

Women in Public Service Summer Leadership Institute Action Plans

1st Group:

Raising Women Skills in Shelters

Group members: Fatima Saadat, Jan Afza Sarwari, Batool Askari

We have planned to meet women in shelters and their children in Kabul in order to raise their skills.

Due to a large range of domestic violence against women in Afghanistan, there are a significant number of women and their children who are living in shelters under the protection of government or human rights organizations. Though these women are given high security protection inside the shelters, they are not allowed to leave the shelters, for their own safety. The shelter walls protect them from the death threat but at the same time imprison them as long as they live within the shelter. We can imagine how boring and frustrating their lives are. And we know they don't deserve such a destiny. The situation for their children is even worse. They grow up knowing almost nothing about the world outside of the shelter. For most of these women, we cannot change the situation outside the shelter completely and make it safe for them, but we can help them to have more productive, happier moments of life inside the shelters.

- We are going to have some training programs so that can make handicrafts with recycled papers and second hand objects
- We will teach them how to play chess in their free time
- We will also conduct an art workshop for sketching and water color so the women and children in the shelter can express their thoughts and feelings through art
- We will conduct a book collection event and collect some novels and magazines for the shelter so that the literate women read books to illiterate women and children in the shelter. We encourage them to read books by conducting some reading circles.

We are focusing on three issues through our program.

1. Enabling the women to be financially independent
2. Having reading and writing programs
3. Teaching paintings and chess for the children

We have learned that in order to empower a woman we have to empower her financially.

The women who are living in the shelters have no source of financial supports so we are going to have trainings for them to teach handicrafts and dressmaking methods.

After learning these skills those women will be able to make their own products and sell them to the markets or we want the managers in the shelters to help them to sell their products.

Secondly we are going to encourage the women and the children in the shelters to spend their free times by reading books, magazines and writing their dailies.

We can ask our friends and relatives to support us to collect the novel, books, story books and magazines which they might have in their homes and not using them anymore. Those books can be great source of even making a person educated.

Third, we are going to teach the children and also the women playing chess and painting.

Chess is a game of all ages which develops critical thinking and encourages us to be inventive.

So through playing chess the women and the children will bring some changes to their lives and they will learn the strategies that chess teaches us.

The other program we want to apply in the shelters is painting for the children.

One can gain self-esteem and confidence through painting. Painting allows us to associate creativity with every aspect of our life.

Children can paint the every aspects of their life in the shelters and outside.

2nd Group:

Raising awareness of sensitivity towards domestic workers in Bangladesh

Members: Maliha Khan, Raiya Kishwar Ashraf, Bhuiyan Nahiya Mahmood

Aim: Improve the conditions for domestic workers by raising awareness among children and their family members to increase sensitivity from the employer families.

Field of the project: education, social, volunteering initiatives and media projects.

The problem description:

Domestic workers are found in most middle class and elite households in Bangladesh and most often they are women and children. Their lives emulate modern day slavery where they are often abused physically, mentally and sexually, but aside from that they suffer severe exploitation due to the stigma of their class. In most cases these workers are underpaid, overworked, isolated, underfed and have lack of access to their civil rights.

We wish to raise awareness among families of sensitivity towards domestic workers. We hope to help ensure employers are more aware of the effects of their behavior towards domestic workers and the learned discrimination that their children adopt.

Our possible plan of action includes:

1. Volunteering at Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) drop-in centers, to better learn from domestic workers themselves: ASK is an organization which provides free legal aid to the disenfranchised all over the country and is a human rights organization working on developing the economic, social and civil rights for women, men and children through research, advocacy campaigns, human rights monitoring and media action. They specialize in labor rights and have had a history of working with and providing special assistance and training to domestic workers. More information about ASK can be found on their official website: <http://www.askbd.org/web/>
2. Writing about their plight-blog, magazine articles, possibly a play (using both traditional and new media)
3. Work on writing an illustrated children's book (in English and Bengali) with a professional cartoonist, especially creating a memorable character

We are targeting children using a family friendly book to illustrate the typical life of a domestic worker and what needs to be done to improve their condition in the domestic abode as well as employees to the family. This measure hopes to pressure families into treating their workers with the dignity and respect one would accord to any human being.

3rd Group:

Harnessing the power of social media to raise social awareness

Group Members: Ankhi Banik, Anowara Begum, Arpita Palit, Fahria Kabir, Fahmida Yesmine, Mariam K., Shema Mahjabin

• **Background**

"When [my tormentor] pulled my scarf and harassed me physically in front of the house, onlookers at the scene laughed. Nobody protested. None of my family members are responsible for my suicide." This is the last few words Pinky, a 13 years school girl has written before she has chosen suicide to be the only way to save her from the severe mental and physical trauma¹.

¹ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/10220920>

Sexual harassment is one of the prominent issues in Bangladesh. In fact, sexual harassment against girls and women in Bangladesh is turning deadly. According to the Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association, almost 90 percent of girls aged 10-18 years have experienced what is known locally as "eve-teasing," where boys throw bad words at girls, show shout obscenities, laugh at them or grab their clothes.

Mariam and Anowara Begum, students of Asian University for Women have observed the deadly effect of sexual harassment with their school friends. Though Mariam is from Bogra and Anowara is from rural Chittagong community, but interestingly they both has observed that their friends were forced to get married during the age of 13 to 15 only to avoid "eve teasing". They have seen when girls get to the age of 13 to 14, boys from different ages start giving them love proposal or sexually harassment while going to school. If the girl refuses to the love proposal or even if the girl does raise her voice, they are then threatened to face severe sexual or physical attack. Therefore, the parents are left with no choice but child marriage.

All the case studies show that sexual harassment has become a burning issue that should seek attention of both male and female.

Goal

Short term goal:

Raising the awareness among high school and college students to reduce the practice of sexual harassment from the youth

Long term goal:

This project will solve the co-related issues such as decreasing the rate of early marriages, the number of school drop-outs, and the number of suicide.

- **Timeline:**

Tentatively the project duration will be from September 2012 to April 2013.

- **Funding**

To be decided upon campaigns

- **Target groups:**

High school and college students in both city and rural schools and colleges (grade 8 to 12) of Chittagong and Bogra

Focused issue:

Sexual harassment

Action plans:

Tools that are going to be used for this awareness program:

Social Media (Blog, facebook, twitter, WSPSP website, Telecommunication Companies)

Role playing on case studies

Presentation by AUW students, Lawyers, Journalists and Local representative

Open Discussion of audience with speakers

Collecting anonymous recommendations from students

Media partnership

Documentation

Our pilot project begins with inviting the lawyers from Bangladesh National Women Lawyer Association to supervise us. We will also discuss about our project with the Journalists from different local newspaper and radio. Moreover, through their help we create our network with the local representative. After discussing with everyone, we will come up with a group of people who will go to different schools of Chittagong and Bogra.

In the schools, we will have day long program. We will start our presentation with a role playing on a case study. And then we will introduce issue of sexual harassment to our audience. Our lawyers then will briefly talk about the existing law and guidelines.

Some of our AUW peers from foreign countries will have a presentation encouraging the female students to build their network with us. And they will mostly encourage male students not to involve themselves in sexual harassment.

Our note takers will note down students' opinions, photographers will take photos, and one person will video the whole process. Overall, our documentation group will keep records of every campaign and publish it through blogs and other social media.

We will have media partners with Chittagong Television (CTV) who will promote our projects. And also we plan to create our network with FM radios in Chittagong.

Throughout the project, we aim to create awareness about sexual harassment among the youth via different organizations and social media.

4th Group:

Raising Awareness against Domestic Violence in the Grass root Level

Group Members: Tausifa and Savitri

Action Plan:

We are planning to campaign in our own villages to raise awareness against domestic violence. For this campaigning, we will seek help from our local representatives for example, union parishad member or panchayat member. Therefore, after going to our villages, we will go to the local representatives to discuss about our ideas about promoting awareness against domestic violence. As soon as they agree to help us, we will work to arrange a program for the villagers. To make the program a success, we have come up with some ideas as follows:

1. At first, we, a group of AUW students will talk with the local representatives, police inspector of the local police station, local lawyers, influential people in the village and a religious personality about the aim of our program. We will request them to participate with us.
2. Then we will fix a date and time when we can arrange the program which will be convenient for most of the villagers (i.e. Sunday and Friday). In order to announce the date and time of the program, we will request the *Imam* (the religious figure) of the nearby mosque to tell all the villagers to attend the program.
3. In the program, first we will address the abuses that a woman may face in her household which are treated as domestic violence. We will tell them about the negative impacts of domestic violence over women and their children too.
4. We will request our lawyers and polices to address the prevalent laws against domestic violence to the villagers. The local representatives will also talk about the negative impacts of domestic violence over the whole society, and about the punishment of such heinous crime. Our speakers will convince the villagers that domestic violence is not just a day to day behavior; it is a crime recognized in the state law. Therefore, every man should be aware of the crime he is committing, and every woman should be aware of her legal rights as well.
5. We will also request the religious person to talk about women's rights described in the holy books. For example, he will also talk about the punishment stated in the holy Quran for the abusive husbands or in laws. He will tell them how much respectful it is to have daughters as Allah has declared that parents of daughters is the most respected to Allah. This religious idea of respecting women could help to diminish some harmful social practices such as female feticides or the tendency of having more children with the hope of having a son.
6. Next, we will show them video clips about domestic violence and educational "Meena cartoon" that UNICEF has made to empower the women. In addition, we AUW students will perform a mock trial against domestic violence.

7. We will also distribute pamphlets among people about our mission in where we will write what are the steps women should take if they are victims of domestic violence. For instance, we will write the existed laws and also some other organizations addresses who are willing to help abused women. On the pamphlet, we will also write about the harmful effects of domestic violence so that domestic abusers try to give up their bad practice for the sake of their family and children. In addition, we will also provide these pamphlets to people in stations, markets, schools, amusement parks so that who do not attend the program they will also have some knowledge about what we have discussed in the program. We will also try to make some posters about the issue of domestic violence and paste them at some public spaces of our villages. We will post these small pamphlets in our social media websites so that we can get some more friends who will be willing to work with us.
8. We will finish our program by taking some of their questions and comments, and requesting them to make a promise on the spot that they will together promote awareness among all people against domestic violence, and they will never let their own daughters suffer for not having proper education, secure society or because of early marriage.

The aim of our program is to raise awareness against domestic violence. Also to convince them that a daughter is not a burden for a family; she can be an asset if she is provided with proper opportunities. We ourselves will request them to ensure a secure environment for your daughters, sisters, wives, and mothers so that they can prove their worth too.

5th Group:

Action Plan to Enhance the Female Education in Slum Communities in Chittagong

Ruvani Nisansala Nagoda Gamage

I. Overview

“Hope,” a basic literacy and leadership program, seeks to support the competencies of young girls from impoverished slum communities in Chittagong as an important step toward the larger goals of overcoming poverty and promoting social justice and women’s rights. While targeting slum girls, the program mobilizes, trains, and empowers undergraduate university students from the Asian University for Women who will play an active role in designing and leading classroom activities as their summer project. In doing so, the program helps build strong connections between university students and female children from slums and their families and communities. A total of fifteen students and three faculty advisors from the university are expected to aid in teaching fifty female children in slums. The program’s curriculum will comprise both theoretical and practical components that will be tailored to the local community context and special needs. Classroom exercises and resources will be developed to improve basic reading, writing, and arithmetic skills, making use of easy visuals, case study discussions, and role-plays and simulations. In addition, participants will be involved in community projects and

skill-building activities. It is envisaged that the children and students involved will gain self-confidence and an awareness of their potential role in decision-making and eradicating poverty and gender disparities.

II. Needs

Although access to education is a fundamental right and the foundation of development, many female children cannot reach their potential. Their education might be interrupted by a range of factors: extreme poverty, schooling expenses, family financial needs, malnutrition and other health issues, social norms, conflict, and other crises. The underrepresentation of slum children, particularly girls, in primary and secondary education has been documented as a pivotal social concern. Without effective education, young female children are at risk of continuing to live in poverty, or slipping into abusive forms of child labor, prostitution, begging, drug addictions and early marriages. Therefore, this is time to educate the female slum children to enhance their living conditions.

III. Target Groups

The program targets two specific groups:

1. Female children, who lack access to a basic education due to poverty and other factors or who have dropped out of school due to poverty, and hail from slum community in Chittagong (area with limited access to basic needs, inadequate sanitation, dense population, poor quality housing, high rates of crime, limited security). Age cohort: 9-15 years.
2. Undergraduate university students, from the Asian University for Women from a range of personal and disciplinary background/majors, who seek valuable community experience during summer months, have strong skills in English language and mathematics, are dedicated to teaching and to social justice, are creative, self-motivated and self-aware, and enjoy working in and leading teams.

IV. Goals

1. To develop and sustain a cost-effective basic literacy and leadership program for female children in slums.
2. To engage university students from the Asian University for Women in social change through a valuable practical experience that can contribute to their career progression.

6th Group:

Daughters of Nations: Women Leadership Chapters

Ganga Silva, Dakshini Nimanthi, Thasomini

In many part of the world, women and children from all walks of life are subject to violence and discrimination. However, often these incidences of violence are underreported and unaddressed. Two major reasons for this underreporting of violence and discrimination are that women who are victims of violence are unaware of their rights, so they are scared to speak up or

seek assistance, and unfortunately, most of them accept the violence as a part of their life by normalizing its acute impacts. Since this is something that occurs irrespective of age, marital status, race, religion, culture or income level, it is important to take actions against it.

Susan B. Anthony, a prominent civil and women's rights advocator in the 19th century said: "I declare to you that woman must not depend upon the protection of man, but must be taught to protect herself, and there I take my stand."

Thus, while it is crucial to bring structural changes to our existing social, political, and legal frameworks to improve the status of women, it is equally important to empower women themselves to become self-reliant, so that they can stand up for their rights to live in a safe and violence free society where they are liberated to make their own decisions without being discriminated.

We believe that self-reliance is the key to empower women, therefore educating women to identify their inner strengths is important. So, as the initiative step of this process of empowering women, we want to establish Women Leadership Chapters: 'DAUGHTERS OF NATIONS' at the school level starting from the girl school which we attended in Sri Lanka and few other girls schools in my town with the help of my sisters here at AUW-WPSP. These chapters will be functioned as extra-curricular clubs at schools, but they will also include academic materials related to women and human rights, capacity building, and real life social, political, economic and environmental problems which affect women and the communities as a whole. In this way, the female students will be given "the right tool-box" to act and to be aware of their rights and their potentials as equal citizens in the society while having the opportunity to address issues not just related to women but also to society and environment as a whole. Moreover, time to time, there will be seminars, workshops and talks by community women leaders, national women leaders, and women experts in various fields through which these school girls get to see the role-models who they can follow and look up to as they grow. The final goal is to spread these chapters to many schools as possible and to organize events across the chapters building a strong national women network among the members of these chapters which will last long.

7th Group:

Action Plan to Combat Child Marriage in Afghanistan

Prepared by: Nazifa Alizada, Mursal Juya, Fariba Housaini, Fatima Hashimi, Gulsom Mirzada, Munira Sharifi, Zainab Hassanpor, Nafasgul Arezo

This project mainly aims to empower women through sustaining their education. As the second obstacle, child marriage prevents 39.4% of the Afghan women from education right and

adversely effects on their future life. Early marriage not only stands to take women's education right, but downgrades their economical, medical, psychological, mental and social status in family and community. This way, it paves the way to women's exploitation and increases domestic violence. Currently, around 60 percent of Afghan girls are forced to marry on their early ages. Therefore, it is important to take serious steps to end up the vast series of this long last traditional and cultural practice through raising people's awareness as well as changing article 70 and 71 of Afghanistan's Civil Law which announces sixteen as the legal marriage age for girls.

Prevention:

- **Social Awareness Campaigns**

To make people aware of child marriage's negative social, medical, political, economical, and cultural impacts:

- ✓ Contacting with calergies to hold gatherings in mosque [encouraging parents both father and mother to avoid child marriage]
 - ❖ Dramas
 - ❖ Mock Trails
- ✓ Delivering direct speeches in girls' schools [covers girl students not to forfeit easily and stand against this practice]
 - ❖ PowerPoint Presentation
- ✓ Media
 - ❖ Publishing articles through newspapers and weekly magazines
 - ❖ Arranging and participating in television talk shows
- ✓ Social Networking through Facebook [special page]
- ✓ Publishing noticeable billboards in crowded areas, as well as posters, brochure during speeches in mosque and schools
- ✓ Asking human right organization to broadcast advertisements from its own credible position through media

- **Legislative Process**

Making serious efforts to change article 70 and 71 of Afghanistan's Civil Law to raise girl's marriage age from 16 to 18 years

- ✓ Contacting Independent Human Rights Commission for support since article 70 and 71 are against Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- ✓ Contacting with social activists and organizations who struggle for the same issue and setting up shared plans to approach to main goal
- ✓ Contacting with male and female MPs for support
- ✓ Contacting with Ministry of Women Affairs and asking for their serious attempts to defend women's right
- ✓ Contacting with youth parliament and constituting a huge mass

Expected Products of Awareness Campaigns

- Women's social, educational, economical empowerment
- Paving the way for girls to sustain their education
- Preventing girl's health risk (physical and sexual abuse)
- Avoiding domestic violence against women
- Decreasing the high mother and child death mortality rate
- Overall social and economical growth in society
- Raising people's awareness
- Gradually eliminating the long practiced traditional and cultural belief
- Diminishing gender inequality
- Maintaining Universal Human Right rules [specifically marriage rules] in Afghanistan
- Averting girl's from committing suicide, self harm, self-immolation and self-mutilation
- Reducing running away and honor killing cases
- Changing article 70 and 71 of Afghanistan's Civil Law

8th Group:

Action plan to stop punishment of children in Afghanistan

Group works: Mitra Shiva Hussaini, Zahra Rezai, Shaiesta Ehsani

In Afghanistan one of the biggest problems is punishment of innocent children at school and at home, due to backwardness of our country and illiteracy of parents, in order to come out of these tragedies we must bring new traditional cultural changes through different training courses for both parents and teachers.

Objectives:

- 1- Improvement of training courses on punishment of children and exchanging information on those courses.
- 2- Corresponding studying of the nature, character and results of children's punishment. Analysis of exercising legislation against violence or punishment.
- 3- Expand information on domestic punishment; make it a subject of public discussion. To finish violence and punishment completely.
- 4- Systematic monitoring on work fulfilled.

Solutions:

- 1- Preparing courses on combating children punishment through the whole province and statistic digestion of the data (these different courses for parents and teachers are prepared to

have psychologist's teachers to teach them how to behave with children in schools and stop physical and mental punishment).

- a. Substitute of teaching methodology on new methods (for example: - to make the class very interesting to attract the students through practical studies and activities for their science subjects and there must be fieldtrips practices of fighting against children punishment in schools and homes.
- b. To bring into fulfillment legislation against punishment with the minister of Ministry of Education and Children Affairs to announce punishment against children as violation of human rights. To elaborate policy of incompatibility to any forms of punishment against children.

- 2- Acknowledgement of society that punishment of children in families or society is a criminal offence and is punishable by law, so we must reach our voice to all population that children punishment is an illegal activity.(through Media).
- 3- Broadcasting of our all plans for fighting against children punishment, against domestic punishment (through Television, Radio, News paper, Magazine and internet).
Realization of this legislation, create such environment in the society, which shall make punishment against children shameful and inadmissible. (For this issue which is significant, we must practical this in parliament).
- 4- Collecting all the information from our monitoring team that how the whole society schools have fulfilled the result of our training program and how much the ministry of education rewarded to this issue, how much the Children Affairs completed their promises and what are the sources which they used for the success of stopping punishment against children

9th Group:

Two months workshop of reading comprehension and academic writing for Afghan Students

Saidy Raihana

In Afghanistan especially in Kabul, most girls and boys are really interested to apply for scholarships. They are attempting for scholarships but most of them cannot succeed in the program though they have good speaking and listening skills.

The reason behind this failure is that they are not good in reading comprehension and academic writing.

What I want to do is to help them succeed in their desire.

Whenever I will have an opportunity to go Kabul, I would like to take a special course for two months to develop students' academic reading and writing skills.

The question rise here how?

When I was in Kabul, Afghanistan I was learning English in AKES-A (Agha Khan Education service for Afghanistan) where I completed advance level and worked there for more than three years as an English part time teacher. So I will ask this organization to support me and give me a class to work on my project.

By the help of the organization I will first make an announcement if anyone is interested in this program come and register their names and we first take placement test to know whether these candidates have the ability to continue this course or not. Then the selected students attend the class regularly and improve their knowledge in these two skills.

By this way students will improve their reading comprehension and academic writing and will be able to work with other students who are eager to continue their education abroad and succeed in scholarships programs.

What are the criteria of selecting students in this program?

1. Students must be 12 graduated (scholarships come for 12 graduated students)
2. Students must have completed advance level of English language (however Ss complete advance level but still they don't have academic writing and reading comprehension)

10th Group:

Social Entrepreneurship

Tahmina Raoufi

Social Entrepreneurship:

How to create concrete changes?

Social entrepreneurship is the recognition of social problem and the uses of entrepreneurial principles to organize and manage a social venture to achieve a desired social change.

1-(Female journalists):

Objective:

Women's journalism not be an imagination

- Proving to be true the imagination of women to be journalism esp. investigative journalists

- Promoting women as TV representators and journalist
- To pave the ground to be meaningful and productive member of society
- To get the desire for social mind changing about women abilities

Mechanisms:

- A committee or a union for women investigators
- Increasing their self-confidence by different practical and theoretical programs
- Media wide range releases
- A social website for the journalist women
- Celebration of a day by the name of journalist women
- Social advanced competition
- Providing them for getting international scholarship by competition
- Media releases

2-people with disabilities:

Objectives:

- People with disabilities must be accepted as another class of the society.
- Ensuring of their mental and psychological security
- Strengthening of their self-confidence to think themselves as independent people of the society
- Increasing of their capacity for working as the other class of the community
- Elimination of discrimination against people with disabilities
- Make them be the meaningful, confident, and productive people of the community

Mechanism:

- Providing work opportunities in order to desert their mental depression and increasing their self-confidence and not to be discriminated.
- Media releases
- Different publish ways by electronic media and non-electronic one
- Approving a specific law for their material and intellectual welfare
- Celebration from their personality and their activities by many ceremonies

10th Group:

An action plan after coming back to your country to support poor children

Zahra Rezai

I have this idea that every big works, for sure starts at a very grass roots level. So I think when I come back to my country, I would first start a small business at home. It could be like an

organization. I would gather small afghan kids to my home and started teaching them different courses like first English which is so necessary, Computer course, sewing and etc, but all of them for free. It seems that it is a very small but helpful institute. So after graduating from my institute they can find a part time job and earn money along with continuing their education. They learn how to be responsible and independent. The point is that they can work in my institute as well and we can make a bigger business. We can sew and sell clothes, solve people computer's problems, work as an English tutor, and etc. As I think and I hope I can develop my small institute by the time that I can find some donors who support us financially due to this dream of attaching a Clinic to it.

11th Group:

Proposals: Skeleton Policy and Action Plan for Asian Young Women Entrepreneur's Association

Bushra Tanzila Ahmed

- Primary aim of the association would be to produce and sustain strong, bureaucratic, career and service oriented Asian regional women entrepreneur's and business personnel's society. In this case, one of the main aspects of the asian culture that the association would bring shape about is the tendency of educated female students to not join bureaucratic workforce or independent entrepreneurship initiative for the cultural pressure of solely carrying out domestic responsibilities.
- The target group of members of the association will be constituted with young women aged between 20-32 who are students from business and entrepreneurship or relevant background or who are young entrepreneurs themselves.
- The operating environment of the association would be designed using the environment of the parliament of the Asian countries. Each association members, while communicating in the official environment of the association, would play a role of a ministry that would be assigned to the member. However, the ministries will be designed relevant to issues and topics of business and entrepreneurship. For example: ministry for infrastructural development of the association as a social enterprise. This will bring an effective psychosocial change among women to think differently that it does not require being of a particular gender to play a role in public service.

- The association will work on establishing relationship with the topnotch welfare of women entrepreneurship spirit related training, investment and other programs operated by any local, national, regional, and global organizations and entities.
- The association would procure license to perform regional trade. In this case, the association would trade and promote solely the output of entrepreneurial initiatives of its members which can be in the form of products, concepts of business strategies and other both abstract and concrete form of production.
- The members will also be divided into small groups of entrepreneurship bodies as co-operatives. This is to promote individual business or any other plans of the individual members of the entrepreneurship bodies. In this case, the process of micro-lending can be initiated for the entrepreneurship bodies. The association will provide loans to the EB which will be utilized by the EB to promote each member's business concept. Through incorporating this system, a culture of women's agency to voice will be promoted as well as, each member will be economically empowered.
- To start with, a proportion of 10% of the profit made by each entrepreneurship bodies will be collected for the AYWEA (Asian Young Women Entrepreneur's Association) Reserve.
- The association will also work as a social enterprise. For the first 10 years of the association's journey, the major theme for social welfare for the association would be to promote women empowerment and equity in the sports and fashion industry of the Asian region. The association dreams about strong, sound and trendy group of Asian mothers and Professionals. In this case, the association would invest 25% of its reserve to subsidize rigorous organizational programs for establishing women empowerment and equity in the sports and fashion industry. In this case, the ability of the organizational programs to operate through respecting the cultural context will be considered as one of the primary criteria for judging eligibility of those organizations to be subsidized.

12th Group:

Conducting a Campaign to Raise Awareness about Public Sexual Harassment

Masooma Maqsoodi, Zeinab Noori, Renu Johnson, Minnu Jose

For the three months of summer we plan to start a campaign to address the issue of public sexual harassment (P.S.H) against women in Kabul, Afghanistan and Kerala, India. As women, we personally have experienced numerous street harassments by men while walking in the streets of Kabul and Kerala. Women who commute to work or school or just go out for shopping or other purposes are normally molested or harassed in public spaces especially in the streets. It takes women's confidence away and discourages them to fully participate in social activities, shoulder to shoulder with men. The problem is that not only the society acknowledges women's equal right to secure and safe public spaces, but unfortunately in a conservative, Muslim country like Afghanistan, women are the ones blamed for this social phenomenon. Even though people in Kerala are well educated, women are not often given the respect they deserve. They are expected to walk in a manner that doesn't attract men's attention and if they are harassed it's because there has been something sexually provocative about their makeup, their dressing, or their manner. This view mandates any public sexual harassment as an accepted social behavior. Even if people do not agree with it, nobody protest against it. We want to change society's perspective and start a public discussion on the issue of street harassment, religion's views toward this social phenomenon, women's equal rights and dignity to use public spaces safely, and the social and psychological effect of street harassment on women's life.

In order to change social attitude of the citizens in our communities, we have decided to include three main activities in our campaign.

School Campaign

- Providing a handout that includes women's narratives about street harassment, psychological and sociological analysis about the issue. In case of Afghanistan, Islamic quotes from the Quran and Hadith that address the issue of women's rights will be included.
- Broadcasting short documentaries or performing a drama that features a common example of street harassment and the problems women face because of this issue.
- Open discussion followed by a short writing session in which students are asked to write about their experiences, their ideas or messages about P.S.H. These writings will be collected both as feedback and students messages to others.

(In case of Kerala, we will be working with students in co-educational schools. However, as in Afghanistan most of the awareness raising programs and campaigns about women's rights has been held in girls' schools, we will be targeting the boys' schools in Kabul. It is more challenging, but this time our aim is to let boys (male students) be the judge of their actions and we want men to raise their voice to support women's rights.)

Caricatures and Posters

- We will call for young artists to come up with some caricatures or posters calling for a review in social behavior of citizens in our communities and will distribute them in the schools and public places such as intersections and shopping centers

Radio program

- We will ask one of the leading radio channels (both in Afghanistan and India) to have a program on P.S.H. which will include interviews with different groups of people in the society and open discussion of audiences through phone calls and messages they send during the live program. We will invite women activists and religious experts as guests to discuss the issue in the program.

During the campaign, project partners in Kabul and Kerala will share their experiences and resources with each other.

13th Group:

Skeleton a Policy and an Action Plan for Ensuring Property Rights of Muslim Women in Bangladesh

Sharmin Akter

Bangladeshi women endure oppression and deprivation in their own family and in the society at large. They are also subjected to violence and discrimination because they do not get equal rights like men. These women are also considered as powerless and useless for the society and family. Like many other communities in Bangladesh, in my community, (Kadir Hanif) where women do not have decision making power in any serious matters in the society as well as in the family because of their low economic status. To improve women's social and economic condition in 2011 the constitution of People's Republic of Bangladesh declared a new law which says, "Every child will inherit an equal amount under the new law" (BBC news, on 4 April 2011). The women rights groups in BD appreciated the new law, but protesters organized by Islami Oiko Jote argued that the new law proposal goes against the Koran. They claimed that

according to Koran and Sharia Law in Bangladesh, “a Muslim woman normally inherits half as much as her brother not equal”. They also threatened to start a strong movement to compel the government to cancel the “Anti- Islamic Policy. Considering the current situation, I strongly believe that there is a need of a strong movement to aware people about the importance of ensuring women’s property rights to empower women. To strengthen the movement, there is also a need of a policy for reviewing the new law and also to strengthen the implementation of the previous property rights law for women. These actions will help to protect women from domestic violence, to improve women’s economical status and ensuring their decision making rights in every sphere in family and social life.

Our recommended law would be “in the matter of inheritance by the constitution of People’s Republic of Bangladesh according to the Sharia Law a woman should get her property fully without any interference of other family members and the society people”. If this law is granted and implemented properly than women empowerment will be ensure because property rights will help women to empower themselves in all spheres in family, society, public and private life.

To ensure women’s property rights some of the actions we would be taking:

Firstly, I am going to talk with some of the young girls and boys in my community who share similar interest to work for women empowerment. After that, these young boys and girls together will work with the head of the villager and his secretaries to convince the local religious leaders to make understand the community people about women’s property rights.

Next, the main responsibility of the Muslim religious leaders will be to arrange discussion seminar weekly with the villagers where the religious leaders will analyze the

importance of ensuring women's property rights to the community people. We believe that those discussions will encourage the male in the community to give the female their property rights and also encourage the female community members to raise their voice for property rights.

We are also going to work with the school, college and university faculty members to aware the young male and female students about the property rights laws and its proper implementation. In the academic institutions, we will have a day long program. We are planning to give presentations and also to have a role playing on a case study where we will show that having property can empower women and it can give women decision making power in the family and the society.

We are also going to write a draft to the Ministry of Educational Affairs to have a chapter in the text book about the rights of property for Muslim men and women which will help people to learn more about their rights and responsibilities by following law.

To strengthen our movement, we are also going to work with the lawyers from Bangladesh National Women Lawyer Association (BNWLA) to supervise us. The director of the BNWLA ensures us that her team will help us to provide law related support for women in Kadir Hanif. In the academic institutions and in the community based discussions, these lawyers will also briefly talk about the existing law and guidelines to make people understand about the significance of property rights. Moreover, we are also going to work with the Journalists from local newspaper. We will also have media partners with local Chanel of Noakhali Television (CTV) who will promote our projects for our audience. Throughout the project, we aim to create awareness about women's property rights among the youth through the help of public and private organizations' and social media.

Group and Group Members

1. Fatima Saadat, Jan Afza Sarwari and Batool Askari (*Raising Women Skills in Shelters*).
2. Maliha, Nahiya and Raiya (*Raising awareness of sensitivity towards domestic workers in Bangladesh*)
3. Ankhi Banik, Anowara Begum, Arpita Palit, Fahria Kabir, Fahmida Yesmine, Mariam K., Shema Mahjabin (*Post WPSP Action Plan: Harnessing the power of social media to raise social awareness*)
4. Savitri Kumari and Tausifa Tajalli (*Raising Awareness against Domestic Violence in the Grass Root Level*)
5. Ruvani Nisansala Nagoda Gamage (*Action Plan to Enhance the Female Education in Slum Communities in Chittagong*)
6. Ganga Silva, Dakshini Nimanthi, Thasomini Palaniyandy (*Daughters Of Nations: Women Leadership Chapters*)
7. Nazifa Alizada, Mursal Juya, Fariba Housaini, Fatima Hashimi, Gulsom Mirzada, Munira Sharifi, Zainab Hassanpor, Nafasgul Arezo (*Action Plan to Combat Child Marriage in Afghanistan*)
8. Mitra Shiva Hussaini, Zahra Rezai, Shaiesta Ehsani (*Action plan to stop punishment of children*)
9. Saily Raihana (*Two months workshop of reading comprehension and academic writing for Afghan Students*)
10. Tahmina Raoufi (*Social Entrepreneurship*)
11. Zahra Rezai (*An action plan after coming back to your country to support poor children*)
12. Bushra Tanzila Ahmed (**Proposals: Skeleton Policy and Action Plan for Asian Young Women Entrepreneur's Association**)

13. Masooma Maqsoodi, Zeinab Noori , Renu Johnson, Minnu Jose (**Conducting a Campaign to Raise Awareness about Public Sexual Harassment**).
14. Sharmin Akter, (*Skeleton a Policy and an Action Plan for Ensuring Property Rights of Muslim Women in Bangladesh*).