*4. Women empowerment*

**"There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish."**

**Michelle Obama**

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) addresses in the 1994’s International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) “**The empowerment and autonomy of women and the improvement of their political, social, economic and health status is a highly important end in itself. In addition, it is essential for the achievement of sustainable development**.” But looking at our society, the situation is not complimenting. In Bangladesh, women are particularly vulnerable to discrimination compared to men. Lesser women are exposed to the opportunities of education, employment, decision-making, or even basic human rights. The underlying oppression in the socio-economical system hasn’t been demolished yet though the overall scenario has certainly changed in the last 20 years.

The maternity mortality rates are falling, while more girl children are enrolling in the schools. And parallelly 82% of married women have been suffering from violence both gender-based and sexually. Government and private organizations are working thoroughly, still, the freedom, stand, and entity deserved by every woman are yet to achieve.

Hashimukh Somaj Kallyan Songstha has been giving special care to the girl children who joined the Hashimukh School. Also, the organization provides a safe workplace for all the female volunteers who are working with us. The volunteers go to households with girls of age to encourage the parents and make them understand the necessity of sending their child to school. In the school, the teachers are specifically intended to address issues such as gender equality, importance of education, and respect among genders. Moreover, HSKS understands that if a girl child is well educated and skilled, she can be the asset of the family which serves the best for the organization’s vision. Along with the IT training, girl children are also given arts and crafts training to expand their skillset. For upcoming days, a self-defense course created for women is currently under planning phase.

Still, the organization aims to go further to endorse women empowerment in every possible way. Hashimukh Somaj Kallyan Songstha has action plans to create more scopes for women to achieve economic solvency on their own and is making plans for such upcoming projects.