

Day Observance

International Women's Day: 08th March, 2010

This is the 100th anniversary of the declaration of Women's day. This year's theme is – “**Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities: Progress for All**”.

The International **Women's Day**, 2010 was observed at Democracywatch by organizing a seminar at the Democracywatch Auditorium on 10th March at 3.00 p.m. **Ms. Latifa Akand** was the chief guest of the occasion. **Mr. Abdur Rahim Khan**, Director, Social Science Research Council and **Dr. Abul Hossain**, Project Director, Multi-Sectoral Program on Violence against Women, MOWCA, GOB were the special guest of the program. **Ms. Taleya Rehman**, Executive Director of Democracywatch, was the moderator of the program. Resource persons from different sectors shared, presented and expressed their experiences, knowledge and views as panelists.

Ms. Nargis Akhter, Film Maker; **Khondokar Sajia Afrin**, Entrepreneur, Emith; **Kakoli Prodhon**, Senior Photo Journalist, Daily Kaler Kantho and **Mahfuza Akhter Kiron**, Secretary, Bangladesh Mahila Kira Shangstha attended the function as panelists.

A number of NGO activists, change makers, journalists, and training participants attended the seminar. Basically the seminar provided a platform for both the panelists and participants to share information, perceptions and attitudes. At the same time the open discussion session provided the opportunity to receive response from the participants with different suggestions and recommendations. Among the panelists, Dr. Hossain made his presentation first and then the seminar was moderated by Mr. Feroz through the raising of different issues and points. Different perspectives and recommendations came forward which are the extension of the theme of 2010 International Day for Women: of Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities: Progress for All”.

Ms. Taleya Rehman:

In the celebration program of the hundred years of International Women's Day Executive director Taleya Rehman hoped to move forward to the future with the inspiration of resolution of the 100th year of International Women Day. On the basis of the of the Women's Day theme “Equal rights, Equal Opportunities: Progress for All” of 100th year of International women day she also suggested that each of us should be committed to do at least one good thing a day everyday for the improvement of women's development.



Ms. Kakoli Prodhan:



She is the senior photo journalist of The Daily Kaler Kontho. She mentioned that her father encouraged her to be a journalist. Her father's thought and inspirations guided her to become a journalist. At the very beginning, she faced many obstacles from her male colleagues. But her husband helped her to reorganize her skills. She also mentioned that she had prepared herself in a big way properly to join this profession. Though a few senior male journalists teased her, she managed to establish herself as a successful photo journalist by her photography skills. Today she is one of the leading personalities

in this sector.

Mahfuja Akhter Kiron:

Kiron was very ambitious since childhood. After the completion of her university education, she competed for BCS, but did not join. She started her career as an entrepreneur. At the beginning, renowned personalities like Ali Zaker, Sara Zaker were her competitor. But her determination moves her to her goal to be as an entrepreneur. Since student life, she is involved to politics as well as sports. According to her, honesty and commitment towards work has built her image in such a way that no political government could ever replace to replace her from *Mahila Krira Shangstha* that is because of her integrity determination that has taken her to such a height.



Khondokar Sajia Afrin:



Sajia is the owner of a boutique shop. She started her life as a drama activist, later on moved to business. Her husband and father-in-law were the main inspirations behind her dream. Currently, she is working with USAID on a social puppet show ` *SisimPur*'. She worked as costume designer in the Bangla feature film '*Monpura*'. Family support is the biggest support behind her success; she mentioned that without the support of her husband and in-laws she could not have achieved her desired success.

Nargis Akhter:

Nargis Akhter is a renowned film director. She said that men can never be the barrier in women's life. Women can carry out film direction as good as men if she has proper knowledge about film, technique and related issues. While carrying out her professional carrier she got support from her father, husband and son. In her film she tried to let the people know about AIDS- its what's, whys and how's.

**Dr. Abul Hossain:**

Dr. Hossain mentioned that to participate in any work a person needed to be self confident and hard working, which made that person successful in life. This is true for both men and women.

**Dr. Abdur Rahim Khan:**

The special guest of the program Dr. Abdur Rahim Khan said that he felt proud of the four discussant presented in the program, as they are successful in spite of being women in a non- traditional sector. He also added that we have to understand gender discrimination from the perspective of gender issue.

**Selina Akhter:**

She is an entrepreneur. She started her career as an NGO activist and was a Daily star Best entrepreneur awarded. Currently she is working with elderly people. She is running an Old Age home Arunima. She believes that our senior citizen's need equal attention and support like other citizen of the country.

Professor Latifa Akand:

Chief guest Professor Latifa Akand highly appreciated the four discussants spirit and achievements. She mentioned that she was very impressed with the performance of these young women. She also believes that this young group of women did not only had dreams but it by their hard work and honesty. Ms. Akand wished that their achievements would be acknowledged globally and our duty would be to nurture them for a trusted it into realities by better world for women.

Conclusion:

The honorable guests of the program agreed that determination, hard work and honesty are very can also plays important factors which help both men and women to achieve success in life. Besides these factors, family can play an important role towards making successful women. Moreover, a woman should set the goal of her life, what she wants to be in life. In addition, people from all sections, sectors and levels should change the attitudes and mindset towards women which would ultimately benefit the society and its inhabitants.