

Workshop Report
on
“Climate Change and Water Quality: Impact on Coastal Women and their livelihoods”



The coordinator of BWWN delivers her welcome speech

Bangladesh Women and Water Network (BWWN) has organized a half day workshop outside of Dhaka with the financial support of Bangladesh Water Partnership on 27 September 2014 in BRDB Training Center, Majdee Court, Noakhali. Title of the workshop was “Climate Change and Water Quality: Impact on Coastal Women and their livelihoods”.

The workshop was designed for grass root level female participations. The main objective of the workshop was to enhance awareness among the participants, share knowledge in perspective of climate change issues and develop local level network.

A total number of 49 participants, from different water user groups, projects, local women organization, local NGOs working with water, students etc., participated in the workshop, where most of the participants were women.

The workshop was presided over by Begum Shamsun Nahar, Gender Specialist & Coordinator of BWWN. In her presentation Begum Shamsun Nahar emphasized on

empowering of women. She also gave importance on female education since female are engaged to manage water, maintain water as well as collect water all the year round. She informed that climate change affected coastal women and their livelihoods adversely. She suggested equal active participation of male and female in Integrated Water Resources Management.

Ms. Mukta Akter, Executive Secretary of BWP and Member Secretary of BWWN presented a paper on activities of Bangladesh Women and Water Network. In her presentation she narrated the formation history of BWWN to the participants. She informed the house that BWWN works in association with BWP and it's main objective is to incorporate professional women as well as grassroot level local women in water sector. During her presentation she strongly emphasized to develop strong network through local levels. She also informed that due to climate change salinity intrusion is increasing in alarming rate and livelihood is being more difficult for women in coastal zone in Bangladesh as they are engaged in fetching water from far distances.

Among the Project participants Ms. Irin Sultana, Gender Specialist, Chor Development Sector Program-IV presented a paper where she shared information of practical information with the participants.

Ms. Jannatun Nahar, Socio-Economist, Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) presented a paper as a local participant. In her presentation she shared with the audience about the activities of Water Management Cooperative Association (WMCA) and how it works.

Among the members of BWWN Ms. Nazmun Nahar, Program Specialist of Gender and Water Programme Bangladesh (GWAPB) also presented a paper. During her presentation she shared activities of GWAPB with the participants.

In the workshop there was an open discussion session where most of the participants actively participated.

Two award recipients Mrs. Morium Begum, WMCA Member, Laxmipur and Mrs. Rup Bhanu, WMCA Member, Laxmipur who are well recognized as role model in grassroots level were presented in the workshop to share their practical knowledge and experience for their self reliant activities in IWRM sector.

Outcome: The Workshop successfully sensitized the women in the coastal areas about impacts of Climate Change and encourage them to develop and adopt climate resilient technologies and local practices.