



THE
HUNGER
PROJECT

Political Participation of Women for Equal Rights (POWER) Project

Final Evaluation Report 2017

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BNN	: Bikishita Nari Network
BS	: Baseline Study
DAC	: Development Assistance Competency
FE	: Final Evaluation
FGD	: Focus Group Discussion
GBV	: Gender Based Violence
IDI	: In-Depth Interview
KII	: Key Informant Interview
LG	: Local Government
MEL	: Monitoring Evaluation and Learning
OCED	: Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development
POWER	: Political Participation of Women for Equal Rights
SGD	: Small Group Discussion
THP-B	: The Hunger Project- Bangladesh
UNO	: Upazila Nirbahi Officer
UP	: Union Parshad
UzP	: Upazila Parishad
VAW	: Violence against Women

Contents

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	2
List of Tables	5
List of Figures	5
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	6
1. SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION	8
1.1 Background of the project	8
1.2 Outcomes of the project	8
1.3 Targets, locations and major activities of the project.....	9
1.4 Objectives and methodological steps of the final evaluation.....	9
1.5 Methods for data collection.....	10
1.6 Sampling.....	11
1.7 Respondents of the study.....	12
1.8 Limitation and Challenges of the evaluation.....	12
1.9 Structure of the report	13
2. SECTION TWO: FINDINGS OF THE EVALUATION.....	14
2.1 Empowerment through Awareness, Decision Making & Political Participation.....	14
Awareness about self and community	14
Decision Making.....	18
Leadership Skills	20
Political Participation	22
2.2 Effectiveness of Women’s Political Participation.....	25
Performance of the women leaders	25
Challenges and barriers	26
Citizen Rights and availing Government Services	27
Preventing VAW	28
2.3 Most significant changes observed	29
Envisioning for political career	29
Religious and Social Harmony	30
Women’s local level networking.....	30
2.4 Challenges of the women leaders and limitations of the project.....	30

Recognition of women’s contribution & unchallenged male domination.....	30
Lack of integration with women’s economic empowerment	31
Selection of women leaders	31
Adopting learning trough MEL functions	31
2.5 Overall evaluation of the project (OECD DAC Criteria).....	32
3. SECTION THREE: CONLCUSION AND WAY FORWARD	33
REFERENCES	35
ANNEXURE:	36
1. All Tables.....	36
Ability to change things in the community	36
Comfortability in public speaking	36
Efficiency of the community leaders in solving community problems.....	36
Acceptability of VAW in the community.....	37
Primary responsibility of taking decision at household and community level.....	38
Status of VAW in the community	40
Exercising Citizens Rights.....	40
Changes in women’s safety in public places	40
Understanding the social and religious harmony	41
2. Targets and achievements of the project.....	42
3. Sampling (Union and Village selection).....	43
4. List of documents reviewed	44
5. Guiding Questions for Qualitative Data Collection.....	44

List of Tables

Table 1: Selected Unions for the Household Survey	11
Table 2: Selected Unions, Number of households (religion wise distribution).....	11
Table 3: Methods and respective respondents	12
Table 4: different areas of exercising political rights	23
Table 5: Reasons for the dropout	26
Table 7: Overall evaluation of the project	32
Table 8: Whether I can change things in my community	36
Table 9: Comfortability in speaking at community meetings and forums.....	36
Table 10: Effectiveness of the leadership in solving community problem.....	36
Table 11: Whether it is acceptable for a husband to hit his wife	37
Table 12: Different areas of exercising political rights	37
Table 13: Whether if a woman is in hit she should report to the authorities	38
Table 14: Whether community members should intervene in case of domestic violence.....	38
Table 15: Primary responsibility of making decision at community level	38
Table 16: Primary responsibility for decision making at household level.....	39
Table 17: Satisfaction level on received services	39
Table 18: Whether VAW exists in the community.....	40
Table 19: Women are safe at public places	40
Table 20: Women's safety in public places.....	40
Table 21: Different areas social & religious harmony.....	41
Table 22: Targets versus achievements of the project	42
Table 23: Details on Sampling.....	43
Table 24: List of Documents reviewed.....	44

List of Figures

Figure 1: Ability to change community; N (BS=689, FE=617)	15
Figure 2: Leaders are capable of solving communities' problem; N (BS=689, FE=617)	15
Figure 3: It is acceptable in the community for a husband to hit his wife; N (BS=689, FE=617)	17
Figure 4: Women should report to authorities when hit by husbands; N (BS=689, FE=617).....	17
Figure 5: Community should intervene when domestic VAW happens; N (BS=689, FE=617)..	18
Figure 6: Comfortability of public speaking (N=617).....	21
Figure 7: Change occurred in different areas of political participation; N (BS=689, FE=617) ...	24
Figure 8: Women are safe at public places	27
Figure 9: Satisfaction level on received services (N=612)	28
Figure 10: VAW exists in the community	29

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Hunger Project (THP)- a USA based global nonprofit organization. THP takes sustainable, grassroots and women-centered strategies and promotes those strategies in countries across the world to end hunger and poverty. With the funding support from The Hunger Project- Netherlands, THP Bangladesh implemented a three years project titled POWER (Political Participation of Women for Equal Rights) in all 14 Unions of Dumuria Upazila of Khulna district of Bangladesh. The evaluation applying mixed methods (KII, IDI, FGD & Survey) for data collection tries to assess the extent of increase of women leaders' participation in the local government level and to measure the extent of effectiveness of their increased political participation.

The findings demonstrate that the project has significant contribution in building awareness among women and women leaders in Dumuria Upazila. It also has been found that because of enhanced awareness among women and women leaders, there have been positive changes in the community. The trained women leaders were found to be very impressive. They seem strong, articulate, confident, visible, mobile and well-networked with different individuals and organizations. Positive changes are also observed in protesting VAW at domestic spheres and reporting to authority in case of incidents of VAW. In addition, women's decision making at household level has increased significantly but at the community level, it is at surface level. Although some positive changes are noticed, decision making at the community or public spheres is largely dominated by males. Addressing the ever-pervasive patriarchal values and practices is not easy and patriarchy remains as a big challenge for such interventions at the community level. Nevertheless, while assessing women's political participation, three areas of political participation such as, casting vote and contesting in election; participating in open budget and Ward Shobha; and membership with different community forums, associations, platforms etc. were considered. It has been found that in the last UP or national election, casting vote has increased at 9%. Similarly, in the last UP election held in 2016, 152 women leaders contested (26 more in comparison with last UP election). Out of them, 40 contestants were directly involved with POWER Project and out of those contestants, 18 got elected. Membership with different organizations, cooperatives, platforms etc. has been increased moderately. However, participation in open budget meeting has been decreased while in Ward Shobha it increased-- though insignificantly. However, it was found that due to heavy rainfall during budgeting period, the open budget meeting needed to be cancelled for a number of times which contributed to low turnout to the meeting that took place inside the UP office.

In brief, most significant impacts the project has and contributed to is to instill a vision for political career among women leaders, facilitating religious and social harmony and facilitating women's local level networking. However, the evaluation found number of limitations of the project as well.

These include; selection of women leaders was not done through best possible way which resulted discontinuation of 23% of the women leaders. Very little or no attention was found to challenge male hegemony around political spheres. Similarly, having no or little scope for income earning activities, women's dependency on men remained as a big challenge. Thus, the evaluation report concludes with number of recommendations and way forward. The recommendations include upscaling the project, mentoring support to women leaders until next UP election, selecting appropriate women leadership and providing support and training, creating income earning opportunities and adding women's economic activities to facilitate independent income, more integration between MEL and program and lastly taking cognizance of learning agendas and MEL guidelines for any such future project initiatives.

1. SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION

The Hunger Project is a global nonprofit organization with its headquarter in New York, USA. With its mission to end hunger and poverty, the Hunger Project takes sustainable, grassroots and women-centered strategies and promotes those strategies in countries across the world. The Hunger Project envisions a world where every woman, man and child leads a healthy, fulfilling life of self-reliance and dignity. With its presence in 22 countries, the Hunger Project through authentic partnership approach facilitates global movement of individuals and organizations for sustainable end of hunger.

The Hunger Project- Bangladesh (THP- B) established in 1991, is the largest volunteer-based organization in Bangladesh. THP-B bases on its strategies on the principles of self-reliance, gender equality, human dignity, sustainability, volunteerism and local leadership. THP-B through effective partnership with elected local leaders and community leaders catalyzes sustainable, inclusive and community-led development. It promotes local led solutions to avoid long-practiced culture of dependency.

1.1 Background of the project

Keeping in mind the above mission and vision, THP-B has implemented a project titled Political Participation of Women for Equal Rights (POWER) in all 14 Unions of Dumuria Upazila of Khulna district. The project was implemented with funding support from The Hunger Project-Netherlands. The Hunger Project Global Office was also significantly involved in designing the project. Broadly, the POWER project aimed to empower leaders to engage women meaningfully and equally in all decision-making processes in community and local government level. It was expected to influence policies and promote gender sensitive planning. THP-B believes that gender inequality and Violence against women (VAW) are both a cause and result of women's limited political participation. In the same vein, all sort of discrimination against women, violence and threats of violence create barriers to women to get involved in the leadership roles. This ultimately results inappropriate development and poor implementation of laws to reduce discrimination and VAW.

1.2 Outcomes of the project

Keeping the broad picture of discrimination and VAW in mind, the project aimed to empower women politically so that they can get engaged in the community and local government level. In materializing this overall objective, the project worked around two specific outcomes which are mentioned below:

- a) First outcome is increased female participation in local government in one sub-district of Bangladesh by 2017.
- b) Second outcome is increased effectiveness of political participation of women at local Government level in one sub-district of Bangladesh.

1.3 Targets, locations and major activities of the project

The three years (January 2015 to September 2017) project had target to capacitate 250 women leaders from all 14 Unions of Dumuria Upazila. Capacitated women leaders were expected to support their fellow women in their respective community. Therefore, besides building leadership capacity of 250 women, the project has undertaken numbers of activities. Major activities of the project are as follow:

- a) Mobilizing community (through Bi-monthly Follow Up with Animators at Ward level).
- b) Empowering women (through follow up and training, establishing women's network, organizing women's conference at national level, facilitating women to participate in the local level election and so on).
- c) Sensitizing elected representative on gender and Gender based violence (GBV)
- d) Engaging youth in social action
- e) Advocacy & Alliances for policy reform and legal aid (through forming village chapter of the Girl Child Advocacy Forum, organizing workshop on legal and human rights, organizing roundtable discussion on implementation of women's Advancement policy and providing legal support as needed)

1.4 Objectives and methodological steps of the final evaluation

In this backdrop, this particular evaluation aims to achieve the following objectives:

- a. To understand extent of the empowerment of women leaders in the target area with regard to decision-making at the community and local government level compared to the last three years.
- b. To understand whether and to what extent women leaders in the target area utilize their leadership potential by overcoming barriers that infringe their human rights and support them to effectively address discrimination and VAW in their communities compared to the last three years.
- c. Identify key success factors and challenges for the project which would be relevant for scaling up interventions in future.
- d. Capture and document key learning of the project that can be used for future programme development.

To achieve the above objectives, the following key evaluation questions are expected to be addressed:

- a) To what extent women leaders in the target area are empowered in decision-making at the community and local government level compared to the last three years?
- b) To what extent the women leaders in the target area utilize their leadership potential by overcoming barriers that infringe their human rights and support them to effectively address discrimination and VAW in their communities compared to the last three years?
- c) What are the key success factors and challenges of the project which would be relevant for scaling up intervention in future?
- d) What are the key learning of the project that can be used for future programme development?

To achieve the above objectives, the evaluation has been conducted applying mixed methods. Both secondary and primary data have been used for the evaluation. Primary data has been collected through a number of qualitative and quantitative data collection methods.

Quantitative data has been collected through iBuilders App which is managed by The Hunger Project Global Office. After sampling design, enumerators for field level collection has been selected and trained. Along with the consultant team, THP-B Monitoring Evaluation & Learning (MEL) team was also involved in supporting survey conduction at the field level and facilitating field research. After completion of the survey, all quantitative data has been exported to MS Excel format for analysis.

The consultant team led the rest of the data collection process and functions. Data collected through Focus Group Discussion (FGD), In-Depth Interview (IDI), Case Study, Key Informant Interview (KII) and Small Group Discussion (SGD) were analyzed manually through a thematic analysis approach. During qualitative data collection, a research assistant was assigned to take note. In addition to note taking, to ensure the accuracy and depth of the collected data, all discussions have also been recorded with respondents' permission.

1.5 Methods for data collection

The qualitative methods include FGD, IDI, Case Study, KII and SGD and the quantitative data has been collected through Household Survey. All Unions of the Dumuria Upazila are under Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Unions of the organization. Therefore, during the baseline study, large amount of quantitative data were also collected. The Household Survey was mainly conducted to compare the present situation against certain selective indicators. The secondary data include different reports (related to POWER project), relevant literature, project brochure etc. Please refer annexure for details of the [documents](#) reviewed.

1.6 Sampling

Out of the 14 Unions where the project was implemented, 7 were selected for the Household Survey. To remain consistent with the methodology of the baseline study, the number of household has been kept at 530. Multi-stage cluster sampling was followed to reach to the selected households. Details of all Unions and demographic information of the respective Union are presented in the [annexure](#). Table (1) presents the basic profile of the selected Unions.

Table 1: Selected Unions for the Household Survey

Sl	Union name	Population 2016 (Total)	Zone
1.	Atlia	32,623	West
2.	Sovna	19,944	West
3.	Bhandar para	16,950	South
4.	Sarappur	16,294	South
5.	Dhamalia	22,507	North
6.	Raghunathpur	26,127	North
7.	Dumuria	29,593	Centre

However, during the survey, because of some precautionary measures total number of household survey was increased to 559. After data cleaning, it came down to 542. Among the four selected Unions Atlia and Dumuria are with the highest proportion of population density. The table below (2) shows religion wise distribution of the households in particular unions.

Table 2: Selected Unions, Number of households (religion wise distribution)

Name of the Union	Hindu	Muslim	Total
Bandarpara	79	15	94
Atlia	31	43	74
Dhamalia	2	72	74
Dumuria	22	85	107
Raghunatpur	47	24	71
Sarappur	0	25	25
Sovna	65	32	97
Grand Total	246	296	542

In table (2), it is clearly visible that from Dumuria Union the highest number of respondents participated in the survey, while the lowest number remains for Sarappur. It should also be noted that out of the 542 sample households, 45% belong to Hindu religion. Union-wise Bandarpara, Raghunathpur and Shovna are Hindu

majority areas where as the rest and particularly Dumuria are amongst the Muslim majority areas.

1.7 Respondents of the study

Considering type of data required, checklists for respective methods were developed. To better enrich the data sources, each of the method had distinct set of respondents. For example, Household Survey was conducted with community people (both men and women), FGDs & SGDs were conducted with women leaders and youth leaders, IDI and case studies were with women leaders and project staff and KIIs with members of the UP, UzP, Government Officials (Upazila Youth Development Officer, Upazila Women Affairs Officer) and School Teachers. The Table below (3) presents details of methods used and their respective respondents.

Table 3: Methods and respective respondents

Name of the method	Quantity	Category of Respondents
Household Survey	542 (Number of respondents = 617)	Community men and women
Focus Group Discussion (FGD)	2 (Number of respondents = 20)	women leaders, youth leaders
Small Group Discussion (SGD)	2 (Number of respondents = 9)	women leaders, youth leaders
In-depth Interview	5	Women leaders, project staff
Case Study	10	
Key Informant Interview (KII)	11 (5 women & 6 Men)	Member of Union Parishad, Member of Upazila Parishad, Government Officials at Upazila Level and School teacher.

1.8 Limitation and Challenges of the evaluation

The evaluation has number of limitations. Some of them are as follows;

a) Inadequate data in the baseline report related to project outcomes

The baseline report contains a lot of data related to sustainable development goals (SDGs) and related indicators. But it does not have many required data related to project outcomes. Therefore, even in some cases, recall method was applied to compare the present situation with its 3 years back status but it was not possible for all cases. Thus, the final evaluation report could not follow any single style of reporting. Comparative analysis had to follow different modes for each cases or issues depending upon availability of data and information.

b) Time of the KII respondents

Since the project is about political empowerment of women, interviewing some of the political leaders (Upazila Chairman & Vice-Chairman for example) and important officials of Dumuria Upazila was essential. But from their end, allocating time for this kind of interaction was not easy. Nevertheless, in most of the cases the interviews were heavily interrupted by the visitors.

c) Number of the male respondents 207 against 410

During the statistical analysis (wherever applicable), male female comparison was an essential feature throughout the report. But in the survey, total number of female respondents was simply double of male respondents. This limits drawing confident statistical inference. On the other hand, information gathered from larger number of women compared to male was beneficial from gender perspective as more information was gathered reflecting the perception of women.

1.8 Data and its large sizes

A huge amount of data was gathered from the survey, FGD, and many other qualitative data through KII, IDI, case study and in-depth interview with relevant stakeholders. Not all the information and data were used in this report. Only a set of relevant data which were considered to be pertinent and significant to this evaluation were addressed and analyzed. Combining both qualitative and quantitative data was another challenge.

1.9 Structure of the report

This report has three broad sections. The **first** one deals with introduction of the report which contains basic information about the organization and the project, objectives and methodological steps of the evaluation, methods for data collection, sampling for the household survey, brief information on different category of the respondents and then limitations of this evaluation report.

The **second** section presents key findings of the report. It has sub-sections on female participation in the local government level, effectiveness of women's political participation, progress against WEI, most significant change and effectiveness of the programme delivery.

The **third** and last section of the report consists of conclusion and recommendations for way forward.

2. SECTION TWO: FINDINGS OF THE EVALUATION

This section of the report presents key findings of the evaluation. It has five broad sections. These are; Empowerment through awareness, decision making and political participation, effectiveness of women's political participation, most significant change, challenges of the women leaders and limitations of the project and overall evaluations (following OCED DAC criteria) of the project .

2.1 Empowerment through Awareness, Decision Making & Political Participation

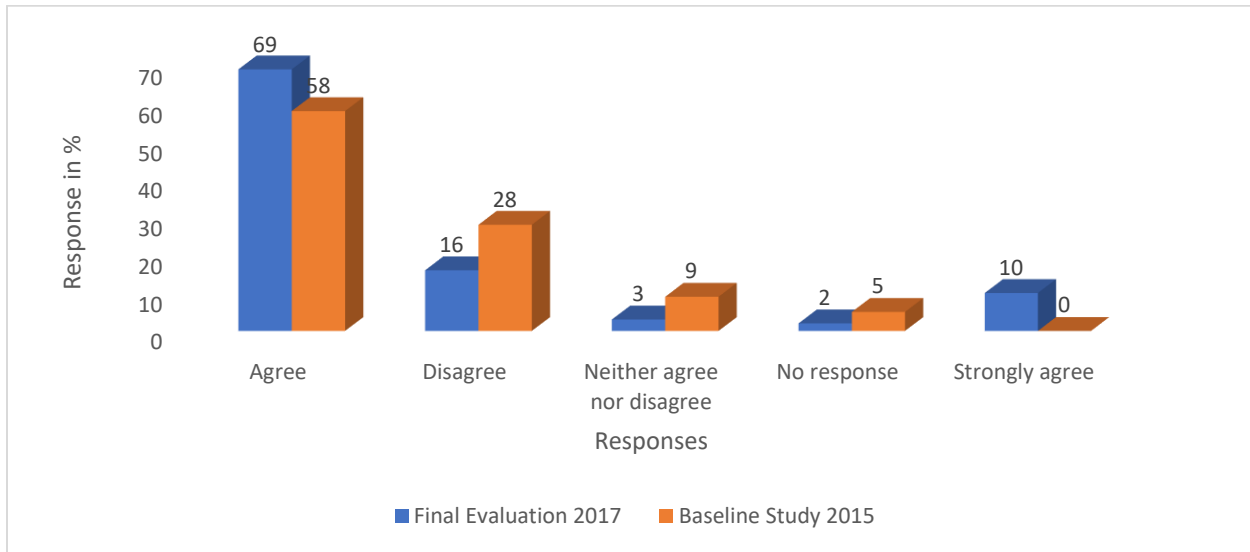
Awareness about self and community

In the study, it has been found that the project has significant contribution in building awareness among women and women leaders in Dumuria Upazila. It also has been found that because of enhanced awareness among women and women leaders, there have been positive changes in the community. In a FGD in Atlia Union, participants were narrating the changes taking place because of their enhanced awareness,

Because of this awareness, women are advancing in all spheres of life. Children's dropout from school has decreased; early marriage has also decreased drastically. Only in rare cases, it (early marriage) takes place but the parents do it very secretly – not in public. They take the girl to a far away place (to relative's house, in many cases) for arranging such marriages. Whenever we know of such cases we do consult with Upazila Women Affairs Officer, UP Chairman and Members and seek their assistance to stop child marriage. (from a woman leader from Dumuria)

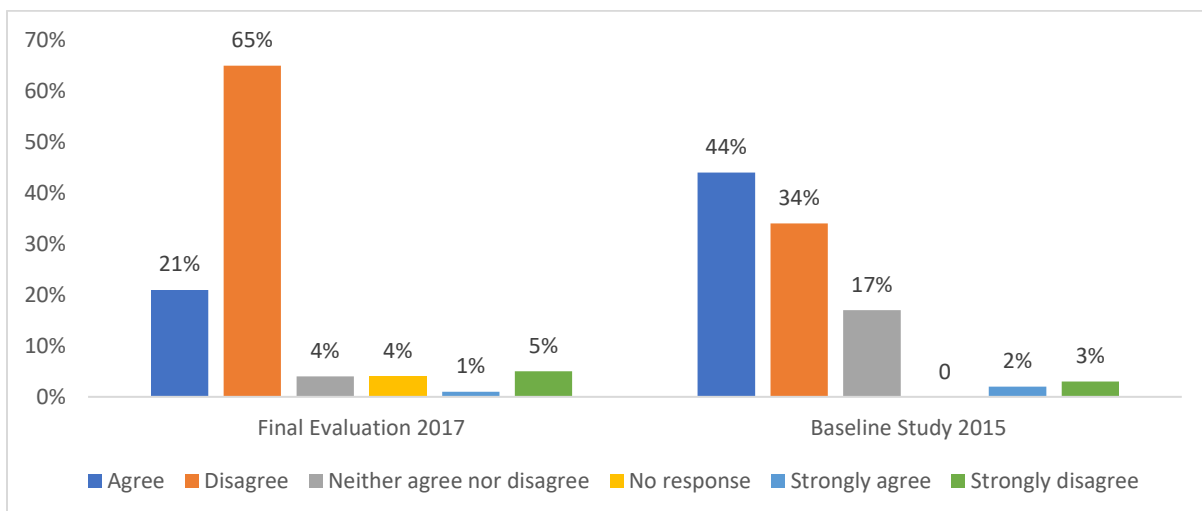
With such spirit of awareness, in the survey 10% of the respondents have strongly agreed and 69% of them have agreed with the statement “I feel, I can change things in my community, if I want to”. However, it needs to be noted that 16% of the respondents have disagreed with the statement. Interestingly, both men and women have almost same opinion with regard to their ability to change the community. In the survey, 68% of female respondents and 71% of the male respondents have shared that they have the ability to change the society. Cumulative findings have been presented in figure 1.

Figure 1: Ability to change community; N (BS=689, FE=617)



In the previous section, it was found that the male respondents were found to be more positive with regard to their ability to change their community. Voices from a male respondent reveals more effectively of such understanding of the community: “I feel the leaders in my community are effective in solving our community's problems”. In the survey, 74% of the female respondents disagreed (including 6% strongly disagreed), while 62 % of the male respondents disagreed with the statement. It means female respondents are more critical than of male respondents about the performance of the community leaders in solving the problems of the community. This is may be because of currently more men hold leadership position in the community. Thus, men are more confident and they might feel that their performance is satisfactory, while women facing relatively more disadvantageous situation are apprehensive and have different opinions regarding performance of the community leaders.

Figure 2: Leaders are capable of solving communities’ problem; N (BS=689, FE=617)



More in-depth one on one interview and FGD revealed female leaders who have received training from POWER project were found to be very impressive. They are strong, articulate, confident, visible and mobile, have good network with the UP offices and other organizations in the community. They feel that they have traversed a long way and POWER project was critical to their growth and development. They have a dream to be a leader, to make a contribution, to bring some changes and to work for the community and its betterment. Their voice and expression, body language and articulation are notable and inspiring. One of the women leaders SGD in Sovna said,

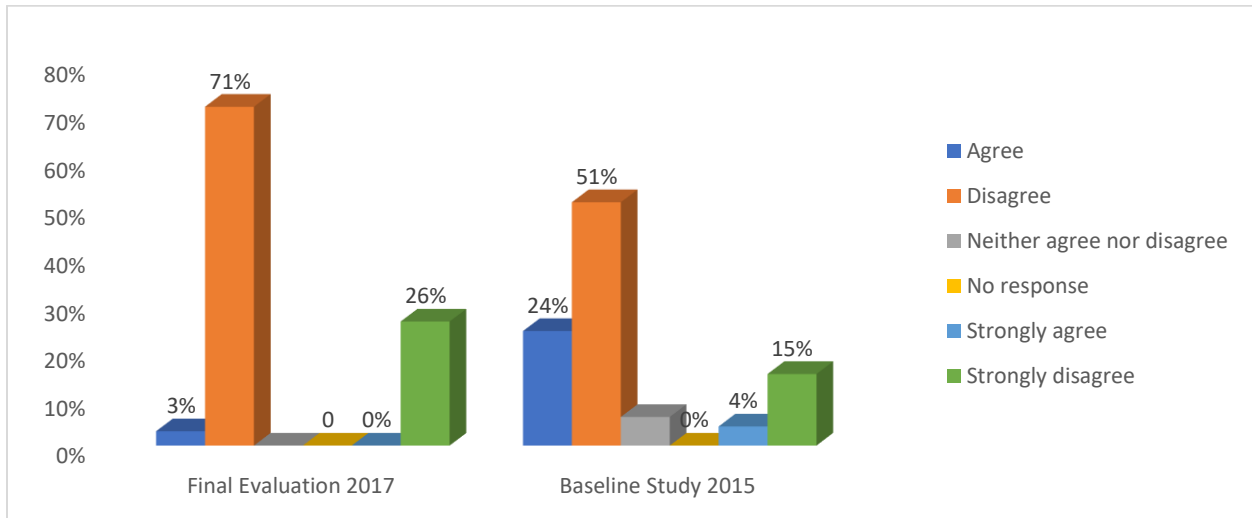
I was a little bud and became a full bloomed flower through my involvement with the power project.

They themselves feel that they are empowered, well informed, well connected and they believe that they can bring meaningful changes in the lives of the community. They also feel respected, given importance by the government officials and general people of the community. Despite hindrances and resistance from a few conservative forces from the in laws, family, older generations and sometimes husbands. They feel that they are making important contributions in the community, applying their knowledge in awareness raising, fighting social backwardness like VAW, child marriage, dowry, discriminatory gender practices, consciousness raising, addressing maternal and child health, mobilizing and networking etc. They were enriched by the training they received from the POWER project.

Similarly, awareness about domestic VAW has been increased among both men and women. In the survey findings, it has been seen that 97%¹ of the respondents disagreed with the statement “it is acceptable in the community for a husband to hit his wife”. As findings demonstrate, over the last three years significant progress has been made in this area. In the baseline study, 67% of the respondents considered that hitting of wife by husband was acceptable in the community. It has been presented I figure 3. Please see table 13 for details comparison with baseline data in the [annexure](#).

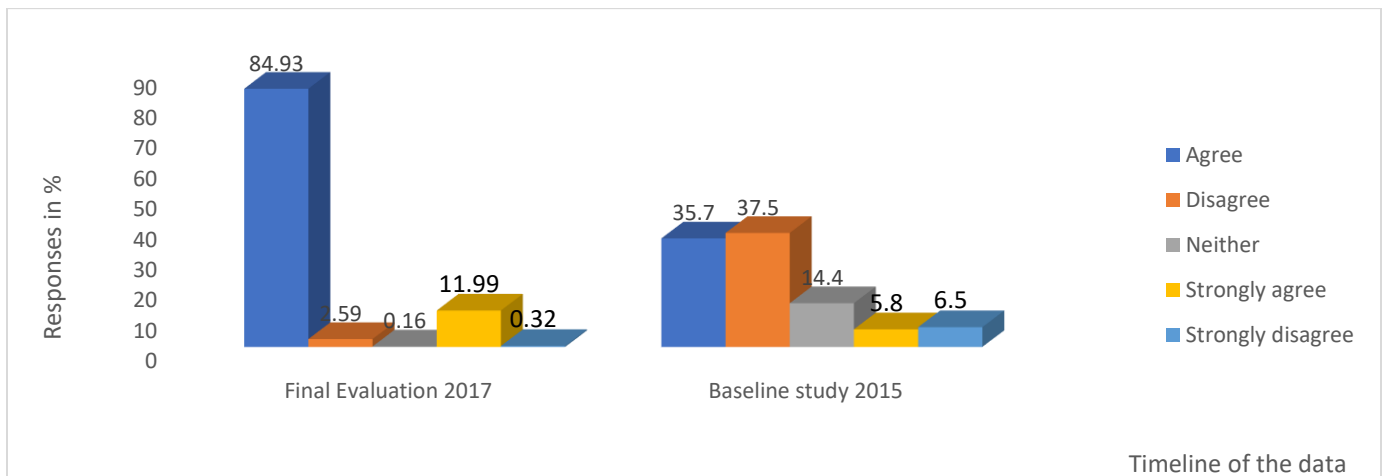
¹ Sex-disaggregated data show the same % here.

Figure 3: It is acceptable in the community for a husband to hit his wife; N (BS=689, FE=617)



The below Figure 4 clearly shows that things have changed over the years. In general, there is lack of awareness among women in rural areas on what to do if any case of violence occurs by their intimate partners. In many circumstances, they consider it as natural and written in their destiny; therefore, they never bring it to public rather keep it in secret to retain the family honor. In the baseline, it was found that only 42% of the respondents agreed that “if a woman is hit in her household, she should report it to the authorities.” However, it was found in the final survey that because of the intervention, awareness among men and women has increased significantly. For example, in the survey, 97% of the respondents² viewed that women should report to the authority in case of any domestic violence. The figure below presents the comparative data (baseline study versus final evaluation). More details are presented in the [annexure](#) in table 14.

Figure 4: Women should report to authorities when hit by husbands; N (BS=689, FE=617)



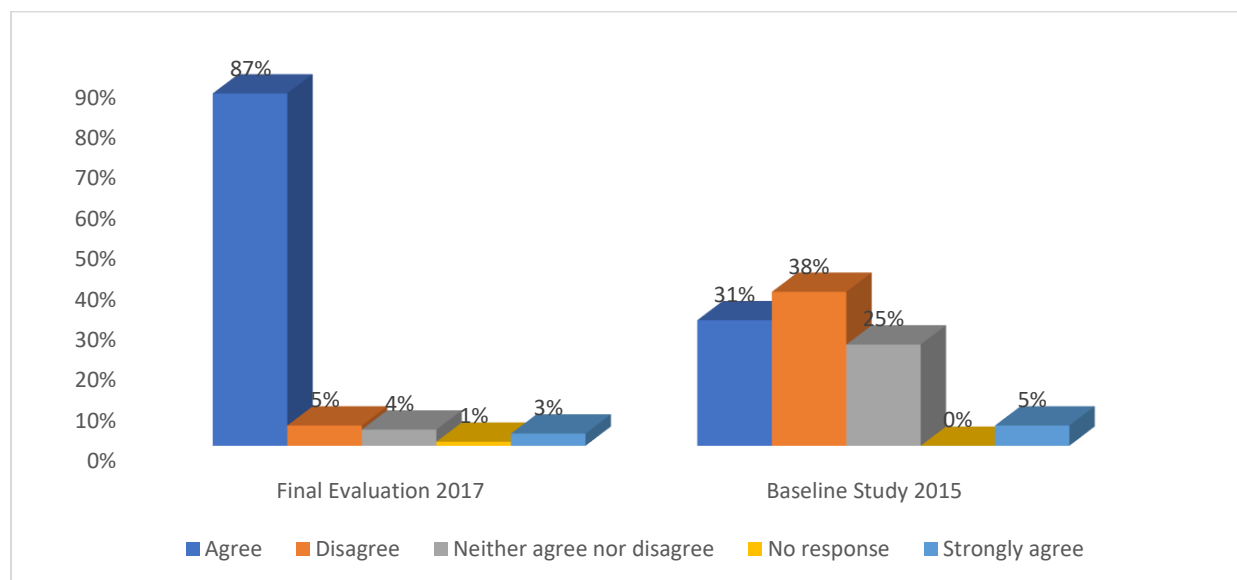
² 96% by female respondents and 98% by male respondents.

Like the survey, in the FGD it has also been found that women have become more aware and started taking action when they face any such incidents. In a FGD, one of the participants shared a story which is pertinent to this understanding of increased awareness regarding VAW: According to one of the female leaders interviewed:

During last Eid (2017), one husband was forcing her wife to bring some money (dowry) from her maternal house. The wife boldly denied it immediately. Therefore, her husband started beating her. Then she was sent to her maternal home. She lived there for six months. That time, she was having communication with me³. I stood beside her and helped her to file a case. The husband needed to give a written commitment to the court before settling the issue and taking her back to home. Since then, she has been living with her husband and no issue has been heard afterwards.

Similarly, positive changes were observed with regard to VAW. Survey findings demonstrate that 89%⁴ of the respondents (female-87% and male-93%) also felt that community members should intervene in case of any domestic violence. In the baseline study, it was found that only 36% of the respondents felt community members should do it. The status has been presented in figure 5 below. Details comparative findings are presented in table 14 in the [annexure](#).

Figure 5: Community should intervene when domestic VAW happens; N (BS=689, FE=617)



Decision Making

With regard to women's ability to decision making, data collected by survey and other qualitative tools (such as FGD, KII & Case Study) are contradicting each other. While survey findings indicate

³ Women leader of Atlia Union.

⁴ Agreed by 86.71% and strongly agreed 2.76%.

some extent of negative changes (see [annexure](#) table 16 & 17) – as decision making both at community and household level has been found as primary responsibility of the males, qualitative findings demonstrate that women’s decision making ability has been increased at some extent.⁵ The qualitative data reveals that women’s decision-making ability at the household level has been reportedly increased. Whereas at the community level, even there are some positive changes noticed but still it remained at an ornamental level. Women leaders who are representative at the local government body, they go through many challenges. Changes at individual level are more pronounced around decision making during FGD and case studies. One of the female leaders shared her own story. In her words,

I myself was a victim of early marriage. I was married off when I was in 8th grade. However, I heard from one of my teachers that “*Dolna Theke Kobor Porjonta Gayn Orjon Kora Jay*” (you can gain knowledge starting from the cradle to the grave). So, I continued studying by earning money by tutoring students. My daughter, who is now doing her MA in English literature, was also a victim of early marriage. Her husband’s family was reluctant to allow her to continue her study. But they could not stop her. She said to her husband’s family, “if my mother can do it, then why can’t I?”

One very interesting observation was that although most of the respondents wanted the POWER project to continue but a few very strong and confident female leaders said that they will never stop working for the community. They will continue to work even if the project is not there. It is indeed a great success of the project that however small in number, at least a few female leaders have become independent agent, taking decisions on their own and this may create a demonstrative effect for other female members of the community with leadership potentials.

However, decision making at the community level or at the public spaces are still dominated by the males. Whether the issue is related to men or women, men want to give opinion and want to see it is followed by all. One of the female UP members sharing her challenges:

Male UP members are often reluctant to support us. Whenever we suggest anything or want to share the facilities those are available for people of our choice, they tend to ignore it. For example, by tomorrow we need to submit some project proposals to the UNO (Upazila Nirbahi Officer). But it so happened that whenever I started talking the male members, who are not even literate, shut me off with humiliating words like:

“*apni holen apod, apod theke bipod hoben, tarpor eksomoy mohabidop hobe*”. (you are a nuisance, with no time you will become a trouble and then pretty soon there will be big problems because of you” But I am not to be silenced and I also firmly replied that, I would keep doing my job.

⁵ One of the reasons could be, during the baseline the survey questionnaire was in English, thus enumerators might have had challenge in interpreting the questions in local language. Another important issue to be noted is survey has been conducted with all of the community people but qualitative data have been collected from important stakeholders and women leaders who directly received some sort of supports from the project.

It is also important to know that not all male UP members or high officials are against these female leaders. Examples of change in mind set among men were also noticed.

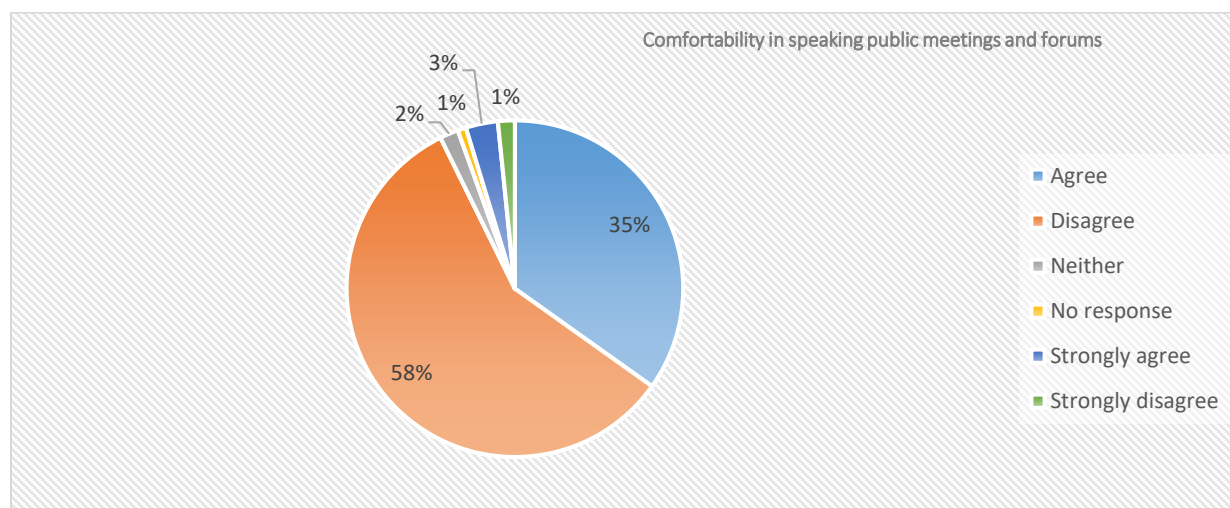
The female leaders are indeed hard working, capable and sincere, also ‘docile’ (andolon korey na) and they have all the potentials to participate in formal politics, but they have little or less chance to win as the society is not yet ready to vote for them. It will take some time but I am sure they will win important posts in local level politics in near future and I would be happy to work with them.” (Chairman, Rahgunathpur, Dumuria)

He believes that those who are opposing female leadership will automatically wither away like the ‘husk of rice’. Meanwhile establishing women’s association has been seen as an intermediary solution to overcome some of the challenges. Women leaders feel that if 50 women are organized and other women from the community listen to them, join in their network, then men will be afraid to restrict or control women. Thus, enabling them to carve out space to practice their decision-making rights.

Leadership Skills

For building leadership skills, a number of events and programmes were taken by the project team. Those are day long follow up and training with trained women, building unleashed women's network and bi-monthly (one and half monthly) meeting, women conference at national level, weeklong mass action campaigns and mobilization through rally, village meeting, door to door campaign using information communication (IC) materials etc. For preventing early marriage and GBV (1 in each Union in each Quarter), mobilizing organized female participation in Ward shobha and mobilizing female candidate for participating in the Local Government election were important initiatives. These efforts have had far reaching positive impact upon the women leaders and women of the Dumuria Upazila in general. The study finds that because of such mobilization and socio-political events round the year, women leaders of the project have claimed to have better skills in public speaking. In different meetings and forums, they are now more comfortable to speaking or presenting their opinion.

Figure 6: Comfortability of public speaking (N=617)



In the above figure (6), it is clearly seen that only 35% of the respondents shared that they are comfortable in speaking in community meetings and forums. However, among the female respondents, it goes down to 26% and goes up to 53% for male respondents⁶. Please see details in the table 11 in the [annexure](#). It is necessary to note here that data from qualitative research reveals a series of factors influencing the leadership skills and qualities of the female leaders under the project.

Influence of power project and other factors in making of a leader:

It is important to make it clear here that most of the female leaders were already engaged in other activities or NGOs and had prior exposures to community activities through their NGO involvement, they nevertheless feel that power project has provided them with a wider platform. Engagement with POWER project and other organisations and NGOs were critical to their self-development and growth as a female leader. They have travelled a long journey on their own to participate in the training programme, met many people and many other women like themselves with a dream to be a change maker. They also believe that they have been able to make contacts, build networks with important people in the community like chairman, UP offices, Ministry of Women and Children Affaires and their local offices, exposed to important information and notices etc. This communication and network alone was very helpful for them to realize their dream to be a significant mediator in their community.

⁶ Baseline data on this issue seems to be problematic. In the baseline data, it shows 44% (comprising agree and strongly) of the respondents are comfortable in public speaking (which is pretty high) but in the final evaluation it is 38%. Thus, it indicates 6% deterioration of the situation which seems contradictory with practical experiences and observations of the consultant team had during the field visit. The data also contract with qualitative data collected through different tools. Thus, consultant team further consulted with some of the local level leaders to understand which data captured the situation better. Considering all these issues, statistical comparison could not be drawn. But, qualitative data clearly indicate that women leaders and community gain significant skills in public speaking through the trainings, workshop, court yard meeting, rally, event celebration etc.

Religion seemed to be an important factor. Female leaders were found to be more articulate, mobile and more exposed to male dominated spaces in Hindu dominant areas (Bandarpara, Raghunathpur, Shovna). However, this observation is subject to further research and explorations. Muslim female/youth leaders were also found to be quite strong and confident and active, thus no general conclusion could be drawn in the end. Muslims leaders were mostly in parda (ranging from simple head cover to hijab) but were not restricted or less mobile in any comparative sense with the Hindu female leaders.

However, some of the villages were identified as economically affluent (Shovna) and female leaders were found to be in a more solid ground and seemed to be facing less resistance from the community. In a discussion, one of the female leaders said,

People of our village respect us, we will continue to work for the development of the community. If you come again after some time you will find us in even better position with more effective contribution towards the society.

The role of family and level of education were found to be conducive to the making of a leader. Most of our respondents were with minimum degree of SSC/10th grade, while a few were from university level. Women and young adults from educated families had to face less hurdles to come forward and work in public arena.

Support from the community was another important factor. Although the community at large is bounded by the patriarchal norms and prejudices, but the local government and offices are regularly updated with the general instructions from the central government to address the issue of child marriage, VAW, dowry and other social vices. These female leaders are critical to carry out their activities. The UP chairmen, religious leaders, school teachers all were found to be supportive towards them. Female leaders as well as youth leaders are in close contact and have a good relationship with the government bodies and they are always consulted with in ward meetings and in other arenas, their suggestions and ideas are discussed and addressed and the male leaders are found to be taking cognizance of the contribution and involvement of these leaders. The role of power project was specially highlighted as a catalyst for change by the local level GoB bodies. Despite the patriarchal challenges many of the leaders are gradually accepted as empowered and capable women, husbands and in laws are being more supportive and understanding of their roles.

Political Participation

It has been found that the project has contribution in facilitating and encouraging women leaders to contest in the election, casting vote in favour of the most deserving candidate and to participate in different political and local government forums and meetings. In case of contesting in the election and casting vote, the project could have brought visible changes; however, in case of participating in open budget, the findings show negative change.

Casting vote and contesting in election:

One of the important objectives of the project is to encourage and support women to be people's representative. Similarly, casting vote in election is one of the important political activities which allow voters to select leaders of their choice. It is considered to be the most important citizen right. As in the above table (4), it is seen that in the last local or national election, 96% of the respondents casted their vote. This demonstrates that the project has contributed to a rise of 9.1% vote cast in the last election.

Likewise, throughout the project period, by different kind of follow up meetings, enormous efforts were put so that women leaders contest in the local election. As of result of such efforts, while in the election of 2011, total number of women candidates were 126. But in 2016, 152 women candidates contested in the election. Among the women candidates, 12 of them are women leaders and 28 of them are animators of the project.⁷ Out of those 40 candidates, 18 of them got elected. In sharing reflection, one of the women leaders (of Sovna UP) shared that,

I am member today. Hunger Project has made it possible. By engaging with Hunger Project, I have learnt how to motivate and mobilize people. Now I can communicate with people without any hesitation. Good communication is important to be a successful leader.

This can be highlighted as a great achievement towards women's political empowerment. Table 4 below presents details of the change (in compare with baseline situation).

Table 4: different areas of exercising political rights

Areas of Political participation	Baseline Study (N=689)			Final Evaluation (N=617)		
	Female	Male	Overall	Female	Male	Overall
E04. Did you vote in most recent local or national election?	84.14%	89.60%	86.50%	94.14%	98.55%	95.60%
E05. In the past 12 months, have you participated in an open budget meeting hosted by the UP?	3.83%	13.09%	7.84%	3.40%	6.76%	4.53%
E06. In the past 12 months, have you participated in the ward shava hosted by the UP?	3.07%	11.41%	6.67%	4.63%	13.04%	7.45%
E07. Are you a member of community, committee, group or cooperative?	3.32%	6.71%	4.79%	10.24%	15.46%	11.99%
E08. Are you a member of a social unit, organized platform or forum?	1.50%	2.68%	2.03%	2.93%	8.21%	4.70%

Participating in Open budget and Ward Shova:

Among the 5 areas of women's political participation, in one area, the study finds that in compare with baseline study findings there is less number of people who participated in an open budget

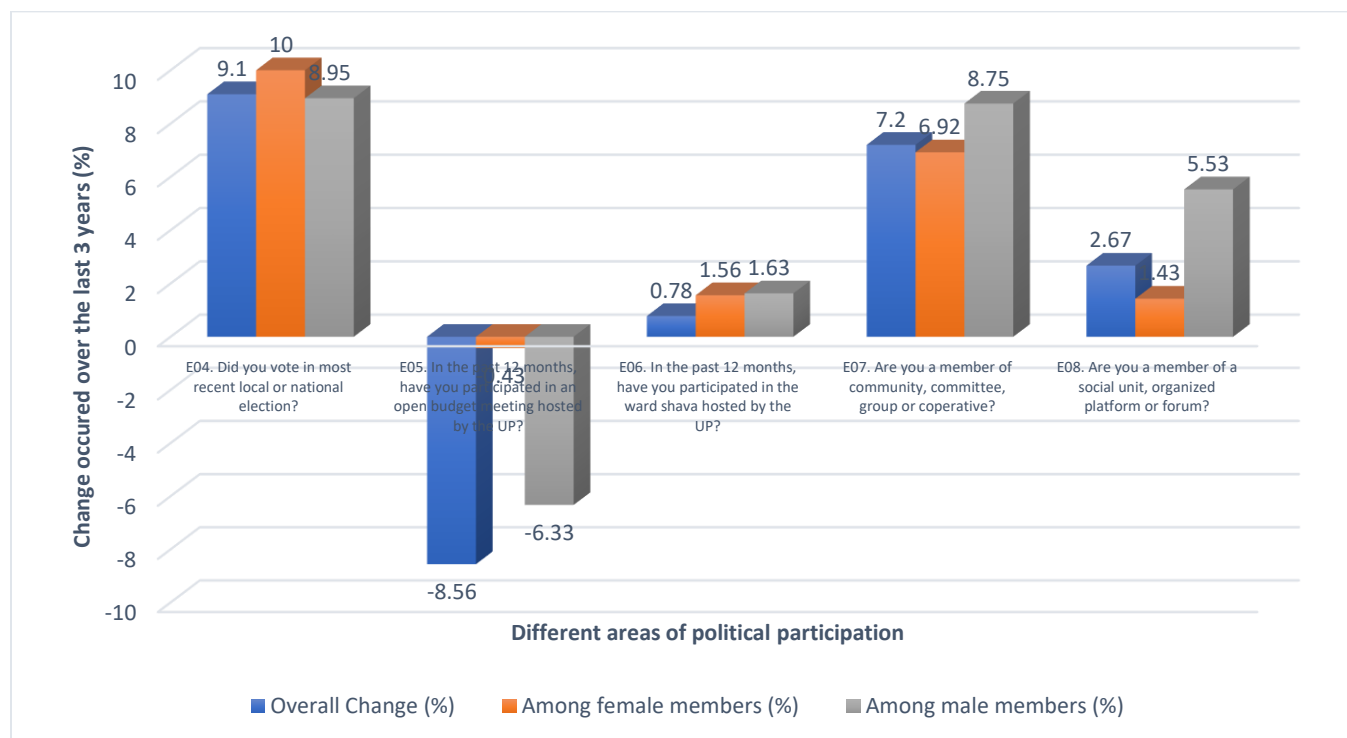
⁷ Activity report of POWER Project (January 2015 to September 2017), The Hunger Project Bangladesh.

meeting hosted by the UP over the past 12 months. The data indicate 8.56% decrease. However, the evaluation team found that because of repeated cancellation of the open budget meeting people become reluctant to participate. The meetings were repeatedly rescheduled because of extreme bad weather. Therefore, in the last year in many UPs of Dumuria Upazila, open budget meetings were held indoor (UP meeting room) with very minimum arrangement which essentially reduced the number of participation. Nonetheless, proportion of decrease among female members were less.

In case of participating in the Ward Shobha, qualitative data indicate women leaders actively participated. With a slide progress, only 7% of the total respondents have participated in a Ward *Shobha* hosted by the Union *Parishad* over the last 12 months. It is rather unfortunate that although there has been considerable change in terms of casting vote in selecting their representatives but men and women from the community are not much interested to get involved into the decision-making bodies.

The changes in the above 5 areas have been presented in the below graph (figure 7);

Figure 7: Change occurred in different areas of political participation; N (BS=689, FE=617)



Membership in community committee/group/ platform/forum

In the study, it has been found that membership in general in different community groups, committees and cooperatives have increased. In the baseline study, it was found that 5% of the total respondents (N= 689) were part of different committees, groups and cooperatives. But at the end of November 2017, it has reached to 12% (N=617). However, it is noteworthy to mention that

membership for men has increased at 8.75%, while for women it is at 6.92% (Nazrul 2015: 36). Besides participation in the formal election, women leaders are also being accepted by the community people. In a discussion, one of the women leaders shared;

Being working as women leaders, my honour has increased. If I do not go to any meeting where I suppose to go, people will ask, “where is X Begum? We should not start until she comes. If I am there, they will say “as you are here, so nobody but you will be president of the meeting”.

The following sections explain the effectiveness of political participation of the female leaders.

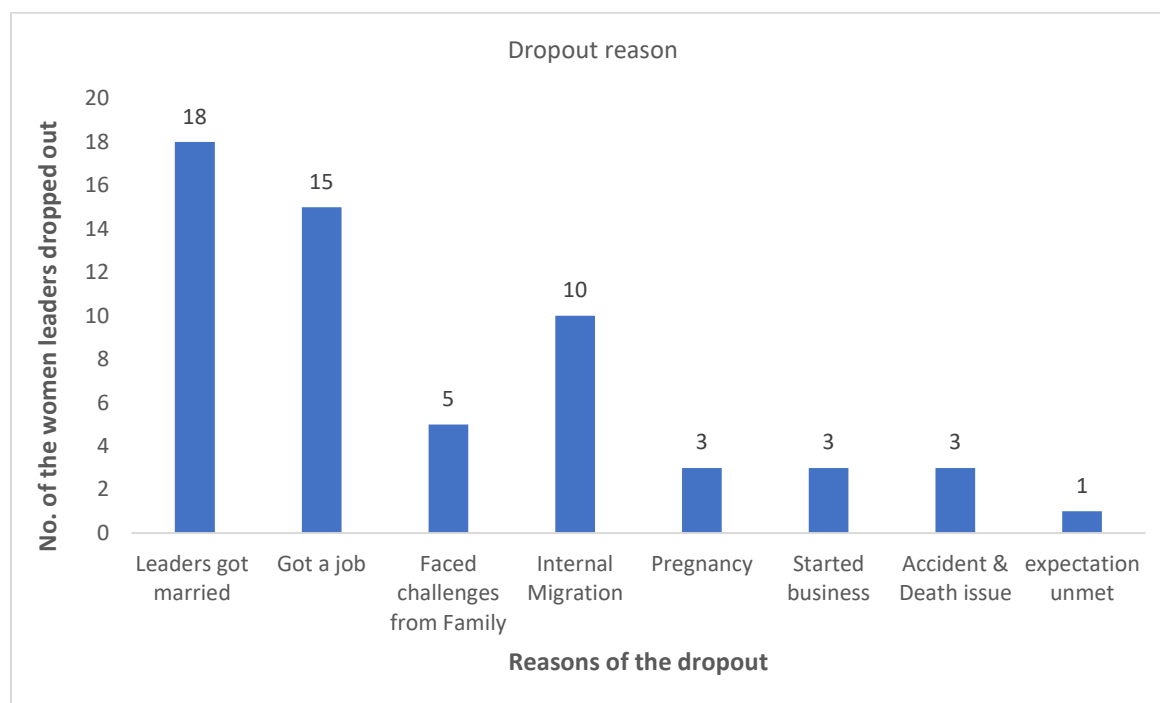
2.2 Effectiveness of Women’s Political Participation

The section tries to understand to what extent women’s participation in the politics is effective. In doing so, it has chosen to assess performance of the women leaders (those trained by the project), because of the mobilization of those trained leaders how citizen’s rights are being exercised and government services are availed by the people and lastly how and to what extent VAW is prevented.

Performance of the women leaders

Over the last 3 years, through the project support, 250 women from 14 Unions of the Dumuria Upazila were trained. Out of the total trained leaders, 58 of them (23% of total) did not continue their engagement as women leaders. There are a number of reasons for this discontinuation. Among all those reasons, marriage and getting job have been on the top of the list. Other reasons are presented below in figure 5 with their respective frequency.

Table 5: Reasons for the dropout



The above reasons for dropout inform that selection of potential leaders require more careful attention. It can be easily assumed that unmarried girls chosen for the leadership project would soon move out from the area if they get married. Similarly, those were students or looking for job at the time of selection, their reasons for dropout could also be predicted.

However, those who were active until the end of the project period (until the date of the field research was carried out) are found to be very determined about their political career. Moreover, it has also been found middle-aged leaders are very positive about project's contribution in shaping their political career. In a small group discussion (SGD) in Sovna Union, one of the participants was sharing as below;

I contested in the last UP election. I got the motivation and courage from this POWER project to contest in the election. I was defeated by 207 votes. But I had the chance to meet with people of 3 Wards. It was a big deal for me. I hope, in the next election, I will win.

Challenges and barriers

Despite the exemplary role and activities of these women in the community, there are challenges and barriers both overt and covert. Most of these women are involved in welfare related areas and their activities are limited to reproductive issues. They are coming out and participating in public activities but no particular changes have occurred in gender division of labour as most of them have to take care of their home first then only they can take part in community activities. Only a few mentioned that their husbands are also helping with their household chores when they are out

working. Many of them felt that more men should be part of this training to understand and appreciate their importance in the society.

There were clearly two groups in terms of pursuing a dream of becoming a ‘leader’. One group was happy and satisfied with whatever small contribution they are making to/in the community. They are not interested to enter into formal political structure of the local level politics. They want to avoid election and stay away from the electoral political bodies. One of the women leaders said,

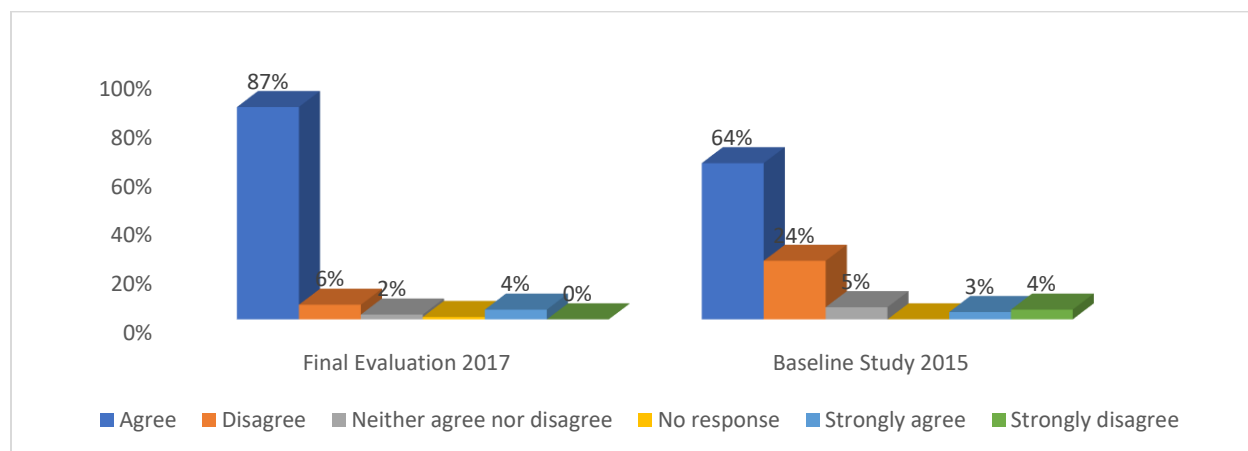
people of this village love me, I want to work for them and for the development of the community but I am not interested to contest in the election. I want to keep on working the way I am doing now.

But there were a few who are ambitious and chasing their dream to take part in election and to hold an official post. According to one respondent, “[in] future I will become the chairman of this union; I will make my dream come true one day.”

Citizen Rights and availing Government Services

Women’s safety at public places is an important determinant of women’s mobility. Mobility is a key step to exercise any citizen rights or availing government services. The project has rightly emphasized the importance of ensuring mobility of women leaders and women in general. The final survey findings demonstrate that women’s safety at public places has increased. During the baseline study, 63.5% of them agreed and 3.5% of them strongly agreed that they are safe at public places. In the final survey, 87.4% of them agreed and 3.4% of them strongly agreed that they are safe in public places. This means, around 24% of the respondents who did not feel safe during the baseline period, are currently feeling safe at public places. Table 20 in the [annexure](#) presents details of this particular changes and figure 8 presented below shows changes.

Figure 8: Women are safe at public places

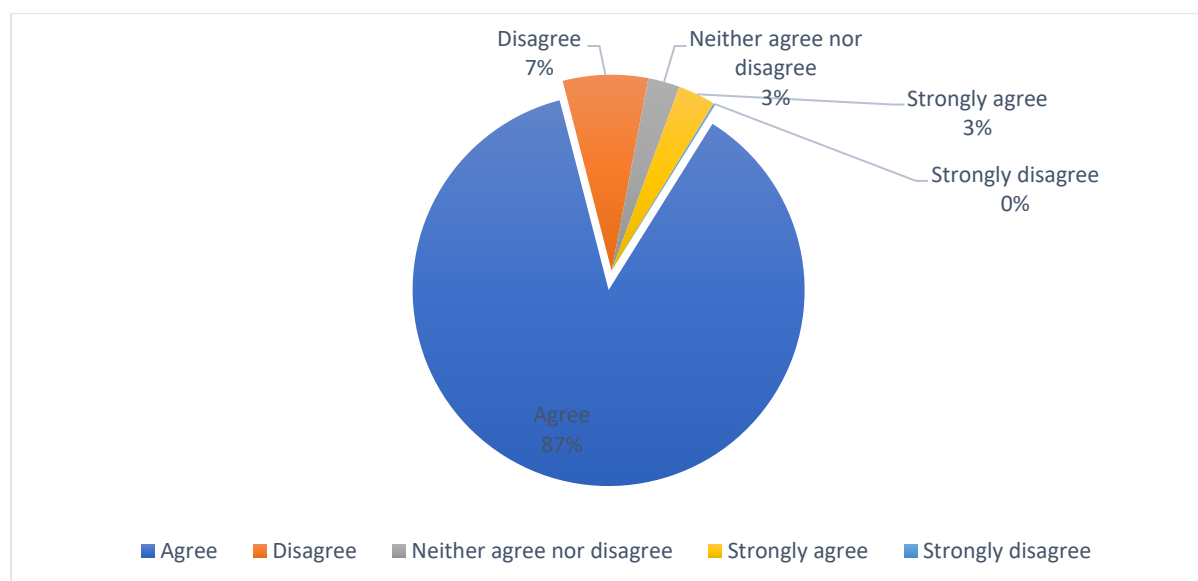


Because of the community mobilization related activities, women's mobility has increased. The increased mobility has facilitated positive impacts on women's life. One example can be cited from a women leader of Sarappur Union.

Women's mobility has remarkably increased over the years. This was helpful to challenge the misinterpretation of religion. Now girl students can go for tuition class.⁸ Therefore, in recent past, we can see that girls are doing better than of boys in public examinations.

Similarly, in the final survey, it has also found that community people are satisfied with the services they are receiving from the respective government departments. Figure 9, clearly shows that 87% of the respondents are satisfied with the services.

Figure 9: Satisfaction level on received services (N=612)

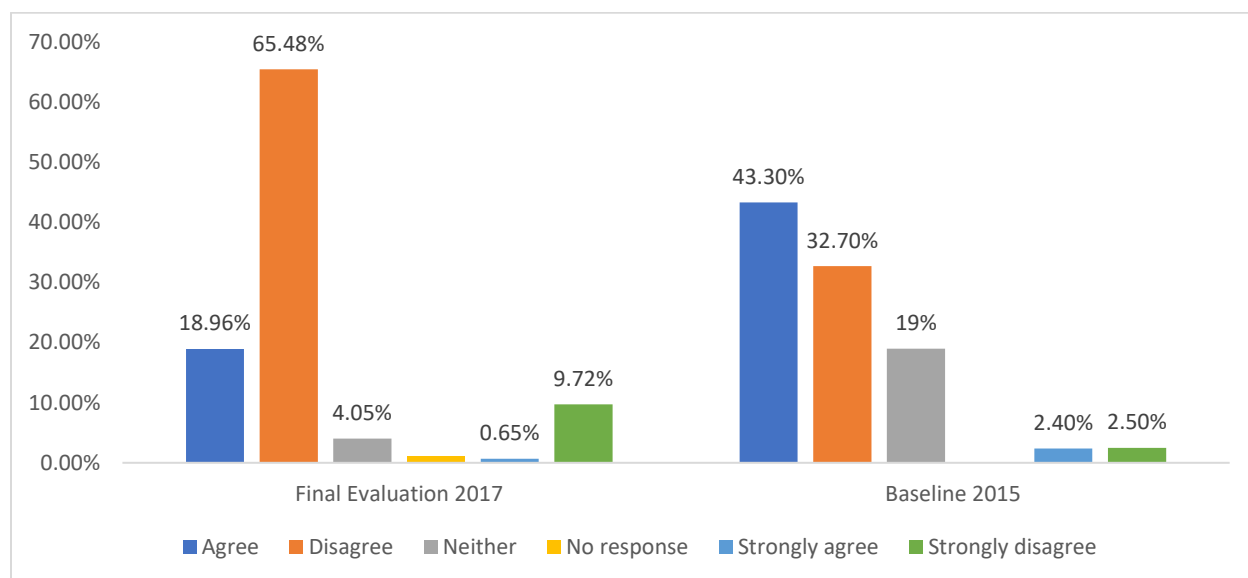


Preventing VAW

VAW is a serious indicator of violation of human rights limiting the recreative potential of woman. One of the important responsibilities of the grassroots women leaders is to mobilize and sensitize people on and against any form of VAW. From all types of respondents of the study, it is evident that the frequency of VAW has decreased in Dumuria Upazila. In the figure (10) below, it is seen that 65% of survey respondents disagreed and 10% of them strongly disagreed that VAW exists in their community. Thus, while comparing with the baseline study, over the last three 3 years, VAW has been decreased by 40%. Please see table 18 in the [annexure](#) for details on the comparison.

⁸ Was indicating some tough subjects like English and Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry etc.

Figure 10: VAW exists in the community



During a discussion with one of the women leaders (of Sarappur Union) it was expressed that

In past, when VAW used to take place-we just watched. We did not know that it was a crime. We thought that men do it and it is legitimate to hit someone. We never tried to intervene and stop it. But now, we do it as we know if we don't resist, it will not be stopped. THP has trained us what to do in such a situation.

Similarly, one of the male respondents who is also a representative of Sarappur UP shared that “now we get little complaint regarding domestic violence and family unrest. Men have become aware too.” It was felt and observed that the project has made significant contribution in creating awareness against VAW and reducing the incidents of VAW.

2.3 Most significant changes observed

Envisioning for political career

In case of mentioning one single most important impact on women's life the project has made, it would be enhancing women's overall confidence and facilitating to envisage for political career. In almost all discussions, it has been found that women leaders understand that if they want to solve many of the problems they go through in their everyday life, they need to get engaged in the mainstream politics.

Religious and Social Harmony

In the first section of the report, it has been mentioned that out of 542 selected households of the final survey, 45% of the respondents are from Hindu religious community and 55% of the respondents are Muslim. Thus, data collected by survey, would allow to draw a credible conclusion on the status of religious and social harmony in the community. Data presented in the table 21 in the [annexure](#) on different aspects of social and religious issues indicate that even in the community where both Hindu and Muslim are living in the same neighborhood, there has been no tension between these two communities. 98% of the survey respondents pointed out that they would raise their children in the neighborhood where they are currently located. 90% of the survey respondents also mentioned that where they are presently living--guarantees them a secure future.

Women's local level networking

Another most visible change that was observed is the networking skills of the women leaders which has been found praiseworthy. The study has found that they have established different networks at various levels and of different types which have empowered them in many senses. When any women in the community level face any problem or violence, then they secretly communicate with these women leaders. If there are any issues to be discussed further, then they communicate with Upazila Women Affairs Officer. Sometimes, they also seek support from Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO). During a discussion with the evaluation team, Women Affairs Officer of Dumuria shared that,

Whenever any violence or any incidence takes place, we found that they (women leaders) reached there before us to provide support to the victim. They are our strength; we take support from them for implementing different Government programmes.

2.4 Challenges of the women leaders and limitations of the project

Recognition of women's contribution & unchallenged male domination

The study found that being inspired by the POWER project, women leaders are engaged in various social activities in Dumuria Upazila. While doing so, they needed to have free movement in public places and needed to meet different types of the people. Seeing those activities, many men used to consider them as "bad". In a discussion, one-woman leader shared that someone said from the community commented indicating her husband that, "his wife has become naked!"

Social stigma around women in public, engaged in social work is still a big challenge for the female leaders. Moreover, they have to face barriers from the high officials and male those are in power. Women leaders are usually engaged in and interact with UP representatives on various social and political work, and they used to consider that they have good relationship with UP members. But

when it comes around sharing different opinions, female leaders feel that they are often being undermined and their opinions are disregarded. Keeping cultural construction of male supremacy unchallenged, it is not possible to bring gender equality. Therefore, in one hand women's contribution needs to be acknowledged and their opinions need to be valued. On the other, male domination and construction of male supremacy over women need to be challenged and changed.

Lack of integration with women's economic empowerment

Having no regular income source, many of the women leaders shared that they need to depend on their husband's income. Thus, when they need to take money (whether for conveyance or any other personal and social purposes), they need to go through a hidden approval process from husband. If the husband allows and wants to only then they get the required money. This financial dependency is a barrier to unleashing women's political potentials. Empowering women politically also requires financial solvency. It is difficult to ensure political empowerment without Economic empowerment, freedom and control.

Selection of women leaders

It has come out evidently that selection of the women leaders in many Unions was not rightly done. Therefore, it has impacted in their continuation. Through discussion with some of the drop out leaders, project team and active women leaders, it has been found that many of the women leaders were not clear about the purpose of the leadership training and subsequent responsibilities as a women leader. Consequently, at some point they got detached and disinterested and they discontinued performing as woman leaders.

Adopting learning trough MEL functions

It was observed that while adopting required changes in project delivery processes and approaches through functional MEL systems was not found be very strong. More collaboration between program and MEL could have accelerated the impacts. In one hand, it has been found that there are many success stories of women leaders. On the other, 23 % of the women leaders discontinued the work after receiving the training. MEL team could have investigated further to understand beyond what have been stated as reasons of drop out (marriage, higher studies or job)). Similarly, program team could have taken support from MEL team in developing criteria for selection of women leaders. Moreover, for greater impacts, there should be learning agenda and a systematic process of capturing learning outcome within the project.

2.5 Overall evaluation of the project (OECD DAC Criteria)

According to OECD DAC Criteria⁹, the following areas have been assessed to synthesis the overall evaluation of the project.

Table 6: Overall evaluation of the project

Evaluation Criteria	Remarks
Effectiveness	The project was effective in providing capacity building support to women leaders, building their confidence and envisioning their political career. Through community volunteering approach, the project successfully accomplished its deliverables in time. However, significant number of women leaders dropped out after receiving the leadership training. The selection of women leaders could have been better.
Impact	The project has made high impact in the community. Already, some of women leaders have touched some milestones (becoming UP member, having a post in major political parties, leading a team in a network-like BNN). This success trend of some of the women leaders will potentially influence and attract many more in coming future.
Relevance	It was highly relevant project from both gender and governance perspectives for Bangladesh. Building leadership capacity of grassroots women can really bring changes around gender-based violence and discrimination and engaging women at the local level decision making processes.
Sustainability	Leadership skills and political ambition will be sustainable . However, many of the women leaders first time ever in life came forward with political ambition. Thus, lack of mentorship support beyond project period may affect in their spirit and continuation of the engagement.
Efficiency	The budget was spent very efficiently . As a development project, high level emphasis was found on programme delivery. Expenditure analysis demonstrates that out of total budget, 57% was on programme, 28% on staffing, 10% on MEL and 5% on Admin related.
Gender and social inclusion	The project is on women's political participation which is very important for women advancement in Bangladesh. Even women from all religious groups were found to be actively engaged but it was clear whether the project had any strategy to include socially excluded groups or disable people.

⁹ <http://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/daccriteriaforevaluatingdevelopmentassistance.htm> Access on 25 February 2018.

3. SECTION THREE: CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

The POWER project was a very relevant project for Dumuria Upazila as well for Bangladesh. The project has impacted on its target population on certain areas of political empowerment. By this time, some of the women leaders have touched some milestones and while some others hold strong determination to be elected in the next election. But we need to remember the dominance of patriarchal values and practices in all levels of our society. Positive changes in women's political participation and empowerment requires long-sustained multi-dimensional intervention. A small project with short duration, limited budget and activities cannot go much deeper of its problems. Thus, during its implementation, POWER project has come across some limitations as well. While developing future project around women's political participation need to consider the points stated below;

a) Selection of most suitable women leaders

Selection of women leaders has to be done more carefully. Unmarried women and student need to be avoided as it is almost obvious that they would migrate after marriage or for higher study. However, drop out for higher studies or getting a job might be taken as an indicator of pull factor and can be mentioned as an example of upward mobility. This can be assumed and analyzed as an indirect indicator of success of power project. Nevertheless, from the point of view of the project per se, preference can be given to mid-aged women who are not depended on their husband financially.

b) Women's economic empowerment

If the selected women leaders do not have any income source, then it would be better to build their capacity for that and link up with other agencies for the required support. Leaders should not be depended on somebody else for their daily allowances or expenditure related to voluntary or community work.

c) Upscaling the project

The project was implemented in 14 UPs of Dumuria Upazila. There are many more similar contexts in Bangladesh where this kind of project can really shake some of the patriarchal practices around political participation. Similarly, the lessons and learning gained through implementing this project can be capitalized and upscaled in many more similar context (sub-districts) in Bangladesh.

d) Mentoring support is required until next local government election

The study finds that many of the women leaders just gained some skills and enter into local level politics very recently. In absence of the project mentoring support, if any crisis comes in, they may not be able to handle it properly which may decrease spirit of their leadership role in the community. Therefore, if not possible in full scale, limited level of mentoring support is required until the next local government election takes place.

e) More integration between programme and MEL

For successful implementation of any project, there should be more integration and collaboration between program delivery and MEL Unit. As mentioned earlier, effective collaboration between these two can accelerate project impact. For example, through independent monitoring, MEL can document what is working and what it not (including reason f not working). Thus, while MEL team needs to understand, capture and recommend required changes, the programme delivery Unit needs to adopt those changes in their programme delivery plans.

f) Having Learning Agenda and MEL Guideline for each of the projects

In order to take up any future project, two essential things are to be ensured at the beginning of the project. One is, learning agenda (or assumption) of the project and other is MEL guidelines. The MEL guidelines will include details of the MEL approach, systems and processes (such as data type, frequency, data flow, data interpretation and reporting system etc.) of the process. An appropriate MEL guideline not only ca help project delivery Unit but also it can help any newly join project staff to understand overall aspects of the project.

Way forward

One must recognize that change is taking place, if not at the village level but at the community level and most importantly at the individual level. However, one must admit that patriarchy is an institution, ever pervasive and fossilized; enshrined in almost every institution in the society. It will require long and continuous efforts and interventions to bring transformatory changes in patriarchal value system. Norms and values are hard to change. It is even more difficult to bring changes in patriarchal power relations and in institutional structure. There is no royal road to gender equality and egalitarian relationships, it is almost impossible to bring such changes through a three-year project only. But whatever has happened needs to be acknowledged and can be brought forward as an example. It was revealed that the project has made an impact. Each of the enlightened female leaders has the potential to bring changes. Many exemplary transformatory changes have taken place, for instance they have become independent, running shops in the male dominated areas, stopped child marriage and VAW, fought against dowry, helped other women to

run cases for justice, took part in awareness raising programmes, gave training to other young women, participated and performed in awareness raising drama and other presentations and many more. It's true that from a more critical gender lens these are important but limited to practical gender need-based interventions and have not been able to elevate to strategic gender need-based activities. The process of bringing transformatory changes in gender relations and incorporating women in formal politics and political empowerment has been initiated but is still at a nascent stage. Female leaders are still bounded by their reproductive role within marriage; children, household chores and their range of community involvement are also limited to reproductive arenas like health, handicrafts, sewing, maternal and child care etc. which falls under practical gender need-based activities. A sense of evasion towards electoral politics was also observed among female leaders who are not interested to enter into the realm of formal politics. In actual sense they have little power beyond their role of mediators. However, they have built a strong network, have become mobile and active in public arena, a few of them have already entered into the realm of formal politics at the local level, they have overcome the stigma and conservative gaze of the society and moved forward crossing the hurdles and this definitely indicative of uplift of strategic gender interest. They feel that they have gained the love and respect of many and they are making a meaningful contribution in the society.

Their role and participation as a leader is much successful at the individual level, which can be of good example for others and have deep demonstrative effect to encourage more women to come out and become active agents in politics, but still a long way to go in terms of making collective impact and in bringing transformatory changes in the community. But the possibilities and potentials are there which will emerge as full bloomed flowers in near future if the programmes and efforts and initiatives are continued for the community.

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ANNEXURE:

1. All Tables

Ability to change things in the community

Table 7: Whether I can change things in my community

E01: I feel I can change things in my community, if I want to	Final Evaluation (N=617)			Baseline Study 2015 (689)		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Agree	280	147	427	200	197	397
Disagree	71	30	101	132	59	191
Neither Agree nor Disagree	13	4	17	36	25	61
No Response	8	3	11	20	16	36
Strongly Agree	38	23	61	3	1	4
Grand Total	410	207	617	391	298	689

Comfortability in public speaking

Table 8: Comfortability in speaking at community meetings and forums

E02: I feel comfortable speaking in community meetings and public forums.	Final Evaluation 2017			Baseline Study 2015		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Agree (FE- 35, BS- 40%)	105	110	215	127	151	278
Disagree	273	84	357	200	111	311
Neither agree nor disagree	9	2	11	41	17	58
No response	5		5	0	0	0
Strongly Agree (FE-3 , BS-4%)	9	10	19	14	14	28
Strongly Disagree	9	1	10	9	5	14
Grand Total	410	207	617	391	298	689

Efficiency of the community leaders in solving community problems

Table 9: Effectiveness of the leadership in solving community problem

E03: Agree or disagree: I feel the leaders in my community are effective at solving our community's problems.	Final Evaluation 2017			Baseline Study 2015		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Agree	61	65	126	156	148	304
Disagree	280	123	403	142	92	234
Neither agree nor disagree	19	8	27	72	46	118
No response	25	2	27	0	0	0
Strongly Agree	1	3	4	7	5	12
Strongly Disagree	24	6	30	14	7	21
Grand Total	410	207	617	391	298	689

Acceptability of VAW in the community

Table 10: Whether it is acceptable for a husband to hit his wife

It is acceptable in your community for a husband to hit his wife	Final Evaluation 2017			Baseline Study 2015		
	Female	Male	Grand Total	Female	Male	Grand Total
Agree	11 (2.69%)	5 (2.39%)	16 (2.59%)	92 (24.2%)	67 (22.9%)	159 (23.7%)
Disagree	286 (70.09%)	150 (71.77%)	436 (70.66%)	186 (49.9%)	154 (52.7%)	340 (50.6%)
Neither	0	1 (.48%)	1 (.16%)	20 (5.3%)	20 (6.8%)	40 (6%)
Strongly agree	2 (.49)	1 (.48%)	3 (.49%)	19 (5%)	9 (3.1)	28 (4.2%)
Strongly disagree	109 (26.71%)	52 (24.88%)	161 (26.09)	63 (16.6%)	41 (14%)	104 (15.5%)
Grand Total	408 (100)	209 (100)	617 (100%)	380 (100%)	292 (100)	672 (100)

Table 11: Different areas of exercising political rights

Questions	Responses	Final Evaluation 2017 (N=617)			Baseline 2015 (N=689)		
		Female	Male	Grand Total			
E04: Did you vote in the most recent local or national election?	No	24	3	27	62	31	93
	Yes	386	204	590	329	267	596
	Grand Total	410	207	617	391	292	689
E05: In the past 12 months, have you participated in an open budget meeting hosted by the Union Parishad?	No	396	193	589	376	259	635
	Yes	14	14	28	15	39	54
	Grand Total	410	207	617	391	298	689
E06: In the past 12 months, have you participated in a ward <i>shava</i> hosted by the Union Parishad?	No	391	180	571	379	264	643
	Yes	19	27	46	12	34	46
	Grand Total	410	207	617	391	298	689
E07: Are you a member of a community committee, group or cooperative?	No	368	175	543	378	278	656
	Yes	42	32	74	13	20	33
	Grand Total	410	207	617	391	298	689
	No	398	190	588	385	290	675

E08: Are you a member of a Social Unit, organized platform, or forum? (Ex: GGS, YEH, WAT, BNN, etc)							
	Yes	12	17	29	6	8	14
	Grand Total	410	207	617	391	298	689

Table 12: Whether if a woman is in hit she should report to the authorities

If a woman is hit in her household, she should report it to the authorities.	Final Evaluation 2017			Baseline Study 2015		
	Female (%)	Male (%)	Grand Total (%)	Female (%)	Male (%)	Grand Total (%)
Agree	336 (82.35)	188 (89.95)	524 (84.93)	149 (39.2%)	91 (31%)	240 (35.7%)
Disagree	12 (2.94)	4 (1.91)	16 (2.59)	125 (32.9%)	127 (43.5%)	252 (37.5%)
Neither	1 (0.25)	0	1 (0.16)	60 (15.8%)	37 (12.7%)	97 (14.4%)
Strongly agree	57 (13.97%)	17 (8.13)	74 (11.99)	25 (6.6%)	14 (4.8%)	39 (5.8%)
Strongly disagree	2 (0.49)	0	2 (0.32)	21 (5.5%)	23 (7.9%)	44 (6.5%)
Grand Total	408 (100)	209 (100)	617 (100%)	380 (100%)	292 (100)	672 (100)

Table 13: Whether community members should intervene in case of domestic violence

Community members should intervene in case of domestic violence	Final Evaluation 2017			Baseline Study 2015		
	Female (%)	Male (%)	Grand Total (%)	Female (%)	Male (%)	Grand Total (%)
Agree	349 (85.54)	186 (88.99)	535 (86.71)	113 (29.7)	95 (32.5)	208 (31)
Disagree	21 (5.15)	11 (5.26)	32 (5.19)	140 (36.8)	116 (39.7)	256 (38.1)
Neither	22 (5.39)	0	22 (3.56)	103 (27.1)	63 (21.6)	166 (24.7)
No Response	6 (1.47)	2 (0.96)	8 (1.29)	0	0	0
Strongly agree	8 (1.47)	9 (4.3)	17 (2.76)	20 (5.3)	14 (4.8)	34 (5.1)
Strongly disagree	2 (0.49)	1 (0.48)	3 (.48)	4 (1%)	4 (1.4)	8 (1.2)
Grand Total	408 (100)	209 (100)	617 (100%)	380 (100%)	292 (100)	672 (100)

Primary responsibility of taking decision at household and community level

Table 14: Primary responsibility of making decision at community level

F01: In the community, who has the primary responsibility for making decisions about the community (community projects, policies, disputes, etc.)?	Final Evaluation 2017			Baseline Study 2015		
	Female	Male	Grand Total	Female	Male	Grand Total

Don't know/Not Sure	11 (2.69%)	2 (.49)	13 (2.11%)	14 (3.7 %)	3 (1 %)	17 (2.5 %)
Females	7 (1.72%)	0	7 (1. 13%)	19 (5%)	1 (.3%)	20 (3%)
Males	183 (44.85 %)	106 (50.71%)	289 (46.84%)	104 (27.4%)	114 (39.0)	218 (32.4%)
Shared equally	207 (50.73%)	101 (48.23%)	308 (49.92)	243 (63.9%)	174 (59.6%)	417 (62.1%)
Grand Total	408 (100%)	209 (100)	617 (100%)	380 (100%)	292 (100%)	672 (100%)

Table 15: Primary responsibility for decision making at household level

F02. In the household, who has the primary responsibility for making decisions about the family (financial, health, education, etc.)?	Final Evaluation 2017			Baseline Study 2015		
	Female	Male	Grand Total	Female	Male	Grand Total
Don't know/Not Sure	0	0	0	8 (2.1%)	1 (.3%)	9 (1.3%)
Females	14 (3.4 %)	0	14 (2.3%)	22 (5.8%)	2 (.7)	24 (3.6%)
Males	157 (38.4%)	111 (53%)	268 (43.4 %)	112 (29.5%)	127 (43.5%)	239 (35.6)
Shared equally	237 (58.7%)	98 (47%)	335 (54.3%)	238 (62.6 %)	162 (55.5%)	400 (59.5)
Grand Total	408 (100)	209 (100)	617 (100%)	380 (100%)	292 (100)	672 (100)

Table 16: Satisfaction level on received services

I feel satisfied with the health services (hospitals, clinics) present in my neighborhood.	Final Evaluation 2017			Baseline 2015		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Agree	358 (87%)	175 (85%)	533 (87%)			
Disagree	23	20	43			
Neither agree nor disagree	12	4	16			
No response	1	2	3			
Strongly agree	15 (4%)	4 (2)	19 (3%)			
Strongly disagree	1		1			
Grand Total	410	205	615			

Status of VAW in the community

Table 17: Whether VAW exists in the community

F06: VAW exists in the community	Final Evaluation 2017			Baseline Study 2015		
	Female (%)	Male (%)	Grand Total (%)	Female (%)	Male (%)	Grand Total (%)
Agree	71 (17.40)	46 (22)	117 (18.96)	157 (41.3)	134 (45.9)	291 (43.3)
Disagree	269 (65.93)	135 (64.59)	404 (65.48)	124 (32.6)	96 (32.9)	220 (32.7)
Neither	19 (4.66)	6 (2.87)	25 (4.05)	79 (20.8)	49 (16.8)	128 (19)
No response	6 (1.47)	1 (.48)	7 (1.13)	0	0	0
Strongly agree	2 (.49)	2 (.96)	4 (.65)	11 (2.9)	5 (1.7)	16 (2.4)
Strongly disagree	41 (11.52)	19 (9.09)	60 (9.72)	9 (2.4)	8 (2.7)	17 (2.5)
Grand Total	408 (100)	209 (100)	617 (100%)	380 (100%)	292 (100)	672 (100)

Exercising Citizens Rights

Table 18: Women are safe at public places

Women are safe in the public places (outside home)	Final Evaluation 2017			Baseline Study 2015		
	Female (%)	Male (%)	Grand Total (%)	Female (%)	Male (%)	Grand Total (%)
Agree	354 (86.76)	185 (88.52)	539 (87.36)	227 (59.7%)	200 (68.5)	427 (63.5)
Disagree	25 (6.13)	14 (6.69)	39 (6.32)	94 (24.7)	64 (21.9)	158 (23.5)
Neither	6 (1.47)	3 (1.44)	9 (1.46)	26 (6.8)	10 (3.4)	36 (5.4)
No response	7 (1.72)	1 (.48)	8 (1.29)	0	0	0
Strongly agree	16 (3.92)	5 (2.39)	21 (3.40)	16 (4.2)	8 (2.7)	24 (3.6)
Strongly disagree	0	1 (.48)	1 (0.16)	17 (4.5)	10 (3.4)	27 (4)
Grand Total	408 (100)	209 (100)	617 (100%)	380 (100%)	292 (100)	672 (100)

Changes in women's safety in public places

Table 19: Women's safety in public places

F07: Women are safe in the public places (outside home)	Final Evaluation 2017			Baseline Study 2015		
	Female (%)	Male (%)	Grand Total (%)	Female (%)	Male (%)	Grand Total (%)
Agree	354 (86.76)	185 (88.52)	539 (87.36)	227 (59.7%)	200 (68.5)	427 (63.5)
Disagree	25 (6.13)	14 (6.69)	39 (6.32)	94 (24.7)	64 (21.9)	158 (23.5)

Neither	6 (1.47)	3 (1.44)	9 (1.46)	26 (6.8)	10 (3.4)	36 (5.4)
No response	7 (1.72)	1 (.48)	8 (1.29)	0	0	0
Strongly agree	16 (3.92)	5 (2.39)	21 (3.40)	16 (4.2)	8 (2.7)	24 (3.6)
Strongly disagree	0	1 (.48)	1 (0.16)	17 (4.5)	10 (3.4)	27 (4)
Grand Total	408 (100)	209 (100)	617 (100%)	380 (100%)	292 (100)	672 (100)

Understanding the social and religious harmony

Table 20: Different areas social & religious harmony

QUESTION	S. Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	S. disagree	No response	N
f09. I would like my children to be raised in the neighborhood I currently live.	85	515	4	11	0	0	615
f10. Daily life in my neighborhood gives me doubts about my survival.	6	143	25	409	24	8	615
f11. Living where I live guarantees me a secure future.	26	529	14	36	0	10	615
f12. I consider daily life in my neighborhood to be violent.	6	120	20	420	36	13	615
f13. I do a lot of good things in my neighborhood.	24	498	37	17	0	39	615
f14. I feel threatened while traveling in my neighborhood.	6	88	20	455	39	7	615
f15. I feel satisfied with the quality of educational institutions in my neighborhood.	50	501	13	43	3	5	615
f16. I feel more threatened traveling in my neighborhood than in others.	6	103	21	425	52	8	615
f17. The ease of transportation is one of the advantages of living where I do.	34	496	9	59	13	4	615
f18. My neighborhood offers good and reasonably priced options for leisure/fun.	16	507	20	66	2	4	615
f19. I am frequently present to violent situations in the neighborhood I live in.	2	114	20	432	41	6	615
f21. There are advantages to living in my neighborhood.	17	513	30	40	2	13	615

2. Targets and achievements of the project

Table 21: Targets versus achievements of the project

S I	Head of Expenditure	Year to date: 2016(mid-term)						End of Project period (December 2017)					
		Events		Actual Beneficiary			% events	Targ et	Act ual	Male	Fem ale	Tot al	% events
A .	ACTIVITIES	Ta rge t	Act ual	Mal e	Fem ale	Tota l							
1	Community Mobilization												
1 . d .	Bi-monthly Follow Up with Animators at Ward level,	756	376	709	2848	3557	49.74	756	755	1214	5198	6412	100
2	Women's empowerment Program												
2 . b .	Day long follow Up and training with trained Women	84	84	0	1178	1178	100.00	56	73	0	1034	1034	77
2 . c .	. Building Unleashed Women's Network and bi-monthly (one and half monthly) meeting,	130	28	0	595	595	21.54	96	90	0	891	891	107
2 . d .	Women Conference at National level,	1	0	0	0	0	0.00	1	1	40	520	560	100
2 . e .	Weeklong Mass action campaigns and Mobilization through rally, village meeting, door to door campaign using IC materials etc for halting early marriage and GBV (1 in each Union in each Quarter)	68	26	3765	5777	9542	38.24	42	70	12197	23087	35284	60
2 . f .	Mobilizing organized female participation in ward shava	292	68	4719	3148	7867	23.29	252	243	23828	16477	40572	104
2 . g .	Mobilizing organized female participation in election	63	49	1025	1608	2633	77.78			00	00	00	
3	Sensitizing elected representative on gender and GBV								00				
3 . a .	Training on Gender and GBV for elected representatives (both men and women)	14	3	30	9	39	21.43		00	00	00	00	
3 . a . 1	Activate and strengthening the Union women and child oppression prevention committee.	10	0	0	0	0	0.00			00	00	00	

4	Youth engagement in social action												
4 . a . .	TOT for creating youth facilitators	6	6	0	216	216	100.00			00	00	00	
4 . d . .	Court-yard meetings with female on political citizenship,	560	362	0	6709	6709	64.64	630	701	18	12283	12301	90
5	Advocacy & Alliances for policy reform and legal aid												
5 . a . .	Forming village chapters of the Girl child Advocacy forum and quarterly meeting	56	14	148	108	256	25.00	56	59	306	315	621	95
5 . b . .	Workshop with the members of Girls advocacy forums on legal and human rights	2	2	36	33	69	100.00		00	00	00	00	
5 . c . .	Roundtable discussion to fully implement the Women's Development Law, both project side and national level	1	0	0	0	0	0.00	1	2	38	52	90	50
5 . d . .	Day celebration : International Women's Day, National Girl child day and Human rights day	42	14	532	1207	1739	33.33	14 Union	46	1719	3725	5444	
5 . e . .	Providing legal support (1 legal advisor) as per need												
5 . f . .	Legal support as needed	12	0	0	0	0	0.00	14 union	14 union	00	302	302	

3. Sampling (Union and Village selection)

Table 22: Details on Sampling

Union name	Villages	Population 2016 (Total)	Male	Female	ZONE	Zone population	No. of Union in each zone	No. of village from selected Unions	Selected Union (1=selected, 0=not selected)
Atlia	28	32,623	16,667	15,956	W				1
Kharnia	16	20,832	10,438	10,394	W				0
Maguraghona	7	23,392	11,761	11,631	W				0
Sovna	19	19,944	9,900	10,044	W	96,791	2.2	7	1
Bhandar para	28	16,950	8,498	8,452	S				1
Magurkhali	38	14,058	6,963	7,095	S				0
Sarappur	22	16,294	8,031	8,263	S				1

Shahos	24	18,871	9,391	9,479	S	66,173	1.5	5	0
Dhamalia	13	22,507	11,125	11,382	N				1
Raghunathpur	12	26,127	12,944	13,182	N				1
Rangpur	9	18,270	9,213	9,056	N				0
Rudaghara	7	23,426	11,628	11,798	N	90,330	2.0	6	0
Dumuria	11	29,593	14,905	14,688	C				1
Ghutudia	28	26,457	13,484	12,973	C	56,050	1.3	4	0
	262	309344	154948	154393					

4. List of documents reviewed

Table 23: List of Documents reviewed

Serial Number	Name of the document	Type
1.	Baseline Report of POWER Project	Report
2.	Grant Agreement	Legal
3.	Logical Framework (POWER Project)	Plan
4.	Mid-year report 2016	Report
5.	Project Operational Plan (POWER)	Plan
6.	PAR Report	Report
7.	List of women leaders (with current status)	List
8.	Project Activity Report (January 2015- September 2017)	Report

5. Guiding Questions for Qualitative Data Collection

FGD & SGD with Women leaders

Final Evaluation of POWER Project

Guiding Questions for conducting FGD with Women leaders

Number of the respondent: 8-12

Time for the Discussion: 60 -90 Minutes

Participants has to be heterogenous group (male female equal).

FGD No	01	Community Name	
Date		Time Starts	
Union/Upazila		Time Ends	
District			

Section: Awareness and Participation

1. Do you think that community know gender equality, women's rights and women's political participation? If so, what extent? How was the understanding **3** years back?
2. How project has helped to aware community on gender, women's rights and women's political participation? What has happened as a result of such awareness? Please cite any example you know.
3. How do you see women are coming forward in leadership role? Is it good for the society? How and what extent?

Section: Women's leadership skills

4. What are the areas where women leaders (of this Upazila) are participating? How they are participating?
5. How do you see women's leadership skills and knowledge? Has it improved over last 3 years? If so, why and how?
6. In your area, what key challenges that women leaders face? How those can be handled?

Section: Gender and Governance

7. Do you think that women leaders are playing better role in The UP (in compare with 3 years back)? Is it at expected level, if not how it can be achieved?
8. How male members of the UP work, collaborate with female members? Please share any example you know.

Section: General

9. How women of this area can be better engaged in political activities? What can be done by INGOs, local NGOs UP and GoB and community leaders for this better engagement?
10. Any other comments/ feedback or story to share?

Participant's list:

Name	Gender	Age	Occupation	Phone Number
1.				
2.				

Name	Gender	Age	Occupation	Phone Number
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				

KII with Stakeholders

Final Evaluation of POWER Project

Guiding Questions for conducting KII

Respondent:

School Teacher, Marriage Register, Community leader, Other's NGO staff, local project staff, female UP member and Upazila Women Affairs Officer, Partner Organization

KII No	01	Respondent Name	
Date		Mobile Number	
Union/Upazila		Time Starts	
District		Time Ends	

Section: Awareness and Participation

1. To you, what are the rights that women enjoy in this area? Do women participate in political activities? To what extent and in which areas? Are there any changes over the last 3 years?
2. How project has helped to aware community on gender, women's rights and women's political participation? What has happened as a result of such awareness? Please cite any example you know.
3. How do you see women are coming forward in leadership role? Is it good for the society? How and what extent?

Section: Women's leadership skills

4. What are the areas where women leaders (of this Upazila) are participating? How they are participating?
5. How do you see women's leadership skills and knowledge? Has it improved over last 3 years? If so, why and how? Please give specific examples.
6. In your area, what key challenges that women leaders face? How those can be handled?

Section: Gender and Governance

7. Do you think that women leaders are playing better role in The UP (in compare with 3 years back)? Is it at expected level? if not how it can be achieved?
8. How male members of the UP work, collaborate with female members? Please share any example you know.

Section: Partnership & Capacity Enhancement

9. How was the partnership approach? What extent it was effective to enhance capacity of the partner organizations?
10. In which specific areas partners' capacity was enhanced? What was the project role?
11. Should THP follow same partnership approaches for future project? Why?

Section: General

12. How women of this area can be better engaged in political activities? What can be done by INGOs, local NGOs UP and GoB and community leaders for this better engagement?
13. Any other comments/ feedback or story to share?

IDI with Project Staff

The Hunger Project – Bangladesh Final Evaluation of POWER Project

Guiding Questions for IDI with LGI Representative

IDI No		Name of the LG Rep	
Date		Phone Number	
Union Parishad		Time Starts	
Upazila		Time Ends	

QN & Areas of Query	<p>a. To you, what extent community members of this UP are aware about gender equality, women's rights and women's political participation?</p> <p>Response:</p>
1. Awareness	<p>b. Before 3years, what was the women's situation in this viallge? Any difference than of today? What are the project's contributions for to bring such changes (if any)?</p> <p>Response:</p>
	<p>c. How people at community and family level perceive women's leadership role? What are the specific remarkable changes happened over last 3 years?</p> <p>Response:</p>
	2. Women's Leadership Skills
<p>b. Are there any examples that demonstrate women leaders are confident and played better role?</p> <p>Response:</p>	
<p>c. Any example of placing any agenda by female members that has been accepted and implemented by male counterpart as well?</p> <p>Response:</p>	
3. Gender and Governance	<p>a. How do you (LG body) perceive gender issues? What are the key areas where women need to be involved, space needs to be given to women in your UP?</p> <p>Response:</p>
	<p>b. Could you please cite an example on how overall society or social development get affected because of gender inequality?</p> <p>Response:</p>
4. General	<p>Q. Any final remarks that you want to make?</p> <p>Response:</p>