

*The role of BWCCI in promoting women's participation in the energy sector as entrepreneurs in the marketing of emerging and innovative technologies.*

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# ADB and BWCCI

- ADB and BWCCI have started their journey since September 2010. In consistency of this, with the technical and financial assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), BWCCI had implemented a project from August 2013 to November 2014 in Hatiya Upazila, Noakhali, which was entitled as “Enabling Poor Women’s Participation in the Renewable Energy Sector in Bangladesh”
- After the successful completion of that project, BWCCI had started implementing another project at Hatiya Island with the technical and financial assistance of ADB from October 2015 to September 2016. The project name was “Enabling poor women’s benefits from enhanced access to energy in Hatiya Island”. The working areas were Sonadiya, Burirchar and Jahajmara unions of Hatiya Upazila.

# 1. **Project Name:** Enabling Poor Women's Participation in the Renewable Energy Sector in Bangladesh

- Project period: *August 2013 to November 2014*

## **Expected Impact:**

Increased employment and livelihood opportunities for poor women in the renewable energy sector towards their economic empowerment.

## **Expected Outcome:**

Participation of poor women and ensure their entrance, development and sustainability in the renewable energy sector.

# Activities done and achievements

- Through this project, BWCCI had received great opportunity to increase women's employment and income generation activities related to renewable energy sector.



- 400 women directly gained technical knowhow on the installation and use of the improved cook stoves through training.
- After received this training, the women of Hatiya learnt to make improved cook stoves and getting involved with business by selling their improved cook stoves.

- 400 women also received livelihood enhancement skill training on candle making, block - batik print, homestead gardening, live stock (poultry, cow and goat rearing) and tailoring with Entrepreneurship Development training.



- These trainings created an opportunity to develop entrepreneurship for the women in Hatiya and they got involved in business.

- Having received these trainings, more than 10% women (from the base line) created their own enterprises based on manufacturing and selling of ICS, handicrafts, candle making, solar energy.

*(BWCCI conducted a baseline and found that out of 540 women respondent 4% were involved with different enterprises)*



- Upazila Govt. Officials supported BWCCI in organizing different events fruitfully. They also participated as resource persons in the technical skill training sessions. Their active involvement encouraged participants more to get involved in business.



- Local MP, Upazilla Ward Commissioners, UP Chairman and Members have extended their supportive hand to complete the project successfully.

## 2. **Project Name:** *Enabling Poor Women's Benefits from Enhanced Access to Energy in Hatiya Island*

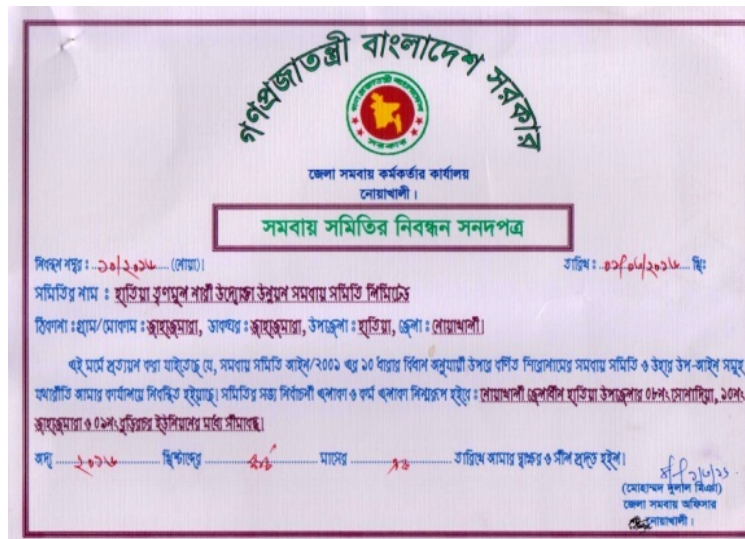
**Project Period:** *October 2015 to September 2016*

- **Impact of the Project:** Increased employment and livelihood opportunities for women living below the poverty line (BPL) residing in Hatiya Island
- **Location:** 3 Unions of Hatiya Island (Jahajmara, Burirchar and Sonadia), Noakhali, Bangladesh



# Activities and achievements

- Formation of the “*Hatiya Grassroots' Women Entrepreneurs' Development Cooperative Society*”



*Cooperative society's women received the registration certificate from the upazilla cooperative office of Hatiya.*

- Signed an agreement for working together with the Jahajmara union parishad, 3 schools of Jahajmara, Burirchar and Sonadia unions to raise awareness on solar panel, solar water pump and use of ICT.



- Training and workshop on women entrepreneurship development in 3 Unions of Hatiya

- Workshop on gender and development and challenges and Prospects of Women in Renewable Energy with different stakeholders



- Inception workshop.

# What more can and needs to be done

- New projects should be initiated to develop and build capacity of women through training, facilitating access to market and access to finance for bringing gender equality through economic empowerment in the energy related sector.
- Awareness raising activity need to be undertaken for building gender friendly environment for women in energy sector.
- Emphasis should be put on industry-specific technical knowledge in terms of designing skill development trainings
- Developing and facilitating women entrepreneurial ecosystem so that the path to become a successful woman entrepreneur becomes smoother.
- Local political leaders could extend their cooperation in regional development of women entrepreneurs.

# Success Story: Rokhsana Begum, Hatiya

Rokhsana Begum, a widow of Hatiya Island who has to bear all expenses of her family. She has two daughters and two sons in her family. To cope up with the daily needs of her family, she started tailoring business at home from 2012. She received training from Jubo Unnayan Shangshtha, local Govt. Office of hatiya. After some times, she started a small poultry farm. She took 15000 Taka loan from Grameen bank in Hatiya at high interest rate. She bought sewing machine with 5000 taka and invested 10000 taka for poultry business. But due to lack of sufficient electricity in Hatiya, she couldn't make it successful.



Then she joined BWCCI's group activity in September 2013, when BWCCI had started work in Hatiya. She received technical skill training on installation, operation and maintenance of Improved Cook Stoves and candle making from BWCCI. After receiving those trainings she initiated her own business of Improved Cook Stove (ICS) production with an investment of 25000 taka which she earned from her tailoring and poultry business. Now her sales around 20 to 25 no. of ICS per month and net profit is around 7000 to 8000 taka per month. This helps her to maintain her family expenses and establishing herself as a successful women entrepreneur.

Now she is dreaming to start another wing of her business to produce candle commercially and supply to all over Hatiya and Noakhali district.



Thank you