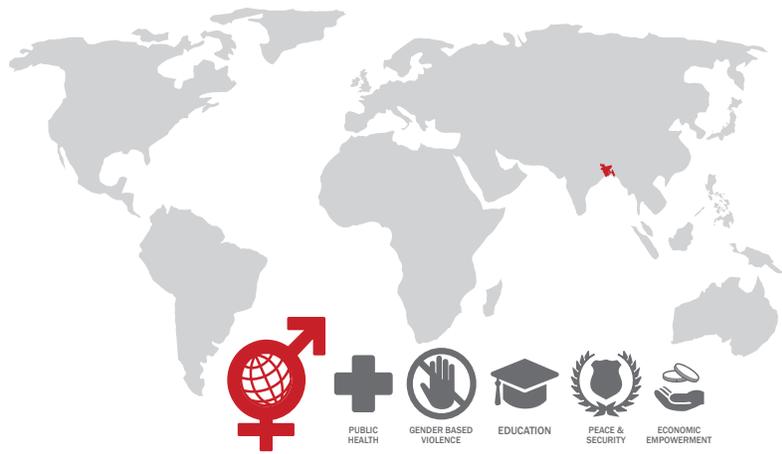


# BANGLADESH

## Perceptions of Gender-Based Violence and Gender Dynamics



IN JUNE 2015, D3 SYSTEMS USED A MULTI-STAGE SYSTEMATIC SAMPLING METHOD TO COLLECT NATIONALLY REPRESENTATIVE DATA FROM 1,500 ADULTS IN BANGLADESH TO GAIN FURTHER INSIGHT INTO THE KEY AREAS OF THE D3 GENDER RESEARCH INITIATIVE THEMES, SPECIFICALLY **GENDERED POWER, REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, AND BEHAVIOR.**



### CONTEXT

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is an area of growing concern globally given its detrimental consequences to individuals, families, and communities. Gender-based violence remains one of the most pervasive human rights violations ranging from child marriage, female genital mutilation, and rape in conflict zones. A recent report by UN Women on violence against women and girls concluded that women and girls are often trapped within rigid societal frameworks where violence against women is often viewed as a 'normal' phenomenon<sup>1</sup>. Violence against women and girls has several consequences: death, injuries which cause permanent disabilities, STIs, HIV/AIDS, high-risk pregnancy, gynecological

problems, miscarriage, stillbirth, chronic pelvic pain and pelvic inflammatory disease, and a series of psychological health problems. Violence against women and girls in Bangladesh, particularly the prevalence of wife-beating, remains one of the most common social determinants of poor health outcomes. The D3 GRI Bangladesh survey consists of gender-disaggregated data to elicit perceptions and opinions about violence against women and girls in rural and urban Bangladesh.



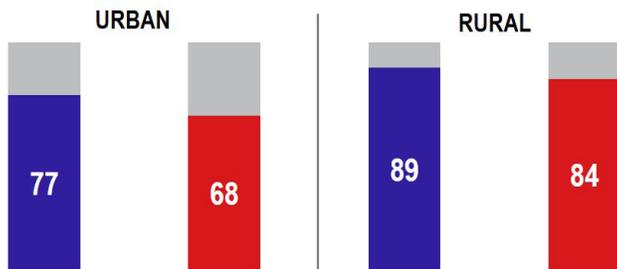
### HOUSEHOLD POWER DYNAMICS

Although Bangladeshi women have experienced significant improvements in their quality of life over the past decade, patriarchy in Bangladesh still normalizes the subordination and objectification of

<sup>1</sup> Farouk, Sharmeen. "Violence against Women: A Statistical Overview, Challenges and the Gaps in Data Collection and Methodology and Approaches for Overcoming Them." UN Division for the Advancement of Women 2005. Economic Commission for Europe and World Health Organization.

women. A majority of men and women believe that a woman's role is limited to the domestic sphere, with more conservative views in rural Bangladesh.

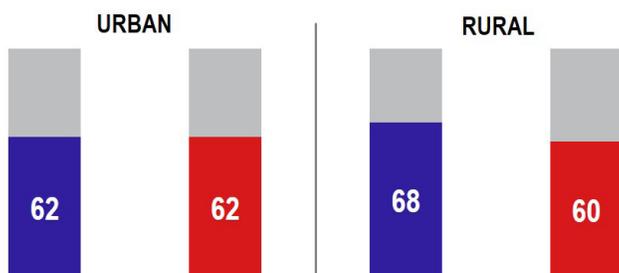
Percentage of **men** and **women** who agree that...  
A man's job is to earn a living; A woman's job is to look after the home and family.\*



In Bangladesh, **the objectification and scrutinization of a woman's body and sexuality is often socially acceptable** as in most male-dominated societies. Marital rape is prevalent in Bangladesh and continues to compromise the reproductive health of women and girls. Although it is prohibited within the national legal framework, it is not formally criminalized. From the survey data,

**IT IS EVIDENT THAT A MAJORITY OF MEN AND WOMEN IN BANGLADESH BELIEVE THAT A WOMAN DOES NOT HAVE AUTONOMY IN DECIDING TO HAVE SEX WITH HER HUSBAND.**

Percentage of **men** and **women** who agree that...  
A woman cannot refuse to have sex with her husband.\*



<sup>2</sup> "Family Planning and Reproductive Health Indicators Database." Law Prohibits Marital Rape — MEASURE Evaluation, USAID. 2015.



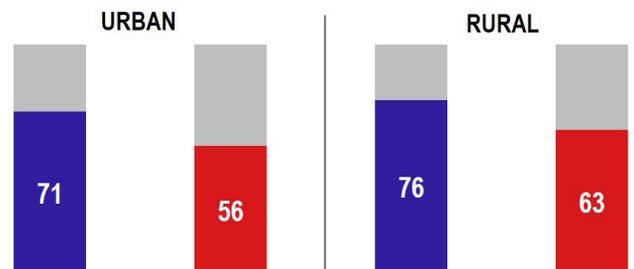
## PERCEPTIONS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Our data also revealed that a majority of men and women in rural and urban Bangladesh agree that

**A WIFE SHOULD TOLERATE PHYSICAL ABUSE FROM HER HUSBAND IF IT WOULD KEEP HER FAMILY TOGETHER.**

Opinions were slightly more conservative in rural communities, particularly among male respondents.

Percentage of **men** and **women** who agree that...  
A woman should tolerate if her husband beats or hits her in order to keep her family together.\*



## DATA COLLECTION METHODS

The Bangladesh study was a face-to-face survey of 1,500 Bangladeshis over the age of 18. The sample was created using the 2011 census provided by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and was stratified by urban/rural status. Households were selected using the "Right Hand Rule" and separate random walks were conducted for gender specific interviews. Interviews were conducted in Bengali and English by locally trained staff at Org-Quest Research Ltd.

(\*Significance was calculated using a chi-square test for independence at 0.05 assuming simple random sampling).