

Workshop on Gender Inclusion in Sanitation Service Delivery
Jointly organized by: CWIS-FSM Support Cell, DPHE and ITN BUET
Supported by: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)
May 13&14, 2023, Rajendrapur BRAC CDM

Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) is the national lead agency for the provision of drinking water Supply, Sanitation and Waste management in Bangladesh. Gender integration is crucial for ensuring safe water supply, sanitation services and waste management for accessible and equitable for all genders. With that view, DPHE has recently reformed the Gender and Development Forum (GDF) to provide technical assistance, and guidance projects to programs and regular activities to mainstream gender. For strengthening the purpose of gender inclusion in sanitation service delivery, a 2-days workshop titled "Gender Inclusion in Sanitation Service Delivery" was successfully organized jointly by the CWIS-FSM Support Cell, DPHE and ITN BUET with the consistent invaluable support of the Gender and Development Forum of DPHE. The workshop took place on May 13th and 14th, 2023, at the Rajendrapur BRAC CDM with the enthusiastic participation of DPHE officials. The effort aimed to enhance gender inclusion standards and promote sustainable and inclusive WASH services.



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The Key Objective

- a. To develop common understanding of the gender and sanitation nexus, its evolution and concept, and practical implications in service provision, to ensure all participants are on the same pace and aware of the core issues at hand.
- b. To create "gender inclusion standards for DPHE services" related to WASH, DRR, FSM, and sanitation entrepreneurship based on policy analysis and practice-level findings.
- c. To develop a gender action plan for the Gender Development Forum (GDF), as it provides a clear roadmap for implementing the gender inclusiveness standards and promoting gender-sensitive practices within the targeted sectors.

Inaugural Session

The inaugural session commenced with the introductory speeches by distinguished guests and participants where,

- **Mr. Tushar Mohon Shadhu Khan**, Additional Chief Engineer (Planning), DPHE was present as a special guest.
- **Mr. Mir Abdus Shahid**, Additional Chief Engineer (Water Resource), DPHE, was also present as a special guest.
- **Mr. Md. Shafiqul Hassan** Co-Chair of CWIS-FSM Support Cell, DPHE, chaired the inaugural session.

Among the esteemed guests, the following individuals were also present:

- **Mr. Tanvir Ahmed** Professor, BUET, and Director, ITN BUET
- **Ms. Neelima Thota** representative from the BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation.

The service box of the Gender and Development Forum was launched on DPHE's website by **Mr. Tushar Mohon Shadhu Khan**, Additional Chief Engineer (Planning), DPHE.

The two-days workshop session was moderated by **Ms. Shaila Shahid**, Chief Operating Officer of CWIS-FSM Support Cell, DPHE and **Ms. Dilruba Farzana**, Executive Engineer, Survey Investigation and Research, DPHE.



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Participants

A total of 19 government officials from DPHE, 7 from CWIS-FSM Support Cell, DPHE, and 3 from ITN BUET actively participated in the workshop. The participants comprised Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineers, Assistant Engineers, Programmer and Social Development Officers of DPHE.

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Key Activities

1. Inauguration of Gender and Development Forum service box on the DPHE website.
2. Feedback on the draft Gender Action Plan for Gender and Development Forum, DPHE.
3. Feedback on the draft Comprehensive Gender Manual on WASH, DRR, FSM, and Sanitation Entrepreneurship.



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Technical Session

The workshop featured following technical sessions.

- 1) Basic gender concepts, empowerment, and sanitation nexus.
- 2) Development process of the Comprehensive Gender Manual on WASH, DRR, FSM, and Sanitation Entrepreneurship.
- 3) Strengthening gender inclusion in sanitation service delivery.
- 4) Introducing Gender and Development Forum, DPHE and Gender Action Plan for the forum.
- 5) Practical implications of gender in sanitation service delivery.

During the technical session, participants actively contributed their valuable inputs through various methods, including open discussion, the use of flip charts, Jam boards, and Mentimeter. They have also presented their group works, showcasing different gender-responsive collaborative efforts.



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Having successfully concluded the workshop, DPHE officials have acquired the necessary tools and profound understanding of gender equality throughout the design and execution of sanitation projects. Their unwavering dedication to fostering a gender transformative approach amidst societal obstacles serves as a beacon of inspiration for the entire sector, catalysing constructive transformations and advancing towards a future characterized by inclusivity and progress.

Dalila
24.05.2023
(Dalila Afroze)

Executive Engineer, Design Division
&
Member Secretary
Gender and Development Forum,
DPHE, Dhaka.

(Md. Shafiqul Hassan)
24.5.2023.

(Md. Shafiqul Hassan)
Project Director, UIIPF Project.
&
Co-ordinator,
Gender & Development Forum,
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(Tushar Mohon Shadhu Khan)
24.5.2023

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Additional Chief Engineer (Planning)
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