

Key outputs of COVAW:

Output 1: Increased understanding of gender norms, practices and behaviors regarding marriage that contribute to VAW.

Output 2: Tools for determining social and economic costs of VAW developed, tested and disseminated.

Output 3: Behavior Change Communications (BCC) campaign preventing VAW developed and implemented.

Output 4: Social and economic costs of VAW influence: national budgets, PRSP, passage and implementation of proposed Domestic Violence Bill.



For more information about COVAW please contact:

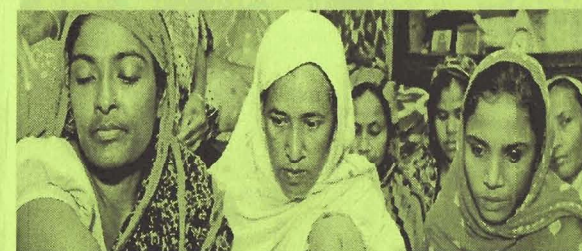
Team Leader, COVAW Project - CARE Bangladesh
Pragati RPR Center (10th Floor), 20-21, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215
E-mail: covaw@carebangladesh.org; Web site: www.care.org
Phone: 88-02-9112315, 8114207

Designed by: Pintu Saha, CRM Unit, CARE Bangladesh

COVAW

Cost of Violence Against Women

- An Initiative of CARE Bangladesh



Background:

Bangladesh has one of the highest rates of domestic violence in the world. Violence here is often attributed to patriarchal attitudes that promote male control and dominance in relationships with women and violence, viewed as a personal matter that should be resolved privately within the family. A UNFPA study in Bangladesh titled "An Assessment of Male Attitude Towards Violence Against Women", revealed that 65% of men consider violence against women justified, 38% are unsure as to what constitutes physical violence and 40% are in favor of keeping women socially dormant and subjugated. A recent pilot study of Naripokkho in Bangladesh shows that out of 79 women admitted in Dhaka Medical College Hospital, 63% had sustained their injuries at home. This fact was further supported by findings from police station where at least 60% of the cases reported also occurred within women's own homes. Another study based on cases reported at police stations reported that 66% of perpetrators of domestic violence stemmed from within family.

What is COVAW:

Cost of violence against women (COVAW) is a new innovative initiative of CARE Bangladesh funded by USAID to address gender equality and empowerment of women, one of the key development goals of Bangladesh government through gender-transformative behavior change interventions seeking impact on national plans, policies and budgets.

What is new at COVAW:

Over the past decade development actors have made serious efforts to address VAW in Bangladesh. However, these efforts have been largely based on raising awareness and reducing harm after the incidence of violence, thus a violence prevention focus was limited. Moreover, it has been largely centered on women. Involving men as key stakeholders to address the root causes of violence and the criticality of its comprehensive management that requires recognizing certain established cultural practice and underlying gender dynamics was missing.

With this backdrop COVAW is designed to understand and analyze the link between VAW and power dynamics, gender norms, behavior and practices in marriage that contribute to violence. It is largely based on CARE Bangladesh's experience working for the empowerment of women over the past two decades highlighting VAW. It seeks to determine the social and economic cost of VAW and use this information for a better understanding of how the costs of this violence actually harm individuals, families and communities and the state at large. Evidence drawn from the analysis will be used to support a behavior change communication (BCC) campaign promoting equitable and positive roles and relationships between men and women. The findings of the cost analysis report will be used to involve the community with the objective of involving men women and other key institutions to take responsibility to end violence against women.

Goal and Objectives of COVAW:

Goal: To prevent violence against women by contributing to behavior change related to gender norms, practices and behaviors regarding marriage.

Objectives:

Objective 1: Increase understanding and analysis among communities, NGOs and government about the link between VAW and gender norms, practices and behaviors regarding marriage.

Objective 2: Determine the social and economic cost of VAW to individuals, families, communities, and the state, and the cost to development agendas.

Objective 3: Use evidence on the social and economic cost of VAW to design a behavior and social change campaign, and influence national level policy-makers to build a more enabling environment to prevent VAW.

Where it is implemented:

COVAW initiative uses current projects funded by USAID and the EC as an entry point to work with community based organizations in three districts for the period of October 2008 to September 2011. These are: Dinajpur, Sunamganj and Tangail with a coverage of 24 villages, targeting a population of approximately 30,000 beneficiaries.

Who are the local partners:

- Society of UDDOG in Dinajpur
- Jaintia Shinnomul Songstha (Jashis) in Sunamganj
- South Asia Partnerships, Bangladesh (SAP-B) in Southern Bangladesh

