

Bangladesh – Overview

Bangladesh was fielded from March 27, 2007 to April 7, 2007. The achieved sample size was N = 753 of face-to-face interviews. The topics included women’s rights, healthcare, and education. The sampling methodology was a multistage random sample of female Muslim adults age 18+ from urban and rural locations.

Sample and Research Design

The sample is stratified by region and urbanity within each region. Clusters are then distributed within each stratum. A random walk method with a fixed sampling interval was performed from a starting point. Interviews use the next birthday method to select individual respondents within an eligible household.

Women’s Economic Status

Compared to other Muslim women surveyed, Bangladeshi women are very interested in taking advantage of opportunities to receive training and startup money to start a business (70%). In Bangladesh, only 21% of the sampled women state they are not interested.

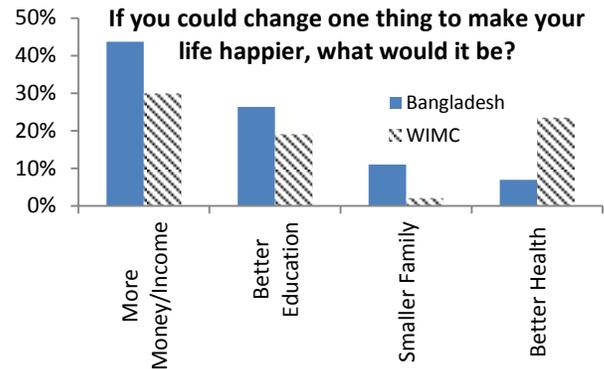
Within the household, only 22% of the surveyed women reports having full control of household savings. Nearly 40% report that she is responsible for all the daily household needs like food, clothing, and cleaning supplies.

Healthcare

89% of Bangladeshi women do not believe they have ever been denied health care due to being a woman. Still, 11% report “yes” they have been denied healthcare for being a woman.

What Women Want

According to the survey results, if women in Bangladesh could change something to make their life happier it would be more money and greater income (44%) and better education (26%). Compared to the WIMC average, Bangladeshi women are five times more likely to want a smaller family (11% Bangladeshi vs. 2% average).



Education and Marital Status

Most of Bangladeshi women are housewives and are not looking for work outside the home (86%); whereas, only 5% are working full-time. Of those women working, around 1% reports her primary occupation to be an unskilled worker or a clerical/office clerk. 98% of the women report not being the head of household.

The percentage of Bangladeshi women who have no formal education is low at 3%, but 24% self-report as illiterate. 7% of the surveyed Bangladeshi women report having more than 13 years of education.

Table 1: Education of Bangladeshi women, 2007

	<i>Bangladeshi Women</i>
No formal education	3%
1-4 years	9%
5-8 years	29%
9-12 years	28%
13+ years	7%

Outlook

When asked about their rights, 40% of the women sampled in Bangladesh think that women’s rights can be achieved within Sharia law, while 56% state that a clear separation of religion and government is more effective in protecting women’s rights. The majority of women interviewed are homemakers, but the results indicate that given the opportunity Bangladeshi women would enter the public workforce to earn an income. Still, more education is needed to move forward.

For more information on how to participate or access the data please contact
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