Bangladesh Gender & Election Assessment
Early Findings

Bangladesh is approaching an important juncture as the country prepares for the National Election in 2018. Over the years, electoral integrity and violence have been affecting democratic consolidation and hampering rule of law. In 2014, political turmoil across the country made the 10th National Parliamentary Election in a one-party led event where the main opposition boycotted the elections. Considering the history of democratic transitions between elections in the country that have mostly been marked by violence, the stakes of the upcoming 11th Parliamentary Election are quite high.

Election violence in Bangladesh ranges from Violence against Women in Elections (VAW-E), intimidation of voters, street fighting, killing, among the others. Thus, IID in partnership with National Democratic Institute (NDI) has initiated a 4-months long research project to assess the key electoral integrity issues in Bangladesh.

**Voter registration**
Have the election officials reached every citizen?

- Reached every house: 80%
- Reached every member: 73%

**Voter Choice**
Top 3 leadership traits same among men and women

- Honesty: 97%
- Education: 96%
- Well known: 75%

**Voter Awareness**
Are you aware of the voting information?

- Voting Time: 73%
- Voting Location: 83%

**Voter Intimidation**

- 5 out of 6 victims who faced Family pressure were women
- All 5 women experienced mental pressure
- 1 in 5 women faced family dispute

**Type of intimidation** Varies across gender

- Psychological
- Arrest/Legal charges
- Threat/Coercion

"I am a firm believer of voting rights for women. But my wife stays at home all day. So I help her decide whom to vote. I ensure she made the right decision by asking her whom she voted after returning from the polling centre."

-A male voter from the voter FGD at Gazipur

"The ruling party activists wouldn’t let anyone work as a polling agent. Since my family is locally well known, the opposition party requested me and my sisters to work as polling agents."

-A female Youth leader from FGD in Khulna
Study Approach

- Literature Review
- Focused Group Discussions
- Key Informant Interviews (KII)
- Consultation Meetings
- Questionnaire Development
- Researchers Training
- Field Survey
  - Tab-based Survey
  - Gender Sensitization
  - Response Protocol

Gazipur, Cox’s Bazaar, Khulna, Dhaka

Target Respondents

- Campaign Activists 20.34%
  - Male & Female
- Voters 40.68%
  - Male & Female
- Candidates 5.08%
  - Male & Female
- Election Commission Officials 6.78%
- Election Observers 6.78%
- Media Representatives 20.34%

Study Location

- 9 constituencies

Study Timeline

- Study Begins 2018
- Election Schedule Announced
- Nominations Submission Deadline
- Nominations Withdrawal Deadline
- Election Day
- Study Ends 2019

Early findings of the study represent this period only