

# From Marginalization to Empowerment: Women's Role in Driving Development in Bangladesh and India.



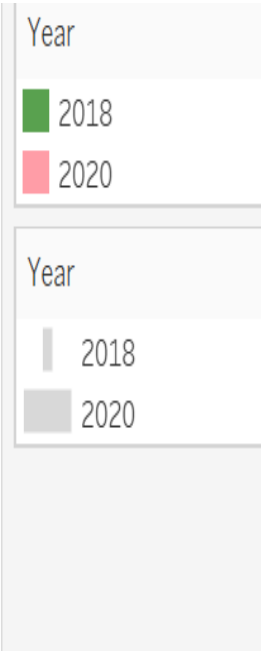
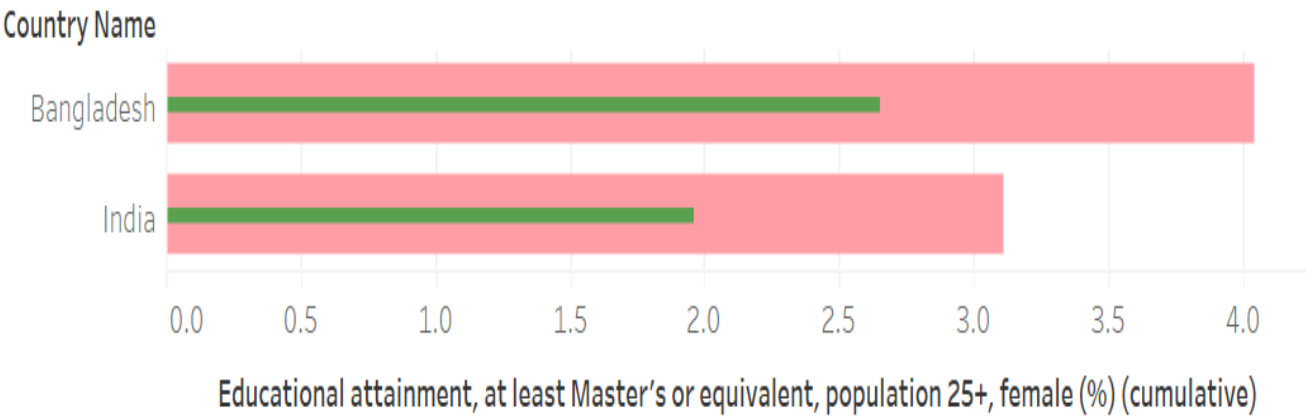
Female dairy farmers listen to a presentation in Bangladesh. Photo by Akram Ali

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By Haribhakta Gope

Bangladesh and India have both developed significantly over the past few years, especially in the field of women's empowerment. I learned about this subject from a variety of sources, including WDI data and publications and articles from global organizations including USAID, UN Women, Brac, CARE, and others.

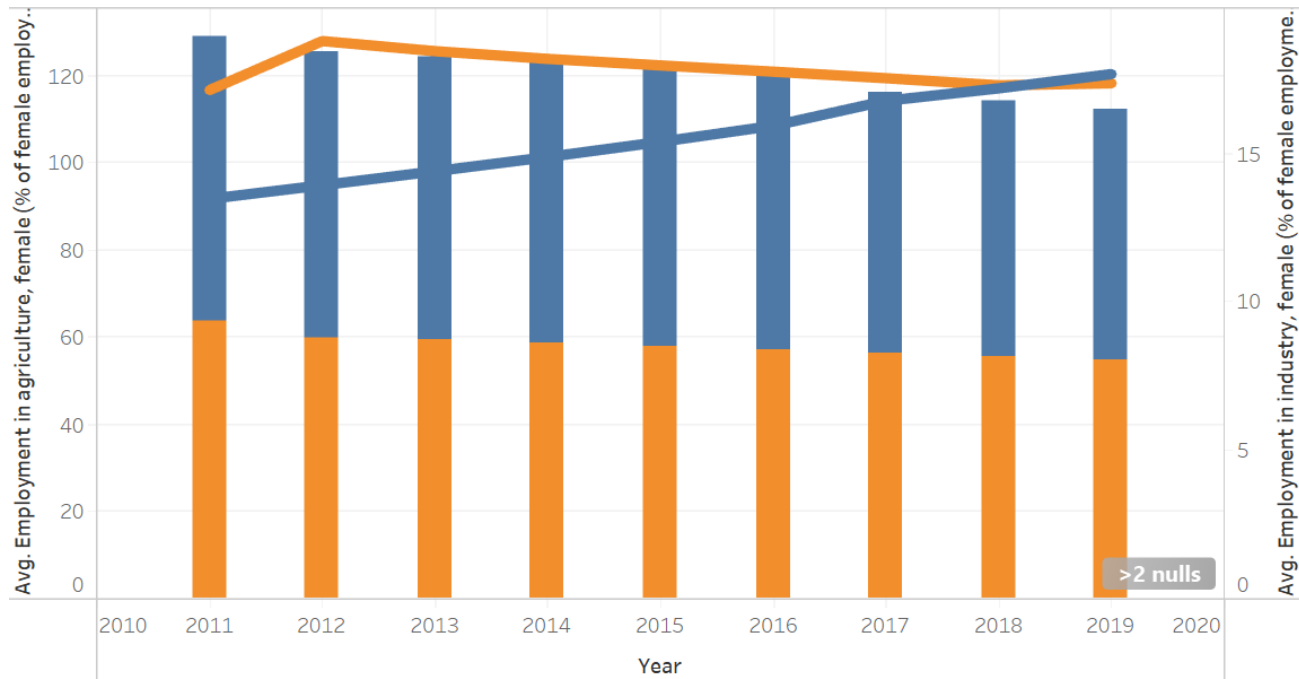
# Higher Education Attainment



Women's empowerment is mostly driven through education, which helps them gain new knowledge, skills, and opportunities for economic advancement. In recent years, Bangladesh and India have seen a dramatic increase in the higher education attainment of women.

In 2018, Bangladeshi and Indian women with a master’s or equivalent degree had 2.656 and 1.960 (% cumulative), respectively. However, in 2020, the number of higher education attainments will have increased by 4.047 and 3.110 (% cumulative). It indicates that these two nations have improved a lot in terms of women's education as well as the rates of female enrollment in primary and secondary schools.

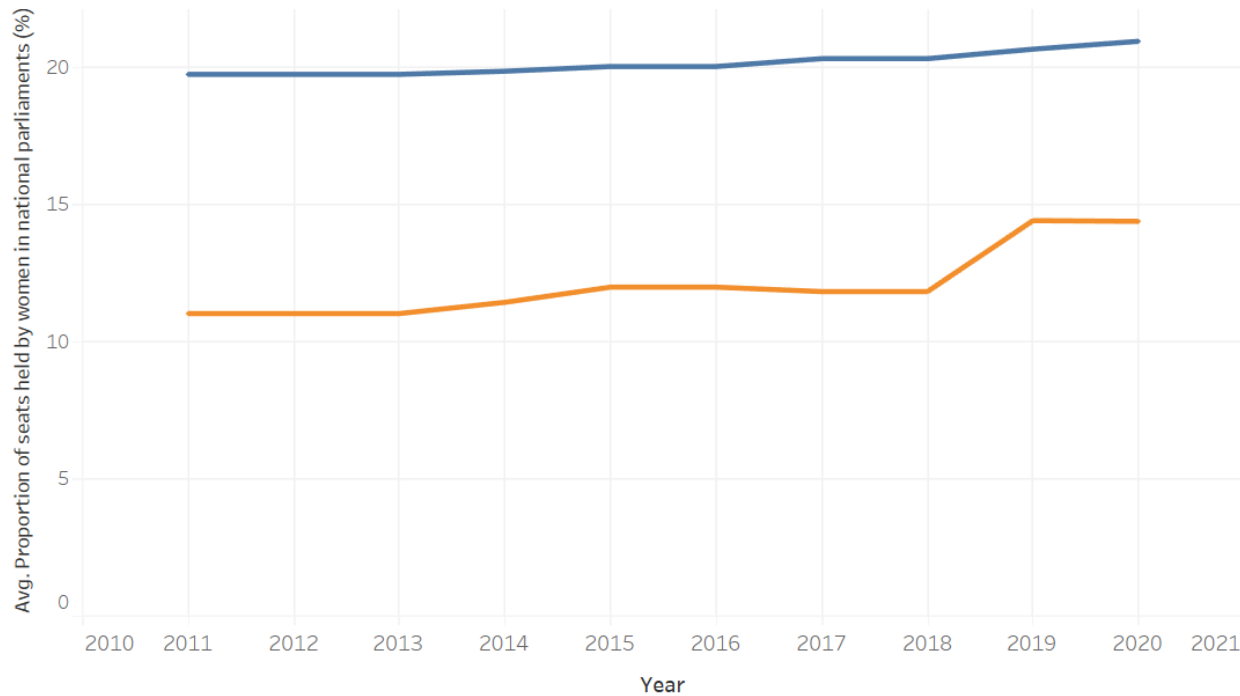
## Female Employment in Agriculture and Industry Sector



The employment of women in the agricultural and industrial sectors is a significant contributor to their empowerment. Both the industrial and agricultural sectors employ a sizable percentage of women. The average proportion of women employed in India's agricultural and industrial sectors, which were respectively 65.56 and 17.120 in 2011, climbed to 54.69 and 17.350 in 2019.

Bangladesh also made remarkable progress in elevating the position of women in the agricultural and industrial sectors. The average female employment rates in agriculture and industry were 65.45 and 13.460 in 2011. In 2019, we saw a 57.69% drop in the participation rate for agriculture. However, Bangladeshi women boosted their employment rate in the industrial sector, reaching 17.660 percent.

Women Participation in Parliament



Country Name

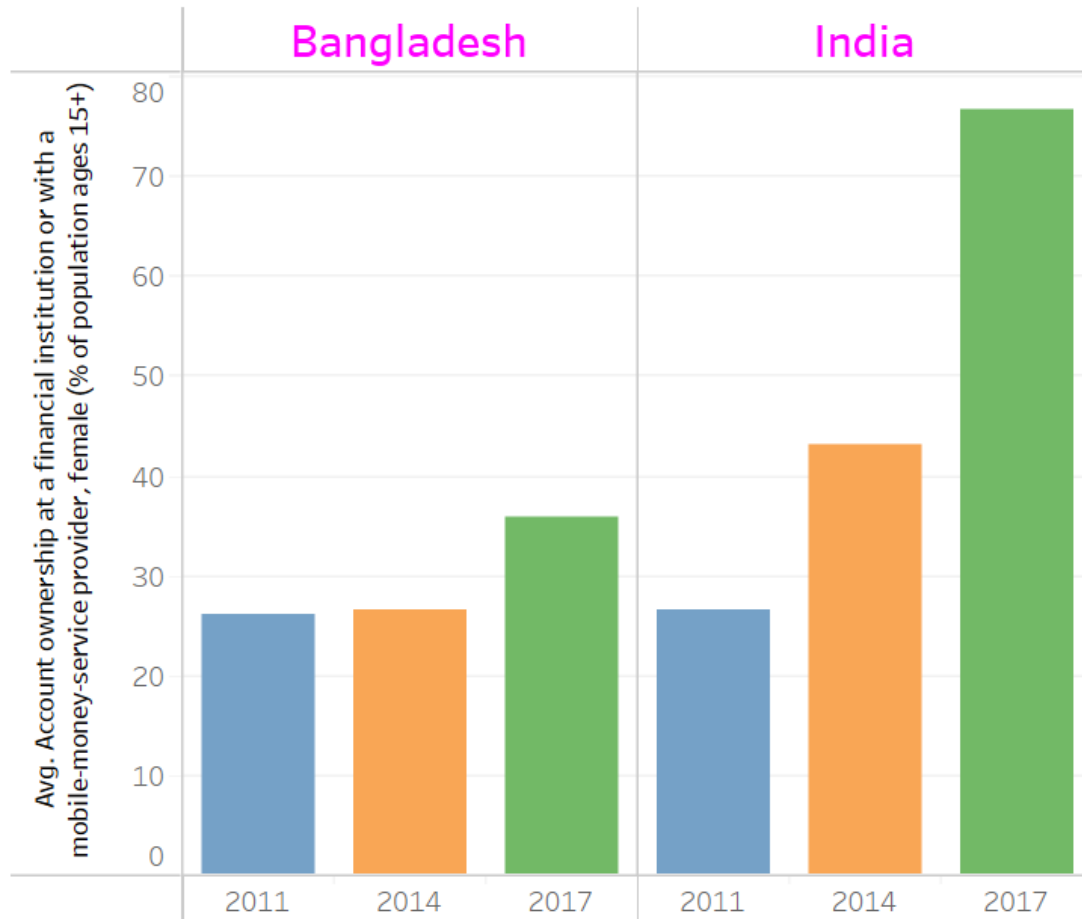
Bangladesh

India

Women are noticeably underrepresented in Bangladeshi and Indian politics. Despite numerous challenges, women in Bangladesh and India have made progress in female leadership. In Bangladesh and India, there are steadily more women involved in politics. Women made up 19.714% of parliament members in Bangladesh and 11.009% in India in 2011.

Women's representation in Parliament has grown constantly. In Bangladesh and India, the participation of women increased by 20.917% and 14.365%, respectively, in 2020. Additional efforts are needed to increase the representation of women in political decision-making processes. It should be mentioned that the Bangladeshi Prime Minister, Opposition Leader, and Parliament Speaker are all female. As well as India's president and important ministers, are female.

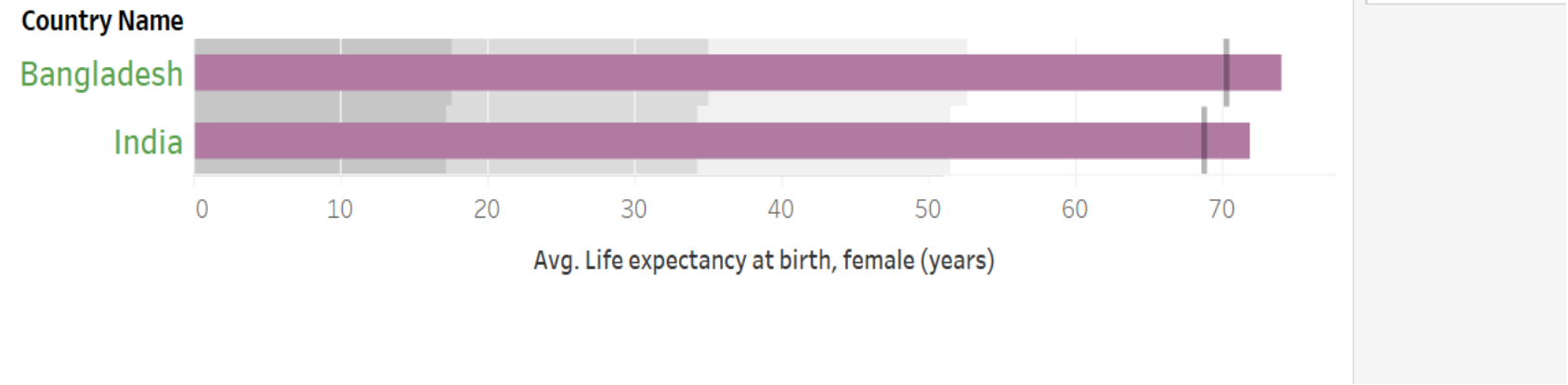
## Account Ownership at Financial Organization



Financial independence is a key component of women's empowerment. Women have historically been restricted to domestic work in both India and Bangladesh, and their economic contributions are frequently disregarded. However, things are evolving. In both countries, the proportion of women in the labor force has increased. They have worked in a variety of industries and benefited from them. Therefore, they went to a bank or other financial institution and opened a deposit account.

According to WDI data, there has been an increase in account ownership at financial institutions in both countries. Bangladesh had an increase in the rate from 26.01% in 2011 to 35.84% in 2017. India had a rise in the rate from 26.49% in 2011 to 76.64% in 2017. More women are now able to support their families and have financial independence as a result of the increase in economic participation.

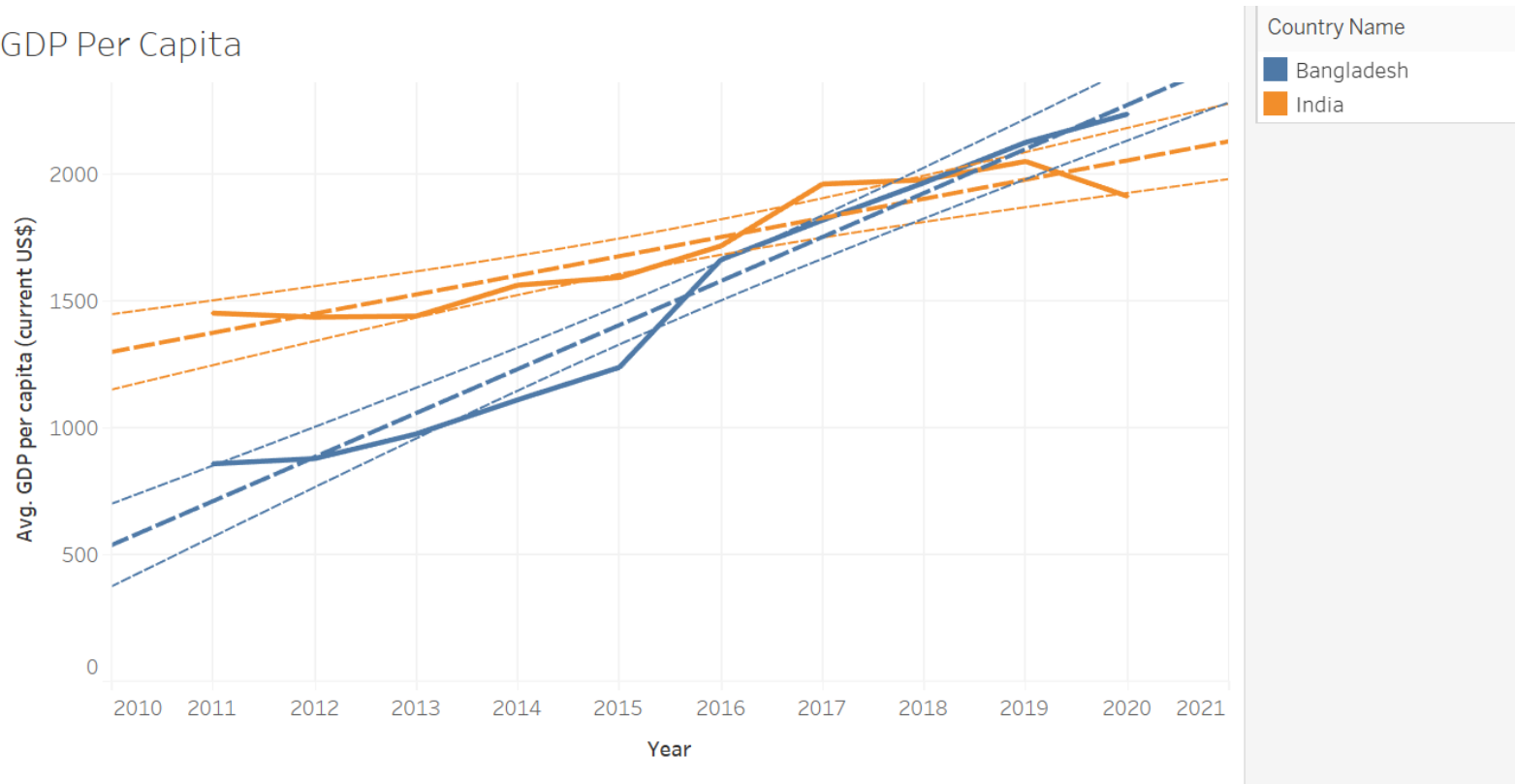
# Life Expectancy at Birth



The life expectancy at birth In Bangladesh and India, female rates are higher than male rates. In Bangladesh, women are expected to live longer than men do—average of 73.957 years compared to 70.187 years for men.

India has a gender gap in life expectancy, with women living an average of 71.824 years compared to men's 68.615 years. Age-related variations in life expectancy may be explained by elements like financial security, access to higher education, healthy lifestyle choices, etc.

## GDP Per Capita



In terms of increasing GDP per capita, which is a measure of the total income produced by economic activity in a nation. Women make up around 50% of the overall population in both countries. A key factor in raising GDP is boosting the employment of women, which has an impact on GDP per capita.

Bangladesh It is pretty astounding that between 2011 and 2020, while GDP in 2011 was \$856, it rose by \$2233 in 2020. India's GDP per capita climbed from \$1450 in 2011 to \$1910 in 2020.

Finally, more work needs to be done to ensure that women are fully in charge of their lives and capable of contributing fully to all aspects of society. Women in India and Bangladesh may achieve true empowerment and overcome the obstacles that have kept them from progressing for too long with ongoing activism, legislative action, and the backing of the international community.