



International  
Labour Organization

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## STRATEGY FOR NATIONAL GENDER EQUALITY IN TVET PRESENTED THIS WEEK

### Roundtable discussion held to discuss strategy and look at way forward for women in technical and vocational education in Bangladesh

**Bangladesh has one of the lowest female workforce participation rate in the world. Out of the small minority of women who are employed, only 10 percent of these women receive formal wages. The Government of Bangladesh and the International Labour Organisation want to change this, and ensure access to skill development so women can attain the skills they need to gain paid employment.**

In Bangladesh, 31% of the population lives below the international poverty line of US\$1.25 per day. Education and skill development offers a way to address the needs of Bangladesh's huge and expanding population by providing skills to enhance employability and reduce poverty by ensuring safe and decent work for all. Bangladesh has made great strides in closing the gender gap in enrolment ratios in primary and secondary education. This success now needs to be replicated in achieving gender parity in technical skills development. The technical and vocational education sector in Bangladesh is characterized by gender inequalities and stereotyping which reinforces occupational segregation in the labour market. This constrains female students from entering into non-traditional and higher income professions.

Achieving gender equality in vocational education and training in Bangladesh is one of the initiatives of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Reform Project. The BDT 136 Crore Reform Project is an initiative of the Government of Bangladesh (GoB), funded by the European Union and is being executed by the ILO with support from the government. The project will reduce poverty by reforming the current training system; ensuring the people of Bangladesh can access quality training to meet the country's current and future employment needs.

The roundtable discussion was attended by a number of high profile guests from both the public and private sectors, including Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, Secretary, Ministry of Education and Co-Chair, Executive Council, National Skills Development Council (NSDC), Mr Salahuddin Kasem Khan, Co-Chair, Executive Council, National Skills Development Council (NSDC) and Mr Mikail Shipar, Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment.

For media information please contact	Sarah-Jane Saltmarsh	01738 937 985
For technical information please contact	Srinivas Reddy	01611 612 020