



Training on Legal literacy and Legal Empowerment (1st part)

Training Manual

**Legal Empowerment and Strengthening Access of
Women and Vulnerable Groups in Selected Slums to
Improve Water and Sanitation Services Project.**

Executive Agency: Dhaka WASA

Consultant: BASA - BISR (JV)





Foreword

To improve water and sanitation services for selected low-income communities (LIC) in Dhaka city, with the support of the Asian Development Fund, Dhaka WASA has undertaken a project in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank to enhance the participation of women and vulnerable groups, while also strengthening legal empowerment. This initiative aims to provide environmentally sustainable water supply services.

With financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank, Dhaka WASA is focusing on improving water and sanitation services for the low-income communities in Dhaka, while also giving significant importance to legal empowerment. This approach adds a unique dimension to Dhaka WASA's activities. The project is being jointly implemented by the BASA Foundation and BISR (BASA-BISR JV). The BASA Foundation has long collaboration with Dhaka WASA on various water and sanitation projects.

In addition to improve water and sanitation services for the selected LICs in Dhaka, this project emphasizes legal empowerment. To enhance the legal capacity of these communities, a "Training on Legal Literacy and Legal Empowerment" course has been developed. The course is divided into two parts: the first covers basic legal concepts, including legal literacy, fundamental rights, water and sanitation laws (WASA Act), SDG, ADB's Gender Equality & Social Inclusion (GESI), and family law.

It is hoped that through this training course, leaders at various levels within LIC communities will gain knowledge of legal matters and be proactive in advocating for their legal rights.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the development of this training manual. Should there be any inadvertent errors, I kindly request users to view them with understanding.

We hope that the information provided in this manual will enable LIC representatives and key stakeholders to play a pivotal role in improving water and sanitation services in LIC areas, while also promoting legal empowerment.

May the Almighty guide us towards prosperity.

With thanks,

A.K.M. Shirajul Islam-Lead Partner
Executive Director
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Manual Usage Guidelines

This legal literacy and legal empowerment training manual is designed for a 1-day program. The manual consists of 6 steps/sessions, each containing several parts:

- Session plan and structure
- Reference information for trainers
- Handouts for participants

Sessions

Each session is organized around specific topics. The content of each session is structured sequentially, covering various related subjects. At the beginning of each session, the objectives are clearly stated. The sessions are designed to foster knowledge, skills, and attitudes, ensuring that the learning outcomes are achieved.

Key Considerations for Conducting a Successful Training Course

1. Training Needs

It is essential to understand the need for the training. Training is required to gain a clear understanding of a particular subject. In English, this is known as a "Needs Assessment."

2. Objectives

Objectives are specific outcomes that participants should achieve by the end of the training.

3. Content

After determining the objectives, the content is developed. The content can be categorized into three main types:

- **Essential**, which must be included?
- **Necessary**, which should be included?
- **Optional**, which can be included if needed?

4. Methodology

A proper methodology must be established to conduct the training. Various methods include:

- Trainer-led lectures or explanations
- Group discussions
- Examples or storytelling
- Brainstorming sessions
- Group activities
- Question-and-answer sessions
- Peer discussions
- Participant presentations

5. Time

Allocate appropriate time for each topic and arrange the content in a logical sequence.

6. Evaluation

Assessment of the training outcomes is crucial for understanding the effectiveness of the training.





Evaluation of Training Methods and Objectives

It is important to assess the methods and objectives of the training. At the beginning of the training, participants' prior knowledge can be evaluated, and at the end of the training, a comprehensive assessment of the subject matter can be conducted.

Each method, or a combination of methods, can be used for training. However, the most suitable method depends entirely on the topic and the trainer. Below are all the different methods that can be used for training.

What a Skilled Trainer Should Know:

- ✚ A skilled trainer must be polite and courteous, showing respect to others.
- ✚ The trainer should be hardworking, enthusiastic, cheerful, humorous, wise, conscientious, and patient.
- ✚ The trainer must be ready to explain any topic multiple times with clarity and effective communication skills.
- ✚ A skilled trainer adapts to changes in time and adopts the role of an actor if necessary to meet training needs.
- ✚ The trainer shares their knowledge, experience, and personal insights, while recognizing that participants may also have valuable perspectives.
- ✚ The trainer presents the content in a way that stimulates the participants' curiosity about the subject and encourages them to engage in discussions.
- ✚ A good trainer maintains eye contact with everyone and ensures balanced attention, without focusing too much on or ignoring anyone.
- ✚ The trainer is mindful of time to maintain participants' attention, using visual aids, lists, and short stories. If possible, videos can also be shown.
- ✚ The trainer shares real-life stories to help shape participants' viewpoints and opinions.
- ✚ At the end of the discussion, the trainer provides a summary and asks if any participants have differing opinions, helping them reach conclusions through dialogue.
- ✚ At the end of the session, the trainer evaluates the topic and the participants through questions.

General Objectives of the Training: The general objective of the training course is to enhance the knowledge and skills related to legal literacy and legal empowerment, specifically in accessing water and sanitation services for the low-income population of Dhaka. The aim is to encourage the low-income community of Dhaka to take a proactive role in addressing legal issues and improving access to water and sanitation services through legal literacy and empowerment initiatives.

Specific Objectives of the Training: By the end of the training, participants will:

- Gain a proper understanding of legal literacy.
- Learn about basic rights and be able to articulate them.





- Understand Dhaka WASA's water and sanitation laws and exercise their rights.
- Learn about Bangladesh's Vision 2041 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Learn about ADB's Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI).
- Gain knowledge about family law.

Training Program on Legal Literacy and Legal Empowerment:

Venue: -----

Date: -----

Participants: Executive Committee Leaders and Members of LIC

Duration: 1 Day

Time	Session No.	Core Topics	Key Points to be Discussed	Methods/Approach	Resources/Tools	Facilitators
9:00-9:15	Opening Session	Inauguration	Registration, universal prayer, and inaugural session	Registration papers	Registration format	
9:15-9:30		Introduction	Ice-breaking and Introduction	Ice-breaking activities and introductions	Games	
9:30-9:45	Pre-Assessment & Expectation Check	Preliminary Skills Assessment	Participants' expectations, pre-assessment, and explanation of training objectives	Poster display,	Questionnaire	
9:45-10:30	Session-1	Basic Concepts of Legal Literacy	- Definition of legal literacy Necessity and Importance	Open discussion and Q&A		
10:30-11:00	Tea Break					
11:00-11:45	Session-2	- Concepts of Fundamental Rights - What are fundamental rights?	What are the fundamental rights of a citizen?	Brainstorming, discussion, and Q&A		
11:45-12:45	Session-3	Water and Sanitation Law (WASA Act)	- Understanding water and sanitation - What are the laws regarding water and sanitation under WASA for LICs?	Brainstorming, discussion, and Q&A		





Asian Development Bank

12:45-1:15	Session-4	SDG	What is Vision-2041? What is SDG?	Open discussion and Q&A		
1.15-200	Lunch Break					
2.00-2.30	Session-5:	Gender Equality & Social Inclusion (GESI) of ADB	Brief discussion on ADB's Gender Equality & Social Inclusion (GESI)	Open discussion, Q&A session		
02:30-03:15	Session-6:	Family Law	What do we mean by family law? What issues can be resolved through family law?	Open discussion, Q&A session		
03:15-03:30	Review of the Day:			Discussion, Q&A session		
03:30-03:50	Final evaluation and course assessment Post-training evaluation and course review through a questionnaire			Poster display		
03:50-04:00	Closing of the Training Course:			Closing session speeches		





Session Title: Opening Session

Discussion Topics:

- Prayer
- Registration
- Welcome Speech & Inauguration

Objectives:

By the end of this session, participants will:

- a) Participate in a collective universal prayer.
- b) Complete a registration form with their name, designation, and LIC name.

Method:

Collective prayer, music, and speeches.

Purpose:

Prayer and session inauguration.

Materials:

Banner, festoon, leaflets, scissors, anti-cutter, tissue, poster paper, whiteboard, markers, multimedia projector, sound system, digital banner, question papers, folders, notebooks, note pads, brown paper, pens, pencils, colored paper, glue, tape, board pins, ribbons.

Time: 30 minutes

Procedure:

- The facilitator/trainer should start the session by briefly welcoming everyone.
- Begin the training with a universal prayer. Assign someone from the participants to lead the prayer. If someone suitable for this role is identified beforehand, request their assistance in leading the prayer.
- Ask the participants to fill in the registration sheet, including their name, LIC name, designation, and signature.
- If a senior representative from the organization is present, invite them to deliver the welcome speech. Otherwise, one of the trainers may give the speech to inaugurate the training session.

Conclude the session by thanking everyone for their cooperation.





Session Title: Introduction

Discussion Topics:

- Ice-breaking and Introduction

Objectives:

By the end of this session, participants will:

- a) Get to know each other.
- b) Be able to introduce themselves confidently to others.
- c) Overcome their initial hesitations.

Method: Game

Materials: Banner, festoon, leaflets, scissors, anti-cutter, tissue, poster paper, whiteboard, markers, multimedia projector, sound system, digital banner, question papers, folders, notebooks, note pads, brown paper, pens, pencils, colored paper, glue, tape, board pins, ribbons, long thread ball, etc.

Time: 15 minutes

Procedure:

- Gather everyone and encourage them to participate with an open mind.
- Explain that since the group is here for a day of training, it is important for everyone to get to know one another. Introduce a fun activity to help participants become familiar through a "pairing game."
- Ask participants to find a partner of their choice, or pair them with someone sitting next to them. Once the pairs are formed, give them two minutes to get to know each other and establish a friendly connection. Afterward, ask one person from each pair to introduce their partner to the group.
- This method will allow participants to learn about each other in a lively atmosphere and build connections.
- After the introductions, the facilitator should introduce themselves.
- Feel free to use other suitable methods if pairing doesn't work for the group.

Conclude the session by thanking everyone for their participation.





Session Title: Expectation Check and Pre-Assessment

Discussion Topics:

- Assessing participants' prior knowledge
- Checking expectations
- Describing the objectives of the training

Objectives:

By the end of this session, participants will:

- a) Share their expectations from the training.
- b) Participate in the pre-assessment activity.
- c) Understand the goals and objectives of the training, allowing the facilitator to align the session plans accordingly.

Method: Lecture, Discussion, Q&A

Time: 15 minutes

Materials: Festoon, banner, leaflets, scissors, anti-cutter, tissue, poster paper, whiteboard, markers, multimedia projector, sound system, digital banner, question papers, folders, notebooks, note pads, brown paper, pens, pencils, colored paper, glue, tape, board pins, ribbons, etc.

Procedure:

- Distribute a VIP card to each participant and ask them to write down their expectations or what they want to learn from the training. Before they start, explain the format of writing on the VIP card.
- Once everyone has written their expectations, collect the cards and, with the help of an assistant, read them aloud and display them on the VIP board. While displaying, categorize the expectations.
- Thank everyone for their input and describe the goals and objectives of the training. Distribute the training schedule and discuss how their expectations align with the content. If any expectations are not covered, explain why and how those gaps might be addressed.
- Brief the participants about the physical facilities of the training center, including meal arrangements.
- Assign responsibility to teams formed by consensus: one for management, one for reporting, one for learning, and one for entertainment, which they will present daily.
- Establish some ground rules with participants to maintain discipline during the training, such as adhering to the schedule, keeping phones on silent, avoiding side conversations, etc.
- Conduct a pre-training assessment to capture the participants' current understanding of the training topics.
- Conclude the session by thanking everyone for their cooperation.





Legal Literacy and Legal Empowerment Training Course (Part I)

Topic: Pre/Post-Training Assessment

Date: -----

Duration: 1 Day

Participants: Selected CBO Leaders and Members

Trainee Name: -----

Total Marks: 50

Time: 15 minutes

1. What is meant by law?
2. What do we understand by legal literacy?
3. What are the fundamental rights of a citizen in Bangladesh?
4. What are the laws related to WASA's water and sanitation services?
5. How many goals are there in the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)?
6. What is the primary objective of Vision 2041?
7. What are the emergency service numbers?





Notes for the Facilitator

Session I - Title: Basic Concepts of Legal Literacy

Discussion Topics:

- Definition of Legal Literacy
- Necessity and Importance of Legal Literacy

Objective:

By the end of this session, participants will:

- a) Understand the concept of legal literacy
- b) Be informed about the necessity and importance of legal literacy

Method: Brainstorming, Discussion, and Q&A

Materials: Banner, posters, leaflets, scissors, anti-cutter, tissue, poster paper, whiteboard, markers, multimedia projector, sound system, digital banner, questionnaires, folders, notebooks, notepads, brown paper, pens, pencils, colored paper, glue, tape, board pins, ribbon.

Time: 30 minutes

Process:

1. Begin the session by warmly greeting all participants and creating a welcoming environment.
2. Introduce the topic of legal literacy by explaining its definition, purpose, and characteristics. Relate the discussion to the context of cooperative societies and share practical examples. Since participants have experience managing cooperatives and have held various responsibilities, encourage open discussion to allow them to share their insights. This will foster a participatory learning environment and provide opportunities for participants to gain new ideas.
3. After the discussion, facilitate an open dialogue or Q&A session to allow participants to explore the topic further and clarify any doubts.
4. Conclude the session by thanking everyone for their participation and cooperation.

End of Session





Handout

Session I: Basic Concepts of Legal Literacy (Definition, Necessity, and Importance)

Definition and Importance of Legal Literacy

Definition:

Legal literacy refers to having basic knowledge of legal provisions and processes. It does not require specialized knowledge like that of a lawyer, but rather an understanding of the legal structure of the country. Legal literacy helps individuals seek legal remedies against exploitation and injustice.

Importance:

1. Legal literacy provides essential information about legal provisions and processes.
2. It offers a foundational understanding of the law, without requiring an advocate's expert knowledge, while also raising awareness about the political setup of the country.
3. Legal literacy helps individuals seek protection from exploitation and gain justice through legal means.
4. It raises awareness of laws designed for the welfare, protection, and security of citizens.
5. The absence of legal literacy can lead to continued exploitation and victimization.
6. It encourages responsible citizenship and the creation of a just and orderly society, where everyone lives with dignity and respect.
7. In summary, legal literacy reminds us of our rights, duties, and legal obligations within society.





Facilitator's Notes

Session 2 - Title: Understanding Fundamental Rights

Discussion Topics:

- What do we mean by fundamental rights?
- What are the fundamental rights of a citizen?

Objectives:

By the end of this session, participants will:

- a) Gain knowledge about fundamental rights.
- b) Be able to articulate the fundamental rights of a citizen.

Methodology:

Brainstorming, discussion, and Q&A

Materials:

Posters, banners, leaflets, scissors, utility knives, tissues, poster paper, whiteboard, markers, multimedia and projector, sound system, digital banners, questionnaires, folders, notebooks, notepads, brown paper, pens, pencils, colored paper, glue, tape, board pins, ribbons.

Duration:

30 minutes

Procedure:

1. Start the Discussion:

Welcome everyone warmly and begin the session.

2. Initial Knowledge Check:

Assess participants' prior understanding of fundamental rights by asking questions such as, "What do you understand by fundamental rights?"

3. Main Discussion:

Discuss what fundamental rights are and their importance. Elaborate on rights such as the right to life, freedom of expression, and religious freedom.

4. Q&A Session:

Allow participants to ask any questions and engage in a free discussion to enhance their understanding and share their opinions.

5. Conclusion:

Thank everyone for their participation and conclude the session.

Note: Ensure participants have ample opportunities to share their experiences and opinions during the discussion, enriching the session further.





Session 2: Understanding Fundamental Rights

Fundamental Rights:

Fundamental rights refer to those rights that every individual enjoys as a citizen of the country, which are available to all, regardless of gender or age. The Constitution of Bangladesh recognizes 18 fundamental rights.

The principles of governance outlined in the Constitution emphasize the importance of citizens' access to food, clothing, shelter, healthcare, and education. This means the government is expected to work towards reflecting these principles in its various policies, plans, and implementations. Although these rights are not classified as fundamental rights, they are essential needs. In a democratic system, to ensure good governance, these essential needs can be elevated to the status of fundamental rights, though this depends on the government's financial and logistical capabilities.

Fundamental Rights of the People:

1. Equality before the law.
2. No discrimination based on religion or other grounds.
3. Equal rights for men and women.
4. Equal opportunity in government employment.
5. Right to seek legal protection.
6. Right to life and personal liberty.
7. Safeguards against arrest and detention.
8. Prohibition of forced labor.
9. Right to justice and fair trial.
10. Freedom of movement.
11. Freedom of assembly.
12. Freedom of association.
13. Freedom of thought, conscience, and expression.
14. Freedom of profession or occupation (Article 40).
15. Freedom of religion (Article 41).
16. Right to property (Article 42).
17. Right to housing and communication.
18. Right to petition the higher courts in case of deprivation of fundamental rights.

These fundamental rights play a crucial role in ensuring the dignity, freedom, and equality of every citizen, contributing to the overall democratic framework of the nation.





Chapter 3 of the Constitution: Fundamental Rights

Article 27:

All citizens are equal before the law and are entitled to equal protection of the law.

Article 28:

1. The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth.
2. Women and men shall have equal rights in all spheres of the State and of public life.

Article 32:

No person shall be deprived of life or personal liberty save in accordance with law.

Article 34:

1. All forms of forced labor are prohibited, and any violation of this provision shall be considered a punishable offense under the law.

Additionally, **Article 36** ensures freedom of movement, **Article 37** guarantees the freedom of assembly, **Article 38** provides for the freedom of association, **Article 41** enshrines religious freedom, and **Article 42** addresses the right to property.

These provisions collectively establish a framework for protecting the fundamental rights of citizens, promoting equality, and ensuring justice in the society. They reflect the commitment of the State to uphold the dignity and freedom of every individual.





Facilitator's Notes

Session 3: Title: **Water and Sanitation Law (WASA Act)**

Discussion Topics:

- What do we understand by water and sanitation?
- What are the relevant WASA laws regarding water and sanitation in the context of Local Government Institutions (LGIs)?

Objectives:

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Understand the concepts of water and sanitation.
2. Be informed about the WASA laws pertaining to water and sanitation in LGIs.

Methodology:

- Brainstorming, discussion, and Q&A.

Materials Needed:

- Posters, banners, leaflets, scissors, anti-cutters, tissues, poster paper, whiteboard, markers, multimedia projector, sound system, digital banners, questionnaires, folders, notebooks, notepads, brown paper, pens, pencils, colored paper, glue, tape, board pins, ribbons.

Duration:

30 minutes

Process:

1. **Welcome and Introduction:**
 - Greet everyone and create a welcoming atmosphere for the discussion.
2. **Discussion on Water and Sanitation:**
 - Provide a detailed discussion on water and sanitation, highlighting their importance and implications in the local community context. Use local examples where possible.
 - Encourage participation by allowing more opportunities for discussion from the participants, who are leaders from various levels of LGIs and have experience in water and sanitation issues.
3. **WASA Laws Discussion:**
 - Discuss the various WASA laws related to water and sanitation, emphasizing their significance and implementation in the community.
4. **Conclusion:**
 - Thank everyone for their contributions and opinions, and formally close the session.

This structure aims to engage participants actively while providing essential knowledge about





water and sanitation laws and their application in local governance.





Session 3: Water and Sanitation Law (WASA Act)

Water Supply and Sanitation Authority Act, 1996 (Act No. 6 of 1996)

Preamble:

As it is appropriate and necessary to enact provisions for the establishment of an authority regarding the construction, development, expansion, operation, and maintenance of water supply and sanitation systems, as well as other facilities related to environmental health, the following law is enacted:

Title and Commencement:

- I. (1) This Act shall be known as the Water Supply and Sanitation Authority Act, 1996.
- (2) It shall come into effect on:
 - (a) the 15th of May, 1996, in the area under the jurisdiction of the Dhaka Water Supply and Sanitation Authority as of the 1st of Jaistha, 1403; and
 - (b) in other areas, on the date and in the areas determined by the government through a notification in the official gazette.

Powers and Responsibilities of the Authority:

Authority to Impose Charges for Services:

21. Notwithstanding any other laws currently in force, the authority shall be empowered to impose water charges, sanitation charges, and stormwater drainage charges for the services provided in accordance with the prescribed procedures by rules.
 - Provided that no water charge, sanitation charge, or stormwater drainage charge shall be imposed or collected in an area until water supply or sanitation services are established in that area and the relevant charge is approved by the charge board.
 - Further provided that the government may exempt religious institutions from water charges, sanitation charges, and stormwater charges through general or special orders, but the government shall compensate the authority for such exemptions.

Charge Amendments:

22. (1) The charges imposed for services provided by the authority shall be reviewed once a year or at any time for special reasons and shall be amended every five years or earlier. However, no revised charge shall be collected without prior approval from the government.
- (2) Notwithstanding anything in sub-section (1), if operational costs increase due to inflation, the authority may adjust the charge or fee by no more than five percent annually with board approval to cover additional costs.
- (3) If operational costs increase by more than five percent due to inflation or other reasonable reasons, the government may empower the authority to raise the charge or





fee without government approval through a written order to cover such costs.

This framework provides essential guidelines for water supply and sanitation management, ensuring that the authorities can operate effectively while also considering the financial aspects and community needs.

Fee from public:

23. Every water charge, sanitation charge, and stormwater drainage charge shall be published to the public in the prescribed manner at least thirty days prior to its effective date and displayed publicly.

Prohibition of Water Supply and Sanitation by Others:

24. (1) No individual, except for the authority, shall collect, purify, pump, store, or supply drinking water or construct or maintain facilities for sewage collection, pumping, and treatment in the areas under the jurisdiction of the authority.
(2) Notwithstanding anything in sub-section (1), the authority may, until it is capable of providing water supply or sanitation, grant permission to any individual, under specified conditions and upon payment of charges, to construct and maintain the facilities mentioned in that sub-section.
- Provided that, if such facilities exist on the date the authority is established, they may continue to operate for six months from that date and shall continue under the specified conditions and payment of charges thereafter.
 - Further provided that the authority may shut down any privately-owned water or sanitation facilities in its jurisdiction in the public interest.

Exemption and Charges:

25. (1) The authority may grant exemptions to any customer for timely payment of water charges, sanitation charges, or stormwater drainage charges.
(2) The authority may exercise its rights to collect dues for failure to pay such charges on time.

Disconnection of Water Supply:

26. (1) Notwithstanding any other laws currently in force, the authority shall have the power to:
 - (a) disconnect any unauthorized connection, meaning any connection established without the prior approval of the appropriate authority or any connection not installed in accordance with the permit, at any time;
 - (b) disconnect a customer's water supply by providing at least one month's notice through the prescribed procedure for failure to pay water charges, sanitation charges, or stormwater drainage charges.
- (2) If a customer uses water for purposes other than that for which the connection was provided or receives water supply through unauthorized means such as electric pumps or other indirect methods without the authority's approved procedure, the authority may disconnect their water supply following the prescribed procedure.
- (3) No individual shall install or allow the installation of any unauthorized connection,





and such unauthorized connection shall be considered an offense under this Act.

Contracts:

27. (1) The authority may enter into any necessary contracts to fulfill the objectives of this Act.
- (2) Any contract for the supply of goods or performance of work shall be in writing and sealed.
- (3) Each contract may be executed on behalf of the authority by the Managing Director or any person authorized by him.
- (4) Each contract shall be executed in the prescribed manner and form and shall be binding on the authority.

This section outlines the regulations regarding charges, prohibitions on unauthorized water and sanitation services, and the authority's power to disconnect services, ensuring proper management and accountability in water supply and sanitation.

Offenses and Penalties

Offenses:

50. Every act or deviation mentioned in the schedule shall be considered an offense under this Act.

Settlement of Offenses:

54. The Managing Director shall have the authority to settle any offense under this Act.





Facilitator's Notes

Session 3: Title: Water and Sanitation Law (WASA Act)

Discussion Topics:

- What do we mean by water and sanitation?
- What are the laws of WASA regarding water and sanitation in LICs (Low-Income Communities)

Objectives:

By the end of this session, participants will:

- a) Understand what is meant by water and sanitation.
- b) Become aware of WASA's laws concerning water and sanitation in LICs.

Methodology:

Brainstorming, discussion, and Q&A

Materials:

Banners, posters, leaflets, scissors, anti-cutter, tissue, poster paper, whiteboard, markers, multimedia projector, sound system, digital banners, questionnaires, folders, notebooks, notepads, brown paper, pens, pencils, colored paper, glue, tape, board pins, and ribbons.

Time:

30 minutes

Process:

- Begin the session by greeting everyone warmly and creating a positive atmosphere for discussion.
- Provide a detailed explanation of water and sanitation, focusing on the local community context. If possible, use real-life examples to enhance understanding. As participants are leaders from different levels of LICs and have experience in water and sanitation issues, give them ample opportunity to share their insights. Conclude with an open discussion or Q&A session to provide further learning opportunities.
- Discuss WASA's laws related to water and sanitation.
- Conclude the session by thanking everyone for sharing their opinions.





Session 3: Water and Sanitation Law (WASA Act)

Water Supply and Sewerage Authority Act, 1996

(Act No. 6 of 1996)

Since it is appropriate and necessary to enact a law for the establishment, development, expansion, management, and preservation of water supply and sewerage systems, as well as other facilities related to environmental health, the following law is enacted:

Short Title and Enforcement:

- I. (1) This law shall be called the *Water Supply and Sewerage Authority Act, 1996*.
- (2) It shall—
 - (a) be deemed to have been enforced in the areas under the jurisdiction of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority on 1st Jaishtha 1403 (corresponding to 15th May 1996); and
 - (b) be enforced in other areas as determined by the government through a notification in the official Gazette, specifying the date and area of enforcement.

Powers and Responsibilities of the Authority:

Imposing Fees for Provided Services:

21. Notwithstanding anything contained in any other existing law, the authority may impose water fees, sewerage fees, and storm water drainage fees for its services as per the procedure determined by rules:

Provided that no fees shall be imposed or collected in any area until the water supply or sewerage system is in place and the fees are approved by the board:

Further provided that the government may, by general or special order, exempt religious institutions from the imposition and collection of water, sewerage, or storm water drainage fees, in which case the government shall compensate the authority for such exemption.

Amendment of Fees:

22. (1) The fees or charges imposed for services provided by the authority shall be reviewed once a year or at any time for special reasons, and amended at least once every five years, but no revised fees or charges shall be collected without prior government approval.

(2) Notwithstanding anything in subsection (1), the authority may adjust the fees or charges by up to 5% annually, subject to approval by the board, to cover additional expenses caused by inflation.





Session 3: Water and Sanitation Law (WASA Act)

Water Supply and Sewerage Authority Act, 1996

(3) Increase in Fees Due to Inflation or Other Justifiable Reasons:

If inflation exceeds five percent or if there is any other justifiable reason that leads to an increase in operational costs for the authority, the government may, through a written order, grant the authority the power to increase the fees or charges without prior approval from the government to cover such expenses.

Publication of Fees:

23. Every water fee, sewerage fee, and stormwater drainage fee must be made public and displayed in an appropriate manner at least thirty days before the date of its enforcement.

Prohibition of Water Supply, Sewerage, etc., by Anyone Other Than the Authority:

24. (1) No person, other than the authority, shall construct or maintain any facility for collecting, purifying, pumping, storing, or supplying potable water or for collecting, pumping, and treating sewage within the jurisdiction of the authority.
(2) Notwithstanding anything in subsection (1), until the authority can provide water supply or sewerage services, it may, upon application, grant permission to any person, under certain conditions and upon payment of fees, to construct and maintain such facilities:
Provided that if such facilities already exist when the authority is established, they may remain operational for up to six months from the date of establishment and may continue under the determined conditions and payment of fees thereafter:
Further provided that the authority may, in the public interest, close any privately owned water or sewerage facility within its jurisdiction.

Rebate and Collection of Fees:

25. (1) The authority may grant a rebate to any customer for timely payment of water, sewerage, or stormwater drainage fees.
(2) The authority may impose additional charges for failure to pay such fees on time.

Disconnection of Water Supply:

26. (1) Notwithstanding any other existing law, the authority may—
 - (a) disconnect any unauthorized connection, meaning any connection made without the prior approval of the authority or not installed according to approved procedures, at any time;
 - (b) disconnect a customer's water supply after giving at least one month's notice in case of non-payment of water, sewerage, or stormwater drainage fees, as per the prescribed procedure.
- (2) If a customer uses the water for purposes other than those for which the





connection was provided, or if they receive water through an unauthorized method such as using an electric pump or any other unauthorized means, the authority may disconnect their water supply as per the prescribed procedure.

(3) No person shall install or allow the installation of any unauthorized connection, and such unauthorized connection shall be considered an offense under this law.

Contracts:

27. . (1) The authority may enter into any contract necessary to fulfill the purposes of this law.

(2) Any contract for the supply of goods or for the execution of any work must be in writing and sealed.

(3) Every contract may be executed on behalf of the authority by the Managing Director or any person authorized by the Managing Director.

(4) Such contracts must be executed in the prescribed manner and format, and they shall be binding on the authority

Offenses and Penalties

Offenses:

50. Every act or omission mentioned in the schedule shall constitute an offense under this law.

Settlement of Offenses:

54. The Managing Director may settle any offense under this law.





Session 4: Sustainable Development Goals

Topics of Discussion:

- What is SDG?
- Which SDGs are relevant to the project?

Objective:

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Understand the concept of Vision 2041.
- Be informed about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Methodology:

- Brainstorming
- Discussion and Q&A

Materials:

- Banners, leaflets, scissors, anti-cutter, tissue, poster paper, whiteboard, markers, multimedia projector, sound system, digital banners, question papers, folders, notebooks, note pads, brown paper, pens, pencils, colored paper, glue, tape, board pins, ribbon, name cards, VIP cards, etc.

Time:

- 15 minutes

Process:

1. Welcome and Introduction:

Begin the session by greeting everyone warmly, creating an engaging atmosphere for discussion.

2. Discussion on Vision 2041:

- Explain **Vision 2041**, a long-term strategic plan by the Government of Bangladesh to become a developed nation by 2041.
- Discuss the **key objectives**, such as poverty reduction, industrial development, infrastructure improvement, and sustainable economic growth.
- After the discussion, open the floor for questions or further discussion, encouraging participants to share their thoughts and queries.

3. Discussion on SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals):

- Introduce the **17 SDGs** developed by the United Nations to achieve a sustainable future for all.
- Discuss how SDG goals such as **quality education, clean water and**





sanitation, decent work, economic growth, and climate action relate to the project at hand.

4. Closing the Session:

- Thank everyone for their input and participation. Encourage them to continue thinking about how Vision 2041 and SDGs connect to their work and community development.

SDG Overview:

- The 17 SDGs are interrelated global goals aiming for a better and sustainable future. These goals include **ending poverty**, promoting **quality education, good health, gender equality, economic growth, climate action**, and **partnerships for sustainable development**.

These goals have replaced the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which expired at the end of 2015. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are valid from 2016 to 2030, consisting of 17 goals and 169 specific targets.

In summary, the 17 SDGs are as follows:

1. **No Poverty (SDG 1)**
2. **Zero Hunger (SDG 2)**
3. **Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3)**
4. **Quality Education (SDG 4)**
5. **Gender Equality (SDG 5)**
6. **Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6)**
7. **Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7)**
8. **Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8)**
9. **Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure (SDG 9)**
10. **Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10)**
11. **Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11)**
12. **Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12)**
13. **Climate Action (SDG 13)**
14. **Life Below Water (SDG 14)**
15. **Life on Land (SDG 15)**
16. **Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions (SDG 16)**
17. **Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17)**

Goal 1: No Poverty

SDG 1 aims to "End poverty in all its forms everywhere." Achieving this goal by 2030 will eradicate extreme poverty globally. There are 7 targets and 13 indicators to measure progress. Five outcome targets focus on eliminating extreme poverty, reducing all forms of poverty by half, implementing social protection systems, ensuring equal access to basic services, technology, and economic resources, and building resilience to environmental, economic, and social shocks. Additionally, two means of implementation targets relate to mobilizing resources and establishing poverty eradication policy frameworks at all levels.

Despite ongoing progress, 10% of the world's population still lives in poverty, struggling to meet basic needs like health, education, and sanitation. Extreme poverty persists, especially in low-income countries affected by conflict and political instability. Without significant





changes in social policies, extreme poverty could dramatically increase by 2030. As of 2016, rural poverty rates stood at 17.2%, compared to 5.3% in urban areas, with nearly half of those affected being children.

A survey published in September 2020 showed that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, poverty increased by 7% within just a few months, reversing a decline that had been ongoing for 20 years.

Goal 2: Zero Hunger

SDG 2 seeks to "End hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture." There are 8 targets and 14 indicators under this goal. Five outcome targets focus on ending hunger, improving access to safe and nutritious food, eliminating all forms of malnutrition, boosting agricultural productivity, promoting sustainable food production systems, and maintaining genetic diversity in seeds, crops, and livestock. Additionally, three targets address the means of implementation, including improved international agricultural markets and reducing trade restrictions and distortions.

A key challenge in achieving this goal is addressing global food markets and political instability in developing countries. Currently, 1 in 9 people worldwide suffer from hunger, with most of them living in developing countries. Malnutrition affects 52 million children globally, leading to stunted growth or being underweight for their height. Malnutrition is responsible for nearly half (45%) of deaths in children under five—around 3.1 million deaths annually.

Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being

SDG 3 aims to "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages."

To measure progress towards this goal, there are 13 targets and 28 indicators. The first nine are outcome targets, including: reducing maternal mortality; ending preventable deaths of children under five; combating communicable diseases; ensuring reduced mortality from non-communicable diseases and promoting mental health; preventing and treating substance abuse; reducing road injuries and deaths; ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive care, family planning, and education; achieving universal health coverage; and reducing deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and pollution.

Four targets relate to means of achieving the goal, such as: implementing the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, supporting research and development for affordable vaccines and medicines, increasing health financing in developing countries, and improving early warning systems for global health risks.

Significant progress has been made in increasing income and reducing some common causes of maternal and child mortality. Between 2000 and 2016, the global under-five mortality rate decreased by 47%, from 78 to 41 deaths per 1,000 live births. Yet, under-five deaths remain high, with 5.6 million deaths in 2016.

Goal 4: Quality Education

SDG 4 aims to "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all."

There are 10 targets under this goal, measured by 11 indicators. Seven outcome-based targets include: free primary and secondary education; equal access to quality pre-primary education; affordable vocational, technical, and higher education; increasing the number of people with relevant skills for financial success; eliminating disparities in education; achieving universal literacy and numeracy; and education for sustainable development and global citizenship.

Three means-of-achievement targets include: building and upgrading inclusive and safe schools,





expanding scholarships for higher education in developing countries, and increasing the supply of qualified teachers.

Significant progress has been made, especially in terms of access to education for both boys and girls at the primary school level. The number of out-of-school children was reduced by nearly half, from 112 million in 1997 to 60 million in 2014. Global participation in tertiary education increased to 224 million in 2018, with a gross enrolment ratio of 38%.

Goal 5: Gender Equality

SDG 5 aims to "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls."

Countries are committed to rapid progress for those who are left behind first, through a pledge to leave no one behind. The goal of SDG 5 is to ensure equal rights for women and girls, providing opportunities for them to live freely without discrimination or violence in the workplace. This aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

In 2020, women's representation in the single or lower house of national parliaments reached 25%, a slight increase from 22% in 2015. Based on data from 133 countries and areas, women now have better access to decision-making positions at the local level, with 36% of elected seats being intentionally reserved for them. Although female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) is becoming less common, at least 200 million girls and women have been subjected to this harmful practice.

Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

SDG 6 aims to ensure sustainable management and availability of water and sanitation for all. The six outcome-based targets include: safe and affordable drinking water; ending open defecation and providing sanitation and hygiene; improving water quality; recycling wastewater and ensuring safe reuse; increasing water-use efficiency and ensuring freshwater supply; implementing integrated water resources management; and protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems.

Two means of achieving these goals include expanding water and sanitation assistance in developing countries and supporting local engagement in water and sanitation management. The World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF's Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) reported in 2017 that 405 million people currently lack safe sanitation facilities. In addition, in 2017, only 71% of the global population had access to safely managed drinking water, leaving 202 billion people without it. Regarding water stress, in 2017, the Middle and South Asia and North Africa regions recorded very high water stress—defined as the ratio of withdrawn freshwater to total renewable freshwater resources—exceeding 70%. In 2018, official development assistance for the water sector increased to \$9 billion. Evidence shows that interventions on both supply and demand sides can contribute to financing water availability, but continuous long-term investment is required.

Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

SDG 7 aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. It has five targets or indicators that need to be achieved by 2030. One of the indicators is to ensure universal access to electricity for all (progress has been made in several countries, particularly India, Bangladesh, and Kenya). Other indicators focus on renewable energy and energy efficiency development.

Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

SDG 8 aims to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, promoting





sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth.

Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

SDG 9 focuses on building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation.

Goal 10: Reduced Inequality

SDG 10 aims to reduce both intra- and inter-country inequalities.

Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

SDG 11 focuses on creating inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements.

Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

SDG 12 aims to ensure responsible consumption and sustainable production patterns.

Goal 13: Climate Action

SDG 13 emphasizes the urgent need for action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Goal 14: Life Below Water

SDG 14 focuses on the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.

Goal 15: Life on Land

SDG 15 aims to protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, manage forests sustainably, combat desertification, halt land degradation, and prevent biodiversity loss.

Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

SDG 16 seeks to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, ensure equal access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Goal 17: Partnerships to Achieve Goals

SDG 17 focuses on revitalizing global partnerships for sustainable development and strengthening the means of implementation.

References

1. Bangladesh, United Nations (2023-10-09). "Sustainable Development Goals."

Vision 2041:

Vision 2041 is a national strategic plan formulated by the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, and the National Economic Council to strengthen the socio-economic status of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. From 2022 to 2044, this twenty-two-year strategic five-year plan aims for Bangladesh to achieve the status of a high-income country through industrialization. The goals of Vision 2041 include increasing exports from Bangladesh, enhancing production capacity through human resource development, and encouraging investment expansion.





Objectives

- Achieve a per capita income of \$12,500 (more than \$16,000 in 2041 values).
- Eradicate poverty.
- Maintain a GDP growth rate of 9% until 2041.
- Increase the investment/GDP ratio to 46.9%.
- Raise revenue collection to 15% of GDP.
- Achieve export diversification.
- Increase export earnings by \$300 billion.

Notes for Facilitators

Session 5: Gender Equality & Social Inclusion – GESI of ADB

Discussion Topics:

- A brief discussion on ADB's Gender Equality & Social Inclusion – GESI

Objectives:

By the end of this session, participants will:

1. Understand gender equality between men and women.
2. Learn about the inclusive roles of men and women in society.

Methodology: Group discussion, Q&A, and group activities

Materials: Posters, markers, VIP cards, brown paper, etc.

Duration: 30 minutes

Process:

- Begin by greeting everyone and creating a warm atmosphere for discussion.
- Engage participants by asking questions about gender equality and assess their understanding. Discuss in detail what is meant by gender equality.
- Talk about the participation of men and women in various social roles and give a brief overview of ADB's Gender Equality & Social Inclusion – GESI.
- Thank everyone for their active participation and conclude the session.





Notes for Facilitators

Session 6: Family Law

Discussion Topics:

- What do we mean by family law?
- What issues can be resolved under family law?

Objectives:

By the end of this session, participants will:

1. Understand what family law means.
2. Know what issues can be resolved through family law.

Methodology: Group discussion, Q&A, and group activities

Materials: Posters, markers, VIP cards, brown paper, etc.

Duration: 30 minutes

Process:

- Begin by greeting everyone and creating a warm atmosphere for discussion.
- Ask participants questions about family law to gauge their understanding. Discuss in detail what is meant by family law.
- First, assess participants' understanding of what issues can be resolved under family law. Follow up with a detailed discussion on the issues that can be addressed through family law.
- Thank everyone for their active participation and conclude the session





Session 6: Family Law/Court

Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010 (Act No. 58 of 2010)

Whereas it is appropriate and necessary to ensure the prevention of domestic violence, the protection of women and children from domestic violence, and to provide for related matters, as a signatory state to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, 1979, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, and in order to establish equal rights for women and children as stated in the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh;

Therefore, the following law is hereby enacted:

Chapter One Preliminary

Short Title and Commencement:

- I. (1) This Act shall be called the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010.
 - (2) The Government shall determine the date on which this Act shall come into force by notification in the official Gazette.
- By S.R.O. No. 405-Law/2010, dated: December 28, 2010, this Act came into force on December 30, 2010.

Definitions:

2. - Unless the subject or context otherwise requires, in this Act:

- (1) "Interim Protection Order" means an order issued under Section 13;
- (2) "Shared Household" means a household:
 - (a) where the aggrieved person resides;
 - (b) where the aggrieved person lived together or separately with the respondent during the domestic relationship;
 - (c) which was owned or jointly rented by either the aggrieved person or the respondent, or both;
 - (d) where any kind of rights, ownership, status, or equitable rights existed or existed for either





the aggrieved person or the respondent; or
(e) where any kind of rights, ownership, status, or equitable rights existed or existed for either the aggrieved person or any member of the family;
(3) "Application" means any application submitted to the court by the aggrieved person or any other person on their behalf for relief under this Act;

(4) "Shelter Home" means any registered institution or shelter center, operated by government or non-government initiatives, equipped with residential facilities where the aggrieved person can safely stay temporarily;

(5) "Compensation Order" means any order issued under Section 16;

(6) "Aggrieved Person" means any child or woman who has been or is being subjected to domestic violence by another family member due to a familial relationship, or who is at risk of such violence;

(7) "Safe Shelter" means any shelter or home approved by the government or deemed safe for the affected person by the court, which is managed by any individual, organization, or institution;

(8) "Safe Custody Order" means any order issued under Section 17;

(9) "Woman" means a female of any age;

(10) "Family" means those who reside together or have resided together in a shared household due to blood relations, marital relations, adoption, or being a member of a joint family;

(11) "Family Relationship" means any relationship established due to blood relations, marital relations, adoption, or being a member of a joint family;

(12) "Domestic Violence" means the expression of domestic violence as defined in Section 3;

(13) "Respondent" means any person against whom an application is filed or remedy sought under this Act;

(14) "Implementing Officer" means the Upazila Women's Affairs Officer under the control of the Department of Women Affairs or any officer appointed by the government under Section 5;

(15) "Criminal Procedure Code" means the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Act No. V of 1898);

(16) "Residence Order" means any order issued under Section 15;

(17) "Rules" means rules framed under this Act;

(18) "Child" means any person who has not completed eighteen years of age;

(19) "Protection Order" means any order issued under Section 14.

Chapter Two

Domestic Violence:

3. For the purpose of this Act, "Domestic Violence" refers to any act of physical abuse, mental abuse, sexual abuse, or economic harm inflicted by one person with whom a family relationship exists upon another female or child member of the family.

Explanation: For the purpose of this section-

(a) "Physical Abuse" means any act or behavior that harms or has the potential to harm the life, health, safety, or any limb of the aggrieved person, or that compels or provokes the aggrieved person to commit a criminal act, which also includes the use of force;

(b) "Mental Abuse" includes the following:

(i) Verbal abuse, humiliation, contempt, intimidation, or any statement that psychologically





harms the aggrieved person;

- (a) Harassment; or
- (b) Interference with personal freedom, meaning interference with normal movement, communication, or expression of personal desires or opinions;
- (c) "Sexual Abuse" includes any behavior of a sexual nature that harms the dignity, honor, or reputation of the aggrieved person;
- (d) "Economic Harm" includes the following:
 - (i) Depriving the aggrieved person of any financial benefits, resources, or property to which they are entitled by law or custom, or as ordered by a court or appropriate authority, or obstructing their legitimate rights over such benefits;
 - (ii) Failing to provide the aggrieved person with essential items;
 - (iii) Depriving the aggrieved person of any gifts or property received at the time of marriage or as dowry or any other donation or gift, or obstructing their legitimate rights over such property;
 - (iv) Transferring any immovable or movable property owned by the aggrieved person without their permission, or obstructing their legitimate rights over such property; or
 - (v) Depriving the aggrieved person of the rights they have to use or enjoy any property or benefits due to family relationships, or obstructing their legitimate rights over such benefits.

Chapter Three

Duties and Responsibilities of Police Officers, Implementing Officers, and Service Providers

Duties and Responsibilities of Police Officers:

4. If any police officer receives information regarding domestic violence or obtains information about domestic violence due to being present at the place where it occurred, they must inform the aggrieved person of the following:
- (a) Their right to seek redress under this Act;
 - (b) The opportunity to receive medical services;
 - (c) The opportunity to receive services from the implementing officer;
 - (d) Where applicable, the opportunity to obtain free legal advice and assistance under the Legal Aid Act, 2000 (Act No. 6 of 2000);
 - (e) Ways to seek redress under other laws; and
 - (f) Other duties and responsibilities as prescribed by government regulations.

Appointment of Implementing Officers:

5. (1) The government may appoint one or more implementing officers for each Upazila, Thana, District, or Metropolitan area by notification in the official gazette to fulfill the purposes of this Act, and may define their jurisdiction for performing their duties and responsibilities.

- (2) The procedure for the appointment of implementing officers and the conditions of





employment shall be determined by regulation.

Duties and Responsibilities of the Implementing Officer:

6. (1) The duties and responsibilities of the implementing officer shall be as follows:

- (a) To assist the court in the execution of tasks under this law;
- (b) To present reports to the court regarding incidents of domestic violence;
- (c) To inform the officer in charge of the police station within whose jurisdiction the incident occurred, after being informed of the domestic violence incident;
- (d) To submit an application to the court for a protection order at the request of the aggrieved person;
- (e) To provide necessary assistance to ensure that the aggrieved person can access free legal aid and other facilities, including submitting applications, under the Legal Aid Act, 2000 (Act No. 6 of 2000);
- (f) To maintain a list of legal aid organizations, human rights organizations, psychological and social counseling service providers, shelters, and medical service providers located within the jurisdiction of the court;
- (g) To send the aggrieved person to a shelter in accordance with their consent and intention and to inform the officer in charge of the relevant jurisdiction and the court about such referral;
- (h) To send the aggrieved person for health examinations as needed and to inform the officer in charge of the relevant jurisdiction and the court about the copy;
- (i) To ensure compliance with compensation orders; and
- (j) To perform other duties and responsibilities as determined by regulations issued by the government.

(2) The implementing officer shall perform their duties and responsibilities under the supervision of the court and in accordance with the directives of the government or the court and this law.

Service Providers and Their Duties and Responsibilities:

7. (1) Subject to the provisions of this law and the rules made thereunder, any voluntary organization registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (Act No. XXI of 1860), any voluntary social welfare agency registered under the Voluntary Social Welfare Agencies (Registration and Control) Ordinance, 1961 (Ordinance No. XLVI of 1961), any non-profit company or organization registered under the Companies Act, 1994 (Act No. 18 of 1994), or any non-profit organization or other institution registered with the Bureau of NGO Affairs under the Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Ordinance, 1978 (Ordinance No. XLVI of 1978), which is currently established under any existing law and whose objectives include the protection of human rights, especially the rights and interests of women and children, and which has received government recognition for the purpose of fulfilling the objectives of this law by providing legal assistance, medical care, financial, or other assistance, shall be considered service providers for the purpose of this law.

(2) The duties and responsibilities of service providers shall be as follows:

- (a) To record incidents of domestic violence in a specified form with the consent of the aggrieved person and to send a copy to the relevant jurisdiction's court and implementing officer;
- (b) To arrange for a health examination for the aggrieved person and to send the health examination report to the relevant jurisdiction's implementing officer and police station;
- (c) To arrange for the aggrieved person to be sent to a shelter and to inform the nearby police station about such referral;





(d) To perform other duties and responsibilities as determined by regulations issued by the government.

Responsibilities of Shelters:

8. Upon the request of the aggrieved person or any police officer, implementing officer, service provider, or any other person on behalf of the aggrieved person, the officer in charge of the shelter shall provide shelter to the aggrieved person.

Responsibilities of Medical Service Providers:

9. Upon the request of the aggrieved person or any police officer, implementing officer, service provider, or any other person on behalf of the aggrieved person, the officer in charge of a hospital, clinic, or medical center shall provide medical services to the aggrieved person.

Chapter Four

Rights of the Aggrieved Person, Remedies, etc.

Right to Reside in a Shared Household:

10. The aggrieved person shall have the right to reside in a shared household due to their family relationship.

Application to the Court:

11. (1) The aggrieved person or any implementing officer, service provider, or any other person on their behalf may apply for remedies under this law.
(2) Each application under sub-section (1) shall be made in a form prescribed by regulation.
(3) The court shall fix a date for hearing the application of the aggrieved person within 7 (seven) working days of receiving the application under sub-section (1).

Place of Application Submission:

12. Any application under this law shall be submitted to the court of competent jurisdiction located at the following place:
(a) The place where the applicant resides;

- (2) The duties and responsibilities of service providers shall be as follows:
(b) The place where the respondent resides;
(c) The place where domestic violence has occurred; or
(d) The place where the aggrieved person temporarily resides.

Interim Protection Order and Notice Issuance:

13. (1) Upon receiving an application under section 11, if the court, after reviewing the information presented with the application, is satisfied that there has been or is likely to be any form of domestic violence by the respondent or at their instigation, the court may issue an interim protection order against the respondent unilaterally and may direct the respondent to show cause, within 7 (seven) working days of receiving the notice, why a permanent protection order should not be issued.
(2) Notice shall be issued by registered mail, by the issuing authority, law enforcement agency,





or in a manner prescribed by regulations.

Protection Order:

14. After providing an opportunity for hearing to both the aggrieved person and the respondent, if the court is satisfied that domestic violence has occurred or is likely to occur, it may issue a protection order in favor of the aggrieved person and may order the respondent to refrain from the following actions:

- (a) Committing any act of domestic violence;
- (b) Assisting or instigating others to commit acts of domestic violence;
- (c) Entering the workplace, business, educational institution, or any other place frequented by the aggrieved person;
- (d) Communicating with the aggrieved person personally, in writing, by telephone, mobile phone, email, or by any other means;
- (e) Committing violent acts against any person dependent on the aggrieved person or any relative or other person who has provided assistance to protect the aggrieved person from domestic violence;
- (f) Any other actions mentioned in the protection order.

Residence Order:

15. (1) Upon the application of the aggrieved person, the court may issue the following residence orders:

- (a) To impose a restriction on the respondent from residing or entering the shared household or any part of it where the aggrieved person resides;
- (b) To prohibit the respondent from evicting the aggrieved person from the shared household or any part thereof or from causing any obstruction in the possession thereof;
- (c) If it is satisfactorily established before the court that the shared household is not safe for the aggrieved person or their child while the protection order is in effect, the court, with the consent of the aggrieved person, may arrange for a safe shelter for the aggrieved person under the supervision of the implementing officer;

(d) If deemed appropriate, the court may order the respondent to pay rent for alternative accommodation or similar housing for the aggrieved person;

(e) The court may order that the aggrieved person, along with the implementing officer, be allowed to enter the shared household, so that the aggrieved person can collect their personal and owned belongings from the household, such as medical, educational, and professional documents and certificates, any type of documents, passport, checkbook, savings certificates, investments and bank accounts, tax-related papers, jewelry, cash, mobile phone, household items, and any other materials;

(f) The court may order the respondent to allow the continued use of any vehicle used and maintained by the aggrieved person.

(2) Even if an order is made to keep the whole or part of the shared household in possession of the aggrieved person, such order shall not impair the rights and interests of the respondent in that household.

(3) If the court has reasonable grounds to believe that it is necessary to temporarily evict the respondent from the shared household to ensure the safety of the aggrieved person, the court may issue an order for the temporary eviction of the respondent from the shared household; provided that such order shall become ineffective if—

(a) A suitable safe shelter or safe place or alternative accommodation can be provided for the aggrieved person; or





(b) The court is satisfactorily convinced that there is no further need to maintain such eviction order.

(4) If deemed appropriate by the court, any other conditions or instructions may be imposed for the safety of the aggrieved person, their child, or any other family member.

(5) The court may order the respondent to execute a bond, with or without surety, that they or any other member of their family will not commit any acts of domestic violence in the future.

(6) When issuing orders under subsections (1), (2), or (3), the court may provide written orders to the officer in charge of the relevant police station to take necessary measures to ensure the safety of the aggrieved person or their child.

(7) The court may order the respondent to return any immovable property owned by the aggrieved person, dowry, gifts, or any property acquired during marriage, as well as movable property, valuable documents, certificates, and any other property or valuable collateral.

Compensation Order:

16. (1) If the aggrieved person suffers physical, mental, financial loss, or loss of movable or immovable property, or if there is a possibility of such loss, an application for compensation may be filed with the court along with the application under section 11 or subsequently through a separate petition.

(2) The court shall dispose of the application under subsection (1) within 6 (six) months of receiving it.

(3) In the disposal of applications received under subsection (1), providing the parties an opportunity to be heard, and subject to the provisions of subsection (4), the court may order the respondent to pay the aggrieved person such financial compensation as it deems appropriate.

(4) Before disposing of an application received under subsection (1) for the purpose of determining the actual extent of the damage, the court may assign any person or institution to assess the damage, and during the hearing of the compensation application, the court shall consider the following matters:

(a) The nature and extent of the injury, suffering, physical and mental harm to the aggrieved person;

(b) Medical expenses for the damage;

(c) The short-term and long-term impact of the damage;

(d) The impact of the damage on current and future earnings;

(e) The quantity and value of any movable or immovable property of the aggrieved person that has been transferred, destroyed, or damaged;

(f) The reasonable amount of money already expended by the aggrieved person or another person on their behalf due to domestic violence.

(5) The court may order the respondent to pay a sufficient and reasonable amount for the maintenance of the aggrieved person and their child, enabling them to maintain the standard of living to which they are accustomed.

(6) If deemed appropriate by the court, it may issue an order for a one-time or monthly payment for maintenance.





(7) The court shall send a copy of the compensation order issued under this section to the relevant parties and the officer in charge of the relevant police station, where the respondent generally resides or is located.

(8) If the respondent is employed in a government, private, semi-government, or autonomous institution, a copy of the compensation order shall be sent to the appropriate authority of the respondent's employer.

(9) If the respondent fails to provide compensation in accordance with the order under subsection (3), the court may direct the respondent's employer or the authority under which they are employed to pay the compensation directly to the aggrieved person from the respondent's wages, salary, or other dues.

(10) The money for the compensation order given under this section shall be recoverable in accordance with the provisions of the **Legal Proceedings (Recovery of Costs) Act, 1913**.

Safe Custody Order:

17. Notwithstanding any other law in effect, at any stage of considering an application under this law, the court may order that the child of the aggrieved person be temporarily placed in safe custody with them or with another applicant on their behalf, and if necessary, the order may include provisions regarding visitation of the child by the respondent.

Provision of Free Copies of Orders:

18. Copies of all orders issued under this law shall be provided free of charge to the parties, the officer in charge of the relevant police station, the implementing officer, and, where applicable, the service provider.

Duration and Amendment of Orders, etc.:

19. (1) The protection order issued under Section 14 shall remain in effect until the aggrieved person requests its withdrawal and it is not revoked by the court.

(2) If the court, after providing the parties an opportunity to be heard in response to an application submitted by the aggrieved person or the respondent, is satisfied that a change in circumstances necessitates the modification, enhancement, amendment, or cancellation of any order issued under this law, the court may, in its discretion, amend the order, citing appropriate reasons in writing.

Chapter Five

Disposal of Applications, Judgments, Appeals, etc.

Disposal of Applications:

20.

(1) Every application under this law, except for applications for compensation orders under Section 16, shall be disposed of by the court within a maximum of 60 (sixty) working days from the date of notice issuance.





(2) If, for any unavoidable reason, the court is unable to dispose of any application within the time specified in subsection (1), it shall record the reasons and dispose of the application within an additional 15 (fifteen) working days, notifying the appellate court in writing regarding the same.

(3) If it is also not possible to dispose of any application within the extended time mentioned in subsection (2) for reasonable reasons, the court may take an additional 7 (seven) working days to dispose of the application, recording the reasons and notifying the appellate court in writing regarding the extension of time.

(4) If it is still not possible to dispose of any application within the extended time mentioned in subsection (3), the court shall dispose of the application as soon as possible and shall, until the application is disposed of, notify the appellate court in writing of the progress of the application every 7 (seven) days. However, the appellate court may transfer the application to any other court with competent jurisdiction upon request by any party or on its own initiative.

(5) When any application is transferred under subsection (4), it shall be disposed of on a priority basis, and its proceedings shall be conducted from the stage at which it was transferred, as if the application had been pending at that stage in that court and had never been transferred.

21.

(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Criminal Procedure Code or any other law in force at the moment, any application filed under this law or the trial or disposal of a crime shall be adjudicated by a Judicial Magistrate or, as the case may be, a Metropolitan Magistrate.

(2) There shall be no specific limit for a Judicial Magistrate or Metropolitan Magistrate in granting compensation orders.

Judicial Procedure:

22.

(1) The provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code shall be applicable in the disposal of any application or trial or proceedings under this law.

(2) In the disposal of applications or trials or proceedings under this law, a summary trial procedure as per the Trial in Camera provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code shall be applicable.

Trial Proceedings in Camera:

23. With the consent of the relevant parties or if the court deems it appropriate in its discretion, the trial proceedings under this law may be conducted in a closed court.

On-Site Investigation:

24. In the disposal of any application or proceedings, the court may order an on-site investigation to ascertain the truth of the matter, informing the parties concerned, and such investigation shall be completed within the time frame determined by the court.

Issuance of Orders:

25.

(1) Any order issued by the court shall be served to the relevant parties following the





procedures specified in the Criminal Procedure Code.

(2) Any order issued under this law shall be served by the issuer or police or enforcement officer:

Provided that arrest warrants shall be executed by the police.

(3) The issuer or police or enforcement officer shall issue a copy of the order received for issuance within 3 (three) working days and shall send a report regarding the issuance, along with certification, to the court.

(4) If necessary, such issuance shall be made through registered mail, courier service, or any procedure prescribed by rules, or as the case may be, the notice shall be issued; in case of issuance through multiple procedures, the applicant shall bear the costs.

Trial in Absence of Opponent:

26.

(1) If notice has been issued for the presence of the opponent, but the opponent does not appear in court or appears once and does not appear thereafter, the court may dispose of the pending application unilaterally in the absence of the opponent.

(2) If a notice has been issued to the opponent for presence in court and they do not appear on the scheduled date or appear once and do not appear thereafter, the court may issue an arrest warrant against them.

Rejection of Applications:

27. If any application is rejected due to the absence of the applicant, the court that rejected the application may, based on the applicant's request and if deemed reasonable, revive the rejected application from the stage at which it was dismissed:

Provided that such an application must be made within 30 (thirty) working days of the rejection, and no more than one application shall be made.

Appeal:

28.

(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Criminal Procedure Code or any other law in force at the moment, for the purpose of this law, the Chief Judicial Magistrate or, as the case may be, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate shall be considered the appellate court.

(2) Any aggrieved party may appeal to the Chief Judicial Magistrate or, as the case may be, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate court within 30 (thirty) working days from the date of the order given under this law.

(3) The appeal shall be disposed of within 60 (sixty) working days of its filing, and without reasonable cause, the appeal shall not be transferred more than once.





Chapter Six

Offenses, Punishments, etc.

Cognoscibility, Billability, and Compounds:

29. Any offense committed under this law shall be cognizable, bailable, and compoundable.

Penalty for Violation of Protection Orders:

30. If the opponent violates a protection order or any of its conditions, it shall be considered an offense, and for this, they shall be punished with imprisonment for not more than 6 (six) months or a fine not exceeding 10 (ten) thousand Taka, or both. In the case of repeat offenses, they shall be punished with imprisonment for not more than 2 (two) years or a fine not exceeding 1 (one) lakh Taka, or both.

Community Service as Punishment:

31.

(1) If deemed appropriate by the court, it may order the opponent to provide various types of community service for a specified period instead of punishment under Section 30, and the responsibility for overseeing such service shall be entrusted to any institution or organization.

(2) For the provision of community service under subsection (1), the court may order the amount of money that the opponent earns to be paid to the aggrieved person and, if applicable, to their child or dependent as it deems appropriate.

(3) Rules shall be formulated to fulfill the purposes of subsections (1) and (2).

Penalty for False Applications:

32. If any person applies under this law with the intention of causing harm to another person without lawful cause, they shall be punished with imprisonment for not more than 1 (one) year or a fine not exceeding 50 (fifty) thousand Taka, or both.

Chapter Seven

Miscellaneous

Public Servant:

33. In the execution of functions under this law, the enforcement officer shall be considered a public servant as defined in Section 21 of the Penal Code, 1860.

Accountability of Enforcement Officers:

34. If an enforcement officer refuses to comply with, neglects, or fails to carry out any order given by the court and fails to show adequate cause for it, departmental action shall be taken against them.





Supremacy of This Law's Provisions:

35. The provisions of this law shall be in addition to and not in derogation of any other law's provisions.

Power to Make Rules:

36. For the purpose of fulfilling the objectives of this law, the government may formulate rules by notification in the official gazette.

Publication of Translated Text in English:

37. The government shall publish a reliable translation (Authentic English Text) of the original Bengali text of this law in the official gazette:

Provided that, in case of any discrepancy between the Bengali text and the English translation, the Bengali text shall prevail.





Evaluation: Post-Training Evaluation

Topics to Discuss:

- Assessing the trainees' knowledge on the learning topics covered in the training.
- Evaluating the expectations.
- Verifying the objectives of the training.

Objectives:

By the end of this session, participants will be able to: a) Assess how much of their expectations from the training have been met.

b) Participate in the post-training evaluation activities.

c) Articulate the goals and objectives of the training.

Methodology: Lecture and discussion, Q&A, and training evaluation questionnaire.

Duration: 15 minutes.

Materials: Training evaluation questionnaire, posters, banners, leaflets, scissors, utility knife, tissue, poster paper, whiteboard, markers, multimedia and projector, sound system, digital banner, question papers, folders, notebooks, notepads, brown paper, pens, pencils, colored paper, glue, tape, board pins, ribbons.

Procedure:

1. Provide each assistant with a VIP card and ask each participant to write down five topics they learned in the training according to their expectations. Before they start writing, explain the rules for filling out the VIP cards to all participants.
2. Once the writing is complete, collect the cards and read them aloud while displaying the learning topics on the VIP board with the help of the co-facilitators. During the display, categorize the learning topics.
3. At this point, provide each participant with the training evaluation questionnaire and ask them to write their answers in the blank spaces provided in the questionnaire. Allocate a specific time for writing the answers. Collect the answer sheets after the allocated time.
4. Inform participants that their results will be communicated to them in due time.
5. Thank everyone for their cooperation in this session and conclude the session.





Closing Session: Conclusion

Discussion Topics:

- Announcement of the completion of the training program.

Method:

- Speech and discussion, question-and-answer session.
Time: 15 minutes

Materials:

- Poster paper, whiteboard, markers, multimedia and projector, sound system, digital banner.

Procedure:

1. Ask the facilitators to invite two or three participants to share their opinions about the training. They can discuss how they felt about the training and how much they believe it will be useful in their daily lives.
2. After that, the facilitators will introduce the guests of the closing session to the participants.
3. Finally, the training program will be concluded through speeches from the guests.

