

**WOMEN WARD COMMISSIONER OF RESERVED SEAT
IN URBAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MUNICIPALITY) OF
BANGLADESH: PROBLEM AND PROSPECT.**

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the research work embodying the results reported in this thesis has been carried out under my guidance. The data collected by the student practically from the selected Pauroshavas on the basis of a set questionnaire. The collected data is analyzed and compared with the available literature. It is further certified that the research work presented here is original and suitable for submission for partial fulfillment of the degree of Master of Arts in governance and development studies.



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Abstract

The present investigation is carried out on six Municipalities from six administrative divisions of which two were 1st class, three were 2nd class and one was 3rd class status. The information were collected on the basis of a set questionnaire and compared with the available literature. I have interviewed four chairmen, fourteen reserved seat women ward commissioners, thirty general seat male ward commissioners, seven officials of Paurashavas, and ten voters. Total number of interviewee is fifty five. Though it was not a representative findings for whole of the country but it has got some practical field information based on which the results obtained are as follows:

Comparatively young women are elected of which majority for the first time having educational qualification range from below SSC to SSC. The elected women ward commissioners did not face any obstacle before and after election either from family or society. Their level of confidence is very low. They want more training. All women ward commissioners said that they are not given equal work and equal importance both in activities and in meeting. Quota has increased the number of women participation in local government which needs to be more supported from government both policy and program level. Chairmen and male commissioners suggested imposing an educational bar to compete for reserved seat women commissioners. The reserved seat women commissioner's perception about NGOs and religious leaders is good. But chairmen and male commissioners said that NGOs are doing business though it is empowering women and the role of religious leaders in society is not satisfactory.

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List of Abbreviations

- ADB-Asian Development Bank
- BBS-Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
- BIDS-Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies
- CBO-Community Based Organization
- CEDAW-Convention on Elimination of all sorts of Discrimination against Women
- MDG-Millennium Development Goals
- PRSP-Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
- SSC-Secondary School Certificate
- HSC- Higher Secondary School Certificate
- SINPA- Support for Implementation of National Plans of Action
- RADOL- Rehabilitation and Development Organization for Landless
- BRDB- Bangladesh Rural Development Board
- NGO- Non Government Organization
- IIAS- Institute for Asian Studies
- EASAS- European Association for South Asian Studies
- GAD- Gender and Development
- RETA- Regional Technical Assistance (Program of ADB)

INTRODUCTION

Introduction:

In the age of globalization, good governance is a pre-requisite to keep pace with the world speed for development. Economic growth and sustainable development is the dire need and desire of any nation. To ensure good governance, one cannot overlook 50% of the population and thus gender equity is a must. One of the major goals set by the fourth world conference on women, 1995 in Beijing was—adequate representation of women in all decision making process.

The various programs of government (GO) and non government (NGO) organizations have opened the door for women to be empowered politically and economically by possessing assets of their own. Micro-credit is playing a leading role in women development. Government of Bangladesh has introduced quota system of women for both public service and political representation. The number of reserved seat in the National Parliament is present from the very beginning and recently it has been increased to 45 though the women are demanding direct election instead of selection. Like the other Asian countries, Bangladesh's quota system for women in local government has increased the participation of women in volume not yet in quality. There are some challenges facing the mainstreaming of gender equality at both the policy and program level.

Sufficient study is not carried out on women ward commissioners of urban local government of Bangladesh. It's a burning question how best we could give opportunity to women ward commissioner of Paurashava to increase their efficiency in local government which can accelerate our development- the ultimate goal.

1.1 BACKGROUND

Bangladesh achieved independence in 1971 from Pakistan. It is located in southern Asia, bordering the Bay of Bengal, between Myanmar and India. The present area of the country is 147570 square kilometer (BBS, 2004). Its climate is tropical, mild winter (October to March), hot humid summer (March to June), and humid warm rainy monsoon (June to October). Bangladesh has a unitary parliamentary system. The administrative function is run by a number of ministries. Each ministry is headed by a minister or state or deputy minister as political head and a secretary/additional secretary as the administrative head. The country is divided into six administrative divisions, 64 districts and 507 Thanas/Upazillas. Its total population is 134800000 (BBS, 2004) of which male-female ratio is 105/100. Population growth rate is 1.43 % and per capita income is 418 USD (BBS, 2004). Population density is 913 per sq.km. Life expectancy at birth (2003): Both sex 64.9, Male-64.3, Female-65.4 Urban population is 31.3 million and rural population is 103.5 million. Adult literacy rate of 15+ is 50.3 for both sexes, Male 56.3, Female 44.2 (BBS, 2004).

Bangladesh is one of the least developed countries in the world ranking 138th out of 177 in the UNDP 2005 Human Development Index (HDI) with a HDI value of 0.520. Within the region Bangladesh rank below both Pakistan (HDI135) and India (HDI127). (UNDP, 2005, HDR & Bangladesh Gender Profile, kfw, 2006) Consumption expenditure inequality over the 1990's increased in Bangladesh from 30.7% to 36.8% in urban areas and from 24.3% to 27.1% in rural areas with an

over all increase in the Gini index of inequality from 0.259 in 1991/2 to 0.306 in 2000 (GOB,PRSP,2005 & Bangladesh Gender Profile, kfw, 2006)

According to the latest government report there are 225 urban centers which have municipal status excluding city corporations (BBS, 2004). The six largest cities have city corporation status, while rests are known as Paurashava or municipalities. Urban local governments are elected on a ward basis. Commissioners both male and female are elected on a ward basis too. The span of responsibilities for ward commissioners has been defined in the government gazette. But there is no definite responsibility for women ward commissioners in the gazette. The research aims to find the role of women ward commissioner in comparison with the male commissioner. Despite the existence of quotas at the national and local government levels for much of Bangladesh's history, women's representation in political structures yet remains low.

1.2 STATUS OF WOMEN IN BANGLADESH:

Women in Bangladesh have fewer opportunities for education, health, training & employment. Women are still not getting equal opportunities like men. Historically women's voting right was established long ago but women's participation in the political and national movement has been negligible. Before the 1997 Gazette notification (The Paurashava Ordinance 1997, ordinance no. XXVI of 1997 which was amended on 1998, July and Gazette additional copy 22/3/1999) for municipalities and city corporations respectively, female ward commissioners used

to be appointed by selection. For the first time Dhaka City Corporation elected 19 female commissioners (elected by male commissioners) for reserve seats in 1994. The fundamental principles of state policy in the constitution of Bangladesh provides for formal equality of men and women. Women are entitled the same fundamental rights as men. Article 10 of the constitution provides for ensuring participation of women in all spheres of national life. Article 9 provides the special representation of women in local government.

According to the "Bangladesh Progress Report of Millennium Development Goals" jointly prepared by the government of Bangladesh and the United Nations country team in Bangladesh published in February 2005,- "twenty five percent of the members in the Union Parishads, the City Corporations and Paurashava (municipality) are women who have been directly elected to the local bodies and the fourteenth Amendments of the constitution introduces 45 reserved seats for women in proportion to parliamentary representation of political parties. Besides these at present there are only five women parliamentarian in the 300 seat national Parliament of Bangladesh (MDG, progress report, 2005)

1.3 LAWS INSTITUTIONS AND POLICIES PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY:

With a reservation on articles 2 and 16 pertaining to marriage, divorce and inheritance Bangladesh has ratified the UN convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW). The constitution of Bangladesh grants equal rights to women and men in all spheres of public life (Article 27, 28(1), 28(2), 28(3), 28(4), 29(1), 29(2), and 29(3) and has been supplemented by a

commitments under the Beijing Platform for Action (pfa) was approved in 1998 (Bangladesh Gender Profile,kfw,2006)

1.4 GENDER AND THE BANGLADESH POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY

The redrafted PRSP which spans the period from 2005-2015 is a well structured document that begins with an analysis of the dimensions and principal determinants of poverty in Bangladesh as well as trends in income poverty, human poverty and inequality. In particular, the local consultative group on women and gender equality (LCG WAGE) supported a detailed analysis of the I-PRSP. That provided some strategic recommendations for more effective mainstreaming of gender equality measures in the final PRSP document. (Bangladesh Gender Profile, kfw, 2006 & Zuckerman, E, 2003,)

1.5 GENDER AND THE MDGs

In February 2005, Bangladesh presented the first MDG progress report which was prepared jointly by the Government and the UN country team in Bangladesh in consultation with other stakeholders. The identification of "women and children's advancement and rights" as a thematic sector with direct relevance to only MDG-2 and 3 suggests that gender equality has not been recognized and addressed as an issue which cuts across all of the MDGs often in intersecting and multiple ways.(Bangladesh Gender Profile,2006)

1.6 DECLARATION OF AN URBAN AREA:

According to the Paurashava Ordinance, 1977 (Ordinance no. XXVI of 1977) of government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh-

3. (1), Subject to the provisions of sub section (2), the government may, by notification in the official Gazette, declare any rural area to be an urban area: Provided that notwithstanding the declaration of a rural to be an urban area. The Union Parishad which immediately before such declaration exercised any function in relation to the area shall until the area is declared to be, or to be included in a Municipality, continue to exercise those functions.

(2) The government shall not declare any rural area to be an urban area unless it is satisfied that three-fourth adult male population of the area to which it refers are chiefly employed in pursuits other than agriculture and an average number not less than two thousand inhabitants per square mile.

Provided that the government may for the purpose of extension of the limits of a municipality under section 4(b), declare any rural area to be an urban are, if it is satisfied that three-fourth of the adult male population of such area are chiefly employed in pursuits other than agriculture.

1.7 COMPOSITION OF A MUINICIPALITY (PAUROSHAVA)

According to the Paurashava Ordinance, 1977 (Ordinance no. XXVI of 1977) of government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh-

6. (1) A Paurashava shall consists of

(a) A Chairman:

(b) Such number of commissioners as may be fixed by the government: and

(bb) such number of commissioners as are exclusively reserved for women under sub-section, (3)

(2) The Chairman and Commissioners of a Paurashava shall be elected by

The provisions of this ordinance and the rules made hereunder.

(3) There shall be one-third reserved seats exclusively for women of

Such number of commissioners as is fixed by the government under

Clause (b) of sub-section (1) in each Paurashava, hereinafter referred to

as reserved seats, who shall be elected by direct election on the basis of adult franchise in accordance with the provision of this Ordinance and the rules made there under:

Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall prevent a woman from being elected to any of the seats other than reserved seats.

1.8 STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF AN URBAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

The number of ward commissioners is fixed in every municipality irrespective of its area & population. Municipality consists of one chairman, nine ward commissioners (general) and three women ward commissioners of reserved seats for a total of thirteen representative. The chairman is elected from the whole municipality. This post is open for both men and women. Ward commissioners' are elected separately from each ward. It is also open for both men and women. Reserved seat women ward commissioners are elected from each three general wards where only women candidates can contest but both men and women vote in

reserved seat election. Each municipality is run by municipality manual and elections are held after every five years.

Functions:

The functions of Paurashavas and City Corporations are basically similar, with one important difference: the 1997 Paurashavas Ordinance categorized the functions of Paurashavas as compulsory and optional.

Mandatory functions:

□ Construction and maintenance of roads, bridges and culverts; □ Removal, collection and disposal of refuse; □ Provision and maintenance of street lighting; □ Maintenance of public streets, provision of street watering; □ Provision and regulation of water supply; □ Establishment and maintenance of public markets; □ Plantation of trees on road sides; □ Regulation of Insanitary buildings and prevention of infectious diseases and Epidemics; □ Registration of births, deaths and marriages; □ Provision and maintenance of slaughter houses; □ Provision and maintenance of drainage; □ Control over the construction and reconstruction of buildings; □ Provision and maintenance of graveyards and burning places; □ Control over traffic and public vehicles.

Optional functions:

□ Checking adulteration of food products; □ Control over private markets; □ Maintenance of educational institutions and provision of stipends to Meritorious students; □ Provision of flood and famine relief; □ Provision and maintenance of parks and gardens; □ Establishment of welfare homes, orphanages, prevention of

begging and Organization of voluntary social welfare services; □ Establishment of public dispensaries, provision of public urinals and latrines; □ Establishment of veterinary hospitals, registration of cattle sale and Improvement of livestock; □ Celebration of national holidays; □ Reception of distinguished visitors; □ Establishment of public libraries and reading rooms; □ Promotion of community development schemes; and □ Naming of roads and numbering of houses.

The Paurashavas/City Corporations are empowered to perform a variety of Socio-economic and civic functions as described above. In practice, however, they cannot perform all these functions owing to the acute paucity of funds caused by poor and irregular collection of taxes, non-realization of taxes from government, semi-government and autonomous organizations for years together and insufficient government grants.

The functions actually performed are:

□ Construction and maintenance of roads, bridges and culverts; □ Removal, collection and disposal of refuse; □ Provision and maintenance of street lighting; □ Provision of water supply; □ Establishment and maintenance of public markets; □ Provision, maintenance and regulation of graveyards and burning places; □ Registrations of birth, deaths and marriages; □ Maintenance of slaughter houses; □ Control over private markets; □ Provision and maintenance of parks and gardens; □ Naming of roads and numbering of houses; □ Provision of nominal stipends to primary education institutions; and □ Slum improvement.

Apart from the formal functions described above, the Paurashavas/City Corporations perform some additional functions such as issuance of certificates

and settlement of petty disputes (over ownership/control of land, houses and markets). Some of the more important certificates are character (meaning, particularly, that the person has not been involved in any activity subversive to the state or that the Person is decent and honest), nationality, birth, and death and succession certificates.

Character and nationality certificates are required for job applications and admission to educational institutions. Birth, death and succession certificates are issued to legal heirs on request and are necessary for mutation of land ownership.

Urban-local bodies also perform immunization against a number of diseases.

During the past decade, several urban local governments (18 Paurshavas and 6 City Corporations) have also been carrying out slum improvements (on a project basis), with funding from UNICEF. The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has in addition made slum improvement an integral part of activities with its own funding, and tries to rehabilitate slum dwellers and street hawkers. DCC has also recently started to maintain a City Museum and has begun construction of a large theater. Chittagong City Corporation has taken up projects on health services, higher and technical education and environmental improvement activities. Some of the municipalities maintain public libraries.

1.9 TYPES OF MUNICIPALITY (PAURASHAVA)

The Paurashavas are categorized in three groups on the basis of annual income.

A.Class-1, Tk. 6 million +

B.Class-2, Tk. 2.5 million +

C.Class-3, Tk. less than 2.5 million

Source: Bangladesh Gazette, Supplementary Issue, 7th March, 1992.

1.10 NUMBER OF PAURASHAVAS:

Division	Number of Paurashava
Dhaka	64
Chittagong	38
Rajshahi	57
Khulna	28
Sylhet	14
Barisal	22
Total	223

Source: BBS-2004

1.11 GOVERNMENT CONTROL OVER URBAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

Urban local governments are controlled by the central government. Due to the shortage of funds urban local governments are absolutely dependent on government grants and hence have to work as per governmental instruction. Also by legal provision Local Government Division can supercede an elected body and appoint an administrator in certain conditions.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2. Aims and Objectives:

The aims of the research are to ascertain the actual job description of women ward commissioners of paurashava and the activities they do or should do and their overall performance and to identify the hindrances and gender discrimination that exists and find possible solutions for them.

2.1 The specific objectives are:

1. Previous and present participation and representation of women in urban local government
2. Legal political initiatives
3. Training and support mechanism for women in urban local government
4. Educational qualification
5. Occupation
6. Income class, marital status and age profile
7. Kin relations and political connections
8. Gender differences in election procedure
9. How best the women ward commissioners can perform within the existing legal framework
10. To develop ways for better performance
11. Attitude of male ward commissioner about female ward commissioner
12. To examine the existing rules and regulations
13. To find out the impediments in work of women ward commissioners

RESEARCH METHODS

&

SELECTION OF STUDY AREAS

3. Research methods:

Qualitative and quantitative research was carried out on the basis of the primary and secondary data collected during the research.

3.1 Primary Data Collection:

Primary data is collected from the selected municipalities (Paurashava) with questionnaire. There were five types of questions.

- a. Questionnaire for reserved seat women wards commissioners.
- b. Questionnaire for general seat wards commissioners (Male).
- c. Questionnaire for chairmen.
- d. Questionnaire for officials of the municipalities (Paurashava).
- e. Questionnaire for voters of the municipalities (Paurashava).

3.2 Secondary Data Collection:

Secondary data were collected from the available literature both from the print and the electronic media.

3.3 Selection of the study area:

Bangladesh is divided into six divisions. The divisions are –Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet, Rajshahi, Barisal and Khulna. I have selected six municipalities from six divisions of which 2 first class, 3 second class and 1 third class. Though it was not the representative selection yet I have tried to cover at least all the divisions. Of the selected Paurashavas some are old and some are new

3.4 Information at a glance of the selected study area: Table-1

Name of Paurashava	District	Division	Established	Class	Yearly income BD.TK	Holding no.	Total Area Sq.km	Population 2001 census			Literacy rate 2001 census			Mouza No.	Village No.
								Male	Female	Total	Male %	Female %	Average %		
Munshiganj	Munshiganj	Dhaka	1972	1st class	NA	7052	10.85	24779	23379	48158	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Bera	Pabna	Rajshahi	1988	1st class	13650547 2004-05	7347	20.00	37410	36200	73610	27.5	25.0	52.5	20	30
Mongla Port	Bagerhat	Khulna	1975	2 nd class	9000000 (2004-05)	4992	19.43	32710	24731	57441	62.7	48.5	55.6	04	18
Gouronadi	Barisal	Barisal	1996	2 nd class	8000000 (2004-05)	5500	11.00	26300	23700	50000	NA	NA	45	17	17
Madhabpur	Habiganj	Sylhet	1997	3 rd class	NA	NA	8.0	8694	8068	16762	NA	NA	65	NA	NA
Dagon bhuiyan	Feni	Chittagong	2000	2 nd class	NA	4279	10.53	NA	NA	25000	NA	NA	45	NA	NA

Source: Collected from the concerned Paurashava/2006 & BBS, 2004

3.5 Household and population of the selected district:

District wise household and population, enumerated in 2001(selected district only)

Table-2

District	House Hold '000'	Male '000'	Female '000'	Total '000'	Sex ratio M/F
Munshiganj	251	656	633	1289	104
Pabna	442	1116	1049	2165	106
Bagerhat	322	786	731	1517	107
Barisal	476	1196	1152	2348	104
Habiganj	322	886	864	1750	103
Feni	213	593	613	1206	97

Source: BBS, 2004

3.6 Number of the interviews:

I have interviewed 13 reserved seat women commissioners, 2 chairmen, 7 officials, 10 voters and 29 male (general seat) ward commissioners from 6 municipalities of 6 divisions of Bangladesh. The breakup is given below-

Table- 3 Number of interviewees.

Paurashava	Chairman	Reserved Seat women Ward commissioner	General Seat Male Ward commissioner	secretary	Assistant engineer	Sub. assistant engineer	voters	Total
Munshiganj	---	3	8	---	---	---	2	13
Bera	---	1	--	1	---	---	2	4
Mongla Port	---	2	4	---	---	---	---	6
Gouronadi	---	2	8	1	1	1	1	14
Madhabpur	1	3	7	1	1	---	3	16
Dagonbhuiyan	1	2	2	---	1	---	2	8

3.7 Data collection and analysis:

The collected data were categorized according to the objectives outlined above and emergent themes from the participants and analyzed.

4. Ethical issues:

1. Confidentiality and anonymity.
2. Rights to feedback, access to transcripts.

5. Limitations:

1. Due to time constraint I couldn't not take more samples from more Paurashava.
2. It was not possible to take interview of all commissioners of a Paurashava due to the unavailability of them.

3. It was very difficult to make the interviewees at ease before the interview as all of them were thinking of something unusual in it.
4. The women ward commissioners for the reserved seat were not outspoken and failed to adequately reveal the fact lying within their work place.
5. The chairmen were very busy and had very little time for interview.
6. The voters or inhabitants of the Paurashavas were also unwilling to give interviews as they thought that there might be some other reason instead of research which may put them into difficulty later on.

LITERATURE REVIEW

informal or hidden ones that present women from participating in formal politics. Different types of quota systems then become a compensatory instrument to overcome the hidden barriers and to reach "equality of result" (Dahlerup, 1998 in Frankl, Emma, 2004). "In case of agency-oriented approach quotas become problematic. According to Maud Eduards the argument from liberal is that it is undemocratic, discriminatory and violation of the principles of fairness. The argument is that all individuals should be able to get advantages because of social background, sex or ethnicity background. Quota system become undemocratic because of factor such as sex (Eduards, 2002, in Frankl, Emma, 2004).

A case study about the urban local government, done by Nazmunezza Mahtab, reveals that the elected women were well educated and belong to the upper social strata. Almost all women were engaged in some sort of organizations and were all aware of the problem in the local area, lack of communications, sanitations and education. One big problem was that they were deprived of their responsibilities and financial allocations for development of their constituencies by the other general (male) members. Many of the women faced problems like attitude from society, the other male members of the city corporations and their family. Mahtab's conclusion is that, despite the fact that the quota system is major step towards women's empowerment to ensure their participation, the discrimination attitudes among the man in the city corporations combined with the lack of appropriate facilities and responsibilities have virtually made the appreciable strategy baseless. In order to improve the status of women and empower them, women need to be heard at all levels of planning and policy making process.(Mahtab, 2003)

A quite opposite view is presented by Amita Agarwal. According to her the reserved seats in India is a major step towards empowering women and improving their lot. She states that the results have been "wonderful" this despite the fact that women still face many obstacles like lack of economic freedom, cultural socialization constraining women and corruption (Agarwal, 2003 in Frankl, Emma) "Reserved seats enable women to shape local governance in ways that challenge the existing inequalities" (Lodhi 1999, Srivastava 2000 in Krook, Mona Lena, 2005) Bangladesh report document mentioned that a research done in July to October, 2000, selecting 20 women ward commissioner from Dhaka city corporation (12 women ward commissioners), Tongi (3 women ward commissioner), Tangail (2 women ward commissioners), Savar (2 women ward commissioners) and Manikgonj (1 women ward commissioner). The finding of the research was as follows—

1. Educational Qualification

Level of education	Number of women ward commissioner
Masters	1
Bachelors	12
H.S.C.	2
S.S.C.	4
S.S.C.	1
Total	20

2. Occupations:

Type of occupation	Number of women ward commissioner
Teaching in School	4
Land /Shop ownership	3
Business/Contracting	2
Industrialist	1
Founding member of a N.G.O.	1
Working in food processing factory	1
Housewifery	8
Total	20

3. Marital Status

Marital status	Number of women ward commissioner
Unmarried	2
Married	13
Once married	1
Widowed	4
Total	20

4. Age profile

Age ranges	Number of women ward commissioner
21—30	1
31—40	11
41—50	7
50+	1
Total	20

5. Kin relation & political connection:

Ward commissioners have kin relations with members of parliament, the vice president, Mayors, other ward commissioners and influential party political members.

6. Gender discrimination in work environment:

All ward commissioners claimed that they came to power through proper political participation and commitment, yet there are no work responsibilities given to them by the local government gazette. They are supposed to listen or convince five different ward commissioners for any project to be realized. They cannot take any development initiatives and actions without the permission or support from the relevant ward commissioners. According to their domestic schedule women ward commissioners cannot be the chairperson of any school/Madrasha/college committee. They can at best be members whereas directly elected commissioners are the chairperson of these committees. Also the fund women ward

domestic schedules so making it difficult for them to take on committee leadership positions. According to the daily New Age, date 18/3/2005-The verdict of a writ petition filed by a female representative of local government said –"all the ward commissioners elected from general and reserved seats for women in city corporations, municipalities and union are equal to their male counterparts and their rights cannot be discriminated and treated in a different manner in respect of their powers and functions. The high court also declared four clauses of the circular illegal and discriminated the rights of the female commissioners elected from reserve seats".

According to the Daily Star date 4/2/2006- Professor Zarina Rahman Khan of Department of Public relations, Dhaka University said in a workshop organized by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad on 03/02/2006 that " There is no provision for a woman member to deliver more services than a general member, nor does she have the authority to supervise others services. They are left helpless and vulnerable to the critical assessment by their constituencies without having the right to fulfill their obligations. As a result, the number of women seeking election to the reserve seat has declined by 12.34 percent in 2003 compared to 1997.

The Khan Foundation noted problems with existing laws regarding elected female representatives.

Some of the constraints that female representatives faced in the union parishads were:

- (i) The lack of any job description or clarification of their roles as members,

- (ii) Improper implementation of the local government ordinance related to the allocation of development schemes to the female members,
- (iii) The lack of work assignments to female members,
- (iv) The exclusion of female representatives from the 13 standing committees,
- (v) Lack of notification about the time of meetings, (vi) pressure by the chair to sign the minutes of a meeting even if the female members were not present at that meeting, and
- (vii) Verbal abuse from male chairs and representatives

Under the Local Government Act No. 20 of 1997, three wards are reserved for one female member, but each of those wards is also the regular constituency of one male member. That means the women have three male counterparts. This situation has created a problem as the males do not want to recognize the women as legitimate representatives of their wards. The fact that women have much larger constituencies than their male counterparts also poses particular problems, for example, the difficulty of meeting the expectations of such a large group. Moreover, women members have little access to union parishad funds for development schemes. This means it is difficult for them to channel resources to their constituencies. It is also harder for them to visit their wards and to meet the transportation costs to make such visits. They must face these constraints in addition to all the other difficulties women face in a predominantly male preserve.

Women in local government in Asia and the Pacific—A comparative analysis of thirteen countries, a report prepared by Jean Drage, for United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in 2001 mentioned that –“Women

have had more success at gaining access to decision making positions in local government than to those at central government level. Research has shown that this is due to mainly:

1. Local government being easier for women to fit into their lives along with family responsibilities and employment.
2. Local government being more accessible as there is more positions available and less competition for places than in central legislatures.
3. More acceptance of women in city and community government as it is seen as an extension of women's involvement in their communities.

The report also stated that there are three key factors affecting women's Involvement. These are—

1. Laws, practices and initiatives that ensure participation

a. Statutory provisions b. National policies and program c. Local government requirement d. Role of N.G.Os. e. Training f. Regional and international conferences g. Initiative by women in local government h. Data collection.

2. Barriers to participation:

a. Fundamental inequality—lack of basic rights such as education, healthcare, safety and employment opportunities. b. Political and economic instability c. Discrimination d. The male environment within political institutions e. Costs.

3. Impact of the political system on participation

a. The local government system b. Electoral system c. Wards versus At-large system of election d. A quota of reserved seats for women e. Access to and

DUTIES	OBSERVATION
2. Ward committee of both general and reserve seat will motivate his or her own jurisdiction's people to increase – Agriculture production, income generating activities e.g. cottage and small industries poultry, husbandry, fish cultivation, tree plantation. They will recommend development project for Paurashava.	2. No specific job description
3. Ward commissioner of both general and reserved seat will motivate people for literacy movement, family planning, public health, EPI & primary health care. Project formulation in the mentioned area and if accepted by Paurashava then to implement it.	3. No demarcation of ward based job
4. Ward committee of both general and reserve seat will inform paurashava about birth, death, marriage etc.	4. No demarcation of ward based job.
5. Ward committee (of both general and reserve seat) will take necessary action to preserve-roads & highways, public place, open space, park, play ground, grave yard, meeting place, bridge, culvert, dam, embankment, canal, telephone, electricity etc and inform paurashava	5. No demarcation of ward based job.
6. Ward commissioner of both general and reserved seats can give proposal to establish public toilet & motivate people for proper use.	6. No demarcation of ward based job.
7. Ward commissioner of both general and reserved seats will encourage & help in play, public library, observation of national day, physical exercise, and cultural activities.	7. No demarcation of ward based job
8. Ward commissioner of both general and reserved seats will create awareness in people regarding fire, flood, drought, thundershower, earthquake, cyclone & other natural disaster. Ward commissioner of general seat will constitute ward disaster management committee consisting of all class. Ward commissioner of general seat will be chairperson & Ward commissioner of reserved seat will be adviser	8. No demarcation of ward based job No role of reserved seat ward commissioner in formation of ward disaster management committee
9. Ward commissioner of both general and reserved seats will supervise – collecting garbage, road light, pond ditches	9. No demarcation of ward based job

slaughter house and inform pourashava about it.	
10. Ward commissioner of both general and reserved seats will supervise – whether building construction works are going on as per design and if not inform pourashava.	10. No demarcation of ward based job
11. Ward commissioner of both general and reserved seats will supervise – the safe water use of ditches, tube well, water reservoir, pond, and sources of other water supply. They will also supervise whether fix----- are properly use as pourashava's direction	11. No demarcation of ward based job.
12. Ward commissioner of reserved seat will act as chairman of women & child torture committee, dowry prevention committee, prevention of acid throwing committee, early marriage prevention committee. They will ensure marriage registration & motivate people of this area.	12.
13. Subject to the formation of each permanent committee (standing), one third member will be ward commissioner of reserved seat of pourashava. One third chairmanship of total permanent committee will be from reserved seat ward commissioner. But in case of finance & establishment, Audit & accounts and law and order permanent committee, chairman will be pourashava chairman.	13.
14. Ward commissioner of reserved seat will implement the one-fourth of the total project.	14. How it will fix?
15. Ward commissioner of both general & reserve seat will cooperate in implementation of government program such as primary, adult literacy programme and motivate people to send school going children to school.	
16. Ward commissioner of both general & reserve seat will motivate people to pay tax, fees for the development & proper use of local resources.	
17. Ward commissioner of both general & reserve seat will perform their duties vested by government & pourashava.	

Islam (2001), suggests that family and kin networks not only play an important role in women's political life but it can be to their advantage (Mukhopadhyay, 2005.)

According to an assessment carried out by the Asian Development Bank (ADB 2004) more than 70% of women councilors interviewed in Bangladesh were not aware of their rights and responsibilities as representatives even a higher percentage –more than 80% expressed their lack of confidence in their ability to conduct meetings (Mukhopadhyay, 2005)

"In reply to the question about being prompted in participation in the election, many of the candidates indicated their husbands or the families as the driving forces. Some of them mentioned about the positive influence imparted on them by the local people. One person mentioned one single person as the source of her inspiration and a handful said that they took part as their own initiatives. Of the 27 candidates, only 2 belong to the religious minority, 23 of them are simply housewives. One is a school teacher, one is engaged in a small business, one is a fourth class employee in an educational institution and one representative is an agricultural worker. Question relating to the reaction of their family members to their involvement in the local council bodies all of them answered that their families have reacted positively. Only one woman told that her elder son did not like her public assignment. Question of NGOs in social development, all of them spoke positively about the NGO program" (Unnayan Podokkhep, Vol- 4, No-1, January-March-1999)

"Syeda Rowshan Kader in her article published in 'Khomotayon' issue no-1, December 1996, a journal of 'Women for Women' stated that 'out of 20 women commissioners 65% was in the age range of 35 to 44 years. 19 married and one was divorced. 45% were post graduated. 30% were housewives, 45% private service holder, 10% lawyer, 10% teacher and 5% were engaged in business. 70% were first time elected, 30% elected once or earlier. 55% commissioners had

kinship in local government, 20% had relatives as MP. 95% were involved with social, voluntary & cultural organization."

"Recent decades have witnessed growing demands for the inclusion and empowerment of women leaders in elected office. Women representatives have made important strides in some nations but progress worldwide has proved sluggish. A global comparison shows that on average women are one sixth of all members of the lower house of parliament today (16.6%), rising by less than 5 percent points during the last two decades." (Norris, 2006)

"One of the indicators of the success of the reserved seats is that women's presence has increased within local government and is resulting in their greater participation in the work of the local bodies. In Bangladesh the direct election of women to local bodies has raised questions about the terms of reference and spheres of activity of these bodies, as well as the need for the continuing training programs. In Bangladesh women commissioners have been restricted from performing four major duties: the registration of births and deaths and the issuing of the various certificates, including for nationality and character; examining the designs of buildings; assisting in census and all other demographic surveys and monitoring law and order. Women commissioners of city corporations and municipalities have been entrusted with responsibility relating only to the prevention of women and child repression, while the male commissioner play the leading role in performing all other duties. Women members at the local bodies are not aware of their role and function as a member of the councils. One of the important issues that face both women and men is that central government

control over the resources undermines their autonomy. Women candidates also face the hurdles of money based politics, issues of security as they travel over large constituencies and the continuing influence of patriarchal social relations, which support segregation and purdah, limiting women's ability to participate fully in the political life of the local community. In Bangladesh most of the elected women are elite women in terms of both class and education." (Rai, ---)

"Klasen writes, ".....evidence shows that greater female political representation, particularly at the local level, improve public policy favoring female well being" (Klasen 2004, 8). Women with formal political authority, then, stand in apposition to improve women's quality of life. Chiang, May, K, 2005).

Keohane argues that in order to correct systematic discrimination against women, one must infiltrate the structures which perpetuate gender inequality and change the incentives: Political power is the heart of both incentive systems and norms. Empowered people create incentive systems, typically to advantage themselves and people like them, and build normative structures that suit their own beliefs and practices. If these systems generate inequality through gender differentiation, only the empowerment of people with different interests, different subjective values, is likely to change their systematic bias. Empowerment is therefore at the heart of any strategies to reduce gender inequality. (Keohane 2005,in Chiang, May, K, 2005).

ANALYSIS OF DATA

7. ANALYSIS OF THE COLLECTED DATA:

Data were collected on the basis of five types of questionnaire. For convenience I analyzed data separately.

RESERVED SEAT WOMEN WARD COMMISSIONERS:

i. Age profile-

Table-5

Age Range Years	No. of women commissioners	Percentage
18----27	0	0
28----37	9	69.76
38----47	1	7.69
48----57	3	23.07

ii. Out of thirteen only one was Hindu commissioner and rest of all was Muslim.

iii. First Marriage-

Table-6

Age/ Years	No. of women commissioners	Percentage
14	2	15.39
15	1	7.69
18	4	30.77
19	1	7.69
20	3	23.07
22	1	7.69
24	1	7.69

iv. Family type and children- Table-7

Family type/ Children	No. of women commissioners	Percentage
Joint	3	23.07
Single	10	76.92
Children number	No. of women commissioners	Percentage
1 child	1	7.69
2 Children	5	38.47
3 Children	4	30.77
4 Children	2	15.39
5 Children	1	7.69

IX. Previous experience of politics of women ward commissioner-

Had experience of politics

2

had no experience of politics

11

X. Problem faced during election canvassing-

Nobody faced any problem during election canvassing.

XI. Election expenses and how collected?

Two of them did not mention any amount but claimed poster and communication costs only. Two did not give any answer. Two mentioned TK. forty thousands each and collected from their husbands. One mentioned one lac and was given by her brother. Two mentioned two thousands each managed from salary and business. One mentioned fourteen thousand. One mentioned twenty five thousand. Two of them said seven thousands each.

XII. Were the election individual or in an alliance?

Only one women ward commissioner mentioned that she did election making alliance with chairman. Rest of them answered of individual election.

XIII. What was election commitment?

Table-11

Commitment	Number
To increase the women participation, Health facility for women and children, To make the area clean.	1
To develop the area and to educate the people.	4
To develop the area, to help the poor, to develop law and order situation	1
To work for the interest of people and development.	7

XIV. Any obstacle from family?

XV. Have land or asset?

Eight said they have land and five claimed no.

XVI. Whether daughter or wife of ward? (From where they elected)

Seven said daughter and six said wife of the ward where they were elected.

XVII. Total candidate of the election for reserved seat.

Table-12

Number of elected commissioners (Respondent number.)	Number of competitors (Faced by the wining commissioner.)
1	1
2	3
3	4
4	4
5	1

XVIII. How many time selected?

Twelve women ward commissioners were elected for the first time while one was elected for the second time.

XIX. Importance given in the meeting-

Five answered that they got equal importance while eight told that more importance was given to the male ward commissioners in the meeting.

XX. Honorarium-

All of them are getting honorarium as per the government direction. Nine said the given amount should be increased. Three mentioned the amount should be increased to Tk.5000. One sad it could be Tk.2000.

XXI. Area is big. Reserved seat was needed. No obstacle from the area. Three got no training. They gave some suggestions. Law and order is good. Nine told no women torture, three told torture for dowry, two told torture of family.

XXII. Whether NGO is good or bad?

All of them answered that NGO is good.

XXIII. Whether NGO members are elected more?

11 answered no.

XXIV. Whether NGOs motivate voters or candidate?

Eight answered no, four answered yes, one did not answered.

PERCEPTION OF MALE (GENERAL SEAT) WARD COMMISSIONERS:

XXV. Any change is needed in the present structure of paurashava election?

Table-13

Any change	Respondent Number.	Percentage
Yes	2	6.90
No	18	62.10
**Others	9	31.03
Total	29	

**Others include—Not answered and some suggestions

XXVI. Whether NGO motivates voters or candidate?

Table-14

NGO motivation	Respondent Number.	Percentage
Yes	12	40
No	17	56.67
Not answered	1	3.33
Total	30	

XXVII. Main profession is business, Age range is from 27 to 50, only one was Hindu rest were Muslim, all are getting honorarium and suggestion for

Question: How to increase women participation in the paurashava?

Almost all seven officials said that government should give specific job to the women ward commissioners.

Question: Whether voters or candidates are inspired by the NGOs?

Three officials said yes and three said no and one said no idea of it.

Regarding quality and the effectiveness of women ward commissioners four opined there was need for specific educational qualification & training and two said quality and effectiveness of women ward commissioners are very low. One gave emphasis on training.

Question: Whether there was any need for quota reservation?

Five said there was a need for quota reservation while two said negative of it. Due to quota reservation women have been empowered.

Regarding NGO activities, one said that NGO should make accountable to chairman of municipalities. Three said NGOs are well in poverty alleviation and health facility development. One said NGOs are doing business with simple, illiterate people and also doing politics. One said all NGOs should bring under government control. One did not answer.

Question: How to make Paurashava more effective?

One said a development committee consisting of all types of representatives headed by the chairman should be formed, two said to increase the allotment and proper implementation, One urged to ensure good governance, accountability, enforcement of law and training to all staff, One said that there should be a separate department for paurashava, One said that there may make provision for

the officials recruited by the ministry and paid salary from government to avoid illegal pressure, One did not answer.

Perception of chairman of paurashava:

I have interviewed two chairmen. In answer to the question of whether they are facing any problem in performing their duties, both of them mentioned of political interference. To increase participation of women, motivation and creating awareness is a must they mentioned. Regarding the political leaders both of them said that religious leaders are not playing any positive role in overall activities of their areas. The chairmen gave emphasis on education. If they are educated and qualified then they would be more effective.

PERCEPTIONS OF VOTERS:

In answering the question regarding any change, seven said no, one said yes and two did not answer. Whether quotas were needed, nine said yes & gave emphasis on education of the candidate and one did not answer. Voters motivation by NGOs, three said yes and six said no and one did not answer. The voters are not clear about the duties of women ward commissioners. One voter said that women ward commissioners are only assisting the male commissioners.

DISCUSSION

6. Discussion:

Very little literature is found on the study of urban local government of Bangladesh. However the available literature showed some interesting findings which are similar to the findings of the present study and some are new. Choudhury argues that the direct election to the local bodies in Bangladesh has brought about a qualitative change in their role perception (Choudhury, 2002:55). The same idea is found in the present study. All the women ward commissioners, chairmen, male ward commissioners and voters are thinking of women about their role and spheres of activities.

Educational qualification

The research carried out on 2000 mentioned in the Bangladesh report document found twelve bachelor degree holder out of twenty. One Master degree, two HSC, four SSC. But in my study I have found below SSC- 5, SSC- 6, HSC-1, Bachelor degree-. 1. I have found no master degree holder and the main trend was below SSC to SSC.

Occupation

In case of occupation similarity is found with the previous study. The present study showed that still majority of women ward commissioners are housewife as they were before in 2000 (Bangladesh Report Document).

Age range and Marital Status

According to Bangladesh Report Document majority of the women Ward commissioners were within the range of 31—40 years and the second range was

41—50 years. In my study majority were within the range of 28—37 years and the second range was 48—57 years. Comparatively younger women's participation is increasing which is a good sign. Literature showed unmarried women ward commissioners but I found all married commissioners.

Kin Relation and Political Connection

This is not well found in my study because the interviewed group were very cautious of giving answer to this question.

Gender Discrimination in Work Place

Like previous study all women ward commissioners said that they have no specific job. They remain always in pressure from the male counterparts & chairmen. Still they work side by side with male commissioners by doing compromise. They gave the example of VGF card. According to them, say, each male commissioner gets 100 cards for distribution, women commissioners are given less or equal to male for three wards which is embarrassing for them as it was very difficult to select the beneficiaries. Even they could not finalize the list of their own choice.

Circular, laws rule and functioning of paurashavas

Women ward commissioners are not well aware of their rights and duties.

Common concept

There is a common concept that it is very difficult to increase the tax collection. Because tax collection would reduce their vote and popularity. Rather they want more funds from government.

FINDINGS OF STUDY

Findings of the study:

- I. Majority of the women ward commissioners were within the age range of 28—37 years which is a good sign to face the challenges and could be able to stay for a long time in the political arena.
- ii. Mean marriage age range was 18—19 years and plus.
- iii. Number of children has been reduced in families and majority of the families have two – three children.
- iv. Majority of them are housewives.
- v. Their level of education is very low. Majority was below SSC to SSC and same is the range of qualification of their husband.
- vi. Majority have no previous experience of politics.
- vii. They did not face any problem during canvass.
- viii. Majority of them had no alliance during election.
- ix. They are not facing any problem from family and society.
- x. Majority has assets in their possession.
- xi. Majority of them have been elected for the first time.
- xii. All of them are getting allowances or honorarium as per government direction but according to their opinion the amount was very negligible. All women ward commissioners demanded more allowances than the male counterpart as their constituencies are larger than the males.
- xiii. Majority did not want any change in the present electoral system.
- xiv. Their level of confidence is very low.
- xv. They need extensive training to improve their effectiveness.

RECOMMENDATION

xvi. Their perception about NGOs is good.

10. Recommendations:

System-

1. Reserved seat and general seat commissioners must be given equal status assigning clear responsibilities with equal access to fund and resources.
2. There should impose a minimum educational qualification bar to be eligible to be a candidate in election.
3. Present quota system can be changed. Out of nine wards fix three wards for women competition for one term in a cyclic order. Rest six wards will be open for both men and women to compete. This will take three terms to cover the whole wards of Paurashva. Then repeat the cycle. This will create an opportunity for the women to work individually and the outcome can be compared with the male counterparts and that will create a healthy competition on other commissioner's activity.
4. Make law for women ward commissioners to handle the incidence of all sorts of violence against women & children within their constituencies. This would develop women and children situation in society and reduce pressure and costs. This system will act as Alternative dispute regulation (ADR).

Attitudes-

1. Local government and Ministry of women's affairs should take motivational and awareness building program and conduct training on gender issues to increase participation.
2. paurashavas should be kept out of all Party politics.

FURTHER STUDY

Immediate action:

1. There is a well set organization called Bangladesh Mahila Parishad. It has nationwide network. This organization can be used in motivation & awareness building program for women empowerment.
2. Civil society, print media, electronic media can play a vital role in awareness building program.
3. The government run organization Jatio Mahila Sangstha (JMS) should make more functioning and active.

11. Future study:

1. Carry out research about pros and cons of unsaid matters of women ward commissioners giving a long span of time.
2. Carry out study on a large number of paurashavas to have zone or area based situation of women empowerment and the impediment to it.
3. Class A,B,C type from six divisions i.e. 18 paurashavas should be thoroughly studied to find whether government circular is followed and how do they perform.

12. Conclusion:

Due to time constraint it was not possible to give the present study a representative one yet I tried my level best to go to the bottom of the present situation of the reserved seat women commissioners. The 50:50 ratio of men and women of our country is a factor that need proper study to overcome economic recession of our country without which no one could be really empowered. Women participation is encouraging in urban local government but quality of their performance is yet to be improved by the proper policies sand strategies of government and cooperation from each and every corner of society.

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মাস্টার্স ইন গভর্নেন্স এন্ড ডেভেলপমেন্ট স্টাডিজ, ব্রাক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় এর গবেষণা কাজে ব্যবহারের জন্য প্রস্তুপএ ।

গবেষণার বিষয় : পৌরসভার সংরক্ষিত আসনে নির্বাচিত মহিলা ওয়ার্ড কমিশনার: বর্তমান ও ভবিষ্যৎ সম্ভাবনা

(সংরক্ষিত আসনের মহিলা ওয়ার্ড কমিশনার গনের জন্য প্রস্তুপএ)

১। নাম:

২। পিতার নাম:

৩। মাতার নাম:

৪। বৈবাহিক অবস্থা:

৫। স্বামীর নাম:

৬। স্থায়ী ঠিকানা:

৭। পেশা:

(ক) পিতার-

(খ) স্বামীর-

(গ) নিজের-

৮। জন্মতারিখ:

৯। সন্তান সংখ্যা:

১০। ধর্ম:

১১। শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা: (প্রযোজ্য ঘরে টিক চিহ্ন দিন।)

কে?	এস, এস, সি, এর নীচে	এস, এস, সি,	এইচ, এস, সি,	স্নাতক	স্নাতকোত্তর	অন্যান্য
নিজের						
পিতার						
স্বামীর						

১২। কি কারনে বা কেন আপনি নির্বাচনে অংশগ্রহন করেছিলেন?

১৩। আপনার পরিবারের কোন সদস্য বা আত্মীয় রাজনীতির সাথে যুক্ত আছেন কি? থাকলে নিচের প্রযোজ্য ঘরে টিক চিহ্ন দিন।

আত্মীয়ের ধরন	পল্লী স্থানীয় সরকার	শহুরে স্থানীয় সরকার	জাতীয় সংসদ	রাজনীতি করেন কিন্তু পদে নেই

১৪। নির্বাচনী প্রচার ও নির্বাচনকালীন সময়ে কোন প্রকার সমস্যার সম্মুখীন হয়েছিলেন কিনা? হলে সমস্যার সংক্ষিপ্ত বর্ণনা দিন।

১৫। পৌরসভায় কাজ করতে পরিবারের পক্ষ থেকে কোন বাধার সম্মুখীন হয়েছিলেন কিনা বা বর্তমানে হচ্ছেন কি না? হলে এবিষয়ে আপনার মতামত কি?

১৬। পৌরসভা থেকে কোন সম্মানী ভাতা পান কিনা? পেলে এর পরিমাণ কত? এ বিষয়ে কোন পরামর্শ আছে কি?

১৭। বর্তমানে অনুষ্ঠেয় সাধারণ ও সংরক্ষিত আসনে ওয়ার্ডভিত্তিক যে নির্বাচন হচ্ছে এক্ষেত্রে কোন পরিবর্তন প্রয়োজন কিনা? এ বিষয়ে আপনার মতামত লিখুন।

১৮। সরকারী সার্কুলার অনুযায়ী পৌরসভায় আপনার ভূমিকা কি?

১৯। সাধারণ আসন ও সংরক্ষিত আসনের কমিশনারগণের কাজের মধ্যে কোন পার্থক্য আছে কিনা? থাকলে কি ধরনের পার্থক্য আছে তা বর্ণনা করুন।

২০। ওয়ার্ড কমিটি গঠনে সংরক্ষিত আসনের মহিলা কমিশনারগণের ভূমিকা কি?

২১। জনপ্রতিনিধি হিসেবে দায়িত্ব পালনে কোন প্রকার অসুবিধার সম্মুখীন হচ্ছেন কিনা?

২২। সরকারী বা বেসরকারী কোন প্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে কোন প্রশিক্ষণ লাভ করেছেন কিনা? করলে কি ধরনের প্রশিক্ষণ পেয়েছেন তা লিখুন।

২৩। পৌরসভায় মহিলাদের অংশগ্রহন বৃদ্ধি করার জন্য কি পদক্ষেপ নেয়া যেতে পারে?

২৪। প্রকল্প প্রণয়ন ও বাস্তবায়নে সংরক্ষিত আসনের মহিলা ওয়ার্ড কমিশনারগণের ভূমিকা কি?

২৫। পৌরসভার বিভিন্ন সভায় আপনার মতামতের মূল্যায়ন করা হয় কি?

২৬। আপনি কতবার সংরক্ষিত আসনের কমিশনার নির্বাচিত হয়েছেন? আপনার ভবিষ্যত পরিকল্পনা কি?

২৭। আপনি আগামী পৌরসভা নির্বাচনে সংরক্ষিত আসনের কমিশনার পদে প্রতিদ্বন্দিতা করবেন কি? উত্তরের স্বপক্ষে যুক্তি দিন

২৮। মহিলারা নির্বাচনে প্রার্থী হতে বা ভোট দিতে এন,জি,ও দ্বারা কোন ভাবে প্রভাবিত বা প্রেরণা পান কিনা?

২৯। পৌরসভার চেয়ারম্যান ও সাধারণ আসনের কমিশনারগণের কাছ থেকে কার্যক্ষেত্রে সহযোগীতা পান কিনা? এ ক্ষেত্রে আপনার কোন পরামর্শ আছে কি?

৩০। সমাজে নারীর অধিকার প্রতিষ্ঠা ও ক্ষমতায়নের ক্ষেত্রে কোন কোন বিষয় আপনাকে ভাবিত করে? মহিলাদের জন্য কোন বিশেষ পদক্ষেপ নেয়ার প্রয়োজনীয়তা আছে কি? আপনার মতামত লিখুন।

৩১। কোন ধরনের প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়নে আপনি আগ্রহী? এধরনের প্রকল্প মহিলাদের কি উপকারে আসতে পারে?

৩২। পৌরসভার বিভিন্ন কাজকর্মে দুর্নীতি, অপচয় ও অনিয়ম এবিষয়ে আপনার পর্যবেক্ষণ কি?

৩৩। আপনি কি কোন এন,জি,ও বা অন্য কোন সংস্থার সদস্য? হলে এর সুবিধা বা অসুবিধা সম্পর্কে মন্তব্য করুন।

৩৪। জনকল্যানের লক্ষ্যে সরকারী ও বেসরকারী সংস্থার কাজের ধরন কি হওয়া উচিত? আপনার এলাকার সরকারী ও বেসরকারী সংস্থার কাজের তুলনামূলক মন্তব্য করুন।

সহযোগীতার জন্য ধন্যবাদ।

প্রত্নকারী

স্বাক্ষর:

তারিখ:

পৌরসভার নাম:

মো:মাহবুব হোসেন

মাস্টার্স ইন গভর্নেন্স এন্ড ডেভেলপমেন্ট স্টাডিজ, ব্রাক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

৮। পৌরসভা থেকে কোন সম্মানী ভাতা পান কিনা? পেলে এর পরিমাণ কত? এ বিষয়ে কোন পরামর্শ আছে কি?

৯। বর্তমানে অনুষ্ঠেয় সাধারণ ও সংরক্ষিত আসনে ওয়ার্ডভিত্তিক যে নির্বাচন হচ্ছে এক্ষেত্রে কোন পরিবর্তন প্রয়োজন কিনা? এ বিষয়ে আপনার মতামত লিখুন।

১০। সাধারণ আসন ও সংরক্ষিত আসনের কমিশনারগণের কাজের মধ্যে কোন পার্থক্য আছে কিনা? থাকলে কি ধরনের পার্থক্য আছে তা বর্ণনা করুন।

১১। ওয়ার্ড কমিটি গঠনে সংরক্ষিত আসনের মহিলা কমিশনারগণের ভূমিকা কি?

১২। জনপ্রতিনিধি হিসেবে দায়িত্ব পালনে কোন প্রকার অসুবিধার সম্মুখীন হচ্ছেন কিনা?

১৩। সরকারী বা বেসরকারী কোন প্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে কোন প্রশিক্ষণ লাভ করেছেন কিনা? করলে কি ধরনের প্রশিক্ষণ পেয়েছেন তা লিখুন।

১৪। পৌরসভায় মহিলাদের অংশগ্রহণ বৃদ্ধি করার জন্য কি পদক্ষেপ নেয়া যেতে পারে?

১৫। প্রকল্প প্রণয়ন ও বাস্তবায়নে সাধারণ আসন ও সংরক্ষিত আসনের মহিলা ওয়ার্ড কমিশনারগণের ভূমিকা কি?

১৬। পৌরসভার বিভিন্ন সভায় সাধারণ আসন ও সংরক্ষিত আসনের মহিলা ওয়ার্ড কমিশনারগণের মতামতের সমান মূল্যায়ন করা হয় কি?

১৭। আপনার এলাকার বড় বড় এন,জি,ওর নাম কি?

১৮। আপনার ওয়ার্ডের আইন-শৃঙ্খলার অবস্থা ভাল না খারাপ? কারন বর্ণনা করুন।

১৯। আপনার এলাকায় নারীনির্যাতনের কোন ঘটনা ঘটে কিনা? হলে কি ধরনের নারীনির্যাতন হয় তা লিখুন

২০। নারীর ক্ষমতায়নে সরকার কর্তৃক গৃহীত পদক্ষেপে কি আপনি সন্তুষ্ট? এবিষয়ে সরকার আর কি পদক্ষেপ নিতে পারে?

২১। আপনার এলাকায় সরকারী সংস্থার চেয়ে এন,জি,ওরা কি বেশী কার্যক্ষম?

২২। পৌরসভাকে অধিকতর কার্যকর করার জন্য আপনার পরামর্শ কি?

২৩। পুলিশের ভূমিকায় আপনি কি সন্তুষ্ট? উত্তরের স্বপক্ষে যুক্তি দিন।

২৪। রাষ্ট্রীয় বিচার ব্যবস্থায় আপনি কি সন্তুষ্ট? উত্তরের স্বপক্ষে যুক্তি দিন।

২৫। সমাজে বিজ্ঞ আইনজীবীদের ভূমিকাকে আপনি কিভাবে মূল্যায়ন করবেন?

২৬। এলাকার সার্বিক কাজকর্মে ধর্মীয় নেতৃবৃন্দের ভূমিকা কেমন?

২৭। পৌরসভার বিভিন্ন কাজকর্মে দুর্নীতি, অপচয় ও অনিয়ম এবিষয়ে আপনার পর্যবেক্ষণ কি?

২৮। ভোটদাররা নির্বাচনে প্রার্থী হতে বা ভোট দিতে এন,জি,ও দ্বারা কোন ভাবে প্রভাবিত বা প্রেরণা পান কিনা?

২৯। সমাজে নারীর অধিকার প্রতিষ্ঠা ও ক্ষমতায়নের ক্ষেত্রে কোন কোন বিষয় আপনাকে ভাবিত করে? মহিলাদের জন্য কোন বিশেষ পদক্ষেপ নেয়ার প্রয়োজনীয়তা আছে কি? আপনার মতামত লিখুন।

৩০। পৌরসভায় দায়িত্ব পালনে কি কি অন্তরায় বা বাধা আছে বলে আপনি মনে করেন?

৩১। সংরক্ষিত আসনের মহিলা ওয়ার্ড কমিশনারগণের যোগ্যতা ও কর্মদক্ষতা সম্পর্কে আপনার মূল্যায়ন কি?

৩২। স্থানীয় ও জাতীয় রাজনীতিতে মহিলাদের ভূমিকা কি হওয়া উচিত বলে আপনি মনে করেন?

৩৩। এই পৌরসভায় মহিলাদের কি কি অসুবিধা আছে বলে আপনি মনে করেন?

সহযোগিতার জন্য ধন্যবাদ।

গ্রাহনকারী

স্বাক্ষর:

তারিখ:

মো:মাহবুব হোসেন

মাস্টার্স ইন গভর্নেন্স এন্ড ডেভেলপমেন্ট স্টাডিজ, ব্রাক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

পৌরসভার নাম:

৮। নির্বাচনী প্রচার ও নির্বাচনকালীন সময়ে কোন প্রকার সমস্যার সম্মুখীন হয়েছিলেন কিনা? হলে সমস্যার সংক্ষিপ্ত বর্ণনা দিন।

৯। পৌরসভায় কাজ করতে পরিবারের পক্ষ থেকে কোন বাধার সম্মুখীন হয়েছিলেন কিনা বা বর্তমানে হচ্ছেন কি না? হলে এবিষয়ে আপনার মতামত কি?

১০। পৌরসভা থেকে কোন সম্মানী ভাতা পান কিনা? পেলে এর পরিমাণ কত? এ বিষয়ে কোন পরামর্শ আছে কি?

১১। বর্তমানে অনুষ্ঠেয় সাধারণ ও সংরক্ষিত আসনে ওয়ার্ডভিত্তিক যে নির্বাচন হচ্ছে এক্ষেত্রে কোন পরিবর্তন প্রয়োজন কিনা? এ বিষয়ে আপনার মতামত লিখুন।

১২। সরকারী সার্কুলার অনুযায়ী পৌরসভায় আপনার ভূমিকা কি?

১৩। সাধারণ আসন ও সংরক্ষিত আসনের কমিশনারগণের কাজের মধ্যে কোন পার্থক্য আছে কিনা? থাকলে কি ধরনের পার্থক্য আছে তা বর্ণনা করুন।

১৪। ওয়ার্ড কমিটি গঠনে সংরক্ষিত আসনের মহিলা কমিশনারগণের ভূমিকা কি?

১৫। জনপ্রতিনিধি হিসেবে দায়িত্ব পালনে কোন প্রকার অসুবিধার সম্মুখীন হচ্ছেন কিনা?

১৬। সরকারী বা বেসরকারী কোন প্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে কোন প্রশিক্ষণ লাভ করেছেন কিনা? করলে কি ধরনের প্রশিক্ষণ পেয়েছেন তা লিখুন।

১৭। পৌরসভায় মহিলাদের অংশগ্রহণ বৃদ্ধি করার জন্য কি পদক্ষেপ নেয়া যেতে পারে?

১৮। প্রকল্প প্রণয়ন ও বাস্তবায়নে সাধারণ আসন ও সংরক্ষিত আসনের মহিলা ওয়ার্ড কমিশনারগণের ভূমিকা কি?

১৯। পৌরসভার বিভিন্ন সভায় সাধারণ আসন ও সংরক্ষিত আসনের মহিলা ওয়ার্ড কমিশনারগণের মতামতের সমান মূল্যায়ন করা হয় কি?

২০। আপনি কতবার কমিশনার নির্বাচিত হয়েছেন? আপনার ভবিষ্যত পরিকল্পনা কি?

২১। আপনি আগামী পৌরসভা নির্বাচনে কমিশনার পদে প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতা করবেন কি? উত্তরের স্বপক্ষে যুক্তি দিন।

২২। ভোটদাতার নির্বাচনে প্রার্থী হতে বা ভোট দিতে এন,জি,ও দ্বারা কোন ভাবে প্রভাবিত বা প্রেরণা পান কিনা?

২৩। পৌরসভার চেয়ারম্যান ও সংরক্ষিত আসনের কমিশনারগণের কাছ থেকে কার্যক্ষেত্রে সহযোগীতা পান কিনা? এক্ষেত্রে আপনার কোন পরামর্শ আছে কি?

২৪। সমাজে নারীর অধিকার প্রতিষ্ঠা ও ক্ষমতায়নের ক্ষেত্রে কোন কোন বিষয় আপনাকে ভাবিত করে? মহিলাদের জন্য কোন বিশেষ পদক্ষেপ

নেয়ার প্রয়োজনীয়তা আছে কি? আপনার মতামত লিখুন।

২৫। কোন ধরনের প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়নে আপনি আগ্রহী? এধরনের প্রকল্প মহিলাদের কি উপকারে আসতে পারে?

- ২৬। পৌরসভার বিভিন্ন কাজকর্মে দুর্গীতি, অপচয় ও অনিয়ম এবিষয়ে আপনার পর্যবেক্ষণ কি?
- ২৭। আপনি কি কোন এন,জি,ও বা অন্য কোন সংস্থার সদস্য? হলে এর সুবিধা বা অসুবিধা সম্পর্কে মন্তব্য করুন।
- ২৮। আপনার এলাকার বড় বড় এন,জি,ওর নাম কি?
- ২৯। আপনার ওয়ার্ডের আইন-শৃঙ্খলার অবস্থা ভাল না খারাপ? কারন বর্ণনা করুন।
- ৩০। আপনার এলাকায় নারীনির্যাতনের কোন ঘটনা ঘটে কিনা? হলে কি ধরনের নারীনির্যাতন হয় তা লিখুন
- ৩১। নারীর ক্ষমতায়নে সরকার কর্তৃক গৃহীত পদক্ষেপে কি আপনি সন্তুষ্ট? এবিষয়ে সরকার আর কি পদক্ষেপ নিতে পারেন?
- ৩২। আপনার এলাকায় সরকারী সংস্থার চেয়ে এন,জি,ওর কি বেশী কার্যক্ষম?
- ৩৩। পৌরসভাকে অধিকতর কার্যকর করার জন্য আপনার পরামর্শ কি?
- ৩৪। পুলিশের ভূমিকায় আপনি কি সন্তুষ্ট? উত্তরের স্বপক্ষে যুক্তি দিন।
- ৩৫। রাষ্ট্রীয় বিচার ব্যবস্থায় আপনি কি সন্তুষ্ট? উত্তরের স্বপক্ষে যুক্তি দিন।
- ৩৬। সমাজে বিজ্ঞ আইনজীবীদের ভূমিকাকে আপনি কিভাবে মূল্যায়ন করবেন?
- ৩৭। এলাকার সার্বিক কাজকর্মে ধর্মীয় নেতৃবৃন্দের ভূমিকা কেমন?
- ৩৮। পৌরসভায় দায়িত্ব পালনে কি কি অন্তরায় বা বাধা আছে বলে আপনি মনে করেন?

সহযোগীতার জন্য ধন্যবাদ।

গ্রহনকারী

স্বাক্ষর:

তারিখ:

মো:মাহবুব হোসেন
মাস্টার্স ইন গভর্নেন্স এন্ড ডেভেলপমেন্ট স্টাডিজ, ব্রাক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

পৌরসভার নাম:

মাস্টার্স ইন গভর্নেন্স এন্ড ডেভেলপমেন্ট স্টাডিজ, ব্রাক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় এর গবেষণা কাজে ব্যবহারের জন্য প্রস্তুপএ।

গবেষণার বিষয় : পৌরসভার সংরক্ষিত আসনে নির্বাচিত মহিলা ওয়ার্ড কমিশনার: বর্তমান ও ভবিষ্যৎ সম্ভাবনা

(কর্মকর্তাগণের জন্য প্রস্তুপএ)

১। নাম:

২। পদবী ও অফিসের নাম

৩। ধর্ম:

৪। শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা:

৫। বর্তমানে অনুষ্ঠেয় সাধারণ ও সংরক্ষিত আসনে ওয়ার্ডভিত্তিক যে নির্বাচন হচ্ছে এক্ষেত্রে কোন পরিবর্তন প্রয়োজন কিনা? এ বিষয়ে আপনার মতামত লিখুন।

৬। পৌরসভায় মহিলাদের অংশগ্রহণ বৃদ্ধি করার জন্য কি পদক্ষেপ নেয়া যেতে পারে?

৭। পৌরসভার বিভিন্ন কাজকর্মে দুর্নীতি, অপচয় ও অনিয়ম এবিষয়ে আপনার পর্যবেক্ষণ কি?

৮। ভোটাররা নির্বাচনে প্রার্থী হতে বা ভোট দিতে এন,জি,ও দ্বারা কোন ভাবে প্রভাবিত বা প্রেরণা পান কিনা?

৯। সংরক্ষিত আসনের মহিলা ওয়ার্ড কমিশনারগণের যোগ্যতা ও কর্মদক্ষতা সম্পর্কে আপনার মূল্যায়ন কি?

১০। সংরক্ষিত আসনের মহিলা ওয়ার্ড কমিশনারগণ পৌরসভায় কি দায়িত্ব পালন করেন?

১১। মহিলাদের জন্য আসন সংরক্ষণের কোন প্রয়োজন ছিল কি? এর ফলে নারীর উন্নয়ন বা ক্ষমতায়নে কোন পরিবর্তন হয়েছে কি?

১২। মহিলাদের জন্য আসন সংরক্ষণের পূর্বে আপনার জানামতে কোন মহিলা কমিশনার নির্বাচিত হয়েছিলেন কি?

১৩। পৌরসভায় নির্বাচিতদের মাসিক আয় বা আর্থিক অবস্থা সম্পর্কে আপনার ধারণা কি?

পদবী	মাসিক আয়	আর্থিক অবস্থা	কোন ধারণা নেই
চেয়ারম্যান			
সাধারণ আসনের কমিশনার			
সংরক্ষিত আসনের মহিলা ওয়ার্ড কমিশনার			

১৪। এন,জি,ও -দের কার্যাবলী সম্পর্কে আপনার মতামত কি?

১৫। পৌরসভাকে অধিকতর কার্যকর করার জন্য আপনার পরামর্শ কি?

সহযোগীতার জন্য ধন্যবাদ।

গ্রহনকারী

স্বাক্ষর:

তারিখ:

মো:মাহবুব হোসেন

মাস্টার্স ইন গভর্নেন্স এন্ড ডেভেলপমেন্ট স্টাডিজ, ব্রাক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

মাস্টার্স ইন গভর্নেন্স এন্ড ডেভেলপমেন্ট স্টাডিজ, ব্রাক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় এর গবেষণা কাজে ব্যবহারের জন্য প্রস্তুপএ ।

গবেষণার বিষয় : পৌরসভার সংরক্ষিত আসনে নির্বাচিত মহিলা ওয়ার্ড কমিশনার: বর্তমান ও ভবিষ্যৎ সম্ভাবনা

(এলাকাবাসী)

১। নাম:

২। পিতার নাম:

৩। বর্তমান ঠিকানা:

৪। পেশা:

৫। বয়স

৬। ধর্ম:

৭। শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা: (প্রযোজ্য ঘরে টিক চিহ্ন দিন।)

কে?	এস, এস, সি, এর নীচে	এস, এস, সি,	এইচ, এস, সি,	স্নাতক	স্নাতকোত্তর	অন্যান্য
নিজের						
পিতার						
স্বামীর						

৮। বর্তমানে অনুষ্ঠিত সাধারণ ও সংরক্ষিত আসনে ওয়ার্ডভিত্তিক যে নির্বাচন হচ্ছে এক্ষেত্রে কোন পরিবর্তন প্রয়োজন কিনা? এ বিষয়ে আপনার মতামত লিখুন।

৯। মহিলাদের জন্য আসন সংরক্ষনের কোন প্রয়োজন ছিল কি? এর ফলে নারীর উন্নয়ন বা ক্ষমতায়নে কোন পরিবর্তন হয়েছে কি?

১০। মহিলাদের জন্য আসন সংরক্ষনের পূর্বে আপনার জানামতে কোন মহিলা কমিশনার নির্বাচিত হয়েছিলেন কি?

১১। পৌরসভায় মহিলাদের অংশগ্রহণ বৃদ্ধি করার জন্য কি পদক্ষেপ নেয়া যেতে পারে?

১২। আপনি কি কোন এন,জি,ওর সদস্য? আপনার মতে এন,জি,ও ভালো না খারাপ?

১৩। পৌরসভার বিভিন্ন কাজকর্মে দৃষ্টি, অপচয় ও অনিয়ম এবিষয়ে আপনার পর্যবেক্ষণ কি?

১৪। ভোটদাররা নির্বাচনে প্রার্থী হতে বা ভোট দিতে এন,জি,ও দ্বারা কোন ভাবে প্রভাবিত বা প্রেরণা পান কিনা?

১৫। সংরক্ষিত আসনের মহিলা ওয়ার্ড কমিশনারগণের যোগ্যতা ও কর্মদক্ষতা সম্পর্কে আপনার মূল্যায়ন কি?

১৬। সংরক্ষিত আসনের মহিলা ওয়ার্ড কমিশনারগণ পৌরসভায় কি দায়িত্ব পালন করেন?

১৭। অএ এলাকার সংরক্ষিত আসনের মহিলা ওয়ার্ড কমিশনারের নাম জানান কি?

১৮। পৌরসভা নির্বাচনে ভোট দিয়েছেন কি?

১৯। পৌরসভার কাজে কি আপনি সন্তুষ্ট?

২০। নির্বাচনের পরে আপনার ওয়ার্ডের সাধারণ আসনের কমিশনারের সাথে কতবার দেখা বা সাক্ষাৎ হয়েছে?

২১। নির্বাচনের পরে আপনার ওয়ার্ডের সংরক্ষিত আসনের মহিলা ওয়ার্ড কমিশনারের সাথে কতবার দেখা বা সাক্ষাৎ হয়েছে?

২২। পৌরসভা নির্বাচনে ভোট দিতে প্রার্থীর কোন বিষয়কে আপনি অধিক গুরুত্ব দেন?

(ক) প্রার্থী কোন দল করেন (খ) প্রার্থীর অতীত কার্যাবলী (গ) প্রার্থীর দেয়া প্রতিশ্রুতি (ঘ) প্রার্থী শিক্ষিত

(ঙ) প্রার্থীর বয়স কম (চ) প্রার্থী বয়সে মুরব্বি (ছ) অন্যান্য-----

২৩। পৌরসভায় নির্বাচিতদের মাসিক আয় বা আর্থিক অবস্থা সম্পর্কে আপনার ধারণা কি?

পদবী	মাসিক আয়	আর্থিক অবস্থা	কোন ধারণা নেই
চেয়ারম্যান			
সাধারণ আসনের কমিশনার			
সংরক্ষিত আসনের মহিলা ওয়ার্ড কমিশনার			

২৪। আপনার এলাকার বড় বড় এন,জি,ওর নাম কি?

২৫। আপনার ওয়ার্ডের আইন-শৃঙ্খলার অবস্থা ভাল না খারাপ? কারন বর্ণনা করুন।

২৬। আপনার এলাকায় নারীনির্যাতনের কোন ঘটনা ঘটে কিনা? হলে কি ধরনের নারীনির্যাতন হয় তা লিখুন

২৭। নারীর ক্ষমতায়নে সরকার কর্তৃক গৃহীত পদক্ষেপে কি আপনি সন্তুষ্ট? এবিষয়ে সরকার আর কি পদক্ষেপ নিতে পারে?

২৮। আপনার এলাকায় সরকারী সংস্থার চেয়ে এন,জি,ওরা কি বেশী কার্যক্ষম?

২৯। পৌরসভাকে অধিকতর কার্যকর করার জন্য আপনার পরামর্শ কি?

- ৩০। পুলিশের ভূমিকায় আপনি কি সন্তুষ্ট? উত্তরের স্বপক্ষে যুক্তি দিন।
- ৩১। রাষ্ট্রীয় বিচার ব্যবস্থায় আপনি কি সন্তুষ্ট? উত্তরের স্বপক্ষে যুক্তি দিন।
- ৩২। সমাজে বিজ্ঞ আইনজীবীদের ভূমিকাকে আপনি কিভাবে মূল্যায়ন করবেন?
- ৩৩। এলাকার সার্বিক কাজকর্মে ধর্মীয় নেতৃবৃন্দের ভূমিকা কেমন?

সহযোগীতার জন্য ধন্যবাদ।

গ্রহনকারী

স্বাক্ষর:

তারিখ:

মো:মাহবুব হোসেন
মাস্টার্স ইন গভর্নেন্স এন্ড ডেভেলপমেন্ট স্টাডিজ, ব্রাক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

পৌরসভার নাম: