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## **Women Empowerment in Family Life: an analytical analysis from Bangladesh**

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### **Abstract**

Power is the most vital element and everyone expect to be the most powerful man in this world. It empowers the men and women to move freely, to take decision, control over resources and become a self-reliant in family and social life. Women are the most important part of family because they play vital role to rear up and bring up of a human child. So, it should empower them properly for the wellbeing for family life. However, this study conducted to identify the real picture of women's empowerment in family life in Bangladesh. It also tried to explore the role of background characteristics of women regarding women's empowerment. Current study is narrative and qualitative manner and based on Bangladesh Demographic and Household survey (2014) data. But secondary data also helps to make this study meaningful and informative on the concerning issue. However, study found that women are enough self-esteem and not using the freedom of mobility still now in the family life of Bangladesh. They are treated as weaker segment of society as well as in family. Study also found that they have not enough right to take participation in all kinds of decision in family life. It seems that they are not enough intellectual and foresight power for taking a good decision. Study also explored that women have not sufficient power to take control over family resources which constraint the practice of women's empowerment.

**Key Words:** Bangladesh, Family life, Power, Wellbeing, Women's empowerment.

**Objectives:** The major objective of this paper is to explore the current status of women empowerment in family life of Bangladesh. More specifically this paper has been conducted (a) to explore the self esteem of the women in family life, (b) to know the participation of women in decision making process of family matter, (c) to reveal the freedom of mobility of women outside of home, and to identify the ability of women in controlling over own earnings.

**Methodology:** This paper is entirely shaped and typed on the basis of narrative manner. In this paper we adopt mixed method approach to know the current situation of women empowerment in family life in the specific four factors. Mainly BDHS data have been used to conduct this study with the help of secondary data. Secondary data sources such as books, journal articles, reports, and online websites have been used in this study.

## Introduction

Empowerment is a burning issue in the recent times all over the globe. It is an essential for the achievement of sustainable development. The full participation and partnership of both women and men is required in productive and reproductive life, including shared responsibilities for the care and nurturing of children and maintaining the household. The past three decades have witnessed a steadily increasing awareness of the need to empower women through measures to increase social, economic and political equity, and broader access to fundamental human rights, improvements in nutrition, basic health and education. Despite worldwide evidence of the low levels of female participation in social, educational, economic and political spheres, there is still a tendency to see it as a real problem only in a limited number of countries (Khanom, 2013). Moreover, it is process of discovering the potentiality of human being which is mostly found inherently. It also discovers the unrevealed power and makes strength to take decision in life (Moser, 2005). But in the recent times, empowerment has been being used to empower of women. Women are the most vulnerable group in the society because they are identified as a weak segment of people. They are always neglected by the different people at different level such as in society, family, and personal life. Family is a nuclear institution in society and it bring up and rear up of human child. It gives opportunity to live together for both male and female legally accepted and supported by the state and the society (MacIver and Page, 1959). Family is a more or less durable association of husband and wife with or without children or of a man or woman alone, with children (Ogburn and Nimkoff, 1947). It is the most important place for human above this surface. Family life is most important stage of a women life and most of the cases women are oppressed and dominated in family in Bangladesh (Mahmud et al, 2012). In this paper, it tried to explore the actual situation of women empowerment in family life in Bangladesh.

## Women's Empowerment

The term 'Empowerment' has become a widely used word in the social sciences in the last decade across a broad variety of disciplines (Lincoln, Travers, Ackers, & Wilkinson, 2002). The concept of empowerment is conceived as the idea of power, because empowerment is closely related to changing power in gaining, expending, diminishing, and losing (Page & Czuba, 1999). Traditionally, power was understood as an isolated entity and a zero sum, as it is usually possessed at the expense of others (Lips, 1991; Weber, 1946). Recently, power has been understood as shared because it can actually strengthen while being shared with others (Kreisberg, 1992). It is conceived as "a multi-dimensional social process that helps

people gain control over their lives” (Page & Czuba, 1999). Cheater (1999) argues that traditionally disempowered groups gain influence when power relates to economic development. In the same angle of explanation, Friedmann (1992) argues that people in need can alleviate their poverty by mobilizing themselves for political participation on a broader scale. He also argues that poverty is seen here as a form of social, political, psychological disempowerment and when people be out of poverty then it can be identified as empowerment. Williams *et al.*, (1994) argue that the power is at the root of the term empowerment. He also argue that power include some aspects such as firstly, *power over*: This power involves an either/or relationship of domination/subordination; secondly, *power to*: This power relates to having decision-making authority, power to solve problems and can be creative and enabling; thirdly, *power with*: This power involves people organizing with a common purpose; and fourthly, *power within*: This power refers to self-confidence, self-awareness and assertiveness. It relates to how can individuals can recognize through analyzing their experience how power operates in their lives, and gain the confidence to act to influence and change.

Moreover, it is found in many organizations identified women’s empowerment as fully participation (Human Development Report, 1995), challenging oppression and inequality (Oxfam, 1995), not replaceable (Akhtar 1992 quoted in Batliwala 1993) and, bottom-up process and cannot be bestowed from the top down (Rowlands, 1995). One definition of women’s empowerment is “an expansion in the range of potential choices available to women so that actual outcomes reflect the particular set of choices which the women value.” (Kabeer, 2001). Women empowerment is the process of exploring and strengthening the potential power of women to take decision and lead an independence life (Moser, 2005). In the same ideas is expressed by Mahmud *et al.*, (2012) and they define women’s empowerment as the process which increases women’s autonomy and freedom. Basu and Koolwal (2005) explain women’s empowerment as freedom of women in every step of life. According to their views, women’s empowerment leads the women to increased exposure to violence, women’s increased role in decision-making and may lead to some freedoms being curtailed. Finally, it can be concluded that women’s empowerment is the process of becoming self-esteem, right to control of resources, right to decision making, and freedom of mobility (Presser and Sen cited in Mahmud *et al.*, 2012).

## Women's Empowerment in Family life

Empowerment and autonomy are essential for the achievement of sustainable development. The full participation and partnership of both women and men is required in productive and reproductive life, including shared responsibilities for the care and nurturing of children and maintaining the household. The past three decades have witnessed a steadily increasing awareness of the need to empower women through measures to increase social, economic and political equity, and broader access to fundamental human rights, improvements in nutrition, basic health and education. Despite worldwide evidence of the low levels of female participation in social, educational, economic and political spheres, there is still a tendency to see it as a real problem only in a limited number of countries. The reality is that no country in the world no matter how advanced has achieved true gender equality, as measured by comparable decision making power, equal opportunity for education and advancement and equal participation and status in all walks of human endeavour. The purpose with this book is to find out the impacts of women's empowerment on family life (Khanom, 2013). Moreover, it is seen that entire nations, businesses, communities and groups can benefit from the implementation of programs and policies that adopt the notion of women empowerment (Deneulin and Lila, 2009). Women's empowerment is one of the main procedural concerns when addressing human rights and development. The Human Development and Capability Approach, the Millennium Development Goals, and other credible approaches point to women's empowerment and participation as a necessary step if a country is to overcome the obstacles associated with poverty and development (UNO, 2000).

Women's empowerment in family life means women gets empowerment in all aspects of her family life. It includes self-esteem, participation in decision making, freedom of mobilization, and control of resources in family life (Mahmud, et al., 2012). Self-esteem is a judgment of oneself as well as an attitude toward the self and it encompasses beliefs about oneself (Hewitt, 2009). Self-esteem in family life of women also reflects their overall subjective emotional evaluation of their own worth. Self-esteem of women in family life also means what they think about themselves and it is the positive or negative evaluations of them as in how they feel about it Smith and Mackie (2007). It measures with some aspects such as the thinking of a wife's beating is justified when she burns the food, she neglects the children, she argues with husband, she talks to other men, she wastes husband's money, and he goes out without telling husband (Mahmud et al., 2012). On the other hand, participation in decision making of women in family life indicates that women have rights to take part at any

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decisions regarding his family life. The BDHS (2014) report reveals women's participation include four types of decisions such as their own health care, major household purchases, their child's health care, and visits to their family or relatives. The decision could be in 10 buying furniture, buying livestock, spending family savings, taking a loan, treatment for sick children, visiting doctor for self, working outside home, visiting father's home, having more 4 children, using family planning (Mahmud et al., 2012). Family planning is the most important factor for the empowerment of women in family life while David Cameron says in 2012 12 "When a woman is prevented from choosing when to have children, it is not just a violation of her human rights. It can fundamentally compromise her chances in life and the opportunities for her children. Without access to family planning, pregnancy will often come far too early" (David Cameron, 2012). On the other side, freedom of mobility indicates that women have the rights to move outside freely. It also reflects in taking part in tour, picnic or get together with friends and neighbours with or without husband permission. It also includes the right to visit friends outside the village and visit hospital or clinic in or outside village (Mahmud et al., 2012). Control over resources indicates that have the right to be owner and controller of resources in family life. In family, a few women have the right to be the owner of wealth or resources (BDHS, 2014). Control over resources in family is an inevitable factor for empowerment of women. Control over resources in family life indicates that women have money she can spend as she wishes (Mahmud et al., 2012). And finally, control over resources is very important because of women vulnerability in family life. In the case of Bangladesh, it is seen that after husband's death, women would be dependent on either his sons or daughter or other relatives and most of the times they are neglected by them.

### Discussion (in the context of Bangladesh) 1

Empowerment provides the power and ability the 5 women's control over household resources and environment. The ability of women to make decisions that affect the personal circumstances of their own lives is an essential aspect of empowerment and serves as an important contributor to women's overall welfare. To assess currently married women's decision-making autonomy, the 2014 BDHS collected information on women's participation in four types of decisions such as own health care, major household purchases, their child's health care, and visits to their family or relatives. BDHS (2014) report shows the percent distribution of currently married women age 15-49 by the person in the household who 1 usually makes decisions concerning these matters. It also shows that just over half of women make each of the four types of decisions jointly with their husbands. About three in ten

currently married women reported that their husbands are the main decision-makers about their health care, major household purchases, and visits to family or relatives. Women have more said in decisions related to their children's health care while 16 percent reported that they mainly make these decisions, and 17 percent reported that their husbands mainly make these decisions. Few women (8 percent) make decisions about major household purchases alone compared with 28 percent whose husbands mainly make purchasing decisions. Ten percent of women reported that someone else makes such decisions and a higher percentage than for women's own decision-making about household purchases. Overall, women's decision-making power for all four specified issues has increased since 2007 (NIPORT et al. 2009; NIPORT et al. 2013; BDHS, 2014). But this increasing picture is not enough because of women serious vulnerability in family life in Bangladesh. However, the real picture of women's empowerment in family life in according to self-esteem, participation in decision making, freedom of mobility, and control over resources have been discussed as follow;

### **Self-esteem: Attitudes toward wife beating**

There are many serious and critical problems that women have been facing in at family level of Bangladesh but the most serious problem is violence. Violence has various forms such as domestic violence, family violence, and social violence. Women are commonly faces domestic and family violence in Bangladesh through different forms of torturing and oppression such as beating, depriving, forced rape, and sexual harassment and wife beating is the most common problem of women in family life (BDHS, 2014). The nature and extent of violence makes it as an internationally recognized issue for women's disempowerment (Akand and Shamim 1995 and Ameen 2005). In Bangladesh, an estimated three in every five women experience violence including physical or sexual violence (Naved and Amin, ed. 2013). One of the most common forms of violence against women worldwide is abuse by the husband or partner (Heise et al. 1999). The BDHS (2014) report shows the percentage of ever-married women age 15-49 who agree that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife for specific reasons, by background characteristics. Twenty-eight percent of women agree that a husband is justified in beating his wife for at least one of the reasons listed. In addition, the most widely accepted reason for wife beating among women in Bangladesh is arguing with her husband (20 percent), followed by neglecting the children (15 percent). Fourteen percent of women agree that going out without telling her husband is a justifiable reason for a husband to beat his wife. Seven percent of women agree that refusing to have sexual intercourse is an acceptable reason for a husband to beat his wife, and 4 percent of

women agree that a husband is justified in beating his wife if she burns the food. Moreover, it is found that the agreement with at least one reason for wife beating varies little by age or marital status. Women who are employed and are paid in cash (29 percent), reside in urban areas (25 percent), reside in Dhaka (24 percent), have completed secondary or higher education (16 percent), and are in households in the highest wealth quintile (19 percent) are less likely than most other women to agree with at least one reason for wife beating. This result is supported by the 2007 BDHS results, which found that having little education, living in rural areas, having multiple marriages, and having limited access to wealth are strongly and positively associated with experiencing all kinds of domestic violence on the part of women (NIPORT et al. 2009; Naved and Amin, ed. 2013). Finally, it is seen that majority of the women are being beaten by husband or other family members or victim of domestic violence. So, it can be summarized that most of the women have not proper self-esteem due to lack of proper education, to be rural people, multiple marriages and limited control over resources which indicate the low level of women's empowerment in family life in Bangladesh.

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#### **Participation in decision making: Decisions in four main aspects**

The BDHS (2014) report presents results for the four specific types of decisions, namely women's own health care, making major household purchases, child's health care, and visits to the woman's family or relatives. However, the report includes two summary indicators: the proportion of women involved in making all four decisions and the proportion not involved in making any of the four decisions. BDHS (2014) report shows that about three in five currently married women participate in each of the four types of decision, either alone or jointly with their husbands. Forty-four percent participate in all four decisions, and 16 percent do not participate in any of the decisions. Moreover, compared with women who have children, women with no children are less likely to participate in all four household decisions (10 percent compared with 46 percent or higher). Urban women are more likely to participate in all four decisions than rural women (47 percent versus 42 percent). When it tried to see division wise participation rate, it is found that Sylhet has the lowest proportion of women who participate in all four decisions (33 percent) and the highest percentage of women who do not participate in any of the four types of decisions (24 percent). Women's participation in decision-making does not vary greatly by education or wealth, although women who have completed secondary or higher education (46 percent) and women in the highest wealth quintile (47 percent) are most likely to participate in all four decisions. Overall, it is seen that

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the number of decisions that a woman makes by herself or jointly with her husband is positively related to women's empowerment and reflects the degree of control women are able to exercise in areas that affect their lives and environments. BDHS (2014) report shows the percent distribution of currently married women according to the number of decisions in which they participate. Forty-four percent of currently married women participate in all four household decisions such as women's own health care, making major household purchases, child health care, and visits to her family or relatives and 16 percent participate in none. So, it can be concluded that most of the women have not right in four specific decisions such as own health care, major house hold purchases, and child health care which hamper the women in getting empowerment in family life in Bangladesh.

### **Freedom of mobility: Rights to the movement**

Freedom of movement outside the home is an important indicator of women's autonomy and empowerment. Bangladesh embraces a traditional culture with patriarchal values secluding women from the outside world and from men, popularly known as "purdah." This is particularly true in rural areas. TheBDHS (2014) report tried to explore by asking the married women whether they go to a health center or hospital or, if they do not go, whether they can go alone or with their young children to a health center or hospital. Report shows that 70 percent of women said that they go alone or with their young children to a health center or hospital, and 10 percent of women who do not go to a health center or hospital said that they can go to these health facilities alone or with their children. Comparison of data shows that in 2014 a higher proportion of women reported going alone or with children to a health center or a hospital (BDHS-2007, BDHS-2011, and BDHS-2014). Consequently, fewer women now report constraints in going to a health center or hospital, either alone or with their children (NIPORT et al. 2009, 2013). Moreover, report also shows the proportion of women who go to a health center or a hospital alone or with children increases with age, from 43 percent of women age 15-19 to 80 percent of women age 35-39, while the proportion of women who cannot go alone or accompanied by their children decreases with age, from 41 percent among women age 15-19 to 16 percent among women age 45-49. Urban women, women with three or four children, women who have completed a secondary or higher level of education, and women in the highest wealth quintile are more likely than their counterparts to go to a health facility, either alone or with their children. Rural women and women in Sylhet are more likely to be among those who cannot go to a health facility alone or accompanied by their young children (BDHS, 2014). So, it may be summarized that women have not available

rights to visits outside home or village or cities alone which limit the women's empowerment in family life in Bangladesh.

### **Control over resources: Control over own earnings**

Control over their earnings of women in family life is the most vital factor to measure the empowerment of women in family life. BDHS (2014) report shows the percent distribution of currently married women who received cash earnings in the past 12 months, according to the person who mainly decides about the use of their earnings. Thirty two percent of currently married women who earn cash reported that they themselves mainly decide how their cash earnings are used; 54 percent reported that they decide jointly with their husbands, and 13 percent reported that their husbands alone decide how their earnings are used. A very low percentage of women reported that other people participate in the decision on how their earnings are used. Women age 45-49 are less likely to make their own decisions about how to use their earnings than their younger counterparts (28 percent compared with 34 percent of women age 15-19). However, as age increases, women are more likely to make decisions jointly with their husbands. Women with lower parity are more likely to make decisions about their earnings alone compared with women with higher parity, while women with higher parity are more likely to make decisions jointly with their husbands. In addition, when it tries to reveal the rate of decision making and control over resources under geographical area wise, it is found that urban women are more likely than rural women to make decisions themselves about spending their earnings (39 percent versus 29 percent). As expected, rural women are more likely than urban women to report that their husbands alone make decisions about the use of their earnings (14 percent versus 10 percent).

However, when it tries to see the divisional rate of control over earnings of women in family life, BDHS (2014) found that the proportion of employed women who mainly decide by themselves about the use of their earnings ranges from 45 percent in Barisal to 20 percent in Rangpur, and joint decision-making ranges from 41 percent in Barisal to 61 percent in Rangpur. The 2014 BDHS data provide consistent findings about women of Barisal and Rangpur. If a woman decides alone about her earnings, she is less likely to report joint decision-making, and vice versa. The proportion of women who reported that decisions about their earnings are made mainly by their husbands ranges from 10 percent in Dhaka to 17 percent in Rajshahi. Moreover, when it tries to explore the rate of women's decision-making power about their earnings increases with their level of education and household wealth, it is

seen that <sup>1</sup> forty-three percent of women who have completed secondary or higher education mainly make the decision by themselves on how to use the money they earn compared with 28 percent of women with no education. Women with no education and those who completed primary school are more likely than other women to decide jointly with their husbands (56 percent and 58 percent, respectively) about the use of their earnings. Forty-one percent of women in the highest wealth quintile mainly decide by themselves about the use of their earnings compared with 23 percent of women in the lowest wealth quintile. So, it can be concluded that women have a few rights to take control over their own resources including own earnings, family earnings, family resources and wealth, and other earnings and resources which restrict women's empowerment in family life in Bangladesh.

## Conclusion

<sup>4</sup> Women's empowerment is very important phenomena in the recent period of times. It gives power and makes strength through the discovering of inner potentiality and quality of women. It helps women to be a <sup>42</sup> self-esteem and dignified living in the family and in the society. It also helps women to take participation in decision making of life including personal and family life. However, <sup>41</sup> control over resources is another important factor to measure women empowerment in family life. The power of the freedom of mobility to visits outside of village and visits clinics and hospital singly and without the permission of husband or others family members are treated as women's empowerment. But it is regret thing is that it is not acceptable in many case in Bangladesh still now. The patriarchy oriented family constraint the utilization of power of women either in family or social life in Bangladesh. It is found that most of the cases in Bangladesh, women in family life are deprived from their rights and lead an unbearable life which a sign of less empowerment of women in family life. It seems that women are the weaker part of the society and they are not eligible for using the power in family and social life and sometimes their human rights are violated by family members or other persons. But it is a matter of hope is that this attitude toward women has been changing <sup>40</sup> due to the intervention of government and NGOs. In spite of Government and NGO's initiatives, the initiatives from family and social movement is essential <sup>44</sup> to give empowerment of women and to ensure women's self-esteem, freedom of <sup>26</sup> mobility, participation in decision making, and control over resources in family life.

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**Tables of women's empowerment from BDHS, 2014 report, Ministry of health and family welfare, Bangladesh**

**Table 1.0: control over women's cash earnings**

Percent distribution of currently married women age 15-49 who received cash earnings for employment in the 12 months preceding the survey by person who decides how wife's cash earnings are used, according to background characteristics, Bangladesh 2014

Person who decides how the wife's cash earnings are used:

Background characteristic	Mainly wife	Wife and husband jointly	Husband mainly	Other	Missing	Total	Number of employed women with cash earnings
<b>Age</b>							
15-19	34.1	44.0	18.9	2.9	0.2	100.0	310
20-24	29.9	53.2	14.8	1.6	0.6	100.0	796
25-29	33.6	52.3	12.2	1.4	0.5	100.0	1045
30-34	33.2	54.1	12.1	0.0	0.7	100.0	1079
35-39	31.9	54.9	12.5	0.0	0.6	100.0	781
40-44	31.4	55.7	12.0	0.1	0.9	100.0	715
15-49	27.5	58.7	12.9	0.0	0.8	100.0	517
<b>Number of Living Children</b>							
0	33.8	51.0	12.0	3.1	0.0	100.0	360
1-2	32.4	52.6	13.5	0.9	0.6	100.0	2753
3-4	31.8	54.6	12.6	0.0	0.9	100.0	1702
5 or higher	26.8	60.4	12.9	0.0	0.0	100.0	427
<b>Residence</b>							
Urban	39.1	50.1	10.1	0.3	0.4	100.0	1426
Rural	29.1	55.2	14.1	0.9	0.7	100.0	3815
<b>Division</b>							
Barisal	44.9	40.8	13.3	0.5	0.4	100.0	282
Chittagong	34.8	50.5	12.7	1.0	0.9	100.0	749
Dhaka	31.7	56.4	9.8	0.9	0.2	100.0	2014
Khulna	36.5	46.3	16.0	0.6	0.5	100.0	532
Rajshahi	27.8	54.4	16.8	0.5	0.4	100.0	796
Rangpur	20.3	61.3	15.8	0.4	2.1	100.0	689
Sylhet	37.2	48.5	14.1	0.0	0.2	100.0	179
<b>Education</b>							
No education	27.8	56.3	15.3	0.2	0.4	100.0	1514
Primary incomplete	30.4	53.3	14.1	0.8	1.4	100.0	1101
Primary complete	29.7	58.4	10.9	0.6	0.5	100.0	632
Secondary incomplete	33.4	50.5	14.7	1.1	0.3	100.0	1384
Secondary complete or higher	43.3	51.1	4.0	1.1	0.5	100.0	610
<b>Wealth quintile</b>							
Lowest	23.1	58.7	16.7	0.8	0.7	100.0	1127
Second	25.8	57.8	15.7	0.1	0.6	100.0	1146
Middle	33.2	53.5	12.1	0.7	0.4	100.0	1050
Fourth	39.1	47.9	11.0	1.0	0.9	100.0	1078
Highest	40.6	49.7	8.3	0.9	0.5	100.0	841
<b>total</b>	31.8	53.8	13.1	0.7	0.6	100.0	5242

1. Primary complete is defined as completing grade 5

2. Secondary complete is defined as completing grade 10

Source: Bangladesh Demographic and Household Survey, 2014.

**Table 2.0: women's participation in decision making by background characteristics**

Percentage of currently married women age 15-49 who usually make specific decisions either by themselves or jointly with their husband, by background characteristics, Bangladesh 2014							
Specific decisions:							
Background characteristic	Woman's own health care	Making major household purchases	Child health care	Visits to her family or relatives	All four decisions	None of the four decisions	Number of women
<b>Age</b>							
15-19	48.9	40.9	39.9	43.6	21.4	33.3	1984
20-24	60.7	53.5	62.3	55.6	36.7	20.5	3166
25-29	66.9	63.5	73.7	64.1	45.8	14.3	3249
30-34	69.9	68.4	78.0	69.4	50.6	10.8	2919
35-39	72.0	70.5	81.4	70.4	53.6	9.7	2153
40-44	69.2	67.3	77.2	68.6	50.0	11.8	1874
15-49	64.7	65.2	76.2	67.7	46.5	12.9	1512
<b>Employment (last 12 months)</b>							
Not employed	62.6	57.9	67.6	60.7	41.5	18.2	11072
Employed for cash	70.1	68.6	74.9	67.2	48.2	11.4	5242
Employed not for cash	60.7	59.3	68.9	59.0	39.9	17.3	535
<b>Number of Living Children</b>							
0	49.8	41.0	13.7	44.2	9.8	35.6	1707
1-2	66.0	61.9	74.9	63.0	46.0	15.0	8948
3-4	67.9	67.7	78.7	68.8	50.1	11.3	4901
1	64.8	69.6	76.2	61.9	46.7	16.1	1302
<b>Residence</b>							
Urban	68.6	67.3	72.7	68.9	46.8	12.5	4709
Rural	63.4	58.9	68.8	60.3	42.3	17.5	12149
<b>Division</b>							
Barisal	56.3	53.1	66.4	58.4	36.3	20.4	1051
Chittagong	68.4	61.8	70.8	62.9	48.2	17.8	3121
Dhaka	69.1	66.4	74.5	68.8	49.3	12.4	5857
Khulna	59.5	57.0	64.0	58.1	37.1	19.1	1729
Rajshahi	64.0	60.1	68.8	61.6	39.8	15.1	2007
Rangpur	62.7	62.3	68.4	58.7	39.1	15.6	1946
Sylhet	54.5	47.8	60.6	50.7	32.7	24.2	1147
<b>Education</b>							
No education	65.5	63.9	73.9	66.0	47.1	14.5	3949
Primary incomplete	63.4	62.6	72.0	61.5	43.2	15.3	3032
1 Primary complete	65.9	62.2	69.6	62.9	44.1	15.0	1884
Secondary incomplete	62.8	57.3	66.8	59.4	40.2	18.6	5477
Secondary complete or higher	69.1	63.5	68.2	66.0	45.6	15.0	2516
<b>Wealth quintile</b>							
Lowest	60.8	58.2	69.7	60.2	41.5	18.1	3097
Second	63.3	60.8	68.7	61.1	43.5	16.8	3223
Middle	64.4	61.5	70.0	61.9	43.4	16.7	3394
Fourth	65.8	60.3	68.2	61.7	41.9	16.1	3556
Highest	69.2	65.1	72.8	68.1	47.3	13.2	3587
<b>total</b>	64.8	61.3	69.9	62.7	43.6	16.1	16858

Note: total includes 15 women with missing information on employment in the past 12 months.

1. Primary complete is defined as completing grade 5
2. Secondary complete is defined as completing grade 10

Source: Bangladesh Demographic and Household Survey, 2014.

**Table 3.0: Freedom of movement**

Percent distribution of currently married women age 15-49 by freedom of movement to go to a hospital or health center, according to background characteristics, Bangladesh 2014						
Person who decides how the wife's cash earnings are used:						
Background characteristic	Go alone or with children to health center or hospital	Do not go to health center or hospital		Other	Total	Number of women
		Can go alone or with children	Cannot go alone or with children			
<b>Age</b>						
15-19	43.1	14.5	40.6	1.6	100.0	1984
20-24	64.4	11.7	23.0	0.8	100.0	3166
25-29	73.8	8.8	16.9	0.5	100.0	2149
30-34	77.5	9.4	12.7	0.4	100.0	2919
35-39	79.6	7.6	12.5	0.2	100.0	2153
40-44	78.2	9.4	42.3	0.1	100.0	1874
15-49	75.1	8.1	16.4	0.4	100.0	1512
<b>Number of Living Children</b>						
0	38.2	15.1	44.0	2.5	100.0	1707
1-2	72.6	10.4	16.7	0.4	100.0	8948
3-4	76.5	8.4	14.7	0.3	100.0	4901
15-49	74.5	6.6	18.6	0.3	100.0	1302
<b>Residence</b>						
Urban	74.7	9.0	15.7	0.6	100.0	4709
Rural	68.7	10.4	20.3	0.6	100.0	12149
<b>Division</b>						
Barisal	76.4	7.8	14.8	0.9	100.0	1051
Chittagong	68.0	9.9	21.3	0.7	100.0	3121
Dhaka	70.9	9.1	19.7	0.3	100.0	5857
Khulna	72.1	9.6	17.9	0.3	100.0	1729
Rajshahi	69.5	12.8	17.0	0.8	100.0	2007
Rangpur	72.6	11.3	15.7	0.5	100.0	1946
Sylhet	64.3	10.3	23.9	1.6	100.0	1147
<b>Education</b>						
No education	73.3	8.0	18.3	0.3	100.0	3949
Primary incomplete	70.2	8.5	21.0	0.3	100.0	3032
1. Primary complete	70.4	10.2	18.6	0.8	100.0	1884
Secondary incomplete	68.2	10.8	20.2	0.7	100.0	5477
2. Secondary complete or higher	70.7	13.0	15.5	0.7	100.0	2516
<b>Wealth quintile</b>						
Lowest	68.8	8.3	22.4	0.5	100.0	3097
Second	68.7	10.7	20.1	0.5	100.0	3223
Middle	70.1	10.7	18.4	0.8	100.0	3394
Fourth	70.6	10.4	18.1	0.6	100.0	3556
Highest	73.1	9.8	16.7	0.5	100.0	3587
<b>total</b>	70.4	10.0	19.0	0.6	100.0	16858

1. Primary complete is defined as completing grade 5
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**Table 4.0: Women's attitude toward wife beating**

Percentage of ever-married women age 15-49 who agree that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife for specific reasons, by background characteristics, Bangladesh 2014

Husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife if she:

Background characteristic	Burns the food	Argues with him	Goes out without telling him	Neglects the children	Refuses to have sexual intercourse with him	Percentage who agree with at least one specified reason	Number
<b>Age</b>							
15-19	4.0	20.3	15.2	14.1	5.6	28.8	2029
20-24	3.4	19.4	13.0	14.9	6.1	27.3	3224
25-29	4.1	19.9	12.7	14.5	6.9	28.1	3390
30-34	4.1	18.7	14.8	15.0	7.8	27.4	3047
35-39	5.0	21.0	15.6	15.1	8.2	29.0	2315
40-44	4.6	20.5	15.5	14.7	8.0	29.1	2098
45-49	5.9	20.7	15.8	16.6	8.3	29.6	1766
<b>Employment (last 12 months)</b>							
Not employed	4.1	19.5	14.2	14.5	6.7	28.0	11506
Employed for cash	4.7	20.6	14.9	15.6	8.0	28.8	5781
Employed not for cash	5.3	21.4	15.3	16.5	8.2	29.2	565
<b>Number of Living Children</b>							
0	3.0	18.0	13.2	12.4	5.8	26.3	1814
1-2	3.8	19.0	13.5	14.5	6.6	27.1	9478
3-4	5.3	20.9	15.4	15.5	8.1	29.6	5180
5+	6.2	25.3	18.5	18.9	9.6	33.9	1391
<b>Marital Status</b>							
Married or living together	4.2	19.8	14.1	14.7	7.0	28.1	16858
Divorced/separated/widowed	6.7	21.8	20.3	18.8	10.9	32.2	1005
<b>Residence</b>							
Urban	2.8	17.1	12.2	13.1	5.8	24.8	5047
Rural	4.9	21.1	15.3	15.6	7.85	29.6	12816
<b>Division</b>							
Barisal	7.7	22.8	21.1	21.7	10.4	35.9	1111
Chittagong	4.7	21.6	13.8	16.4	8.2	29.6	3301
Dhaka	3.7	16.0	12.8	12.1	5.3	23.8	6223
Khulna	4.0	21.2	14.5	15.7	8.0	29.5	1838
Rajshahi	3.5	25.5	17.5	15.4	8.7	33.6	2103
Rangpur	4.3	17.8	12.5	18.8	6.7	25.9	2056
Sylhet	5.6	24.7	16.3	15.3	8.2	33.8	1232
<b>Education</b>							
No education	6.8	24.4	16.9	16.9	10.2	33.0	4455
Primary incomplete	6.0	22.8	17.8	17.8	9.5	32.5	3223
Primary complete	4.4	21.5	16.3	16.3	8.0	30.5	1985
Secondary incomplete	2.9	19.0	14.2	14.2	5.5	26.9	5628
Secondary complete or higher	1.0	9.4	8.4	8.4	2.2	16.1	2571
<b>Wealth quintile</b>							
Lowest	7.4	24.2	18.0	18.0	11.3	34.3	3359
Second	5.4	24.3	17.1	17.1	9.4	33.1	3408
Middle	4.4	20.0	14.7	14.7	6.5	28.0	3560
Fourth	3.4	20.1	15.4	15.4	6.2	28.2	3758
Highest	1.5	12.0	9.9	9.9	3.2	18.9	3778
<b>total</b>	4.3	19.9	14.9	14.9	7.2	28.3	17863

1. Primary complete is defined as completing grade 5
2. Secondary complete is defined as completing grade 10

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