

# Gender Mainstreaming in Parliamentary Participation in Bangladesh: Problems and Prospects

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## Abstracts

This article discusses the state of women's participation in the political process and in the Parliament in Bangladesh. The article highlights low level of women MPs' representation and participation in the Parliament, the Parliamentary Standing Committees and the Cabinet. A comparative picture of women representation in Parliament and cabinet in global perspective shows that women around the world at socio-political level are underrepresented in Parliament and cabinet. The article has examined government policy and plans on women's participation in politics in general and parliament in particular whether these are consistent with government development policy and international convention/conference. Though government has commitment for women's political empowerment, the article has showed that extent of women MPs' participation in politics in general and in Parliament in particular is limited. The reserved quota has guaranteed women's "protected" representation in the Parliament but their representation in the decision-making process has not yet been ensured in the Parliament. The article also investigates social, cultural and religious challenges which hinder gender mainstreaming in Parliamentary Participation and suggest social movement, political will of the government and women friendly electoral system to overcome the challenges

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