

Annual Report-2013



Amrai Pari Paribarik Nirjaton Protirodh Jote

INTRODUCTION

Over the years a number of initiatives were taken towards empowering women in Bangladesh. Regrettably, within family life Bangladeshi women cannot enjoy the benefits from these initiatives. One of the major reasons behind this is the subordination of women in families and the society. This subordination is manifested by domestic violence against women. There is a culture of silence against such oppression in the society. It is mostly seen as a so-called 'internal matter' of a family. A family's matter is concurrently considered as a personal affair, hence, very few cases are found where people stand against family or domestic violence. Particularly when a woman faces domestic violence, any protest from her end gets her under critical review by the family and society. In this backdrop, in 2004, WE CAN Campaign was launched in 6 South Asian countries including Bangladesh with an aim to stop all sorts of violence against women. The idea of WE CAN Campaign is to break the silence, denial, shame and stigma around the issue of domestic violence against women and bring it under the public domain, collective consciousness and accountability. WE CAN Campaign started at a time when domestic violence against women was not considered as a violence under the legal system in Bangladesh. As an outcome of continuous social movement arrived the milestone of Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010. Nevertheless, in the context of Bangladesh, the continuous unfortunate incidences in daily life of Bangladeshi women strengthen our belief that the legal system alone is inadequate to stop domestic violence against women. It is pertinent to change the existing social culture that legitimise to domestic violence.

The 7 years' journey as a Campaign has seen achievements and learning and experienced lot of changes in the context. WE CAN is now transforming into a social movement which started as a mere campaign programme. In 2011, during the annual general meeting (held on 20th April), the member organisations and individuals decided to continue the Campaign by the self identity of **WE CAN Alliance to end Domestic Violence (Amrai Pari Paribarik Nirjaton Protirodh Jote)**. Following the decision emerged the independent platform Amrai Pari Paribarik Nirjaton Protirodh Jote in Bangladesh.

The present report documents the journey of WE CAN during 2011-12. However, it also documents the highlights of the Campaign's seven years' journey which has established the new face of WE CAN.

OBJECTIVES OF WE CAN

The goal of WE CAN is to reduce social acceptance of domestic violence against women and enhance the process of gender equality in family, society and state and make Bangladesh safer for women.

To reach this goal, WE CAN Alliance; Bangladesh is working towards attainment of four objectives -

1. Fundamental shift in social attitudes and beliefs that support violence against women.
2. Collective and visible stand on violence against women by different section of people.
3. Create a favorable environment for formulating and implementing gender sensitive programme at every sector.
4. Coordinate all efforts whether local, national, regional or international to end all kind of violence against women.

At a glance Amrai Pari (WE CAN) Activities -2015

SL	Activities	Description	Quantity
01	Regular Meeting	All the individuals, groups or organizations maintain regular contacts with each other. These discussions and meetings also kept the whole platform working in a systematic manner. Members of the National Alliance sit for meetings twice a year. To formulate the strategic plan, this year they have arranged a 2-day long session. On the other hand, members of the Executive Committee meet 3 times a year while members of the District Alliances sit together thrice in a year. However, beyond such planned meetings, this year members of different District Alliances have met on different occasions based as and when required. In these perspective in 2013, 2 National Committee meetings, 3 Executive Committee meetings, 1 Annual General meeting, 45 District Alliance Meetings, 180 Change Maker meetings and 5 project oriented meetings have been organized.	
		National Committee Meeting	2
		Executive Committee Meeting	3
		District Alliance Meeting	45
		Change Maker Committee Meeting	180
		Project Oriented Meeting	5
02	Material Development	Materials (IEC and BCC materials) and publications of Amrai Pari (WE CAN) programme play vital role in changing the values. These publications also help in deepening of changes. For the Change Makers, a number of communication materials/ publications are brought about including booklets, leaflets, posters, stickers, flipcharts etc. These materials are developed in a way that they would be suitable for people of all ages and types – young and old, male and female, rural and urban. One interesting characteristics of these communication materials are that they do not offer suggestions to solve any problem. Rather they point out the different dimensions of the problems so that individuals corroborating to the problem can decide and act themselves in overcoming such problems. This year, WE CAN published a booklet “Domestic Violence Act 2010 in Chameli Sagar’s Life” to explain the recently enacted Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010. Besides this, 2 leaflets were published for the event of International Women Day and November Campaign. To introduce	

		the WE CAN Campaign as an independent platform, a brochure has been published. 22 new billboards containing a certain message of the Campaign have been put in place in 30 districts this year. 1 Leaflet Somaj ki Bodlay, 1 New notebook, 1 folder file and 1 Research Report: 'A Model of behavioral change' have been published during 2013 particularly focused on introducing and explaining the newly enacted Act on domestic violence.	
		Somaj Ki Bodlay-Leaflet	1
		Domestic Violence Act 2010 in Chameli Sagar's Life	1
		Event based Leaflet	2
		WE CAN Brochure	1
		New Notebook	1
		Research Report: 'A Model of behavioral change'	1
		New Billboard	22
		Folder File	1
03	National Events	Amrai Pari (WE CAN) have been staged 'International Women's Day' (8 March) and a 16 days long campaign in November centered around the 'International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women' (25 November). On the very first hour of March 8, 'International Women's Day' was celebrated in all of the districts jointly with other like-minded organizations and individuals upholding the slogan "Special Oath for enlightenment against darkness of mind". This campaign demanded for safety of women in both home and outside, both in day and night. On the same date, 'International Women's Day' has been celebrated in Dhaka at the Central Shaheed Minar (<i>Language Martyrs' Monument</i>) in association with the University of Dhaka, the most prominent public university of the country. In 2013, November campaign have not been organized in national level for the unstable political situation all over Bangladesh. But WE CAN have been organized program combined with Government in 45 districts of Bangladesh.	
		International Women Day	1
		16 Days November Campaign- International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	1
04	Capacity Building Workshop	To be a WE CAN Campaign Change Maker or a member of the District Alliance one needs not be from an elite background. Any person including students, housewives, NGO professionals, grocers, small businesspersons, rickshaw-pullers, farmers, nurses, polices, teachers, government bureaucrats, journalists	

		are part of the campaign. Hence to analyse the unconventional approach of the campaign it is critical to build capacities of the Alliance leaders and Connector Change Makers. Since 2011, the WE CAN Alliance has been taking initiatives towards this end. Besides on this some other capacity building workshops held in for organization focal persons, District alliance members and connector change makers.	
		Capacity Building Workshop for Focal persons	1
		Capacity Building Workshop for District Alliance members	2
		Capacity Building Workshop for Connector Change Makers	4
		Project (Edu-VAW) implementation Workshop	3
05	Community Mobilization	To mobilize and Re-engagement is a process through which the program activities remains alive, with different activities organized by Change Makers ranging from the grassroots to the national level. Amrai Pari (WE CAN) Secretary have been planned for mobilize the Change Maker and arranged different activities all over the year. In 2013 different activities have been taken for mobilization of Change Makers, they were: Video Show, Small events: Door to door campaign, court yard meeting , Day observation, cultural events.	
		Video Show	30
		Small event: Door to door campaign	80
		Small event: Court yard meeting	90
		Day Observance (International women day and November Campaign)	2
		Cultural events	45
06	Institutionalization	Since 2008 `WE CAN` has moved into strengthening community and organizational capacity to prevent violence against women. It started developing and institutionalizing mechanisms to advocate women's need and rights within the community. WE CAN has been using the stages of Change Theory which recognizes that change is a process, often cyclical, that starts from raising awareness, and moves into building networks, then to integrated action and finally requires consolidated efforts to sustain the change. WE CAN involves individuals at all the stages, but for sustaining the change it has to be institutionalized. And, that is why the organizers have approached high	

		<p>schools (girls, boys & co-ed), lawyers' association, hospitals, nursing institutes and police at Thana levels, among others.</p> <p>During the March campaign of 2013, 220 educational institutions in 45 districts organized sharing meeting with students, teachers and school management committee (SMC) about VAW. To accelerate the institutionalization process, a forum comprising of the Student Change Makers of the country was constituted. In 2013 year a 3-day workshop Student Change Makers Forum assembly (2nd) was organized at Koitta, Manikgonj, where all these members participated. 50 female students and 40 male students from 44 districts participated in the event. During the workshop, the representatives of Student Change Makers prepared their future action plan and took preparation towards implementing them.</p>	
		Student Change Makers Forum assembly (2 nd)	1
		Sharing meeting with students, teachers and school management committee.	220
07	Institution based Programs	In 2013, 220 institutions of 45 districts in Bangladesh have been arranged Quiz competitions and Information fair. Almost 4000 students and teachers in 45 districts were involved directly through these program and built awareness to reduce violence against women.	
		Quiz competition	225
		Information fair	225
08	Campaign Program	Though WE CAN does not expect that the Change Makers would become a gender expert, however, the Re-Engagement initiative targets to make positive behavioural changes in individuals that would be visible to others. Small individual contributions will add up to a tipping point phase that will make violence against women unacceptable in all settings. In view of this, the Change Makers attend or organize the large or small scale programmes or events under the WE CAN campaign. large scale programmes are held twice a year, during March and November, while other small scale programmes are organized by the Change Makers around rest of the years. The Change Makers exhibit their initiatives through small-scale programmes. These were Door to door campaign, court yard meeting, Rally, quiz competition, information fair, Sms campaign, distribution WE CAN	

		materials, organized adhar vangar shopoth, van campaign.	
		Door to Door Campaign	90
		Court yard meeting	120
		Adhar Vangar Shopoth	43
		Rally	60
		Quiz competition	220
		Information fair	220
		SMS Campaign	2859
		Van Campaign	12
09	Media Mobilization	WE CAN Alliance; Bangladesh believes media can play an important role in changing perspectives of the people. Hence, along with the strong support from the Campaign, WE CAN, Bangladesh seeks to maintain a liaison with the media. Both print and electronic media gets equal importance from the Campaign. Media is not only helping WE CAN, Bangladesh with publicity but is becoming a gender-sensitive partner by highlighting issues of domestic violence and sensitizing the mass about it. In 2013, A Talk show – Proti shonglap, number of 13 episodes were aired in channel 71. 2 cases were published in Anannya Magazine. Besides on these the process of Web site development and Amrai Pari face book have been started.	
		A Talk show –Proti Shonglap	13 episodes
		Case study	2
		Amrai Pari Web site	1
		Amrai Pari Face book	1
10	Advocacy	WE CAN believes in the power of individuals. In this context, the campaign emphasized the changes in personal attribute and individual initiatives to challenge domestic violence against women. The prime focus of the program is to promote the individuals who will not wait for assistance, rather will initiate steps towards preventing domestic violence against women. As individuals change themselves and stand against the social acceptability of domestic violence against women will gradually transform others in society. It is very difficult to change human conceptual attitude for long days, has been changed in different steps by continuous process. On this perspective WE CAN has taken a strategy of Advocacy. To achieved these objectives WE CAN has organized in 2013, 7 meeting with CIDV to established the DV Act -	

		2010. An assembly 'Protibadi Nari Gono Shomabesh'	
		Meeting with CIDV members	7
		Assembly : Protibadi Nari Gono Shomabesh	1
11	Reporting and Documentation	The goal of WE CAN is to reduce social acceptance of domestic violence against women and enhance the process of gender equality in family, society and state. To highlight the activities and its results WE CAN has been documented all . In sequence of 2 half yearly report, 1 annual report of WE CAN activities have been prepared. 1 report of International Women day, 1 report of November campaign, 4 guideline based on International women day, November campaign, student forum and material use.	
		Half yearly report	2
		Annual report	1
		International women day's Report	1
		Report of November campaign	1
		Guideline	4
12	Monitoring and Research	Monitoring is an important indicator for judgment of qualitative improvements of WE CAN activities. On this perspective in 2013, to monitor the activities 11 districts have been visited and 11 field visit monitoring report were prepared and 1 baseline report of Edu-VAW was developed.	
		Monitoring Report	11
		Baseline report	1
13	Change Maker Database	Till 2013, the number of Change Makers has become 1014976. Among which, 548570 are women and the rest 466506 are men. A large number of these people are youths, who are between 14 to 25 years of age. By the end of 2013, the number of young Change Makers has become 4, 98,031. On the other hand, the Change Maker, aged between 26 to 45 years, are 3, 67337 in number. Change Makers aged 45+ are 61,426 in number. WE CAN database has been created where information (e.g. name sex, age, parent's name, occupation, area and registration date) regarding all Change Makers can be found easily. The District Alliances of WE CAN are being motivated to utilize this database when necessary so that they can communicate with all the Chang Makers of that district and direct them when required. The synopsis of Change Maker data base is included in	
		Female	548,470
		Male	466,506

		Below 14	88,182
		14-25	498,031
		26-35	240,631
		36-45	126,706
		45+	61,426
14	Administrative	Administrative effectiveness and quality is treat as a most important to implement program and project activities. In 2013 WE CAN has appointed 3 volunteers and 4 projects staffs. Create more change makers and influenced them WE CAN has disseminated a huge number of materials in 48 districts.	
		Staff:	
		Volunteer	3
		Program officer	1
		Project coordinator	1
		Program facilitator	1
		Materials:	
		Amader Ananda Bari	4631
		Ratna o Sumonergolpo	19855
		Moyna o Akasher Songsar	15955
		Sojeeber Bodhodoy	26815
		Poth dekhabe school	1831
		Paribarik Shohingshota Ain	20465
		WE CAN Brochure	1956
		Change Maker Registration Form	104750
		Research Report	194
		Sticker	80
		Leaflet	103950
		Newsletter	8431
		1000 Uddog	100
		DV Leaflet	15100
		Somaj ki Bodlay	38100