

American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB)

SDG Activity Report 2023

SDG 5: Gender Equality

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) demonstrates its commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 5 by fostering gender equality through various initiatives. AIUB systematically tracks women's applications, acceptance, and participation rates, ensuring inclusive access to education. To support women in underrepresented fields, AIUB organizes seminars such as “Women in Engineering”, encouraging self-promotion and confidence-building for female students.

The university promotes women’s empowerment through targeted outreach programs, including partnerships with organizations like BRAC for initiatives such as “Shomotontro” on gender justice. On-campus events like International Women’s Day celebrations highlight women’s contributions and promote awareness of gender issues.

AIUB also provides policies for non-discrimination and maternity benefits, ensuring a supportive environment for female students, faculty, and staff. Additionally, childcare facilities are available for both students and staff, enabling mothers to balance their academic and professional responsibilities.

Through research, AIUB addresses critical gender issues, including publications on topics like “Women’s Rights in Bangladesh” and the impact of remittances on women’s empowerment. By fostering an inclusive academic culture, AIUB contributes to reducing gender disparities, promoting leadership opportunities, and empowering women to thrive in their respective fields.

#AIUB #SDG5 #GenderEquality #WomenInSTEM #Empowerment

Contents

University Activities towards SDG 5.....	4
AIUB-IQAC hosted “Shomotontro” an initiative on Gender Justice and Diversity program by BRAC NGO, to address SDG 5	4
ACES organized a workshop on “Practice Self-Promotion for Women with #Iamremarkable”	5
“Your Story Matters” - International Women’s Day (IWD) 2023 celebration	6
Career Session - Build your tomorrow with Therap (BD)	7
A seminar on ‘Recent Legal Reforms on Maternity Benefit and the prevention of Gender based Violence’ organized by the Department of Law	8
Nationwide Coding Bootcamp on Blockchain	9
Seminar on “Women in Engineering”	11
CS Challengers is the Champion of APL 2023	12
IEEE AIUB Student Branch WIE Affinity Group Successfully Celebrated “WIE Day”	13
Women Empowerment for mitigating climate change and building Climate resilience ..	14
AFC’s "A Perfect Life" - Champion at the BUP Film Fest 2023.....	15
Faculty Research and Publication on SDG 5.....	16
Impact of Gender on Custody, Guardianship and Adoption.....	16
Envisioning Changing Dimensions of Women Rights : Issues and Challenges.....	16
Challenges for Improving the Status of Women in Physics: Insights from Bangladesh ..	16
National Conference on LEGAL DYNAMICS IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD	17
ELIGIBILITY OF MOTHER AS A GUARDIAN IN THE CONTEXT OF FAMILY COURT OF DHAKA: A PRAGMATIC STUDY	18
COVID-19 pandemic influence on undergraduate female engineering students’ performance in Bangladesh	18
Does Land Ownership Really Improve the Decision-Making Capacity of the Rural Women? Reflections from Bangladesh.....	19
The Contribution of remittances on woman empowerment in Bangladesh.....	20

University Activities towards SDG 5

AIUB-IQAC hosted “Shomotontro” an initiative on Gender Justice and Diversity program by BRAC NGO, to address SDG 5

AIUB Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (AIUB-IQAC) and AIUB Women Forum jointly organized a two-day long program hosting BRAC's Gender Justice and Diversity program, “Shomotontro”. The event took place on June 19-20, 2023, at AIUB campus premises. The program was a successful initiative for IQAC-AIUB to fulfil SDG 5 requirement and AIUB Women Forum for addressing the gender related issues and development. The objective of the event was to start a social awareness campaign on the concept of gender equality among university students. As part of the event few gender experience booths were set up On June 19 and 20, which arranged interactive games, that students enthusiastically participated in. Different booths, such as Photo Booth, Spot the Social Flaw, Make your Own Meme, Audio booth and Standy, presented different social issues in an engaging manner. Game moderators discussed various gender issues with the eager audience. On June 20, apart from the booths, a seminar style dialogue session was held at AIUB Auditorium from 10AM-2PM. Prof. Dr. Md. Abdur Rahman, Pro-Vice Chancellor, AIUB, inaugurated the session with his welcome speech. AIUB Oratory Club presented two debate sessions as part of this dialogue. The topics for the debate sessions were “Motherhood forces a woman to leave career behind” and “The responsibility of earning only falls on the men, whereas the responsibility of raising a family fall on the women only”. AIUB Oratory Club had a spectacular show of arguments and counter arguments on both the topics. At the end of each debate session, Ms. Nobonita Chowdhury, Director, Gender Justice and Diversity programme, BRAC, had highly interactive dialogue sessions with the audience, which consisted of AIUB university students. She depicted the concept of Shomotontro, with vivid examples of her own experiences and also listened to the experiences of the students. Ms. Nobonita Chowdhury called on several students on stage and showcased their various discrimination experiences. She sensitized the university students on the manifestations of patriarchy and motivated them to contribute as change agents for gender equality. Ms. Nobonita Chowdhury stirred the engaging youth to contribute meaningfully towards achieving gender equity in the long run. Dr. Mohammad Zahidul Islam Khan, Registrar, AIUB provided a vote of thanks to Ms. Nobonita Chowdhury, for her effort in bringing in equality in gender diaspora. Dignitaries from AIUB, Dr. Nisar Ahmed, Treasurer, Mr. Mashiour Rahman, Dean-in-charge, Faculty of Science and Technology, Dr. Mohammad Faridul Alam, Director, Graduate Program (MBA), Dr. Rezbin Nahar, Director, Undergraduate Program (BBA) and other faculty members graced the event with their kind presences. Mr. Tanvir Islam, Ms. Nurunnahar, Ms. Zarfisha Alam, Ms. Kazi Fariha Muntaha from BRAC also attended the two-day event. Ms. Nazia Farhana, Assistant Professor, Management Information System, coordinated the event. Office of Student Affairs and Administrative stuffs of AIUB, extended their immaculate support for making the program a success.

<https://www.aiub.edu/aiub-iqac-hosted-shomotontro-an-initiative-on-gender-justice-and-diversity-program-by-brac-ngo-to-address-sdg-5>



ACES organized a workshop on “Practice Self-Promotion for Women with #IamRemarkable”

On June 21, 2023, the AIUB Community of Engineering Students (ACES) hosted a workshop titled "Practice of self-promotion for women with #IamRemarkable" in Room no. 3201, Annex 3, AIUB. The program started at 3 PM with 25 pre-registered attendees. The objective of the program was to empower women to promote themselves and their works confidently and effectively. This program was arranged to promote gender equality and reduce inequalities in the professional engineering sector for women.

In introductory remarks, former Integration Engineer of Ericsson Bangladesh Ltd and alumna of Department of EEE, AIUB Ms. Fariha Rahman, a certified #IamRemarkable facilitator by Google, highlighted the significance of recognizing ourselves. She inspired the participants to acquire communication skills, self-awareness, and the ability to overcome self-doubt. She briefly discussed topics including Unconscious bias & Self-promotion, strategies for effectively communicating your accomplishments and practicing self-promotion, and how to practice self-promotion in your networks, and workplaces. The workshop held with the aim of empowering and motivating more women to pursue a career in engineering.

Mentor of ACES, Dr. Md. Saniat Rahman Zishan (Director, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB), provided closing remarks and thanked the speaker with a token of appreciation. The session was concluded by taking a group picture with all participants and volunteers of the program.

<https://www.aiub.edu/aces-organized-a-workshop-on--practice-self-promotion-for-women-with-iamremarkable>



“Your Story Matters” - International Women’s Day (IWD) 2023 celebration

On Thursday, 22 March 2023, the AIUB Women Forum organized a panel discussion titled “Your Story Matters” to commemorate International Women’s Day (IWD) 2023 in the AIUB Auditorium. The theme of IWD 2023 is “DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality,” as set by the United Nations with a hashtag #EmbraceEquity. The panelists of the discussion were:

Ms. Nadia Anwar, Founder, Member, Board of Trustees, AIUB

Ms. Dana L. Olds, Chief of Party, Democracy International

Ms. Lesley Richards, Deputy Chief of Party, Democracy International

Ms. Maliha Meherin Bushra, AIUB Alumni and Executive Assistant, IVD, WHO

Mr. Manzur H Khan, Proctor, and Director, Office of Student Affairs (OSA)

Ms. Dana L. Olds shared her thoughts on worldwide women empowerment and capacity building. Ms. Lesley Richards spoke on women in politics and the role of Democracy International in this regard. Both of them briefly informed the audience about various inclusive initiatives taken by Democracy International.

Ms. Nadia Anwar, Founder, Member, Board of Trustees, AIUB highlighted how important a woman’s mental well-being is, particularly when she goes through various phases of life and stress. Everyone resonated with her and agreed to recognize the need for mental health services and break the stigma about it. She also mentioned the services that AIUB offers for students, faculty members, and officials. She urged everyone to come forward and encourage others to avail these opportunities.

Ms. Maliha Meherin Bushra, AIUB Alumni, who is working as an Executive Assistant, IVD at the World Health Organization (WHO) spoke about her experience as a student and also a professional on this matter. She pointed out that respecting everyone as a human being is the best way to deal with this issue.

Mr. Manzur H Khan emphasized the fact that it is the individual mindset where everything starts, and ensuring the exact value of work, regardless of men or women, is the way to achieve true equity.

Initially, Prof. Dr. Farheen Hassan, Associate Dean, Faculty of Business Administration, delivered the welcome address and at the end, Prof. Dr. Siddique Hossain, Dean, Faculty of Engineering delivered the vote of thanks.

<https://www.aiub.edu/your-story-matters---international-womens-day-iwd-2023-celebration>



Career Session - Build your tomorrow with Therap (BD)

A career session titled “Build your tomorrow with Therap (BD)” was arranged by Therap (BD) Ltd. in association with AIUB Computer Club on Tuesday, 28 February 2023, at the Auditorium of the American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB). Mr. Richard A. Robbins, Managing Director of Therap, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) M. Shamim Chowdhury, Director of HR and Vital Assets of Therap, Mr. Mashiour Rahman, Associate Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology, and Prof. Dr. Dip Nandi, Director, Faculty of Science and Technology were present at the session. Moreover, representatives of Therap (BD) Ltd. Minar Mahmud, Senior Software Engineer, Pranjal Rahman, Senior Software Engineer QA, Tasfia Afnan Barshon, Training and Content Specialist, Waliul Hasnat Rahat, Associate Software Engineer, QA and Prattay Iqbal, Director-Business Development, Asia, MENA, and Africa Region were present at the session. The session hosts were Tunaj Ahmed and Shohan Morol, General Members of AIUB Computer Club.

Ms. Tunaj and Mr. Morol began the session with a warm welcome to the guests and the audience. Mr. Mashiour Rahman inaugurated the session by giving a preamble speech and a short overview of the session as well as welcoming everyone to the session. After that, Mr. Chowdhury talked about his experience with Therap. He addressed the organization in a different way by upholding employee bonding, social welfare works, workplace facilities, and office environment. Later, Mr. Robbins started his speech by briefly explaining Therap and Therap (BD) Ltd., and their operations. He sequentially talked about Innovation, Scaling, Resilience, maintenance, challenges, the workplace environment, work flexibility, internship opportunities, and connectivity building. Most importantly, he emphasized women’s empowerment and gender equality. Mr. Robbins described that their vision involves medication documentation, individual outcomes, and health care.

The representatives of Therap (BD) Ltd. later share their views about Therap (BD) Ltd. They explained the facilities they get, the tools and technologies they use, along with the growth, sector, and service coverages. At the end of the program, there was a Question-and-answer session which was conducted by Mr. Robbins. About 400 students joined this career session. The guests were honored with tokens of appreciation by Dr. Md. Abdullah-Al-Jubair, Head, Computer Science, Mr. Abhijit Bhowmik, Associate Professor, Computer Science, Special Assistant (OSA) and Mr. Sharfuddin Mahmood, Assistant Professor, Computer Science, Special Assistant (OSA) on behalf of AIUB. The session concluded after taking a group photo.

<https://www.aiub.edu/career-session---build-your-tomorrow-with-therap-bd>



A seminar on 'Recent Legal Reforms on Maternity Benefit and the prevention of Gender based Violence' organized by the Department of Law

The recent amendments to the Bangladesh Labour Rule 2015, implemented by the Law Ministry, have raised concerns regarding the reduced benefits for women workers in the country. In response to this critical issue, the Department of Law at the American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) organized a seminar aimed at addressing this challenge. The seminar took place on October 25, 2023 at the Multipurpose hall, Building D, AIUB, and it featured a lecture by Barrister Quazi Maruful Alam, the speaker, on "Empowering Women Workers in Bangladesh: A Deep Dive into Recent Legal Reforms on Maternity Benefit and the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence." Mr. Md. Khalid Rahman, Assistant Professor and Ms. Tasnuva Anika, Lecturer, Department of Law, AIUB, were given the organizational responsibility by the department to make this event successful.

The seminar was organized by the Department of Law at AIUB, with active participation from the law students and Business Administration (BBA) students majoring in Human Resource Management (HRM). The event was attended by students and the faculty members, making it a comprehensive platform for discussing the pressing issues faced by women workers in Bangladesh.

Professor Dr. Taslima Monsoor, a respected figure in the legal field and the respected Advisor of the Department of Law, AIUB, graced the event as a special guest. Her presence was a source of inspiration and motivation for the participants. In her welcome speech, Professor Monsoor shared her wisdom and insights, encouraging attendees to take an active role in advocating for the rights of women workers in Bangladesh.

Barrister Quazi Maruful Alam, the distinguished speaker of the seminar, provided valuable insights into the recent legal reforms affecting women workers in Bangladesh. He emphasized the importance of empowering women workers and delved into the changes brought about by the recent amendments to the Labour Rule. The seminar came to a close after an engaging and enlightening question-and-answer session. Dr. Syeda Afroza Zerine, the esteemed Head of the Law Department, extended her gratitude by delivering a heartfelt "vote of thanks" to both the speaker, organizers and the students for their invaluable contributions in making this event a resounding success.

<https://www.aiub.edu/a-seminar-on-recent-legal-reforms-on-maternity-benefit-and-the-prevention-of-gender-based-violence-organized-by-the-department-of-law>



Nationwide Coding Bootcamp on Blockchain

The Department of Management Information System (MIS) at AIUB organized a workshop titled "Nationwide Coding Bootcamp on Blockchain" on December 11, 2023. This workshop was conducted by Women in Digital and sponsored by AnitaB.org. The purpose of this workshop is to enhance women's participation in the technology sector. The workshop adheres with the goal of SDG achievement of AIUB as the event represents "Decent Work and Economic Growth for everyone" (SDG-8), "Quality Education" (SDG-4) and "Gender Equality" (SDG-5).

During the event, Ms. Achia Nila, the Founder and CEO of Women in Digital, gave an introduction about their organisation. Additionally, Kirsten Rider, the Senior Director of Membership from AnitaB.org, joined the event remotely via Zoom to provide a synopsis of the event's objective. Since 2013, Women in Digital has provided training to a significant number of women, ranging from 10,000 to 20,000, with the aim of enhancing their financial empowerment. Currently, there are around 15,000 women working in various organisations. The organisation yearly implements a range of programmes to augment women's involvement in the technology industry. In partnership with AnitaB.org, the organisation is now organising a coding bootcamp throughout the whole country, specifically designed for women. The bootcamp will begin with a class focused on blockchain technology. The coding camp, organised by Women in Digital, will begin with a blockchain session facilitated by female developers. Taking place at the American International University-Bangladesh campus, this event signifies the commencement of the first coding bootcamp exclusively designed for women. Over the course of the following year, the programme will cover the whole nation.

The workshop was partitioned and executed in seven segments. The first segment of this session was led by Ms. Habiba Rashid Lamiya, a Blockchain Trainer. She provided a definition of blockchain and its core principles, while also elaborating on the decentralized nature of this technology. Additionally, analyze the historical circumstances and the genesis of blockchain technology. Next, Ms. Jannatul Mawya, the Blockchain Trainer, led the second portion of the session. She emphasized the practical uses of blockchain technology in various sectors and presented successful examples and case studies. In the subsequent segment, Ms. Habiba Rashid Lamiya, a Blockchain Trainer, delves into the topic of Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) and elucidates their distinctions from cryptocurrencies. She examines the notion of digital ownership and scarcity within the framework of NFTs. She presented illustrative instances of NFT applications in the realms of art, antiques, and entertainment. Mr. Abhishek Das, a Blockchain Trainer, conducted the fourth and fifth parts of the session. He introduced the idea of smart contracts, explained their purpose, and discussed several use cases for smart contracts. Additionally, provide a practical example of deploying a smart contract and showcasing the creation of non-fungible tokens (NFTs). During the sixth segment, Elham Nusrat, a Blockchain Trainer, was addressing the need for blockchain expertise, specifically in areas linked to Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs). This text examines the career prospects and financial possibilities for those working in the field of blockchain technology. Ms. Achia Nila, the Founder and CEO of Women In Digital, provides a concise overview of their future objectives in the last segment. At the conclusion of the workshop training, a 15-minute assessment was administered to evaluate the participants' understanding of the session content. Free certificate has been provided to the participants.

Dr. Rezbin Nahar, Director, Undergraduate Program, Faculty of Business Administration, AIUB, gave vote of thanks to the resource persons and She outlined the importance of such workshops for our students to make better decisions and the importance of women's participation in the technology sector. She handed out a token of appreciation to the guest and the trainers. In his concluding remarks, Mr. Mehazbul Hoque Nahid (Head, dept of MIS) expressed gratitude to "Women in Digital" and "AnitaB.org" for their unwavering dedication in fostering the growth of a diverse and inclusive technology workforce. Which, consequently, can contribute to the realization of the SDG-8, which aims to promote decent work and economic growth. Additionally, their efforts also facilitate the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal 4, which focuses on providing quality ICT education for women which aims to achieve gender equality in society (SDG-5), as outlined by the United Nations. 50 Women students form BBA, MBA and CSE Program of American International University Bangladesh (AIUB) were the participants of this workshop. The FBA humbly appreciates the AIUB administration's generous support. The seminar was attended by Ms. Azmery Sultana (Lecturer, Dept of MIS) and Ms. Nazia Farhana (Assistant Professor, Dept of MIS). The entire event was coordinated and moderated by Mr. Mohammad Baijed, Lecturer, Department of MIS.

<https://www.aiub.edu/nationwide-coding-bootcamp-on-blockchain>



Seminar on “Women in Engineering”

On Wednesday, February 22nd, 2023, the IEEE AIUB Student Branch WIE Affinity Group successfully organized a seminar session titled “Women in Engineering”. The event was held to gain insightful information about the successes and experiences of successful female engineers. The seminar was intended to encourage women to pursue engineering careers by providing insights into the experiences and accomplishments of a successful female engineer.

The seminar was inaugurated by Advisor of IEEE AIUB Student Branch, Prof. Dr. Mohammed Abdul Mannan, Associate Dean, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB. He spoke about the female students in engineering fields while also briefly narrating the distinguished speakers’ achievements. Furthermore, he discussed the factors that discourage women from studying engineering and encouraged female students to work hard to achieve their goals. Following the inauguration speech, Dr. Dilshad Mahjabeen, Acting Chairman & Associate professor, Department of EEE, Stamford University Bangladesh & Counselor, IEEE Stamford Student Branch, took the stage. She began her speech by clarifying the fact that her views are optimistic and not feminist. She proceeded by briefly discussing the importance of Women in Engineering and talked about the capabilities and understanding of women regarding the matter. Additionally, she discussed the reasons for more women choosing medical science over engineering and provided statistics on the percentage of men and women pursuing engineering careers. To encourage her audiences, she briefly narrated the stories of the 3 women who pursued engineering while also discussing the lack of participation and issues concerned with WIE in Bangladesh. Before ending her speech, she suggested arranging more seminars regarding Women in Engineering at both school and university levels. She provided some insights into what the future holds for Women in Engineering. Then Advisor of IEEE AIUB Student Branch, Prof. Dr. A.B.M Siddique Hossain, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB, briefly discussing Women in Engineering and presenting the token of appreciation to the honorable speaker.

The seminar started at 03:00 PM and finished at 4:00 PM. A total of 60+ participants attended the event.

<https://www.aiub.edu/seminar-on-women-in-engineering>



CS Challengers is the Champion of APL 2023

Like every year, the Office of Sports, AIUB, arranged a 4-day long inter-department cricket tournament titled AIUB Premier League (APL) T-10 2023. In the final match held on 23 February 2023, the CS Challengers beat CS Cyclones by 24 runs and won the Championship title of APL 2023. Earlier, in another final match among the female teams, Blue Tigress beat Green Tigress by 7 wickets and won the female championship title of the APL 2023. The tournament was inaugurated in the AIUB Field earlier on Sunday, 19 February 2023.

Man of the Match (Female): Billah

Man of the Final: Rumeen

Best Batsman: Shafi

Best Bowler: Shovon

Man of the Tournament: Rifat

Fair Play Trophy: BBA Bengals

Runner Up (Female): Green Tigress

Champion (Female): Blue Tigress

Runner Up (Male): CS Cyclones

Champion (Male): CS Challengers

<https://www.aiub.edu/cs-challengers-is-the-champion-of-apl-2023>



IEEE AIUB Student Branch WIE Affinity Group Successfully Celebrated “WIE Day”

On Sunday, June 18th, 2023, the IEEE AIUB Student Branch WIE Affinity Group successfully celebrated “WIE Day”. The event was held with the aim of empowering and motivating more women to pursue a career in engineering. It highlighted the significant contributions made by current female engineers to various industries and the challenges women engineers face in the traditionally male-dominated field. Advisor of IEEE AIUB Student Branch, Prof. Dr. A.B.M Siddique Hossain, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB, inaugurated the event by briefly talking about women’s advancement in engineering and education before handing over the stage to the honorable speaker.

Dr. Dilshad Mahjabeen, Counselor, IEEE STAMFORD Student Branch, Acting Chairman & Associate professor, Department of EEE, Stamford University Bangladesh, took the floor as the speaker of the session. She provided an insightful discussion on women’s involvement in Artificial Intelligence (AI) during the event and talked about the current state of women in AI while acknowledging both the specialties of women and the challenges they face. Dr. Dilshad continued the session by mentioning the benefits of diversity and inclusion in corporations, as well as the availability of grants, scholarships, and mentorship programs for women in technical disciplines. Advisor of IEEE AIUB Student Branch Prof. Dr. Mohammad Abdul Mannan, Associate Dean, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB, delivered the closing remarks of the session. The event concluded with Prof. Dr. Mohammad Abdul Mannan providing the token of appreciation to the distinguished speaker. Following a designated break period, Khan Farhana Ma’am, International Relations Specialist, Consultant, Systech Digital Limited; Founder, Farhana’s Brainstation. assumed the role of the session’s speaker. She delivered an informative session centered around empowering women globally while emphasizing the importance of equality between men and women, highlighting the significance of education for both genders and acknowledged the crucial support of friends and family in women’s empowerment. She touched upon the importance of SWOT analysis and its relevance, emphasizing the value of analytical thinking. Additionally, the speaker demonstrated and provided guidance on emailing a resume effectively.

Advisor of IEEE AIUB Student Branch, Dr. Md. Saniat Rahman Zishan, Director, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB presented the closing remarks of the event. He highlighted on the positive change in number of female engineers in engineering studies in recent years and appreciated the significant contribution of women in engineering. Afterwards he congratulated the IEEE AIUB Student Branch WIE Affinity Group for arranging the event and thanked the participants for attending the event. Overall, the event served as a medium to update and inform about the current state of females in different engineering industries and motivate the current female participants to pursue a career in engineering. This event aimed to raise awareness on gender equality and empower all women. A total of 90+ attended the event. Dr. Rifat Hazari, Senior Assistant Professor, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB, Md. Shahariar Parvez, Lecturer, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB and Tamim Hossain, Lecturer, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB attended the session.

<https://www.aiub.edu/ieee-aiub-student-branch-wie-affinity-group-successfully-celebrated-wie-day>

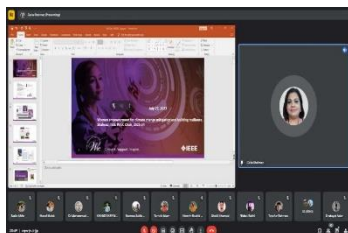


Women Empowerment for mitigating climate change and building Climate resilience

On Saturday, 29th July 2023, the IEEE AIUB Student Branch WIE Affinity Group successfully organized a webinar titled “Women Empowerment for mitigating climate change and building Climate resilience” as an extended celebration of IEEE WIE Day 2023. The webinar was held with the aim of enlightening participants about the current state of the climate. It highlighted the significant contributions made by the changes in climate towards human health. Dr. Mohammad Hasan Imam, Counselor, IEEE AIUB Student Branch; Advisor IEEE EMBS AIUB SB; Associate Professor, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB, inaugurated the webinar by speaking briefly about climates and its impacts on human well-being. He then introduced the speaker prior to the keynote session.

Dr. Celia Shahnaz, 2023 IEEE WIE Chair, professor BUET, Member IEEE New initiative and history Committee, IEEE EAB FRC, then initiated the session. She began by highlighting the crucial role of Women in Engineering (WIE) and the promising opportunities it offers for female students. Sharing her own inspiring biography and remarkable achievements, she highlighted her deep passion for engineering and its profound impact on society. Moving on, she delved into the diverse IEEE societies and stressed the immense value of diversity and collaboration within the organization, including IEEE HKN. Next, she turned her attention to the pressing issue of climate change and discussed initiatives aimed at promoting eco-friendly products and environmental preservation, particularly concerning high-risk populations. The session's focus on climate health and its significance was evident throughout. The talk culminated with a powerful and motivational speech, wherein the speaker highlighted the importance of capstone projects aligning with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and actively contributing to combating climate change. She encouraged participants to embrace novelty and innovation as they address the challenges posed by climate change, urging them to think outside the box for solutions. The session then transitioned into a dedicated question and answer segment, fostering interaction between the participants and the speaker. This provided an excellent opportunity for attendees to seek clarification on various important topics discussed during the talk. The discussed topics and concerns which align with various SDG agendas such as Climate Action, Gender Equality, Good Health, and Well-being. It demonstrated the interconnectedness of women empowerment as well. Following the keynote session, Dr. Mohammad Hasan Imam took the stage to deliver the closing remarks. With gratitude and admiration, he presented a virtual token of appreciation to the esteemed speaker, acknowledging her insightful contribution to the webinar. He also extended his heartfelt thanks to the IEEE AIUB Student Branch WIE Affinity Group for organizing the event. The event started at 8:10 PM and ended at 9:30 PM. A total of 80+ participants attended the event.

<https://www.aiub.edu/women-empowerment-for-mitigating-climate-change-and-building-climate-resilience>



AFC's "A Perfect Life" - Champion at the BUP Film Fest 2023

Filmmaking is the art of immortalizing emotions weaved into stories for a lifetime. It captures the essence of a medium that transports us into a different world, introduces us to captivating characters, and leaves us with a thought-provoking impression. Bringing together more than 250 participants from over 35 renowned public and private universities, in four categories of short film, cosplay, script writing and cine quiz, the BUP Film Fest 2023, organized by the BUP Film Club and the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of the Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP), on the 17th – 18th of September 2023, was a testament to the art of films. In the category of short films, out of a stellar selection of 62 incredible submissions, the Top 10 were curated for an exclusive screening, showcasing the very best from universities across Bangladesh. The AIUB Film Club's (AFC), "A Perfect Life", emerged as the Champion at the event, making its mark at the festival.

This heartwarming tale about a young girl's journey to self-discovery has resonated with audiences of all ages, leaving them with a sense of hope and inspiration. During the Closing & Prize-Giving Ceremony, Mohita Mubashera Zaman, a bright and talent student at the American International University – Bangladesh, who is a member of the AIUB Film Club and the director of "A Perfect Life", received the honor from none other than the legendary Bangladeshi actor, Riaz Uddin Ahamed Siddique. This recognition acknowledged the brilliance of the team in creating compelling stories through the lens.

As the festival concluded, "A Perfect Life" was screened once more, this time in front of special guests and university officials. The film resonated deeply with the audience, leaving an indelible impact with its evocative narrative and creative brilliance. The Dean of Faculty of Security & Strategic Studies of BUP, Brigadier General Muhammad Ali Talukder, expressed how profoundly the film touched his personal beliefs, drawing parallels to his own experiences with his children. The immense appreciation the film and its team received showcased the power of filmmaking through collaboration, dedication, and creativity. As we look forward to the future, AIUB encourages the entire team to continue pushing boundaries, exploring new horizons, and crafting stories that captivate hearts and minds. Their work is an inspiration to all aspiring filmmakers.

<https://www.aiub.edu/afcs-a-perfect-life---champion-at-the-bup-film-fest-2023>



Faculty Research and Publication on SDG 5

Impact of Gender on Custody, Guardianship and Adoption

PROF. DR. TASLIMA MONSOOR et al.

Adoption falls under the personal law of the people. Basically, there are two kinds of adoption that are recognized in Malaysia; namely adoption that affects the status of adopted child and secondly, adoption that does not affect the status of adopted child. These two kinds of adoption are manifested in two statutes governing adoption in Malaysia, namely the Adoption Act 1952 (the AA) and Registration of Adoptions Act 1952 (the RAA). The Adoption Act 1952 (the AA) is for non-Muslims and Registration of Adoptions Act 1952 (the RAA) is for Muslims of Malaysia. Adoption in Bangladesh is a taboo as it is not permitted in Islam. But there is another concept of Islamic Adoption for life or Kafala which is similar to the Registration of Adoptions Act 1952 (the RAA) of Malaysia. Kafala is a system where the child is adopted without any change of name from the natural father and the child does not inherit from the adopted father. However, the child can be maintained for life by the adopted father and can be given gifts or Heba. This can be adopted in Bangladesh and will have a landmark impact on the legal, judicial, and social system. Thus, this cross-country study will benefit Bangladesh and Malaysia.

Envisioning Changing Dimensions of Women Rights : Issues and Challenges

TASNUVA ANIKA et al.

In Bangladesh Religious Laws commonly administer the family matters of individual religious communities, but there is no way to repudiate a remarkable impact, over time, of new principles of legislation and judicial precedents. The chapter looks into the trends shown by judicial decisions of Bangladeshi Courts that apply Muslim Law Principles in the matter of guardianship of minors.

Challenges for Improving the Status of Women in Physics: Insights from Bangladesh

DR. HUMAYRA FERDOUS et al.

The country report highlights the urgent need to address the challenges faced by women in physics related fields and careers in Bangladesh. Despite their ability to compete on merit, women's participation in physics career remains lower than men's, though student enrolment is higher than before. The report aims to provide a greater understanding of the underrepresentation of women in physics-related fields and careers, shedding light on the societal biases and stereotypes that impact women's engagement in physics, as well as the difficulties they face in balancing personal and professional obligations. Implicit gender biases and an unfriendly work environment further hinder women's careers in physics. Our recent study reveals that men have more opportunities than women

in physics-related fields, adding to the complexity of the situation. Therefore, there is an urgent need for initiatives to address the challenges faced by women in physics. The paper presents data on female faculty, scientists, and student enrolments in physics-related subjects at the country's few academic and research institutions. The study emphasizes the significance of empowering women and encouraging their participation in physics-related fields to assure their presence in the Fourth Industrial Revolution by creating mentorship and networking programs with successful female physicists and professionals [1]. By promoting gender equality and creating a more inclusive work environment, the field of physics can benefit from a more diverse and talented workforce. The paper concludes with a call to action for policymakers, educators, and professionals to work together towards the common goal of increasing women's participation in physics and related fields.

<https://icwip2023.hbcse.tifr.res.in/>

National Conference on LEGAL DYNAMICS IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD

FERDOUSI BEGUM et al.

The women of Bangladesh are traditionally involved in various agricultural activities. As per the agricultural information service of the Government of Bangladesh, 71.5% of women in the country are solely involved in agriculture. Their contribution to agricultural production are noteworthy which should be recognized, appreciated, and valued but most of their efforts remain unnoticed. One of the structural barriers that restrict women's participation in agriculture more sustainably is the unequal access to agricultural land. According to the agricultural statistics of the Government of Bangladesh, men hold 81% of land in Bangladesh, while women own only 19%. Due to various religious laws prevailing in the country, women are often deprived of their rightful inheritance in agricultural lands; Hindu law is not an exception. The distinguished feature of the rights of Hindu women in agricultural lands in Bangladesh has received attention in the case of Jotindranath Mondal and Ors. Vs. Gouri Dasi and Ors. (2020) where the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh declares that, Hindu widows have their share in agricultural properties and the laws regarding this issue was misinterpreted in Bangladesh for many years. This is a qualitative research where the researcher makes an analytical examination of the existing laws and cases regarding the rights of Hindu women in agricultural lands. It revisits the existing Hindu laws of Bangladesh to find out the loopholes regarding this issue. It depicts the role of judiciary in Bangladesh in ensuring the rights of Hindu women in agricultural lands while analyzing cases related to this issue. The findings of this paper suggest that, despite the existence of legal provisions that establishes rights of Hindu women in agricultural lands, in reality, there remain a superstitious belief in the Bangladeshi society that, Hindu women will not get any right in agricultural lands as the existing laws relating to this issue are erroneously interpreted. The judiciary plays a pivotal role to remove this erroneous interpretation in many cases and thereby establishes the rights of Hindu women in agricultural lands.

<https://ku.ac.bd/discipline/uploads/noticeboardfiles/Conference%20Flyer-1.pdf>

ELIGIBILITY OF MOTHER AS A GUARDIAN IN THE CONTEXT OF FAMILY COURT OF DHAKA: A PRAGMATIC STUDY

DR. SYEDA AFROZA ZERIN et al.

In Bangladesh, corresponding religious laws commonly administer the family matters of individual religious communities, but there is no way to repudiate a remarkable impact, over time, of new principles through legislation and judicial precedents. Muslim family law dissertation in Bangladesh also is characterized by significant efforts made by the courts to apply traditional principles to modern circumstances. The Legal framework on guardianship of minors emerged under the Roman law. Islamic Law also addressed the issue in a progressive and dynamic manner. During the British rule in the Indo-Pak Sub-continent, the principal legislation governing the guardianship and custody of the children in Bangladesh was enacted, keeping the personal laws intact. The law apparently favours fathers and in practice tilted towards father as an absolute guardian of minor in any case irrespective of the interest and betterment of the children. This article explores the usefulness of the existing laws in the light of the data collected through a pragmatic study regarding the eligibility of mother as a guardian in the context of 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 12th, 13th and 15th Family Courts of Dhaka from the year of 2017- 2019. The analysis of the quantitative study reveals that even though mothers are also entitled to get the guardianship of their child; their right is suppressed by patriarchal and socio-cultural norms of the society.

COVID-19 pandemic influence on undergraduate female engineering students' performance in Bangladesh

DR. MUHIBUL HAQUE BHUYAN et al.

This paper explores the impact of the online teaching-learning of the Computer Science and Engineering program's female students at the Central Women's University in Bangladesh due to the COVID-19 epidemic. A survey was directed to comprehend the students' perspectives on online engineering education. The performances of the same students under the same course instructor of various courses as well as of different students under the same course instructor of the same courses before the pandemic and during the pandemic were investigated. After that, this paper analyzed students' experiences of the evaluation method before and during the outbreak, and then found out the transformation of the students' concerns regarding online engineering education. The research was based on the student surveys and observations, and their academic performances. All indicators exhibited that the procedure that was implemented had a positive impact on students' achievement. Students' involvement, particularly in the core courses that are essential to fulfilling their degrees, had improved. Furthermore, students gained more precise and constructive knowledge from the course teachers during the pandemic, as such the impact on the students' learning due to the online teaching of Computer Science and Engineering students were positive than before the pandemic.

<https://ijere.iaescore.com/index.php/IJERE/article/view/22565>

Does Land Ownership Really Improve the Decision-Making Capacity of the Rural Women? Reflections from Bangladesh

FARHANA RAFIQ et al.

Women's limited decision-making capacity is recognized as one of the major challenges to women's empowerment. Decision-making is a complex process that often relies on ownership and access to resources. This study aims to assess the opinions of rural Bangladeshi women about the impact of land ownership on their decision-making capacity. The Binary Logistic Regression (BLR) analysis demonstrates that women's access to land, income, distance from the rural market, and distance from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have a significant influence on their decision-making capacity. The study underlines the need for gender transformation in formal and informal structures to enhance rural women's decision-making capacity.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/26883597.2023.2241679>

Interference with Personal/Family Laws in British India and the Impact on Women

PROF. DR. TASLIMA MONSOOR et al.

The British period reveals the contrasting attitudes of the colonialist administration toward women and family law concerns. This paper will show how colonization's effects on women contributed to women's subordination in British India. The British influence in family law is taken into consideration in certain specifics, which, in contrast to prior assurances of non-interference, powerfully illustrates the creeping meddling in the indigenous religious-personal laws.

The remedy of restitution of conjugal rights was a prominent example of the introduction of English principles to family law in British India that affected women. The idea itself is founded on Christian ecclesiastical law. It has recently been claimed that South Asia did not adequately implement this idea. It made life extremely difficult for women as well. In the past, women who declined to live with their spouses could do so and continue living with their parents, free from obligation. According to case law, whenever a wife files an action for khula or for maintenance pursuant to section 2(ii) of the Dissolution of Muslim Marriages Act of 1939, the husband responds by bringing a suit for restitution of conjugal rights.

In this paper, I evaluate the widespread belief that this period's legislation liberated women by analyzing the pertinent legal framework of the time. It is demonstrated that although claiming responsibility for many of the laws, the colonial rulers did not always completely support them. The tireless efforts of Indian reformers and, increasingly, women's organizations led to the enactment of the new legislation on numerous occasions. Furthermore, it has been demonstrated in numerous instances that the British government had no real interest in putting the new legislation into effect.

It is argued that economic security and protection from assault are the main concerns of women in South Asia. These needs were not specified in British India, where the conversation centered on

sexual equality, liberation, and independence. New laws intended to advance women's status during the British India era were not adequately implemented to meet women's actual needs.

The Contribution of remittances on woman empowerment in Bangladesh

DR. REZBIN NAHAR et al.

Abstract

Purpose of the study: This paper emphasizes on the impact of remittances on women empowerment in Bangladesh. The word women empowerment has been justified by using six variables that covers socio-economic aspects.

Methodology: To investigate the relationship this study mainly depends on time series data for the period of 1990 to 2021. The person correlation, regression analysis has been conducted to justify the proposition of contrition of remittances on women empowerment. The robustness check was done by employing fully modified OLS method.

Findings: The results of regression show that secondary and tertiary education level, women role as employers, women involvement in the services sectors and first marriage decision at the age of 18 have significant relationship with remittances received by individual family. Moreover, the results of FMOLS also in favor of regression findings.

Implications(practical): These findings are insightful and beneficial for the government bodies, policy makers to make strategic decision for women in the forthcoming days. This paper will also add to the existing literature on women's empowerment in Bangladesh and beyond.

Limitations and Future Directions: Quantitative analysis was used to complete the study, but additional interviews or focus groups would lend credibility and make the study more policy relevant. In the future, researchers may choose to employ a mixed method. Women's economic contributions as migrants will be discussed along with associated issues.

<https://ajbe.aiub.edu/index.php/ajbe/article/view/141>

REVISITING THE LAWS ON MUSLIM MOTHERS' RIGHT TO GUARDIANSHIP OF MINORS IN BANGLADESH

DR. SYEDA AFROZA ZERIN et al.

Bangladesh is predominantly a Muslim, male-dominated, and paucity-stricken country. Therefore, the present research is confined only to the norms of Muslim law regulating the guardianship of minors. The principal objective of this study is to identify the difficulties and barriers that Bangladeshi Muslim mothers face in obtaining or exercising their right to guardianship of minor children after the cessation of their marriage or after the death of their husband. To this end, our research combines both doctrinal analysis and empirical studies.