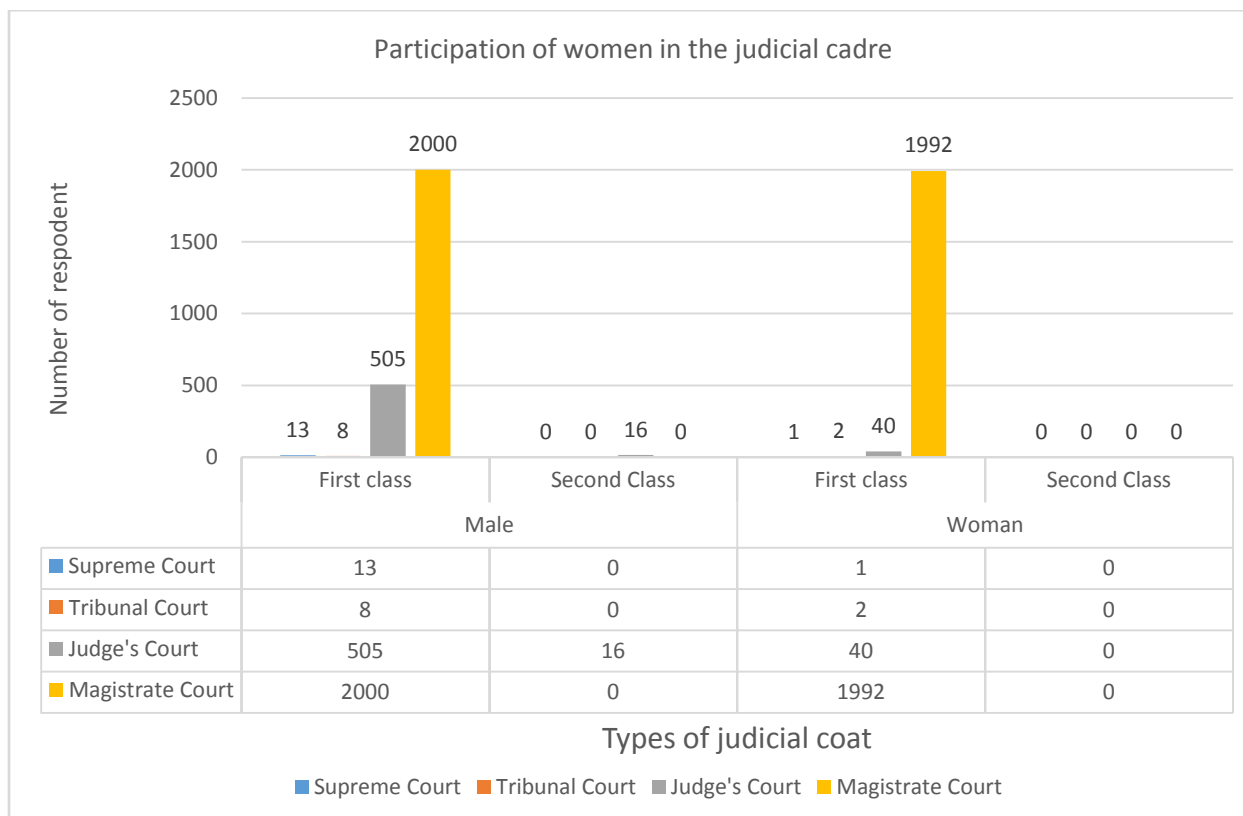
All the senior assistant officers of the BCS (Administration) cadre of the Government of Bangladesh are involved in decision making. The following table illustrates the position of women in assistant administration (Rahman, 1998):



Source: Ministry of Establishment, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 2022.

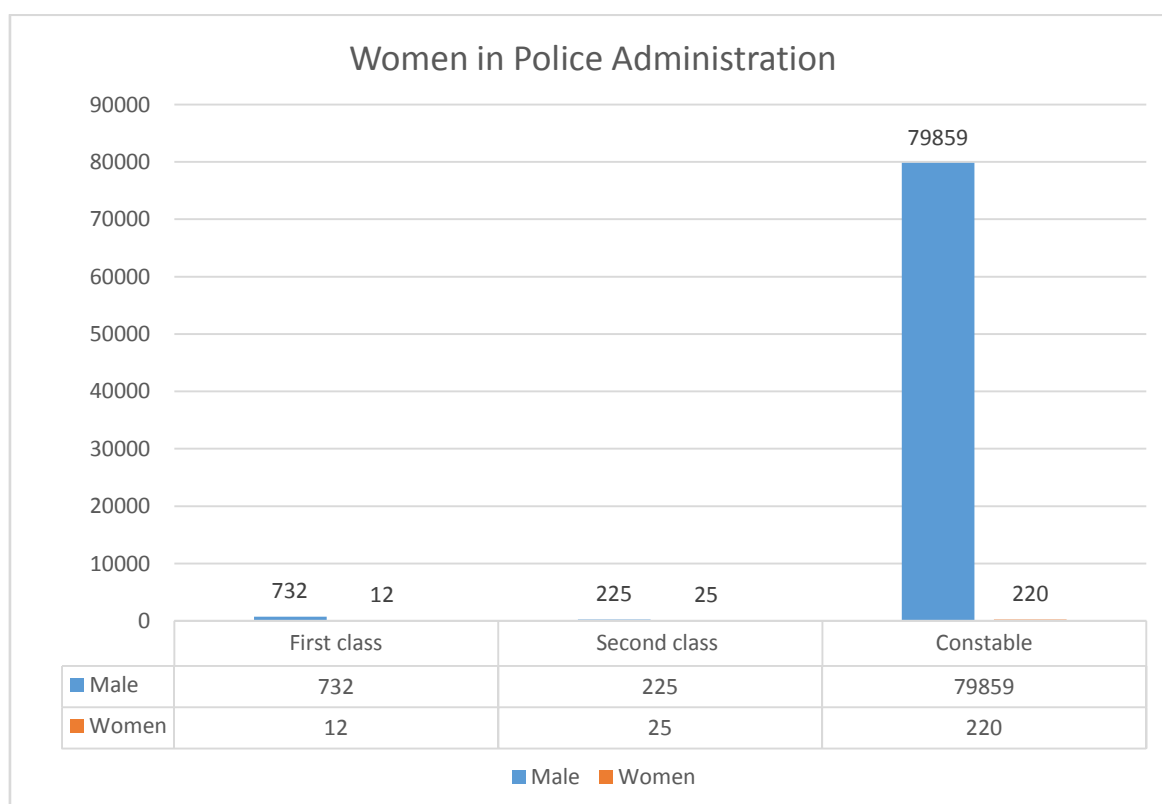
The above table shows a satisfactory participation of women in the decision-making stage. However, the speed of women's decision-making is increasing but it is very slow.

The status of women in the judiciary is negligible. No woman has yet held the post of Chief Justice of the High Court. However, women are already being appointed as judges (Morshed,1998). The table below illustrates the participation of women in the judicial cadre.



Source: Morshed. S.M., Comparative Study on Status of Women Works in Bangladesh, 1998.

Recently, the participation rate of women in the police department is gradually increasing. The table below shows the position of women in the police administration.



Source: Report presented by the Bangladesh government at the 4th World Women's Conference.

The table above clearly shows that the participation of women in the police force is very limited. The estimated number of posts in Bangladesh government and semi-government institutions is 10 lakh 97 thousand 3 hundred and 34 people. Among them, the number of women is 83 thousand 1 hundred and 33 people. 7.6 percent (Conference, 1995). Currently, women are being appointed to commission positions in the defense forces. It is evident that the presence of women in the state administration is still not satisfactory. Their percentage is less than 10 percent. But 10 percent at the higher level and 15 percent at the lower level are reserved for women. This quota is not being met (Mukhopadhyay, 1998).

### **Women in local government system**

According to the Chowkidar Panchayat Act of 1870, the Union Parishad was formed on the basis of the union. Even after 130 years, the top positions in local government are mainly held by men. Women did not have the right to vote until 1956. In this case, after the independence of Bangladesh, in the last 30 years, 6 local government bodies have been elected. These are in 1973, 1977, 1988, 1992 and 1997. During the period 1959-69, two local bodies were elected, but no women were elected. In the election of 1973, out of 4 thousand 352 union Parishads, only 1 woman was elected to the post of chairperson. In 1977, out of 4 thousand 352 union councils, only 4 women were elected as chairpersons. In 1984, out of 4 thousand 440 union councils, only 4 people and 2 more women were elected as chairpersons in the by-elections. In the election of 1988, the number of 4 thousand 4 hundred 1 Union Parishad chairman candidates was 18 thousand 5 hundred 66 people and the number of member candidates was 1 lakh 14 thousand 6 hundred 99 people (Zaman, 1980). There were 79 female chairperson candidates and 863 female chairperson candidates. Only 1 woman was elected as the chairman. In 1992, only 3 thousand 8 hundred 99 were elected to the Union Parishad. There were 17 thousand 4 hundred 44 candidates for chairman and 1 lakh 69 thousand 6 hundred 83 against 34 thousand 8 hundred 1 candidates. Among them, 1 hundred 15 women chairman and 1 thousand 1 hundred 35 women compete for the position of members. During this period, no woman was elected to the post of chairman in the municipality. Upazila Parishad elections were held in 1985, the next level of local government. 8 women competed for the post of upazila chairman. But none could be chosen (Noman, 1984).

On the other hand, the lowest administrative level in the democratic governance system is the local government, which is based on the Union Parishad with the aim of creating equal participation and proper representation of both men and women. According to the recommendation of the Local Government Commission in 1997, direct election of 3 (one third) reserved seats for women has been provided for in the new law. Undoubtedly this is a big achievement in women empowerment. In the 1997 elections, the first women participated in direct representative elections. At present the number of elected female chairpersons is 20. Besides, 110 people were elected as general members and 12 thousand 828 people were elected as reserved women seats (Ali, 1982).

Therefore, women's empowerment and the position of women in the policy-making system is not satisfactory. However, what is clear from several studies is that the role of these members in decision making has not been effectively increased. That is, their position in decision-making is marginal. From this effort to find forms of women's empowerment and participation in decision-making in Bangladesh, men are engaged in almost all policy-making and decision-making processes except for the Prime Minister. Men are considered more correct than women in determining government policy. Therefore, the presence of women is essential to achieve gender equality at all levels of decision-making.

### **III. Recommendations**

The socio-social backwardness of Bangladeshi women is a reflection of the social reality. It goes without saying that the position of men and women in society is controlled by the character of the state. The national socio-economic condition of Bangladesh is based on patriarchal ideals. As a result, due to these values and ideals, the women of this country are backward and their socio-social position is marginalized. As a result, the empowerment of women is also hindered. Apart from this, religious ideals and gender norms have made women dependent on men. Women's liberation, women's empowerment and decision-making in the socio-social context of Bangladesh cannot be allowed to continue slowly. In the light of the discussed research, some suggestions for satisfactory progress in women's decision-making in the political power structure of Bangladesh.

1. One of the most important approaches to women's empowerment is to put the burden of increasing poverty on women. At the state level, all rational policies should be followed, which should be gender sensitive and formulated with women's participation and based on people-oriented development strategies that will help in decision-making.

2. Public sector expenditure in general and public administrative expenditure in particular should be adjusted to meet the basic needs of women. A framework must be established that will ensure that women's social costs and the benefits of women's work reflect the need to establish. Public spending programs will clearly create employment and productive resource opportunities for women that will support women's decision-making.

3. Recognizing the important role of women in the development plan, conscious efforts should be made for projects at the Union, Upazila, District and National levels. To incorporate women's participation at all levels of planning, necessary measures must be taken to increase women's skills, which will enable them to play a significant role in decision-making.

4. By making marriage registration mandatory, dowry prevention, strict enforcement of the Women's Violence Prevention Act, divorce and child custody should be given equal rights to men and women. Moreover, all activities against women's overall health, including childhood and multiple marriages, should be strictly suppressed. So that women can be successful in their work and take active role in decision making.

5. Women's organizations must be more active in bringing about the necessary reforms to bridge the gap between men and women. The required information, art and communication agenda must be directed equally to men and women. So that society's views and values about women change. Women's empowerment means the transfer of power from men to women, so that the balance of power in the society is preserved. Such programs should be specifically targeted at law enforcement agencies, government agencies, and politicians.

6. Women need to be empowered through legal and judicial reforms, education and employment through targeted interventions in the development process. Women should be helped to become more self-reliant and more rights-conscious through special programs aimed at the development of disadvantaged women. Political awareness and women's human and legal rights must be integrated into the curriculum of all institutional education and skill development. Only then can women play an active role in their decision making.

7. The role of values is more important than law in empowering women. And the media plays a big role in creating these values. For the empowerment of women, the media should stop reflecting negative attitudes towards women. It is very important to change the trend of presenting women as consumers in the media in order to consider them as people who are capable of giving opinions.

8. For the empowerment of women, responsible development should be followed. If the responsible development is followed, the country will be saved from environmental hazards on the one hand, on the other hand, women and men will progress on the path of equality and women will be empowered and women will be successful in making their decisions.

9. The policies adopted by the government for the advancement of women's education, such as education for all, food for education, free education for girls up to class 12, stipend for girls, etc. Care should be taken to ensure that every policy and agenda of the government is really committed to the empowerment of women.

10. State policy should be formulated and implemented by identifying education as a fundamental right of people, especially women. Equal opportunities for men and women should be created for education and training in every field. Women should be given more benefits in science and technology.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

This is how the history of the accumulated pain of discrimination against women has been written for ages, hundreds of years. In the socio-cultural context of Bangladesh, women are always facing the obstacles of men on their way to empowerment. Bangladesh is a third world developing country. In the socio-social context of the country, most of the women have been marginalized in terms of providing opinions and making effective in general matters including decision-making in personal, family, social, economic and political fields. Existing society has made women dependent on men. And this dependence has made women subordinate. In this way, the sad society and the state are not able to play any role in decision-making anywhere. Recently, various aid and development organizations of the world, including the United Nations, are trying to ensure the real development of women in the country, as well as to include them in the economic development of the country. They are trying to reawaken women by increasing their awareness through various activities. The constitution of the country has recognized the rights of men and women. Although it is indispensable for women to take decisions in the family, society and the country for the preservation of women's health, it is absent in Bangladesh. However, the current government has taken various steps to empower women. As a result, along with the empowerment of women, the trend in decision-making is slowly increasing. It is hoped that this decision-making will be as expected and the existing discrimination between men and women in Bangladesh will be removed.

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