

# "Protect of Human Rights for women in the Society and support them to be successful Business Entrepreneur"

a)

Statement by Nasreen Fatema Awal, Founder President & Advisor (Chief Executive) of Women Entrepreneur Association of Bangladesh (WEAB):

Women Entrepreneur Association of Bangladesh (WEAB) is the pioneer women entrepreneurship association was established in 2000 with the vision to enhance the entrepreneurship development of women, build women empowerment and protect the Human Rights of women in the society. Since its inception WEAB is contributing tremendous efforts to improve, develop and motivate women entrepreneur in business fields to make them as a successful business entrepreneur. WEAB is contributing enormous efforts to protect the social rights of women and establish their potentiality in the society. We have been playing an extensive role to inspire women in leadership quality as well as in decision making.

Past 17 years WEAB has arranged and provided different activities such Trainings, Seminars, Conferences, Symposiums, SME Fairs, Career advocacy, Networking and Market promotion to enhance the participation of women. Recent years WEAB implicated research on SME new resources and products to create new businesses for women. Both from urban and very remote areas huge number of women entrepreneur who's actually facing challenges in business activities, so we nurture and brought them under same umbrella of our guidance. Most of them are now marked as potential businesswomen in our community.

Women/Girls have rights to get all kinds of facilities, services, and support from their families and society. From social status to workplace they should get equal rights and opportunities in each partition. WEAB always concerned about the education of girls/women throughout the country and supports in education on hill tracks as well. In modern era using of modern technology and networking based communication is very essential, regarding this WEAB highlights it necessary to women entrepreneurs and provides them different modes of trainings relating ICT.

Market promotion is a greater challenge for women entrepreneurs to promote and marketing their products, to keep this in mind we established "Sheuti" a sales and marketing outlet for women throughout the country. It's my pleasure to share that WEAB sent standard number of women entrepreneurs in different countries to attend fairs, youth leadership conferences, even trainings on green productivity and different international seminars.

WEAB is partaking in different projects relevant women entrepreneurship and empowerment in different sectors. We have supervision actions for women entrepreneur relating their startup business to

its development stage and its sustainable growth for long term. I am greatly thankful to all WEAB members, Gov/Non-Gov NGO/offices, international offices for their enormous support throughout the journey. Without rising women situation it's a nightmare for a country to develop itself, so this is mandatory to improve women preferences in every developing sector. I believe lots of opportunities for women are still unrevealed and it should be flashed within short time. WEAB always accept to the collaboration of working with you all in developing women entrepreneurship and empowerment. We have more initiatives to improve the current situation of women, would request you to go through the brochure so you can find the glint of WEAB contributions in developing women entrepreneurship, empowerment and establishing of human rights.

b) **WEAB has taken several programs to accomplish its agenda for last 2 years, such as:**

- Skill Development Trainings.
- WEAB is involved with many social works to enhance the position and potentiality of women in the society.
- Education.
- Imparting Information & Communication Technology.
- Product Promotions & Marketing.
- Access to Finance and Microfinance.
- Communication and Networking.
- Participation in the National and International Fairs.
- Technical Support at work.
- Quality Control of Products.

Social Awareness Programs	Activities in Hand
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education.</li> <li>• Stop Early Marriages.</li> <li>• Create awareness against acid survival</li> <li>• Natural Disaster in the coastal areas of Bangladesh.</li> <li>• Create awareness about Human rights of women.</li> <li>• Help to the victims in RMG sector</li> <li>• Gender Equality.</li> <li>• Help undeveloped women in the society.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are trying to establish a Separate Women Bank.</li> <li>• Creates Fair Business Environment.</li> <li>• Gender awareness on Environment pollution.</li> <li>• Enhancing training on ICT, Outsourcing and Networking.</li> <li>• Development of Business and Sustainability.</li> <li>• Online Marketing.</li> <li>• Quality Control of Products</li> </ul>

Workshops	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concepts on Commercially Viable SME Clusters.</li> <li>• Bankable Projects on SME Financing.</li> <li>• Facilitate of women participations on ICT.</li> <li>• Networking &amp; Online Marketing.</li> <li>• Regulatory Barriers/Challenges in SME Development.</li> <li>• Social Potentiality of Women.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Searching women friendly new SME clusters through sample survey and study.</li> <li>• Women victims of various social mishaps become a burden to their family as well as to the society. They are getting support and help from WEAB.</li> </ul>

## **Past Contribution to enhance Women Empowerment and Skill Development in Bangladesh**

### **Education**

WEAB believes that, prosperity of a nation depends on education which begins right from home. A mother of a family should be given priority on education so that she can educate her children later on. So, WEAB focuses on women education and child education.



### **Skill Development Trainings**

In many cases we find women cannot attain their potentiality due to lack of proper training. WEAB began to conduct several training programs since inception. For example- Now it has 24 SME clusters and some clusters are proven highly beneficial for the women, such as- Agro Based SME Clusters, Jute Clusters, Mushroom Clusters, Herbal Clusters, and Bamboo Clusters etc.



## **Enhance Women Empowerment**

With the aim of empowering women WEAB provides opportunities to women by planning, trainings, organizing seminars, financial assistance and opening a marketing outlet.



## **Gender Equality**

WEAB has organized many programs related to attain gender equality. It always has tried to do something new on Women's Day. It also arranged rallies, seminars and numerous of discussions on the gender equality issue.



## **Social Awareness of Women**

WEAB always emphasized on the social awareness issue. WEAB believes that without being aware about the society a person lives in, she can't take her steps in right direction. So, it provided training and policy advocacy sessions to create awareness amongst women.



## **Humanitarian activities**

WEAB has extended its co-operation to the underprivileged women entrepreneurs by providing financial assistance to them during the difficult time and create values amongst them. Moreover, WEAB also extends its hands immediately where damage and disaster occurred.

### **Helping the injured in Garments Sectors:**

In the disastrous catastrophe of Rana Plaza and Tazreen Garments too many people lost lives or were injured. WEAB extended their helping hand towards the victim and their families caused by this accident. For example- WEAB provided trainings to the Rana plaza women victims..

### **Building home and given fishing nets to the "Sidr"(Natural Disaster) affected people:**

When people of the northern part of Bangladesh became seriously wounded by the cyclone called Sidr. WEAB rushed to the disaster areas in Amtali, Barguna to help the victim by constructing Small Houses provided boats and fishing net to rehabilitate the "Sidr" affected people.



## **Helping the Acid victims survival**

WEAB has helped Acid burn victims by rehabilitant them in society.



### **Stopping Early Marriage:**

WEAB is giving full support to create awareness and stop early marriage, WEAB believes that marriage age should be above 18 years.

### **Stopping violence against Women:**

WEAB has always stood against violence of women in all forms. We are actively involved in creating awareness campaign and building rallies to protect women against rape, torture and other kinds of violence.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN  
During a rally to fight violence against women, activists light up candles and torches at 12:01am today, also marking the International Day of the Girl Child.



### **Helping the Widow:**

WEAB is also working to develop Entrepreneurship amongst widows to help them stand on their own feet.

**Rehabilitation of Paralyzed/addicted Women:** WEAB has contributed to the rehabilitation of physically challenged women as well as women addict.



### **Establish Position of Women in Society**

Without being money earner and financial contributor any person can't be empowered and make her own position as an individual in the eye of the society. Before WEAB, the way was unknown and rough for the most of the women of our country. WEAB has made it easy and has created an environment for the women folk of Bangladesh to work for own.



## Providing Scope for the women to Participate

There was a time when women couldn't work. That's not because they were unskilled or incapable. The reason was that there were many drawbacks, such as- religious, social, financial etc. they had no or limited scope to prove themselves. There was no training, direction or any financial help. Through its various activities, like- training sessions, discussions, writings, financial help WEAB have made scope for those unprivileged women to prove themselves.

## Recognition of successful Women Entrepreneur



## Contribution/Support on Education:

School Establishment and distribution of free books and material to student from indigenous community Kasiapunji, Laoachhora, Moulavi Bazar.





The rural and unprivileged women of Bangladesh who in spite of having potential can't participate in the mainstream market and can't show their work, Sheuti is for them. It's situated in 67, Kalabagan, Mirpur Road, dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205. Sheuti is a Marketing outlet for women in Bangladesh to display and Marketing of their products without interfering of any middlemen. It is the pioneer Marketing outlet of SME products for women. Women entrepreneur from all over the country, even the remotest areas of Bangladesh, bring their products to Sheuti.

### **WEAB & Associates:**

- SAWDF (South Asian Women Development Forum)
- SCWEC (SAARC Chamber of Women Entrepreneur Council)
- WEAB is a member of SCWEC & SAWDF, Through SCWEC & SAWDF, and WEAB is trying to develop women entrepreneurship and human rights throughout other SAARC countries. Most women in SAARC countries face similar problems in a largely male dominated society.

### **Recent Linked Activities with Different Organizations**

- **HIDA**
- WEAB recently worked with a Global Internship Program organized by HIDA. Ms. Moeko had a successful Intern Session in WEAB on SME Development of Bangladesh.



### **WSDA**

WEAB had few advanced training sessions with Workplace Skills Development Academy (WSDA)



- **United Hospital**
- United hospital is another big project companion of WEAB, where this two organizations arrange seminars with a regular interval. Here they focus on the different types of physical problems of women and try to make the women aware about these problems through various seminars and open discussions.



### c) Measurement of Outcome: (Last 2-3 years)

1.

Serial No	Category	Numbers	Participations
1	Training Programs	72	2,160
2	Local Trade Fairs	144	4,320
3	International Trade Fairs	36	288
4	Workshops/Seminars	45	2,250

2. WEAB has 6000 + members throughout the country and their participations are making remarkable effort to change the scene of women positions in the society and contributing in the economic development of our country.

3. Enhanced the Leadership quality of women and started to make mark in the society as potential Businessperson.

4. Women are now concern about their human rights and percentage of suffering by the society is comparatively low.

5. Women are now efficient at Corporate Culture and adapted with the cultural change.

6. Reduction of illiteracy day by day.

7. Women are very promising in Agro sector and in different challenging professions.

8. Women are getting prominent attaching in Global Networking and Interactions.

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