REPORT ON

FINAL EVALUATION
OF
BREAKING THE SILENCE OF VIOLENCE (BRAVE)

action:aid
Bangladesh

April 2016

Nazme Sabina
# Table of Contents

Executive Summary.......................................................................................................................... 3  
Chapter 1: Introduction .................................................................................................................. 6  
  Section 1.1: Background ........................................................................................................... 6  
  Section 1.2: Violence against Women and Girls: Country Context ........................................ 8  
Chapter 2: BRAVE Programme ..................................................................................................... 10  
  2.1 Components of BRAVE programme.................................................................................... 11  
Chapter 3: Methodology .............................................................................................................. 15  
  3.1 Evaluation Design ............................................................................................................... 15  
  3.2 Evaluation Tools .................................................................................................................. 16  
  3.3 Information Collection ........................................................................................................ 18  
  3.4 Limitations .......................................................................................................................... 19  
Chapter 4: Findings of the Study .................................................................................................. 20  
  Section 4.1: Basic Characteristics of Survey Population ......................................................... 20  
  Section 4.2: Relevance ............................................................................................................. 21  
  Section 4.3: Efficiency ............................................................................................................. 22  
  Section 4.4: Effectiveness ......................................................................................................... 26  
  Section 4.5 Impact .................................................................................................................... 33  
  Section 4.6 Sustainability .......................................................................................................... 39  
Chapter 5: Recommendations ...................................................................................................... 40  
ANNEX ............................................................................................................................................ 42  
  Annexure 1: Interviews and discussions conducted in different locations ............................. 42  
  Annexure 2: Distribution of households by villages and unions (Quantitative Survey) .......... 43  
  Annexure 3: Distribution of members of surveyed households by background characteristics 44  
  Annexure 4: Calculation of Weight Index ............................................................................... 45  
  Annexure 5: Documents reviewed (in Bangla) ......................................................................... 47  
  Annexure 6: Documents reviewed (in English) ....................................................................... 51
Executive Summary

Action Aid Bangladesh (AAB) implements Local Rights Programmes (LRPs), formerly known as Development Areas (DAs), under a long term partnership with local NGOs. The LRPs usually span for about 8-10 years or more. In LRP 26, AAB initiated BRAVE (‘Breaking the silence of Violence against women’) programme with an aim to stop violence against women and girls. AAB named this framework as BRAVE Model and implemented in two unions of Jibonnagarupazila¹ under Chuadanga district from 2006 to 2015 through local partner Wave Foundation.

ActionAid’s internal Evaluation Challenge Fund (ECF), funded through the Programme Partnership Arrangement between Action Aid UK and the UK Department for International Development (DFID), financed the Evaluation of BRAVE, LRP 26. The purpose of the ECF was to generate learning and contribute to the evidence base regarding the effectiveness of ActionAid’s programmes.

Overall objectives for this evaluation were as follows:

- To examine effectiveness and efficiency of the design and implementation process of BRAVE programme;
- To assess the changes in the lives of women, girls and children in LRP areas as a result of BRAVE programme;
- To capture the programme related learning for improving the BRAVE programme;

Overall standards for this evaluation (OECD-DAC standards) were as follows:

- Relevance – does the programme conform to the context and beneficiary needs and prevailing issues in line with AAB and partner’s strategy?
- Effectiveness – is the programme doing the right thing well?
- Efficiency – is the programme getting the most (and best) results for our inputs?
- Impact - Did the programme bring changes in the government policy, and practices, lives of people living in poverty, and structural causes to address violence against women?
- Sustainability – Is the programme creating ownership and bringing long lasting changes (people living in poverty, government policy & practices and context in the LRP working areas)?

Based on the objectives and overall standards, the evaluation team adopted mixed method of quantitative and qualitative technique but both were intrinsically linked with each other as a part of the evaluation design. The evaluation took place during November 17-December 31, 2015. The evaluation was conducted by a team and led by an independent consultant.

It is quite clear that BRAVE has been able to bring about substantial changes in the lives of its programme participants, in terms of facilitating their perceptual and relational/power pathways to violence free just society, at the individual, family, community and institutional levels. The programme has introduced few innovative approaches and become successful. From BRAVE’s experience, AAB started applying the concept of Gender Responsive Budgeting in its different project areas. LokoMorcha and BRAVE Circle not only worked on reducing VAW they also have the

¹Upazilas were formerly known as thana which literally means police station; however this functioned much as an administrative and geographic region, much as today’s upazilas. In 1982 thanas were re-term to as upazilas with provisions for semi-autonomous local governance. This system was reverted to the thana system in 1992. Later in 1999 geographic regions under administrations of thanas were converted into upazilas. All administrative terms in this level were renamed from thana to upazilla.
ability to establish other rights of the women and marginalized population. Being a non-partisan forum of political people, this set up may continue to address reducing VAW. *ShishuBikash Kendra* (SBK) or Child Centers are dedicated to ensuring psychological and physical development of the children who are from poor families in Utholi. These achievements encourage more children to involve extracurricular activities along with study, aware themselves and fight against violence against children in the future years.

However, some of the outcomes have not attained expected level according to implementation partner staff as well as AAB staff. It is learnt from the evaluation that few outcomes such as, expansion of *Loko Kendra* as a strong platform of the people, rehabilitation of the children with the disabilities, legal identity of *LokoMorcha* have not achieved. The design of the programme has some limitations. The intervention developed the session module based on the type of violence reported in 2006 and it did not update the module such as with the concerns mentioned by the adolescent girls, local government representatives and new form of abuse reported in local newspapers and research\(^2\). Furthermore, as per design, new BRAVE circles were not formed in the community after the inception. Hence, the intervention missed out new demographical age group of 10-19 years of girls and boys for sensitization, awareness raising, and community mobilization.

The relationship between gender and violence is complex. The different roles and behaviours of women and men, children as well as adults, are shaped and reinforced by gender norms within society. One of the striking observation is that the most of the villagers now believe marriage of a girl studying grade 5 or 6 (average age is 10-12 years) is considered as child marriage however the marriage of a girl studying in grade 9 or 10 (average age is 15-17 years and passes Junior Certificate exam) is not. The testimony that there are zero early marriage taking place in those villages is not credible since their perception of child marriage is not correct.

Overall BRAVE programme was successfully implemented. The partnership agreement with Wave Foundation was made for 10 years which is essential to address prevailing issues and generating desired impacts. A number of suggestions are outlined below to address these issues to replicate or scale BRAVE programme.

**a)** The different roles and behaviours of women and men, children as well as adults, are shaped and reinforced by gender norms within our society. These are social expectations that define appropriate behaviour for women and men. Differences in gender roles and behaviour often create inequalities and inequalities in gender increase the risk of acts of violence by men against women. It is recommended that in future programme design addressing gender norms and promoting gender equalities should be a critical part of violence prevention. The activities should be designed such a way that confront the extended beliefs and cultural norms from which gender inequalities develop, and efforts to engage all stakeholders in the society in redressing these inequalities, both of which will reduce the violence agents women and girls.

**b)** When 24-month journey is over, it is suggested that BRAVE circle should continue with new members specifically adolescent girls and boys with appropriate application of REFLECT approach. There is a need to invest right now on them if AAB wants to reap the benefits of this large demographic dividend. This would be helpful to address gender norms, violence and sexual abuse among them. The aim would be to increase knowledge of abuse and violence,

---

\(^2\)Today approximately 130 million people are mobile phone users (bdnews24.com) which is approximately 80 percent of the total population. When the project started, 1 percent was internet users and since then it rose to 9.6 percent in 2014 (World Bank, 2015) given the high mobile phone users and the availability of smart phones as well as internet; cyber crime have risen sharply over the last few years (RisingBd.com, 2015).
challenge gender stereotypes and norms and reduce levels of violence among adolescent girls and boys.

c) **ShishuBikash Kendra (SBK)** can be considered as a hub for awareness raising regarding gender equity, respect to women, for younger children in child-friendly and interactive process. This initiative attempts to address gender norms and equality early in life, before gender stereotypes become deeply ingrained in them. For successful application of this initiative, co-operation and coordination among relevant departments of AAB is highly recommended.

d) There should be effective strategy to clearly identify duty bearers at local level and community institutions (schools, madrasa, local sports and cultural organizations) for long term impact, institutional relationship, and sustainability. For example, with an aim to reduce violence against women, there is a need to reform and strengthen Union Parishad Standing Committee on Prevention of Violence Against Women and Children.

e) From duty bearer perspective, an attempt can be taken to strengthen District Legal Aid Committee (DLAC) and make it functional. This committee need to be made effective and active to stop violence against women and ensure support to the destitute women. The district **Loko Morcha** should act as pressure group instead of playing the role of mediator in BRAVE programme.

f) There should be continuous attempt of advocacy with Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Home with an aim to establish or safe home for survivors in district town.

g) It is important and dire need to take into account cyber crime and new forms of abuse and violence in designing awareness raising programmes for adolescents. The session module should also focus on training of life skill, negotiation skill of this group.

h) For economic empowerment, linking with local micro financial and other financial institutions would be necessary for income enhancement and sustainability.

i) It is recommended that easily applicable M&E framework and system should be in place for scale up and replication.

j) In Bangladesh, ActionAid is strategically positioned for promoting gender equality and reducing violence against women. The partners hold AAB’s work in high esteem and they also have high long-term expectations. To meet these high expectations on one hand AAB has to generate more programmatic resources and on the other hand it has to synergize it capacities and energies in programme management. The interventions need to be scaled up on sustainable basis to address women rights issues. However, to scale up the BRAVE programme as a model, there should be adequate technical adequacy of the programme in highlighting and addressing the issues identified in the situation analysis. A focal person should be in place in AAB and there is a dire need of uniform understanding of implementation within AAB. The programmatic interventions should be in line with the mandates and scope of work of partner organizations.

k) The Programme should also able to capitalize on existing capacities of its partner organisations in achieving outcomes. The ultimate beneficiaries remain the people of the community. However, partner organizations are also among the important intermediary beneficiaries. Hence, the issues like governance, gender, and ownership should be in house practice of the implementing partner for scaling up this type of the programme.
Chapter 1: Introduction

Section 1.1: Background

ActionAid Bangladesh (AAB), an international NGO and an Affiliate member of ActionAid International (AAI) federation, has been working in Bangladesh since 1983. Commencing with child sponsorship programme to support marginalised and deprived children, AAB now works for the poor and excluded people to end poverty and injustice in Bangladesh.

During the early years of AAB, the development interventions took a service delivery approach, which included providing water and sanitation services, vaccination, education and assisting people with disability as well. It also provided relief and rehabilitation support at times of emergencies. The first five-year Country Strategy (1994) emphasized on widening scopes through networking, advocacy, research and policy work in addition to continuing of the service delivery mode.

AAB's Second Country Strategy (1999) started building partnership with local NGOs. The programme structured its development intervention into a ‘sectoral’ approach in the areas of education, economic livelihoods, women’s rights, emergencies and governance. During the third strategy period (2005-2009), ActionAid(AA) was moving towards Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA). At country level AAB took initiatives to strengthen its policy advocacy both at national and international level.

In the fourth Country Strategy (2012-2017) AAB’s emphasis has moved from the ‘thematic’ to an ‘integrated’ development approach where issues of women’s rights, climate change and resilience, sustainable agriculture, food rights, governance, livelihoods and inclusive education come under one umbrella. AAB’s horizon is also moving from national-level engagements to broader level through regional and multi-country initiatives, and campaigns. AAB believes in a Theory of Change (ToC) as stated below: “We believe that an end to poverty and injustice can be achieved through purposeful individual and collective action, led by the active agency of people living in poverty and supported by solidarity, credible rights-based alternatives and campaigns that address the structural causes and consequences of poverty.”

AAB implements Local Rights Programmes (LRPs), formerly known as Development Areas (DAs), under a long term partnership with local NGOs. The LRPs usually span for about 8-10 years or more. Every LRP is linked with the strategic objectives of AAB. The LRPs do not cover all the issues and themes stated in the strategic objectives. The issues and themes come through different processes including appraisal, strategy development and annual participatory plans and budget which take into account the context and needs of the areas and people living in poverty. AAB is currently working with 26 partners through 23 LRPs in 22 districts.

In LRP 26, AAB initiated BRAVE (‘Breaking the silence of Violence against women’) programme with an aim to stop violence against women and girls. AAB named this framework as BRAVE Model and implemented in two unions of Jibonnagarupazila under Chuadanga district from 2006 to 2015.

---

3http://www.actionaid.org/bangladesh/about-us
4People’s Action in Practice, ActionAid, 2012.
5Upazilas were formerly known as thana which literally means police station; however this functioned much as an administrative and geographic region, much as today’s upazilas. In 1982 thanas were re-termed to as upazilas with provisions for semi-autonomous local governance. This system was reverted to the thana system in 1992. Later in 1999...
through local partner Wave Foundation. ActionAid Bangladesh has been implementing its programmes through partnership with Wave Foundation since 2002 on REFLECT, Stop Violence Against Women (SVAW) campaign. Wave Foundation is a non-government organization established in 1990 Darsana of Chudanga district, southwestern part of Bangladesh. The organization works in the area of micro finance, good governance, human rights, agriculture and food security, and other development issues. The aims of these activities are socio-economic empowerment and livelihoods security of people from poor and marginalized communities. The vision of the organization is “A poverty free just society” and mission is “to foster people’s dignity through economic development, participation, and equality.”

ActionAid’s internal Evaluation Challenge Fund (ECF), funded through the Programme Partnership Arrangement between AAUK and the UK Department for International Development (DfID), financed the Evaluation of the Breaking the silence of Violence (BRAVE), LRP 26. The purpose of the ECF was to generate learning and contribute to the evidence base regarding the effectiveness of ActionAid’s programmes.

Overall objectives for this evaluation were as follows:

I. To examine effectiveness and efficiency of the design and implementation process of BRAVE programme;

II. To assess the changes in the lives of women, girls and children in LRP areas as a result of BRAVE programme;

III. To capture the programme related learning for improving the BRAVE programme;

The evaluation took place during November 17-December 31, 2015. The evaluation was conducted by a team and led by an independent consultant.

---

geographic regions under administrations of thanas were converted into upazilas. All administrative terms in this level were renamed from thana to upazilla.

The Reflect process generally involves a 24-month journey, and its programme contains circles in two stages, i.e. basic circles and post circles. This process includes a three month pre-circle preparatory period, a nine-month basic circle period followed by a terminal evaluation, and a twelve-month post circle period. In the basic circle the participants acquire reading, writing, numeracy and also visual literacy along with vocal literacy. The aim of the post-circle activities is to make the Reflect participants literate to a sustainable level through consolidation and reinforcement of their learning so that they may develop permanent habits and practices of utilizing the skills attained from the nine months of circle time. Action points in Reflect play a fundamental role in developing the participants’ problem solving skills as well as develop their awareness level. A wide range of participatory methodologies are used within the Reflect process to help create an open, democratic environment in which everyone is able to contribute. The actual duration of the above-mentioned 24 month journey of Reflect may vary in view of the participants’ needs and requirements.
Section 1.2: Violence against Women and Girls: Country Context

Bangladesh has made significant progress in the areas of women’s empowerment and almost achieving gender parity in many sectors. However, patriarchal values and subordination of women still exist in the society. Women and girls face discrimination in their life-course, such as in accessing educational and economic opportunities, health and legal services, participating in decision making etc. As a consequence, VAWG has remained one of the most serious threats to overall development and progress of Bangladesh. The prevalence of Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) is very high in Bangladesh taking place both at home and in public spaces. Women and girls of the country suffer from multiple forms of violence including dowry deaths, suicide, forced and child marriage, trafficking etc. A national survey on Violence against Women (VAW) in 2011 shows that 87% of currently married women have ever experienced any type of violence by current husband; 25% and 4% of all women reported life-time experience of non-partner physical and sexual violence respectively. This is substantiated by a study conducted in Bangladesh that explored men’s attitudes and practices relating to VAWG. The study shows that about 52% of men in both urban and rural sites reported ever physically assaulting female intimate partners while 52% of urban and 46% of rural men reported ever emotionally abusing their female intimate partners. About 10% of urban and 15% of rural men reported ever forcing their intimate partners into sex. Child marriage is prevalent in Bangladesh. More than half of the ever married women respondents reported to be first married before 18, which is the legal age of marriage in Bangladesh.

During the last few decades a lot of attention has been given to the issue. Programme implementers, national and international policy makers are working for primary and secondary prevention of VAWG. Several policies, laws and rules have been enacted and measures taken at global as well as at national level to prevent women and girls from violence. Although the Constitution of Bangladesh guarantees equal rights for both men and women in all spheres of state and public life, discrimination and injustice against women and girls prevail both in private and public spheres. Bangladesh Government has been actively engaged in adoption of preemptive policies, legislations, strategies and taking national affirmative action plans and programmes. Violence against women (VAW) has been criminalised in Bangladesh by the enactment of various laws calling for harsh punishments. For example, the Suppression of Violence Against Women and Children Act 2000 (Amendment 2003) provides for a sentence of death or life imprisonment and financial penalty to a husband or any of his relatives who cause or attempt to cause death or grievous injury to a wife on account of dowry. In reality, survivors do not know where to get help and seek justice.

As far as the implementation of laws goes, ineffective and inadequate mechanisms remain a barrier for women in the context of Bangladesh. For example: The Domestic Violence (Protection and Prevention) Act of 2010 and the Rules to the Act enacted on 2013 enables any survivor to lodge a complaint with a judicial or metropolitan magistrate seeking protection from such violence. However, in reality, this is hampered by inadequate number of appointed enforcement officers at every sub-district level, police station, district and metropolitan area, as stipulated in the Act.

---

8Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), 2013.
9iccdr,b, 2011. Men’s Attitudes and Practices Regarding Gender and Violence Against Women in Bangladesh: Preliminary Findings
7BBS, 2013.
10The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth—Article 28 (1). Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making special provision in favour of women or children or for the advancement of any backward section of citizens—Article 28 (4). Steps shall be taken in ensure participation of women in all spheres of national life as a fundamental principle of state policy—Article 10.
Additionally, delays in court proceedings, the influential power of the accused, and corruption in the law enforcement agencies are impediments to the elimination of crime and violence against women. There is currently no clear policy or strategy to prevent sexual harassment in Bangladesh. A High Court decision declared on 26 January 2011 that the stalking of girls and women is illegal, and it directed the government to consider the offence as sexual harassment instead of the term *Eve teasing*. It also states that harassment through text messaging, multimedia messaging, email and phone will be considered as sexual harassment and article 111 of the constitution will be considered as the law in this regard according to the courts. This is fairly implemented.
Chapter 2: BRAVE Programme

ActionAid Bangladesh started DA 26 followed by an appraisal process in 2005. It was focused to work in issues related to VAWG through community mobilization; participation of people; skill development of grassroots people as well as various institutions; establishment of linkage with media, legal aid provider agencies, and local government; creating income earning scope for adolescent girls, and advocacy and media engagement.

BRAVE intervention: At a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme title</th>
<th>Breaking the silence of Violence against women (BRAVE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal</strong></td>
<td>Establish violence free just society reducing violence against women and children at family and community level to zero tolerance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Programme objectives</strong></td>
<td>BRAVE circle and Loko Kendra members will attain capacity to negotiate on violence against women at family and community level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>An enabling environment will be created for flourishing the physical and intellectual development of all children of the programme area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Union Parishad will be accountable to the constituents specially on issues related to violence against women and girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Civil society will be made effective for protecting violence against women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Legal services department will be made effective to stop violence against women and ensure support to the destitute women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organizational Objectives</strong></td>
<td>Create a women friendly environment within WAVE Foundation and the community to work on stop VAW at family and community level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To scale up learning of WAVE on stop violence against women and policy advocacy to make law on violence against women (VAW) at family level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Core Intervention</strong></td>
<td>Form and develop capacity of BRAVE circles to negotiate on stopping violence against women at family and community level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Raise awareness and mobilize people at the grassroots level to speak out against violence against women and girls at multiple levels particularly at the community level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Develop civil society network to SVAW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Advocacy with different institutions and duty bearers to play more active role and ensure justice against survivors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Strengthening UP for functioning union council SVAW standing committee, women friendly participatory budget preparation, village court for protecting women and girls against violence and support for destitute women development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Capacity building on alternative livelihood through self-help group, build linkages with different institution for getting livelihood support for women’s economic empowerment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Provide support to children to continue their education and participate in different development activities collectively</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Geographical coverage</strong></td>
<td>Utholi and Shimanto of Jibanagarupazila LokoMorcha in Jibanagarupazila and Chudanga district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall Budget</strong></td>
<td>BDT 4,18,32661</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to DA 26 strategy, it was expected that the programme would concentrate on Utholi Union for first two years as this union was a model for SVAW. BRAVE circles, Loko Kendra and Child center would be established in all villages of the Union. Gradually the programme would expand to other three unions (Shimanto, Ander Bari, and Baka) by 2011 to cover JibonnagarUpazila. It was planned that the programme would gradually phase out Utholi by handing over the responsibility to the community i.e. BRAVE circles, Loko Kendra, Children Center. Meanwhile the programme would expand the working area to all four unions of the Upazila with partial financial support from Wave Foundation. By 2010 Utholi Union would be declared as model union for SVAW. Regarding financial management, it is mentioned in the Strategy that AAB would provide 100 per cent financial support till 2010 and then gradually reduce financial support up to 70% by 2015. Wave Foundation was expected to go for expansion to new unions with own initiatives. During 2006-2015, the BRAVE programme designed their strategies and activities to achieve each objective.

2.1 Components of BRAVE programme

2.1.1 BRAVE Circle

Formation of BRAVE Circle is main component in mobilizing the community to make them aware on VAW and children as well as voice out against any incidence, support the survivors through law enforcing department and the local administration. In 2006, BRAVE Circles were formed at Utholi Union of JibonnagorUpzilla. Different ages of people in a village were the members of the Circle, such as: Adult Men (above 20 years), Adult Women (above 20 years, usually married), Adolescent Girls (14-19 years) and Adolescent Boys (14-19 years). Four circles (women, men, adolescent girls, and adolescent boys) were formed in each village and from eight villages, there were 32 groups. In each circle the total number of member was not more than 20 persons and a total 600 people were enrolled as members in eight villages in Utholi.

The field staff consulted with community in one village before identifying circle members and briefed them the objectives of the Circle. For the adult women and adolescent girls who were at risk of any kind of violence (domestic violence, early marriage, dowry, acid victim, trafficking, rape etc.) and for the adult men and adolescent boys who were willing to involve to reduce VAWG were the Circle members. Each Circle arranged two meetings per week and there were two trained REFLECT facilitators (recruited from the same community/village) for each circle. The group activities involved identifying problems, discussing those problems, preparing the list and doing priority based action plan. The process played a role in developing the participants’ problem solving skills as well as develop their awareness level. Similar approach was applied to form the Circle in Shimanto.

2.1.2 Self Help Group

To ensure women’s economic empowerment, the intervention has added a component named Self Help Group (SHG) in 2009. This component exist only at Utholi Union. The members of the SHG is a transformed group from the participants of BRAVE Circles who are interested in involving themselves in economic activities. In Utholi, 32 BRAVE Circles have been turned into 11 groups. Every group has received a certain amount of money from AAB as endowment fund. The members have received IGA training from Wave Foundation and other institutions like farming, sewing, cultivation of vegetables etc. The group started savings of BDT 5 per week from the beginning and currently

---

12 Description of the programme components is in section below.
they save BDT 10 per week. They maintain a savings book and provide loan among the group members.

2.1.3 NARI Network

NARI network has been established only in Shimanto union in 2014. The BRAVE circles members are also the members of this network. Currently, there are three Networks in three reserved wards for women members. They are involved in economic activities and member of different microfinance institutions along with playing role in preventing VAWG.

2.1.4 Palli Mela (Village Fair)

The programme organized PalliMela (village fair) on VAWG during 2007-2014. It was an open gathering at village level with participation from community people, representatives of Local Government Institutions, law enforcement agencies, media, political parties, and other stakeholders. The aim of organizing this fair is to sensitize different levels of stakeholders of a specific union on violence against women and girls so that they can play role in protection, prevention, and action. The approach follows traditional practice of organizing a fair (folk song, drama, installation of small stalls) so that people are able to understand the issue and their responsibilities easily. In this case, the focus is on VAWG. Since 2015, Utholi Union Parishad has been organizing this without financial support from the BRAVE programme.

2.1.5 Couple Workshop

The aim of this workshop was for improving the relations between husbands and wives as most of the family violence occurred due to lack of understanding between them. The BRAVE circle of older women and men had opportunities to nominate a couple to take participate in day-long workshop specially designed for couples. The contents of the couple workshops were: a) The daily activities of a woman and a man; b) Identification of the issues which makes them happy or unhappy; c) The characteristics of a good husband and a good wife; and d) The initiatives to develop the relations between wife and husband.

2.1.6 Shishu Uddan (Children Centre)

The Programme formed ShishuUddan (Children Centre) in Utholi to achieve objective of creating an enabling environment for flourishing the physical and intellectual development of all children of the intervention area. Currently, there are nine such centres in the union. This is the centre for Sponsored children including other children of the village. One of the reasons to initially implement the project in Utholi is to improve the condition the parents and families of those children. In these Centres, with the help of a facilitator, the children get education materials, training and they are also participating in different extracurricular activities like outdoor and indoor games, dance, drama and drawing. From the centres, some of them have received training on community journalism and meritorious students are awarded scholarship for their achievements.

---

13 This is a Bangla word. It means women
14 This is an operational transformation of circle members into this network.
15 Currently known as ShishuBikash Kendra
2.1.7 Gender Responsive Budget in Union Parishad

There is an objective to make Union Parishad accountable to the constituents especially on issues related to VAWG. The programme organized capacity development training with the Chairman and members of the Union Parishad of four unions of Jibannagar Upazila on gender responsive budget preparation, village court, quarterly meeting to make monthly meeting of UP effective. The programme has worked to include BRAVE members in the different committees of the UP and organize training for them to compete in the UP election as well as IGA.

2.1.8 LokoMorcha

To achieve the objective 4 (Civil society will be made effective for protecting violence against women), the programme developed a platform of civil societies known as LokoMorcha (People’s alliance) consisting of civil society representatives, voluntary youth, local government representatives, NGO representatives, group leaders of NGO beneficiaries and leaders of different occupational organizations. It has three tiers i.e. District, Upazila and Union level. One important activity of LokoMorcha (LM) is to provide legal support to the survivors of violence. It is non-political volunteer organization which strengthens local government, ensure effective public service and combat against violence and create awareness against all types of illegal activities. LokoMorcha provides legal support to survivors and has established accountability and transparency among the concerned service providing agencies and helped them in achieving a positive attitude towards women. Not only LM members ensure legal aid support but also they have done other social activities that enhanced the women development. The LokoMorcha in Jibannagar was actively involved in improving upazila health complex and its management.

2.1.9 Government departments

The Programme worked with various government departments (such as, Department of Women affairs, Department of Social Services, Police department) to achieve objective 5 (Legal services department will be made effective to stop violence against women and ensure support to the destitute women). The implementation staffs were in contact with officials of relevant departments for their presence in different advocacy meetings, workshop, day observation, and field visits.

2.1.10 Policy and Advocacy

Wave Foundation has taken different steps\(^ {16} \) to attain organizational objectives (Create a women friendly environment within WAVE Foundation and the community to work on stop violence against women at family and community level and to scale up learning of WAVE on stop violence against women and policy advocacy to make law on violence against women (VAW) at family level) of the programme. For example, SWOT analysis of the governing body, training of staff to run SVAW programme, linking the survivors of VAW with Union Parishad and legal aid support agencies, etc. The organization was also placed as the Secretariat of SVAW network (known as JatiyoNariNirjatonProtirodha Forum, JNNPF). This network has developed the linkages with organizations and institutions and worked in SVAW primarily to disseminate BRAVE learning and also learned from them to improve the programme.

\(^ {16} \) Detail in Mid Term Review Report of Breaking the Silence of Violence (BRAVE) Project, September 2011.
During 2006-2015, BRAVE programme accomplished different type of activities to achieve both programmatic and organizational objectives. The timeline analysis of the budgeted activities reveals that some of the activities were regular throughout the programme period such as, day observation and campaign (e.g., International Women’s Day: March 8; 16 Days of Activism to End Gender Violence; UNITE to End Violence Against Women; Say NO to Violence Against Women). It was also noted as few activities were added (SVAW network) while some of these were dropped (couple workshop, BRAVE circle formation) during time period. According to AAB and Wave Foundation, these changes occurred to address programme strategy and resource constraint.
Chapter 3: Methodology

3.1 Evaluation Design

The evaluation followed OECD-DAC standards which were as follows:

a. **Relevance** – does the programme conform to the context and beneficiary needs and prevailing issues in line with AAB and partner’s strategy?

b. **Effectiveness** – is the programme doing the right thing well?

c. **Efficiency** – is the programme getting the most (and best) results for our inputs?

d. **Impact** - Did the programme bring changes in the government policy, and practices, lives of people living in poverty, and structural causes to address violence against women?

e. **Sustainability** – Is the programme creating ownership and bringing long lasting changes?

Based on the objectives and overall standards, the evaluation identified following indicators and variables.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators and Variables</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Relevance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1 To what extent did the programme contribute reducing VAWG at family and community level?</td>
<td>DR, QS, FGD, MM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 To what extent different service providers/organizations approached to provide or facilitate public rights, services and resources to project participants?</td>
<td>KII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Effectiveness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1 How many circle members have been helped to attain capacity to negotiate on stopping VAWG? To what extent is this attainment sustainable? What are the major factors that drive this attainment?</td>
<td>DR, QS, KII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 To what extent has the programme contributed to enhancing the status of participating women and girls and empowering them socio-economically?</td>
<td>QS, FGD, KII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 Based on the initiative, to what extent the programme engaged men and boys in community mobilization?</td>
<td>DR, QS, MM, FGD, CS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4 In what ways and to what extent has the programme reduced the vulnerability of participating people?</td>
<td>DR, QS, MM, FGD, CS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Efficiency</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1 To what extent does the programme represent good value for money? How VfM was achieved through and accountability and transparency?</td>
<td>FR, DR, PP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2 To what extent was the targeting appropriate? What was the level of inclusion and exclusion error?</td>
<td>KII, FGD, AAB and WF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Impact</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1 To what extent the BRAVE worked in stopping VAWG? To what extent is this change sustainable? To what extent the impact is attributable to the programme? To what extent has programme contributed to reducing VAWG?</td>
<td>QS, MM, FGD, CS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2 To what extent has the programme impacted on policies and practices?</td>
<td>AAB, WF, CS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Sustainability</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1 To what extent was long-term sustainability considered during planning?</td>
<td>KII, PP, FR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2 To what extent can results be judged as sustainable?</td>
<td>KII, PP, FR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: AAB=ActionAid Bangladesh; CS=Civil Society; DR=Desk Review; QS=Quantitative Study; SI=Secondary Information; FGD=Focus Group Discussion; FR=Financial Reporting; KII=Key Information Interview; PP=Project Proposal; VfM=Value for Money, MM = Mobility Mapping; WF=Wave Foundation
Because of REFLECT approach, a number of socio-economic and legal issues were come up in all circle groups during implementation and it has an effect on the knowledge, attitude and practice level of the members. It is found that baseline qualitative and quantitative information have not captured all these information. In the evaluation design, there was an attempt to compare few variables with baseline and the rest between intervention and control unions. The control union was selected in consultation with AAB and Wave Foundation where no BRAVE intervention exists and socio-economic, geographical and infrastructural context are similar to programme Unions. The information was collected from intervention unions of Utholi and Shimanto of Jibannagar Upazila and control union of Madna of Damurhudaupazila.

3.2 Evaluation Tools

The evaluation adopted mixed method of quantitative and qualitative technique but both were intrinsically linked with each other as a part of the evaluation design. The table presents the interviews and discussions conducted in different locations is in Annex 1.

3.2.1 Documents Review: Reviewing the existing literatures on VAWG was one of the most integral components of the study. In addition, the study team reviewed BRAVE/LRP-26 proposal and appraisal, pertinent AAB and Wave Foundation policies and frameworks, programme documents (ALPS, HRBA, etc), programme, monitoring, and financial reports, training session modules, IEC/BCC materials, etc. Outcomes of the mentioned activities was used for developing the data collection instruments (DCI).

3.2.2 Consultation: Before going to intervention area, two meetings were held: one with BRAVE related AAB staff on organization’s policy, strategy, programme components, and expectation from the evaluation and second one was with partner NGO (Wave Foundation) including AAB M&E staff on outputs and progress made towards achievement of the outcomes. During field visit, the study team conducted three consultations: a) upazila level Lokomorcha; b) district level Lokomorcha, and c) programme implementation staff. The issues discussed with Lokomorcha were about the formation, objectives, activities, achievements, and sustainability as well as its extent of involvement in BRAVE programme. The implementation issues such as, activities during 2006-2015, reaction and response from the community to the programme, supporters and opposition, changes in community environment, what was useful and what could have been done differently, M&E system, major challenges experienced and how were overcome, and lessons learnt were discussed. After coming back from field, another round of consultation was held with AAB staff to discuss their experience and opinion on BRAVE programme management (operation and finance), lessons learnt, sustainability and M&E including alignment with CSP and the programme itself. One meeting was arranged separately with senior management of Wave Foundation and the major issues discussed were partnership modality, challenges, lessons learnt, and sustainability.

3.2.3 Focus Group Discussion (FGD): In the intervention unions, the study team conducted FGD with adult men and women, adolescent girls and boys who were direct programme participants and in the control union, similar exercise was applied with four groups of socio-economic and demographic characteristics. The consent was obtained before beginning the FGD. The FGDs were facilitated by a team, comprising one moderator and one note taker. Each FGD began with an introduction by the moderator of the objective followed by introduction from all the participants and the moderator used an FGD guideline comprising open ended questions. The participants were selected in consultation with Wave Foundation and AAB and they were not included in quantitative survey. In the intervention areas, the issues discussed were: what have they learnt from the
programme (overall awareness raising and knowledge on VAWG, legal issues); how did it affect their lives at home and in the community; spousal violence – change in thinking. However, in the control area, the situation of VAWG at home and community, perception of violence, etc were explored. In the FGD session, the study team applied mobility mapping exercise with all groups.

3.2.4 Group Discussion: In the field level, two group discussions were held: one was with mothers of sponsored children in SBK and second one was with management committee of SBK. The aim of the discussion was to know about whether and how the friendly relationship established between the sponsored children and other children of the community, extent of their involvement and expectations, admission to school, regular attendance, continuation to school, and sustainability.

3.2.5 Key Informant Interview: Different types of stakeholders were involved throughout the programme period. The study team consulted duty bearers in intervention area on usefulness of the programme – opinion on and reaction to what it was about; how did it affect the community as a whole; changes in people’s attitude and practices, etc. This allowed for crosschecking information at the time of the interview and working with the key informants on a preliminary analysis of the information provided by them.

3.2.6 Drawing activity with children: The study team involved the children (8-14 years) in a SBK into drawing activity to incorporate children’s perceptions into programme components. As drawing is a natural mode of expression for young children, this was conceived as a qualitative data collection process to learn about their feelings and ways to appropriately express them. The team members helped initially administer the activity to children. The team allowed the children to draw pictures which also defined their visions of social change and worked out ways to measure the change. The team member wrote down the children’s comments and attached them to the child’s drawing to know their mental and education development.

3.2.7 In-depth interview: The study team conducted three in-depth interviews. One interview is with a field staff who was identified by the implementation staff as one of the ‘Champions’ of the intervention for her dedication and commitment. The team also interviewed two survivors who received support from BRAVE programme.

3.2.8 Household interview: The quantitative data were collected to capture the situation of women and children at individual and household level on socio-demographic, economic and empowerment issues. The questionnaires were administered with adult women and men, adolescent girls and boys in both intervention unions and control union. The sample size was finalized in consultation with AAB. The sample of 86 respondents in intervention unions represent members from BRAVE circles, Self Help Groups, and NARI network. In control union (Madna), 50% of households in intervention union was collected, i.e. 43. Total sample size was 134 considering non-response. The distribution of households is in Annex 2.

---

17 In the mobility mapping, the participants named of places of available services (such as community clinic, market, school). The distances were added alongside the lines between place names and their dwellings. The participants also shared the reasons (medical care, shopping, leisure, education, and so on) for visit.

18 The process for the art activity was as follows: a) the moderator led a discussion asking such questions as “What you like most in your village?” and “What do you want your village should look like?” followed by “What you do not like in your village?” and “What do you want your village should not look like?”; b) The children listed as many as they could on poster paper and positioned so that all the children could see it; c) Using stickers, coloured markers and crayons, the group of children then decided together which color best represented each of the likings and disliking they had identified. As each match was made, a sticker color was placed next to each feeling, creating a colour/feeling template; e.g., the children had decided that sad face sticker meant bad, and the topic was husband beating wife and happy face sticker meant girls going to school.
3.3 Information Collection

Both quantitative and qualitative team were involved in questionnaire and guideline preparation. Before going to the field, there was three-day intensive training on questionnaire administration in Dhaka. In the quantitative team, four research assistants (3 women and 1 man) collected information from 139 households in seven days. There is a separate team (4 women and 2 men) for qualitative data collection. The independent consultant moderated the discussion with adult women, adolescent girls, mothers of sponsored children, management committee of SBK as well as the consultations, and meetings, drawing activities with the children, and other male members of the team moderated the discussion with adult men, adolescent boys, and few key informants. The research assistants assisted in note taking and observation. This team worked seven (7) working days in the field.

Since the study collected primary data, privacy of the respondents and participants of the study were carefully maintained. The team has kept the identity of the respondents and participants and all the data and information provided by the respondents and participants confidential. All those agreeing to participate were included in the study.

The WHO ethical guideline for conducting research on violence against women was followed in the evaluation while interviewing the survivors of VAWG\textsuperscript{19}. Informed consent was obtained from each relevant participant prior conducting interviews, which were conducted in private. Pseudonyms were used for the anonymity of the participants. This was maintained throughout the evaluation process including reporting of the findings.

The quantitative data was entered into and analysed through SPSS/STATA. The FGD and the group discussion lasted for an hour and 30 minutes whereas the consultation with staff at AAB and Wave Foundation lasted for two hours and 30 minutes. Qualitative information was processed and analysed by thorough reading and discussion of the transcripts. Transcripts were prepared from the audio recordings. Key themes were identified from first set of transcription reading. Each interviews, KII, FGD and consultation was separately analyzed to identify the main themes and sub-themes as well as to better understand the intervention modalities. Different colour codes were used for separating information received from the participants in order to show the commonalities and differences.

The study analysed the information according to Human Rights based approach where views of rights holder and duty bearers were captured.

3.4 Limitations

As per evaluation design, there was a control group to compare the changes occurred at different levels of the intervention area with non-intervention area and identify the attribution to the BRAVE programme. However, the sample for the intervention and control groups household survey is too small to be able to draw strong conclusions on this. The evaluation was not able to make statistically representative claims based on it, but that there was an attempt to triangulate it with other qualitative and secondary data and information sources to help draw conclusions.

In addition, due to absence of baseline and endline number of incidences of gender based violence, the evaluation was not able to calculate the value for money as proposed. There was difficulty of assessing change over a long time period for lack of time series data of programme activities.
Chapter 4: Findings of the Study

Section 4.1: Basic Characteristics of Survey Population

This section provides an overview of the background characteristics of the respondents of the quantitative survey (Annexure 3). This includes their demographic (household size, age, sex, marital status), socio (education, religion) and economic (occupation) information.

Average household size in intervention area is 4.19 and in control union it is 4. Age and sex are important demographic variables and are the basis of the demographic classification in vital statistics, censuses, and surveys. The men-women ratio of the members of the surveyed households in both intervention area and control area is 1:1. More than one-third of the members in both areas are young (10-24 years).

Absolute majority of the households are from Muslim communities (98.7% for intervention and 93% for control areas). This might be helpful to achieve one of the outcome (People will be aware and follow Muslim family law and law on violence against women) of objective 1 of the programme. Other households are from Hindu communities.

Education is one of the major determinants of the lifestyle and status an individual enjoys in a society. Studies have shown that educational attainment has strong effects on attitudes and awareness related to social issues. It reveals from the survey that 73 members of intervention unions (22.6%) and 43 persons (19%) of control union have at least completed Secondary School certificate. The survey shows that 54 members (16.7%) and 50 members (22.1%) in intervention and control unions respectively do not have any education, although the children of less than six years are among them.

More than one-third members are students which coincide the proportion of youth in age distribution. This proportion is followed by homemaker and agriculture activities. Some members are engaged in business while some in either skilled or unskilled labour.

Marriage is a primary indicator of women’s exposure to the risk of pregnancy. The population in which age at marriage is low tend to experience early child bearing, a longer period of exposure to the risk of pregnancy and thus, higher fertility levels. The early initiation of childbearing associated with early marriage may also adversely affect the health of women and their children. The survey asked women respondents about their age at first marriage. In the intervention area, the mean age at marriage was 15.8 years and in the control area, it was 14.9 years. In Bangladesh, the legal age of marriage is 18 years for women; however marriages still take place before this age. Their husbands’ mean age was 22.4 and 19.1 years respectively.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Case unions</th>
<th>Control union</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age at marriage (women)</td>
<td>15.8 years</td>
<td>14.9 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Husband’s age at marriage</td>
<td>22.4 years</td>
<td>19.1 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 4.2: Relevance

Relevance is the extent to which the objectives and design of the programme are consistent with the local challenges, concerns, needs and priorities of the participants. For any development intervention, to assess the relevance of the programme it is essential to look at the community perspective, local socio-economic situation, and other effects on the participants of the programme as well as the necessity of the intervention in the given context. This section highlights whether the BRAVE programme conforms to the context and participants’ needs and prevailing issues in line with AAB and partner’s strategy.

The BRAVE intervention has started in 2006 to create a violence free society. The intervention was relevant as during that time, 50% to 60% women face domestic violence\(^\text{20}\). Furthermore, about 70% sexual abuse takes place in their own home and in 2005, 267 cases of acid attacks were recorded of which 66% were against women\(^\text{21}\). According to Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA), in 2002, a total of 1434 cases were reported of which 35% were gang raped and 10% were rape followed by murder.

Secondly, in 2007, a study of Wave Foundation ranked different types of violence held in the community of Chuadanga. For example, the adolescent girls mentioned stalking (widely known as eve teasing) as the main problem and the second one is the early marriage. They also shared that most of their parents were not interested in sending them for higher education. According to the community people, poverty, lack of education and awareness of the consequences of violence, non-compliance to existing law, greediness of getting dowry, disregard women human being, and criminals getting shelter of corrupted influential persons were the main factors of violence against women and girls.

The inclusion of four different groups of people (adult women and men, adolescent girls and boys) for intervention was highly relevant to reach the goal as a collective approach is required to create awareness on reducing violence against women and children in the community. Many reports suggest that men should be involved in such movements to help fasten up the process of creating awareness. A number of authors strongly suggest inclusion of male in projects that work to reduce violence against women\(^\text{22}\). Including adolescent boys and girls are equally important because prevention starts from early life, when we educate adolescent boys and girls they are more prone to create a respectful relationship for fast and sustained progress at preventing gender based violence\(^\text{23}\). Hence, the norm that boys usually possess would change to some extent and in the future when they grow up and get married and domestic violence level is expected to reduce.

Inclusion of LokoMorcha at three tiers (union, upazila, and district) was relevant as it helped the community to stop the VAW. LokoMorcha ensured the legal support to the survivors which is needed when gender based violence occurs both at home and outside. The survivors did not incur any expenditure by themselves personally except health expenditure and salary/wage/remuneration loss\(^\text{24}\). The programme provided emergency medical treatment cost like drugs and medicine costs, diagnostic costs etc.


\(^{22}\)Working with men to prevent violence against women: An overview (part one). Project ‘Growing Up healthy and safe’ (SAFE) initiated by icddr,b

\(^{23}\)UNWomen, Focusing on prevention to stop the violence

\(^{24}\)Nationally, in relation to domestic violence a family needs to expense 42.2% in health issue, 9.4% as transferal costs, 5.2% arbitration costs, for legal aid 15.5%, 24.3% for the prosecution of the criminal cases and 3.4%
Section 4.3: Efficiency

Efficiency represents the benefits of an intervention in terms of given input such as money, people, time, materials, etc. The efficiency takes into account many answers to questions about relationship between the (a) extent of attainment of objectives and resources expanded, (b) extent of attainment of objectives and the number and kind of activities conducted, and (c) number and kind of activities conducted and the resources (Financial and Human) expended. Generally the programme implementing management attempts to attain an acceptable high attainment of objectives at minimum cost to maximize attainment at a fixed level of resources input.

4.3.1 Implementation

In 2005, AAB developed “Start up Appraisal Package” and based on this Appraisal, ‘Program Strategy for DA26’ was developed for 2006-2010, where the programme and organizational objectives, expected outcome, strategies to achieve outcome, and activities werestated.

Sequencing of the activities undertaken by the programme is an example of good practice in terms of implementation strategy and cooperation among the right holders, duty bearers and AAB. In the beginning, the staff introduced the duty bearers overall programme concept and related issues such as awareness raising on VAWG, gender rights, child marriage, etc so that the technical issues could be disseminated in following meetings. In the advocacy workshops and sharing meetings, the staff delivered legal aspects and related messages directly to the duty bearers. Wave Foundation with diverse operational modality and expertise performed as a unit. The later stage of implementation included activities on Food Rights and Sustainable Livelihood involving self-help group members to produce quality seeds for their own cultivation purpose. Although, there were political unrest during programme period, but it did not affect the sequencing of the activities.

As an important element of the overall implementation strategy, BRAVE circles were formed following rigorous consultation with the community people by the trained field staff. This was completed as per the scheduled time in the workplan. The staff were recruited preferably from same village for her/his understanding of the context. During facilitation of the session, the facilitator also selected champion from the participants.

In Utholi union, a total of 640 members were BRAVE circle members (women, men, adolescent girls and adolescent boys) and among them, 358 were SHG members. However, this can not be known from Programme information system that who were involved into the Circles at the beginning and salary/wage/remuneration loss in work (Domestic Violence in Bangladesh: Cost Estimates and Measures to address the attendant problems. Centre for Policy Dialogue, Dhaka, 2009).

The senior management of AAB formed a seven-member team for conducting the appraisal. The team comprising of three members from programme. One sponsorship Officer from Partner organization, one from finance conducted the field exercises. At first secondary literature was reviewed by the appraisal team to get an overview about the area. Then the team had consultation with partner staff and community people to identify the vulnerability and causes of poverty in that area. The findings of the exercise were later on validated through FGD, interviews of opinion leaders of the community, small group discussions and PRA exercise in different locations. The findings of the exercises were later on shared with local government and district administration to get further input and more in-depth analysis and validation of the findings. SWOT analysis was conducted in a workshop with the staff of different levels of the organization to identify strengths, weaknesses. They also identified areas requiring support to overcome the weakness in staff capacity. Opportunities and threats of the external environment were also recognized. Finally the findings were documented by the appraisal team.

In the strategy document, it was named as Breaking the Cycle of Violence-BRAVE

There was some turnover of staff at the field level. The newly recruited staff received orientation and hands on training from their colleagues who attended the original ToT course and were supported by other facilitators and managers. They did not receive the full training (including psycho-social care) designed for the facilitators.
were replaced during the implementation. The discussion with the members reveals that some members used to attend sessions intermittently. Continuous replacement of the members for those dropping out throughout the implementation period meant many of new members as well as the original did not receive the full knowledge package of information. The incomplete and intermittent attendance at the meetings and the sessions implies that although the meeting targets might be achieved but the intended number of the participants to improve their awareness, knowledge and perception to a large extent was not achieved.

4.3.2 Training, IEC and BCC materials

The programme emphasized on interactive method of delivering messages through engaging the members in discussions and allowing them to express their views and share experience to make their learning experience more life oriented. The programme had formulated a package of topics and messages that would be transferred to the circle members through meetings and sessions. Wave Foundation along with the financial support from AAB and considerable inputs from the relevant staff of AAB identified the topics that they wished to use in the session and developed the module accordingly. This was applied in all circles.

However, there are some efficiency issues that need to be highlighted. The module was implemented in nine months’ period. It mostly covered the issues of violence against women, dowry, child marriage, polygamy, divorce, women’s health, pregnancy, drug addiction, sexually transmitted diseases, puberty, reproductive health and men’s role, HIV/AIDS, trafficking of women and children, and shalish. But these topics do not follow any logical order. Different topics are covered in different months. There is no recap or refreshers’ session in the beginning of a new topic. The module leaves out many important issues such as gender, rights, sexual and reproductive health of women and men, life-skills education etc. The modules are same for different categories of target groups such as adult women and men, adolescent girls and boys. These do not have separate sections or notes for facilitators on how to facilitate the sessions. There are many sensitive issues in the modules with little or almost no guidance for the facilitators on how to initiate discussion around those issues. In addition to these, the discussion of complex social issues and related factors (domestic violence, rights, etc) in only one or two meetings might have resulted in loss of interaction among the members.

4.3.3 Management

During programme period, there was adaptability in management, more like a ‘trouble shooting’ mechanism in the absence of implementation manual. The mechanism worked in terms of effective management decisions, monitoring and oversight, training and IEC material development, financial management, etc. The participatory planning process has been followed in all steps (BRAVE circle to AAB Dhaka). The BRAVE programme prepares monthly, quarterly and yearly planning. Based on the annual budget plan, fund request and agreement, AAB provides fund to Wave Foundation. In every quarter, Wave Foundation submits the report to AAB programme unit through a prescribed format.

In the inception year, AAB used to work thematically and SVAW was an issue in the theme of women’s rights and gender equality according to CSP III. During this time, the team designed, implemented, monitored, and applied innovative activities and components (such as, gender-responsive budget, couple workshop, pallimela) in the intervention area. The integrated approach from CSP IV (2012-2017) created LRPD whose responsibilities are looking after operational issues of all LRPs although Community Brigade (CB) of PPCD have been involved in strategic directions. Since 2011, innovative approach, qualitative changes in the programme have rarely been noticed.
The Programme experienced a number of management, monitoring and evaluation tools to be applied during the 2006-2015. Some of these were primarily developed by AA globally and AAB contextualized and applied these in LRPCs. In 2014, AAB and Wave foundation jointly drafted Critical Pathway Matrix where actions, intermediate outcome with indicators, outcome with indicators and impact with the outline of the indicator have been set. The Critical pathway matrix yet to be finalized. Since 2013, AAB has been conducting monitoring based on four tiers:

Tier-1: Facilitators (Facilitator of different types of groups/forums/SBK etc): All these staffs are responsible to carry out their own group activities and regularly monitor their own group.

Tier-2: LRP core staffs: Core staffs are responsible for the implementation as well as the regular monitoring of ongoing activities on the spot.

Tier-3: Senior Management of Wave foundation. The senior staffs of Wave foundation oversee the programmet and also carry out the monitoring of few ongoing activities.

Tier-4: Action Aid Bangladesh: AAB monitors the programme and ensures the proper implementation. They also suggest and guide the implementing staff.

The current system of the programme depicts that AAB staff maintains the communication with field level staff and does regular follow-up. The central monitoring unit of Wave Foundation only collects the report from the programme. Since 2013, AAB appointed Programme Audit and Monitoring Officer (PAMO) has been taking care of monitoring.

Since 2014, Wave Foundation sends Annual Progress Report to AAB containing both result and activity information. The contents of the report are standard, but there is still scope to improvement. For example, in the outcome achievement section in the Annual progress report 2014, it has been said “In achieving women’s legal rights to reduce women’s violence, 80% of civil society is actively working”. However, it is unclear that from where 80% of civil society information has derived.

4.3.4 Financial Management

The total monetary value of the programme is BDT 41,832,661 including all direct and indirect costs. Out of the total allocated budget, highest proportion (53%) was allocated for the human resources for the implementation. Although the budgeted activities are clearly indicated in the 10 years budget for LRP 26 classified category wise however in some cases, salary of few staff (Programme Associates and Field Associates) is included in direct programme costs which are supposed to be in the HR cost line item. The rationale from the WF is, ‘As these positions are based in field and they are directly involved with the programme implementation, therefore they are shown in the Direct Programme cost.”
Being a right based intervention, BRAVE programme did not have any direct input support, cash or asset transfer to its primary programme participants. The awareness raising activities were designed to uphold their own rights, linking them with services (health, education, training, social safety net, information, legal aid, etc) availing in the community. Intensive involvement of different tiers of staff is essential for this type of programme and this is probably the reason of having highest allocated costs for human resource.

The allocated budget has been increased till 2009 from the base year 2006. From the analysis of the budgetary activities, it is found that the highest increase in budget was made in 2009 because of including the JNNPF related activities. After 2009, the budget did not follow any consistent trend and it fluctuated depending on the changes and modification in the activities as well as requirement of the human resources and deflation. According to Wave Foundation, the fund flow from AAB was smooth although separate systems (rules, regulations, requirements, terminology, etc) for two organizations are in place for approvals and disbursements. Both organizations respect the procedural requirements. The implementing partner’s financial capacities were strong enough to cushion any delay in fund flows. During the programme cycle, the budget was decreased because of foreign currency adjustment and deflation. Wave Foundation submits report to Finance section of AAB quarterly and AAB internal audit verifies the expenditure in periodical review.

---

Table 1: Budget allocation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SI</th>
<th>Line Item</th>
<th>Budget Allocated (in BDT)</th>
<th>% of total budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A.</td>
<td>Direct Programme Cost</td>
<td>10,836,872</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.</td>
<td>Fundraising Cost</td>
<td>2,056,844</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.</td>
<td>Office Cost</td>
<td>3,895,737</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D.</td>
<td>Travel Cost</td>
<td>1,684,660</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E.</td>
<td>Capital Cost</td>
<td>1,056,300</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F.</td>
<td>HR Cost (including salary of programme associate and field associate)</td>
<td>21,991,337</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G.</td>
<td>Programme Overhead Cost</td>
<td>310,911</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>41,832,661</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Wave Foundation

---

30. Finance section is not directly involved for the expenditure verification of the BRAVE project at field level.
Section 4.4: Effectiveness

Most of the issues related to the effectiveness of the programme and included progress towards and level of achievement of programme objectives and outcomes, capacity building of partner, changes in legal and policy frameworks and comparative advantages.

The overall programme goal was to establish violence just society reducing violence against women and children at family and community level to zero tolerance. Five programme objectives and two organizational objectives were outlined to reach to this goal. With the inadequate time series data it was difficult to quantitatively assess the achievability status of objectives. Furthermore contributions of Wave Foundation and AAB towards these objectives also need to be looked from the perspective that a number of other actors are actively involved in providing similar supports. For example, there are a number of national and international NGOs and development partners supporting reduction of VAW work in Bangladesh. Below is an analysis of achievements toward programme objectives.

4.4.1 Capacity of Circle members

Discussions with stakeholders suggest that BRAVE intervention contributed to attain capacity of Circle members to negotiate on VAW at family and community level. In this regard, community mobilization and ensuring participation of people were instrumental in bringing to lime light the situation of women and children in the intervention unions. AAB embarked on REFLECT approach facilitated by a group of trained people for this programme. The aim was to support BRAVE circle to start with a societal and problem analysis of the locality. With interactive process, the Circle participants were able to analyse their own community and their existing situations with the view to identify their own problems.

The problems such as lack of employment, crop failure, seasonal food insecurity, ill health, absence of higher education facility at union level, political unrest, adverse law and security were common among all groups (adult women and men, adolescent girls and boys); however, there were instances which were identified as individual group’s concern. For the adolescent school girls, stalking and probability of getting married off while at school while for women, domestic violence, reproductive health problems were came out as major anxieties. The adult men were worried about irregular sources of income in the village, local influential and elite persons’ control over resources. For the adolescent boys of the age group 14-16 years, the life was full of ‘adventures and enjoyment’ while their concerned issues were anything around him. They rather identified their emerging sexuality including its social and religious dimensions, peer, family, and academic stress issues of major concern. As the programme aimed at reducing violence against women and children, the focus was narrowed down to deal with these followed by interactive process of the session.

With the help of the facilitators, the participants took up different Action Points for solving those problems. The process helped them to overcome the barriers and move ahead while the women in the control union shared that they yet to conceive the issue in this holistic way. The BRAVE circle members stopped 365 child marriages and resolved 420 domestic violence cases. Compared to

“When we protested the men and others considered us as ‘bad’ and blamed us as if we wanted to break that marriage. We discussed this issue in the circle meeting. Later we went to Union Parishad for help.” [Pinky, FGD with Girls, Shimanto] “When that does not work, we go to UNO for help. UNO stopped one child marriage in that parah [area].”Bipasha, FGD with Girls, NARI Network, Shimanto

31 Social mapping, workload calendar, problem tree analysis, etc
control union, the women in intervention union are better able to solve problems they face in daily life. The weight\(^3\) of problem solving capacity of women of intervention union: control union is 68 : 55.

The women had little knowledge of the existing laws that are there to safeguard women from violence while their current level of knowledge of the laws is impressive. (The weight of legal literacy of women in intervention union: control union is 90:54). Most of the women before participation in the programme thought violence by husband was ‘normal’ and that it was their fault if they were harassed outside the home. A community leader commented that BRAVE programme brought the legal services and aid to the doorsteps of the survivors. In his opinion: “The presence of BRAVE and its staff at field level has given strength to the survivors of violence, unlike previous attempts at providing legal aid”.

The women also identified the issues like their right to obtain marriage registration certificate, their right to file case for divorce, their right to filing legal case of violence against husband as new areas of knowledge. Fewer than those who identified these issues were able to provide further details such as that the wife also had right to a copy of kabin-nama (marriage registration certificate) and not that only the husband had access to it. This shows in the practice level as during baseline, only 37% women reported about their marriage registered while in end-line the percentage increased to 84%.

![Percentage of marriage registered](image)

**Figure 1: Percentage of marriage registered by area**

The Champions selected from the Circles found to be cooperative, known and liked in the communities, better learners, during the early stages of programme’s introduction at the communities and initial sessions. Furthermore, they supported by carrying out many tasks in their respective communities such as by informing the circle members about forthcoming sessions, following up when a member is absent, encourage members to participate in the sessions, discuss programme messages at locations where group members used to gather, participate in mass campaigns by posting campaign materials, etc. They have been found to be enthusiastic and active socially who act as de facto community workers, reported to have referred some women to the safety net, health and legal services. They also provide psycho-social counseling to the people. During consultation with the study team, they claimed some changes have taken place in the community such as less visible quarrel between husband and wife.

\(^3\)The weight is measure through a scoring process on the basis of quantitative information collected from 4 different groups in three unions. The detail methodology of scoring and presentation of scoring table are in Annex-XX
Champion of BRAVE Circle: Munira, Treasurer, Self Help Group (SHG)

Possibly, it was 2006. Munira was married when studying in class four and had her first menstruation on the day of her marriage. Her husband was 25 years old then. She was from a poor family and her husband was a day laborer. There was a ‘KharapMohilader’ (sex workers’) house in the neighborhood. He used to stay there, play gambling; and brought her only 1 kg of rice for the whole day for feeding four-member family. Therefore, they had to take meal once daily. According to Munira, “This is also violence.”

At once, her husband beat and threw her off the house but again sent back by her parents. Then their first child (baby girl) was born, even though, her husband wanted to marry again and to divorce her. He said that he would be benefitted of dowry by marrying again. Afterward another child (baby boy) was born and she tried to commit suicide (because of torture) when the baby was only 5 months old. One year after her son’s birth she was diagnosed with cervical infection. She had to go for surgery. It was her father, not her husband, who paid for the treatment.

In 2008, BRAVE Circle was formed in the village. BRAVE member Reba visited her place and listened to her sufferings and she [Munira] became a member of circle. Earlier, she didn’t contact with the Members or Chairman. In the village, everyone knew that her husband used to do gambling, though, no one ever tried to persuade him. BRAVE Circle talked to the couple (Munira and her husband) and sent them to Couple Workshop. After discussing many issues regarding gender, relationship between husband and wife etc. in the workshop, her husband realized his faults and unjust acts. And her husband turned into a ‘Good’ (bhalohoye jai) man.

Afterwards, Munira took the sewing training, organized by WAVE foundation with the collaboration of UP chairman. She was given 40 yards unstitched cloths. Now she is a tailor. She bought a piece of land by her savings from the sewing work. SHG tries to generate income for the members. There are 23 members in this group. Before, they used to meet once in a week but now it has stopped. They collectively decided to save five taka per week. For the five years, since its inception, around 1700 taka has been collected. As the raison d’être (motive) of this initiative she stated that they (WAVE) should have a legacy of their work. She continued, “If we are asked about SHG’s activities, there is nothing in hand to show. That’s why we took this initiative. We will venture something with this money.” When Munira was probed if it was about only collecting money, she answered, “No. They also give trainings and discuss issues regarding the method of their activities, what they have done, whether they should continue with the same method etc.”

Munira said, she occasionally goes to UP, if she is called for a meeting. In her words, “They think that I can be vocal and raise the issues”. She with others helps UP in distribution of VGF, VGD cards. She was involved in the distribution of toilets by BRAC. At that time villagers used to visit her place for persuading to include their name on the list.

When asked, how the group would sustain without the support of the WAVE, Munira confidently answered, “We will sit together, discuss [and solve] our problems.”
4.4.2 Economic security of women

For the economic security of the women, the efforts were made to reach out to the women through Wave Foundation and Youth Department for training on income generating activities, and savings programme. The members are also involved in social development activities. Some good examples of enhancement of women’s economic security through cooperatives were also found as a result of linkage and leverage from the programme. However, the initiatives are still at an early stage as there is a long way to go to sustain with cooperatives modalities in Bangladesh.33

Regarding enhancement of women’s reproductive health the programme provided comparatively lesser attention and resources to deal specifically formal linkage with the service providers for survivors and referral. However, the programme focused on sensitization and advocacy with regards to this issue with the health service providers in the Upazila Health Complex.

4.4.3 Leadership potential of women

One of the activities was to support women to realize their full leadership potential by assisting them to refine their individual leadership style and groom them for leadership roles. Feedback received from participants’ shows that the sessions have been extremely empowering, and for many, life changing. One woman participant who were in the circle in Utholi, stated: “This session has been life transformational for me. I am so proud that that we have come together to lead women’s rights movement”. According to implementation staff, these leaders are driven by a vision of a society where women hold political power, and the mission seeks to connect women’s voices and actions to leverage an expanded and redefined political space. The programme was found to have high impact on the circle members’ confidence and self esteem providing them greater involvement in reducing VAW in the community as well as political, social and economic activities34. One circle participant was elected as JibannagarUpazila Women Vice President. However, the leadership roles from grassroots was not flourished at expected level specifically to deal with women’s rights issues rather civil society from upazila and above tiers are more involved and visible.

34The self esteem and self confidence score for women, girls, and men in intervention union was 74, 58, and 72 respectively and in control union, the score was 61, 24, and 34 respectively; the self efficacy score for women and girls in intervention union was 59 and 73 respectively and in control union, the score was 54 and 42 respectively.
4.4.4 Involvement of Civil Society

A key outcome of the programme that the civil society has been actively involved for protecting VAW and children. Since inception of BRAVE, Lokomorcha was instrumental in effectively deal with the incidence of gender based violence. The alliance comprising of lawyers and activists, sensitized and equipped through the partner organization provided necessary legal support to the survivors of violence in the intervention areas even in the adjacent districts. LokoMorcha played very effective role when a girl was raped and thrown away in the sewer hole: “In Shimanto union, a poor girl used to work as a cook in one hostel in the area. In one night while she was returning home from work some men took her nearby Cerew& Co. and raped her. The girl became unconscious. They thought that she had died. So they threw her in the sewer hole. One day later few cleaners found her and the news spread all over. It was published in the newspaper next day. LokoMorcha protested this right away and mobilized the community. They held meetings with different sections of the village. As a result, three of the convicted got life imprisonment.” - Consultation with UpazilaLokoMorcha, Jibonnagar

The representatives of LokoMorcha consulted during the evaluation exercise were confident about the role of BRAVE in raising awareness and in reducing the incidence of violence against women in their communities. Support from the programme to the alliance also contributed to drafting and approval of required legislations on violence against women.

4.4.5 Capacity building of Wave Foundation

Capacity building and technical support to Wave Foundation and advocacy work through SVAW network also helped in promoting equal rights for women’s participation in all levels, specifically social, economic, legal and politics. This also contributed in voicing out against any incidence, supporting the survivors through law enforcing department, Health complex, local government, and the local administration. Furthermore collaboration with and sensitization of these institutions through workshop, rally, field visit, day observations kept on contributing to the objective of the participation of women. During the process, awareness on women rights were raised at the community level and as a result, women’s social, economic, legal and political rights have been appraised and duty bearers were also sensitized to deal with the issues of women rights in general and legal rights in particular.

“The people are now aware of taking help from police station. In Utholi union, a girl went to Dhaka for job. But somehow she ended up in a brothel. Her father wanted to file a case in Thana. But the Thana did not take it seriously and no case was filed. When LokoMorcha had heard about this, they looked after the case. Later with the help of police the girl was rescued from Goalondo Brothel. Other people including journalists were also involved in the process. The alleged person is now in jail.” Consultation with UpazilaLokoMorcha, Jibonnagar.

Throughout the time period, most of the implementation staff were directly engaged, at the community level with different groups to raise awareness and prevent/reduce incidence of VAW. Most of the energy was diverted to raise awareness among right holders and duty bearers and bring to the forefront the issue in the society.

4.4.6 Preparation of Gender Responsive Budget

The efforts culminated in preparing gender responsive budget in Utholi Union Parishadand allocating more money for women development. The survivors get certain portion of allocated money for training, allowance, etc. This was an important milestone in endorsing equal participation
right for women in development. Currently, AAB applies gender responsive budgeting in one of their LRP areas, however it is expected that with these experiences, the organization will further replicate it in other intervention areas.

4.4.7 Knowledge products

The knowledge products such as the session guidelines/modules, poster, undertaken by BRAVE programme were instrumental in raising awareness, mobilizing community, ensuring participation of mass people in VAW issue. During the discussions with adolescent girls they have provided some insights on their thinking regarding programme messages and life experience. They have expressed some concerns about their life currently and in future and these were missed in the contents of the messages. For example, they spoke about what to deal with stalking was not well explained. During discussions on early marriage the young girls identified two facets of the issue that were not discussed by the programme: a little known reason behind early marriage and a potential undesired outcome. They argued that it was not only the parents who are responsible for early marriage but that young girls and boys themselves decide to elope and get married without the knowledge of their parents; often moving away to other part of the city or other districts. This was the result of both heightened emotion at young age when consequences are neither known nor cared about, and secondly, the fear of parental reaction particularly for girls should her involvement be found out. One of the apparently fairly common reactions of parents to such situations – elopement or emotional involvement with a boy, is to send the girl to a relative’s place and forced into marriage with a man chosen by them and/or relatives living in the village. In cases of elopement or ‘love marriage’ it appear that the girls exercised her right to choice and consent at least with respect to marriage partner but to what extent this was based on informed choice is not clear.

A number of activities were accomplished under the auspices of the Programme to achieve the objectives, depicted in the Strategy. However, some of the outcomes have not attained expected level according to implementation partner staff as well as AAB staff. It is learnt from the evaluation that few outcomes such as, expansion of Loko Kendra as a strong platform of the people, rehabilitation of the children with the disabilities, legal identity of LokoMorcha have not achieved. In addition, the reading and writing skill has not earned as expected. The facilitators found to be facing a lot of challenges with literacy skills, and in lack of capacity and support in managing literacy exercises. Monitoring of learning progress was not effective and rather ignored by the Programme.

The design of the programme has some limitations. The intervention developed the session module based on the type of violence reported in 2006 and it did not update the module such as with the concerns mentioned by the adolescent girls, local government representatives and new form of abuse reported in local newspapers and research. For the aim of awareness and sensitization, the session modules would cover emerging types of violence and abuse that might come up on women or children, for example, kidnap, child trafficking, rape by school teacher, and suicide.

Furthermore, as per design, like other groups, the circles of adolescent boys and girls were also transformed into SHGs and no new circles were added. Hence, the intervention missed out new

---

35 Today approximately 130 million people are mobile phone users (bdnews24.com) which is approximately 80 percent of the total population. When the project started, 1 percent was internet users and since then it rose to 9.6 percent in 2014 (World Bank, 2015) given the high mobile phone users and the availability of smart phones as well as internet; cyber crime have risen sharply over the last few years (RisingBd.com, 2015).

36 Suicide is classified as violence because it is an outcome of various types of violence that take place on women. For example we see that suicide is one of the most reported violence in local newspapers in 2013 followed by attempted rape and physical torture. The reason for committing suicide in many cases was due to family problems, husband marrying again without permission.
demographical age group of 9-19 years of boys and girls for sensitization, awareness raising, and community mobilization. In addition, couple workshops run for only one day covering the topics socially constructed differences of women and men, role of women, VAW, identification of problems faced by couples and what others can do (to mitigate the problems). The topics are heavy for one-day workshop. Also it is too ambitious to expect that men would change with only one-day workshop.

The relationship between gender and violence is complex. The different roles and behaviours of women and men, children as well as adults, are shaped and reinforced by gender norms within society. Gender norms are not quite changed in the community. One of women participants of FGD mentioned that their husband learned what attire would look good in them, what they should eat, how better they would look with which cosmetics etc. They now take their wives with them. Husbands have become better than before. This is again repeating the fact that women should look good in the eyes of their husbands. They should please their husbands. Once they do it, they are treated well by their husbands.

In addition, bicycle and watch are not perceived as dowry by one woman in a FGD. They were rather gifts from natal family. Terminology such as ‘eve-teasing’ is still used by the community people including girls. Although according the high court rule the term should be replaced with sexual harassment because the term eve-teasing lowers the intensity and meaning attached to sexual harassments. When asked whether there is any child marriage happening in the village most respondents said there were no such marriages taking place. Followed by probing it was revealed that the idea of child marriage has changed. Most of the villagers now believe marriage of a girl studying grade 5 or 6 (average age is 10-12 years) is considered as child marriage however the marriage of a girl studying in grade 9 or 10 (average age is 15-17 years and passes Junior Certificate exam) is not. We can assume the testimony that there are zero early marriage taking place in those villages is not credible since their perception of child marriage is not correct.

Promoting gender equality has been a critical part of violence prevention. The programme did not include the activities which would be effective at addressing attitudes towards gender norms and women’s rights that may influence violent behaviour.
Section 4.5 Impact

Any development intervention requires specific targets and goals to measure the outcome of the programme based on the changes occur in the lives of the participants and that is the easiest way to understand the impact on the community. The BRAVE programme intended to establish violence free just society reducing violence against women and children at family and community level to zero tolerance by achieving five major objectives. Impact of the Programme has been analysed from individual, family, community, and institutional perspective.

4.5.1 Individual level

After the BRAVE intervention there has been several changes within the women community of Utholi and Shimanto. Before BRAVE was introduced, violence towards women, child marriage, other social misdeeds were prevalent. But currently the members are protected from these. They have also built up the courage to speak against domestic violence from their spouses, which is useful in the process of stopping domestic violence. In the knowledge and perception level, there has been noticeable change among the women. For example, before intervention, only 17.8% women shared that their opinion should be taken before marriage while there has been a significant positive change in their knowledge level as 68% reported same.

Following figure reveals their change in perception level. In the baseline, the women were asked to prioritize children. The baseline survey reveals that more than half of women had son preference to daughters and in the endline, this has decreased to one-fourth (24%). It is also found that along with rise in daughter preference, providing importance to both children has also been increased significantly from baseline.
From participation of women’s perspective, they not only have the courage to call on a *shalish*, but they are also involved in the decision making process since they have some influence over the deciders. This is positive impact on the women’s lives because with the growing courage the women can now ask for justice hence breaking the silence they initially had. This means that the basic objective of breaking the silence of violence has to some extent been met.

Before BRAVE was implemented, the women members (shared in FGD in Utholi) could not talk to UP chairman and members. Even when they campaigned for election, asked for votes, they hid themselves in the house. But now they go to them and suggest who should get Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) and Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) cards and who are in most need. The women have more confidence in involving local government representatives regarding various demands such as road construction convenient for women of the villages. The women also do not do it by themselves only, there are numerous occasions where the women work together to help one another and try to solve problems that they might face.

The women also mentioned that they were now more able to speak up against the perpetrators, and therefore, would not just let it be. This was an important change among all the other changes because many rapes or violence are unreported because the women do not speak up against the perpetrator. Earlier they did not know where to go, what to do when their children were sick. But now they can go themselves. This means that the women have more knowledge as to how to act and when to act.

Before, women just worked at home and looked after the children and other family members. With BRAVE circle, they now know about their rights and about what equality is about between a man and a woman. With circles they have a greater understanding of their rights. They also know a lot about the importance of girl’s education for the community. Before the circles, ‘*if our daughter has finished the primary school and they’re 12 years old, we thought it was ok for them to get married. With the circles, we know about the importance of education.*’

Before the BRAVE circles, ‘men had all the power in the community as well as all the rights. They also were the ones who’d used to go to the Union Parishad, markets, Village Court. We now know we have the same rights as men.’

---

**Figure 3: Priority of child: daughters and sons**  
From participation of women’s perspective, they not only have the courage to call on a *shalish*, but they are also involved in the decision making process since they have some influence over the deciders. This is positive impact on the women’s lives because with the growing courage the women can now ask for justice hence breaking the silence they initially had. This means that the basic objective of breaking the silence of violence has to some extent been met.

Before BRAVE was implemented, the women members (shared in FGD in Utholi) could not talk to UP chairman and members. Even when they campaigned for election, asked for votes, they hid themselves in the house. But now they go to them and suggest who should get Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) and Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) cards and who are in most need. The women have more confidence in involving local government representatives regarding various demands such as road construction convenient for women of the villages. The women also do not do it by themselves only, there are numerous occasions where the women work together to help one another and try to solve problems that they might face.

The women also mentioned that they were now more able to speak up against the perpetrators, and therefore, would not just let it be. This was an important change among all the other changes because many rapes or violence are unreported because the women do not speak up against the perpetrator. Earlier they did not know where to go, what to do when their children were sick. But now they can go themselves. This means that the women have more knowledge as to how to act and when to act.

Before, women just worked at home and looked after the children and other family members. With BRAVE circle, they now know about their rights and about what equality is about between a man and a woman. With circles they have a greater understanding of their rights. They also know a lot about the importance of girl’s education for the community. Before the circles, ‘*if our daughter has finished the primary school and they’re 12 years old, we thought it was ok for them to get married. With the circles, we know about the importance of education.*’

Before the BRAVE circles, ‘men had all the power in the community as well as all the rights. They also were the ones who’d used to go to the Union Parishad, markets, Village Court. We now know we have the same rights as men.’
‘One of the first things, Bhai and apa (field facilitators) did was to tell us about our right as a human being. Because we were trained about our rights, we fought against violence in the home.’ Before, we thought that we did not have any rights – and we did not have the rights to say, “I don’t want to do that”. We would just stay at home and cry. Now we know we have the right to say no.

As for women’s mobility, the women in the intervention union has had positive impacts to some extent. Involving themselves in the rights’ movement has given these women opportunities to communicate with the outside world and at the same time has helped them overcome their fear and timidity in dealing with strangers. Many women in control union have never even ventured outside their own locality, let alone travel to a local market.

Through the above mentioned activities the women’s decision making capacities rose and now they were able to make other decisions about their life. This involved demanding to do a few activities that they initially did not ask for. For example the women started demanding from their husband that they would like to go to pollimela. In the beginning, the women of Utholi were surprised to learn that there could be a fair exclusively for women. This was also one of the project activities and the women felt that they should demand to go and be involved in such leisure activities. Before [BRAVE] they did not know any place, could not talk and did not go anywhere. Men did everything and they [women] had no rights. By rights they meant that women also have freedom of expression, freedom to give their opinion in household matters etc. Now they can enjoy freedom of expression. In the process of making decision for themselves as well as their children, the women were able to demand to go to the hospital when they are sick to their families. Going to the hospital was not a usual practice before. Now since the women started making their own decision for themselves they also thought that they should be able to go to the hospital when needed. Lastly the women also thought that they have the right to decide to send their children to school, this was not just a change among the parents but also the younger population.

In terms of being economically involved the women seemed to engage more in economical activities such as receiving training for themselves so that they could start a business and make a living. It was interesting to see that many of them were involved in the self help group so that they would acquire a new skill. The members received several trainings from the Youth development Department of the district. Since the members were now trained many were able to make an impact in their community. As soon as they became more economically engaged the women had control over their resources. They believed they can sell their resources and have control over the money that is going to come into the family. Now we grow crops and vegetables, we plant coriander leaves and sell them. We (can) spend our earnings.” – Khodeja from Shimnato. All these activities meant that they were more financially independent than before which was a positive change to come about.

Lastly, the women had become politically involved by holding various positions in the local political body. There were 122 women who they believe have developed into leaders. These leaders are holding key positions at different social and political institutions like UP Representative, Upazila Vice-president, School Management Committee, BRAVE Nari Network, LokoMorch, SVAW Network, ANSAR VDP, Development Committee at ward-level, BRAC WASH Committee. As a result, women’s participations at decision-making at family and social level have enhanced as well as the women’s participation in the political system of their district.
community. Furthermore, one of the circle participants had been elected as the upazila women vice-president.

The programme also left an impact on men which were more educational rather than financial. Many men now understand what abuse is. In a FGD with men, a participant could detect that verbal abuse should be considered abuse. Other participant, Mr. Alamn said that emotional abuse should be considered abuse too, for example not asking the wife whether she has eaten anything or needs something should be considered abuse. This is an important breakthrough since many men before did not even realize the activities they were doing should be considered abuse. Initially it was also believed that men have the right to hit their women however, after the intervention, people started realizing. The participants in the FGDs also classified physical harm as abuse, and not just a regular activity. Since the men now know what is abuse we believe that there will be some change as they have realized why they should not do it. The men were also more aware of other violence that take place against women and children which involved getting married of at a young age. Besides, they participate in stopping child marriages, VAW, their [community] development activities. They stopped a child marriage one year ago with the support from political leaders, members. Altogether they have solved four cases of VAW and 6-7 cases of child marriage. They were several incidents where the men took initiative and stopped early marriage. The reason they stopped it now because they understand that it is wrong and should be tolerated. Initially the problem was in the perception of the people, they did not even think that marrying women and children at a very young age would be considered a violence. Since they have understood that they are more proactive at stopping such incidences.

In terms of changes that came about on boys the most important was the education on violence and that they should not be involved in such activities. In the boys’ FGD it was found that many of them had a changed mindset on violence and would not get involved in such activities in future.

In terms of changes among the girls they mentioned in the FGD that they could carry on their education further and their marriage was delayed. This was a relief for the girls, because now they could avail to school just like other boys. One of the participants discussed how her early marriage was stopped by the BRAVE circle members and that now she is able to study and appear college exam since her marriage was put to halt. They also think of economic empowerment. As I studied up to grade 5, they suggested me to learn stitching which I could do from home. So, they included my name for cutting and sewing training. My mother used to take me there. I did not like to go there. But my mother tried to explain to me, ‘See, if you learn this, you will be able to earn some money. You can live by yourself.’ Two weeks later I completed the course.” Sajeda in a FGD in Utholi.

4.5.2 Family level

There were also changes at the family such as there was more bonding among the family members. The family members felt more comfortable to speak about various types of information among themselves. The girls were now more able to discuss about their opinions on marriage and when they wanted to get married. From the quantitative survey it was found that about 49% of the girls in Shimanto union now can speak to their parents without hesitation regarding marriage.

“Families were also able to discuss more openly about risk of early marriage and the impact it on their life. While discussing the consequences of early marriage the women were able to discuss about pregnancy. This involved both early pregnancy as well as pregnancy in general, this information were found from the quantitative data. Earlier, the parents wanted to marry off their daughters at early age. They did not want to hear anything. In the rural areas, parents did not even allow their daughters to appear in the high school exam. They did not want their daughters to travel far to
receive the education. Family considers the girls as burden. But now the girls tell their parents that they want to study more. They explain to their parents about their education. They also try to protest and stop child marriage”, women in FGD in Utholi union.

4.5.3 Community level

There has been a change in the community level as well. According to the girls of Shimanto in the FGD, street violence has significantly been reduced. Since there is hardly found any youth on the roads the women and young girls feel safer than before. Shishubikash Kendra (SBK) or Child Centers are dedicated to ensuring psychological and physical development of the children who are from poor families in Utholi. Currently, there are nine such Centers. During evaluation, the younger children in SBK were requested to draw what they did not like in the community and what they did like. The children irrespective of sex drew man beating a woman, children on the road without education, etc. as their worrisome issues. Their ideal situation was children playing in the field, people irrespective of women and men gathering in a fair, etc. This reveals their sensitization towards the issue. Some of the achievements also included that the children of SBK won national level drawing competition, opening four community libraries, girls participate in football tournament, and lastly there is a decrease in the school drop-out rate. These achievements encourage more children to involve extracurricular activities along with study, aware themselves and fight against violence against children in the future years. When the local government representatives were asked to quantify the reduction they mentioned that the VAW cases had reduced by 60-70%.

4.5.4 Institution level

The intervention also worked with different institution to make positive change in the community regarding reducing violence against women and girls. The notable institutions where positive impact is shown are: Union Parishad, Upazila Health Complex, Village Court, and Police Department. Utholi UP has prepared and published the gender responsive budget where 512 women have actively participated as a result their needs and dreams have been reflected in the budgets. Through the budget implementation the UP took in consideration of the women and their needs and therefore made the community more inclusive.

The community is now more inclined towards making sure the women get proper justice while earlier there was no or less participation of women than men in the village court. Now, the women have gained the courage to talk about the VAW issues they face. They can also influence the judgment process through participation in judiciary panel. For example, the participants of a FGD in Utholi discussed about their doing saying “Once a minor girl was sexually assaulted by an adult man. She came home crying and informed her family. Two days later everyone heard this. Then we sat in our circle (to discuss what could be done). When we informed our local leaders of the village, they put it into village court. But that man did not attend. Later a general diary was filed in the Police Station. Police came and arrested that person. He was jailed for one year.”

There is also a change in the Jibannagar Upazila Health Complex (UHC), before they did not want to admit women with physical assault or sexually harassment. Now that situation has changed and the staff UHC become friendly due to the joint effort of the BRAVE Circle, Lokomorcha, Upazila Health Management Committee and local elites community members. Furthermore, the UHC has brought about a few changes like it activated Upazila Health Management Committee and regularly monitors
it. The police officer also shared that there are less cases of violence that are reported on daily basis, meaning that violence in general has reduced therefore, less are reported. In the beginning, the police used to be reluctant to file cases of violence against women now they are sensitized at taking in cases of the survivors therefore, giving them more support than before; this is a morale boost for women. Due to this change women were more confident about speaking against perpetrator or going to file cases of violence. In short the community has become more supportive for those who suffered violence and works actively to stop any sort of violence against women and children.
Section 4.6 Sustainability

The sustainability of the programme outcome is a considerable factor which actually the programmes aim to. Theoretically sustainability is defined as the ability or capacity of something to be maintained or to sustain itself. For this particular programme, sustainability is defined as the situation where the individuals and community are able to protect and prevent VAWG. This means:

- At the individual and family level – Whether the women, men, adolescent girls and boys, children and their families are able to continue to derive the benefits from the programme.
- At the community and institution level – Whether the community, Lokomorcha and duty bearers are able to provide support and create an enabling mechanism for the individuals mentioned above to continue to derive benefits.

It is quite clear that BRAVE has been able to bring about substantial changes in the lives of its programme participants, in terms of facilitating their perceptual and relational/power pathways to violence free just society, at the individual, family, community and institutional levels. However, the sustainability of the programmegain and its improvement is dependent on some related factors through which will contribute to protecting the women and girls.

**Individual and family**: The evaluation findings reflect the improved knowledge and awareness of different types of violence and abuse against women and children of individuals and their families. There are also positive changes in their practice level such as, active participation of women in village court, UP election, social group, etc as well as men’s positive attitude towards women and girls (education, health seeking behavior, mobility, decision making capacity, etc). This result will not necessarily indicate this situation will sustain in future. It depends on the individuals how they perceive their level and linked with the proper utilization of the institutions to establish their rights. These issues need to be taken carefully and individual level motivation and encouragement is necessary for sustaining the programme.

**Community**: Through BRAVE circle, community unity has been established and harmonized relationship has been enhanced. As a result, social and political conflicts at village level have been reduced. Brave circle produced alternative leadership at grassroots level, who contribute leading the local government and political parties.

**Institutional Sustainability**: The intervention has established linkage and leverage with Union Parishad, Police station and Upazila Health Complex. However, except UP, most of the links are dependent on individual basis than institution, such as, with person who holds the position of UHFP&O, Officer in charge in police station. Although the survivors and other women get legal aid from the programme for free or with nominal fee, but the provision of reproductive health services have been missed out which is unmet need of the women and girls in the community.

The programme has introduced few innovative approaches and become successful. From BRAVE’s experience, AAB started applying the concept of Gender responsive budgeting and public service in its different project areas. LokoMorcha and BRAVE Circle not only worked on reducing VAW they also have the ability to establish other rights of the women and marginalized population. Being a non-partisan forum of political people, this set up may continue to address reducing VAW.
Chapter 5: Recommendations

Overall BRAVE programme was successfully implemented. The partnership agreement with Wave Foundation was made for 10 years which is essential to address prevailing issues and generating desired impacts. However a number of issues were also faced during the implementation of the programme. In the following some suggestions are outlined to address these issues to replicate or scale BRAVE programme.

1. The different roles and behaviour of women and men, children as well as adults, are shaped and reinforced by gender norms within our society. These are social expectations that define appropriate behaviour for women and men. Differences in gender roles and behaviours often create inequalities and inequalities in gender increase the risk of acts of violence by men against women. It is recommended that in future programme design addressing gender norms and promoting gender equalities should be a critical part of violence prevention. The activities should be designed such a way that confront the extended beliefs and cultural norms from which gender inequalities develop, and efforts to engage all stakeholders in the society in redressing these inequalities, both of which will reduce the violence agents women and girls.

2. When 24-month journey is over, it is suggested that BRAVE circle should continue with new members specifically adolescent girls and boys with appropriate application of REFLECT approach. There is a need to invest right now on them if AAB wants to reap the benefits of this large demographic dividend. This would be helpful to address gender norms, violence and sexual abuse among them. The aim would be to increase knowledge of abuse and violence, challenge gender stereotypes and norms and reduce levels of violence among adolescent girls and boys.

3. Shishu Bikash Kendra (SBK) can be considered as a hub for awareness raising regarding gender equity, respect to women, for younger children in child-friendly and interactive process. This initiative attempts to address gender norms and equality early in life, before gender stereotypes become deeply ingrained in them. For successful application of this initiative, co-operation and coordination among relevant departments of AAB is highly recommended.

4. There should be effective strategy to clearly identify duty bearers at local level and community institutions (schools, madrasa, local sports and cultural organizations) for long term impact, institutional relationship, and sustainability. For example, with an aim to reduce violence against women, there is a need to reform and strengthen Union Parishad Standing Committee on Prevention of Violence Against Women and Children.

5. From duty bearer perspective, an attempt can be taken to strengthen District Legal Aid Committee (DLAC) and make it functional. This committee need to be made effective and active to stop violence against women and ensure support to the destitute women. The district LokoMorcha should act as pressure group instead of playing the role of mediator in BRAVE programme.
6. There should be continuous attempt of advocacy with Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Home with an aim to establish or safe home for survivors in district town.

7. It is important and dire need to take into account cyber crime and new forms of abuse and violence in designing awareness raising programmes for adolescents. The session module should also focus on training of life skill, negotiation skill of this group.

8. For economic empowerment, linking with local micro financial and other financial institutions would be necessary for income enhancement and sustainability.

9. It is recommended that easily applicable M&E framework and system should be in place for scale up and replication.

10. In Bangladesh, ActionAid is strategically positioned for promoting gender equality and reducing violence against women. The partners hold AAB’s work in high esteem and they also have high long-term expectations. To meet these high expectations on one hand AAB has to generate more programmatic resources and on the other hand it has to synergize it capacities and energies in programme management. The interventions need to be scaled up on sustainable basis to address women rights issues. However, to scale up the BRAVE programme as a model, there should be adequate technical adequacy of the programme in highlighting and addressing the issues identified in the situation analysis. A focal person should be in place in AAB and there is a dire need of uniform understanding of implementation within AAB. The programmatic interventions should be in line with the mandates and scope of work of partner organizations.

11. The Programme should also able to capitalize on existing capacities of its partner organisations in achieving outcomes. The ultimate beneficiaries remain the people of the community. However, partner organizations are also among the important intermediary beneficiaries. Hence, the issues like governance, gender, and ownership should be in house practice of the implementing partner for scaling up this type of the programme.
**Annexure 1: Interviews and discussions conducted in different locations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Jibannagar Upazila</th>
<th>Damurhuda Upazila (control)</th>
<th>Chuadanaga District Level</th>
<th>Dhaka Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Utholi</td>
<td>Shimanto</td>
<td>Madna</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quantitative</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult women</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult men</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescent boys</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescent girls</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Qualitative</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FGD with women</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FGD with men</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FGD with adolescent girls</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FGD with adolescent boys</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survivor Interview</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Study</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion with children at SBK (interactive process)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion with Mothers of Sponsored Children in SBK</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion with Management Committee of SBK</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KII with UP Chairman, UP man and woman member, UHFP&amp;O, Police officer, District and Upazila Women Affairs officer, Upazila Social Welfare officer, lawyer</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation with district LokoMorcha</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation with UpazillaLokoMorcha</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation with LRP Staff of Wave Foundation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation with Field Facilitators</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting with Senior Management of Wave Foundation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation with Staff of AAB</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Annexure 2: Distribution of households by villages and unions (Quantitative Survey)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Union</th>
<th>Village</th>
<th>Number of survey Sample</th>
<th>Union wise Total sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Case Area</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utholi</td>
<td>Madhabkhali</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Peyaratola</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rajapur</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shimanto</td>
<td>Banipur</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dannokhla</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Goyalpara</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Goyespur</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sardarpara</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shakhariya</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Control Area</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madna</td>
<td>Shabaria</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parkrishnapur</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>3 Unions</td>
<td>11 Villages</td>
<td>134 Respondents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>134 Sample</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Annexure 3: Distribution of members of surveyed households by background characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Intervention unions</th>
<th>Control union</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mean Household Size</strong></td>
<td>4.19</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Member of households</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Man</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woman</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age of member</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-9</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-14</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-19</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-24</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-29</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-34</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-39</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-44</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-49</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-54</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-59</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60+</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Religion</strong></td>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islam</td>
<td>98.7%</td>
<td>93.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shonaton</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marital Status</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unmarried</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widow/widower</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separated</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No education</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary incomplete</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary complete</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary incomplete</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary complete or higher</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Occupation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business/Shopkeeper</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housewife</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skilled labour</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 6 years of age</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour and other</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>N (number of households)</strong></td>
<td><strong>77</strong></td>
<td><strong>57</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Note: Primary complete refers to completing grade 5 and secondary complete or higher refers to completing grade 10 or more. The followers of Shonaton religion is known as Hindu.
Annexure 4: Calculation of Weight Index

In the beginning, the opinions of the respondents of the quantitative survey have been categorized into six variables as below:

- very difficult
- difficult
- somewhat easy
- easy
- very easy

Table 2: Distribution of households by villages and unions (Quantitative Survey)

A number had been denoted to each opinion which ranges from 0 (Zero) to 5 (Five)

- never Discussed = 0
- very difficult = 1
- difficult=2
- somewhat easy =3
- easy =4
- very easy =5

Second step was calculations based on category. For every variable the answers of the respondents have been converted to percentage. The table below is presented for the demonstration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOPIC OF DISCUSSION</th>
<th>Never Discussed =0</th>
<th>Very difficult =1</th>
<th>Difficult=2</th>
<th>Somewhat easy=3</th>
<th>Easy=4</th>
<th>Very easy=5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>Type of diseases that could be attacked from the sexual intercourse</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>22.2</td>
<td>22.2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Now by taking the number given to each category (column C: difficult= 2), the team multiplied the percentage obtained (e.g: column c= 22%) for each topic of discussion.

For the above mentioned example category based number is: 2 X 22%= .44

Third step was calculation of topic based score. For each topic, the summation of scores for each category is considered at the corresponding category score. Likewise, for every union a different score has been calculated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOPIC OF DISCUSSION</th>
<th>Never Discussed =0</th>
<th>Very difficult =1</th>
<th>Difficult=2</th>
<th>Somewhat easy=3</th>
<th>Easy=4</th>
<th>Very easy=5</th>
<th>SCORE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>Type of diseases that could be attacked from the sexual intercourse</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fourth step was calculation of total issue based score. For each issue summation of the related topic scores was calculated to be the total issue based score. For each topic considering the highest score to be 5 by multiplying the number of topics based on categories with it we find the target weight. Now what percentage of target score is the total score calculated, this is going to be considered the weight. The team compared the respective category and union status of respondents. This has been used as the base of analysis for this evaluation.

\[
\text{Weight} = \frac{\text{Total score (issue based) } \times 100}{\text{Total score (5 x number of topics based on category)}}
\]

For example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISSUE: How difficult is for you to discuss the following issues WITH YOUR HUSBAND?</th>
<th>SCORE by Union (Highest Score= 5)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Respondent</td>
<td>TOPIC OF DISCUSSION: Degree of Openness/ Easiness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>a Type of diseases that could be attacked from the sexual intercourse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b Symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>c Sources of spreading the sexually transmitted diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>D How to prevent sexually transmitted diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Score</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Weight (full Marks : 4 topics x 5 marks for each topic= 20)** | **49%** | **40%** | **8%** |

Base index (index organizational and humanities / social indicators) total number calculated:
- Target columns total number (column- 2) summation is the total number
- Obtained number (column- 6) summation is the total obtained number

Fifth step was to determine the total number. Index organizational and humanities/ social index’s obtained percentage sub total is the organizations total number.

Total Number:

\[
\text{Obtained percentage of organizational index + humanities or social index percentage}
\]
Annexure 5: Documents reviewed (in Bangla)
Annexure 6: Documents reviewed *(in English)*

3. BRAVE Midterm report January-June 2015, prepared by Nuzhat Parvin, LRP Manager, approved by Anwer Hossain, Deputy Executive Director WAVE Foundation, approval from Action Aid Bangladesh.
4. Programme Appraisal Document (PAD) (internet)
5. AAB quarterly compile report on PAMO finding, July-September 2015, LRP-26. LRP Name WAVE Foundation, prepared by Action Aid Bangladesh.
11. Field visit report 2014, LRP-26, LRP Name WAVE Foundation, prepared by Action Aid Bangladesh.
12. BRAVE background (power point presentation)
13. Independent financial auditor report of BRAVE implemented by WAVE Foundation, funded by Action Aid Bangladesh this report has been prepared by ACNABIN.
15. Field visit reporting template -2015, LRP-26, LRP Name: WAVE Foundation, prepared by MD. Abdul Momin, Line Manager, Action Aid Bangladesh.
16. PHASE OUT PLAN, LRP-26, prepared by Wave Foundation.
17. Midterm review report of Breaking the Silence of Violence (BRAVE project) -2011, LRP-26, prepared by Action Aid Bangladesh.
18. Audited financial statements of BRAVE project 2012, implemented by WAVE Foundation, funded by Action Aid Bangladesh, prepared by Hoda Vasi Chowdhury & Co.
20. Child Sponsorship in Chuadanga, Bangladesh Community Newsletter March, 2015, information and photograph by WAVE Foundation, publication by Action Aid Bangladesh.
22. Child Sponsorship in Chuadanga, Bangladesh Community Newsletter March 2014, information and photograph by WAVE Foundation, publication by Action Aid Bangladesh.
23. Child Sponsorship in Chuadanga, Bangladesh Community Newsletter March 2012 information and photograph by WAVE Foundation, publication by Action Aid Bangladesh.
27. Welcome to our latest news from Chuadanga progress Report 2013, information and photograph by WAVE Foundation, publication by Action Aid Bangladesh.