**A. Women’s role in the Society and Culture of Bangladesh**

The status of women in Bangladesh has been subject to many important changes over the past few centuries. The [Bangladeshi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangladeshi) women have made significant progress since the country gained its independence in 1971. The past four decades have seen increased political empowerment for women, better job prospects, increased opportunities of education, games and sports, literature, art and craft and the adoption of new laws to protect their rights though Bangladesh's policies regarding women's rights is influenced by [patriarchal values](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patriarchy). As of 2018, the [Prime Minister of Bangladesh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Bangladesh), the [Speaker of Parliament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Speaker_of_Jatiyo_Shangshad), the [Leader of the Opposition](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leader_of_the_Opposition_(Bangladesh)) were women. Bangladesh has also not elected a male as Prime Minister [since 1988](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1988_Bangladeshi_general_election). So, the role in different sector in Bangladesh is beyond description. The role of women in politics, sports, literature and arts are described below.

**1. The role of women in politics of Bangladesh**

 A truly democratic and representative government cannot be established without women’s participation in the political processes. In a democracy, women should enjoy equal rightsof political participation and exercise their rights fully. The overall development of a country depends upon the maximum utilization of her people, both men and women. At First in 1930 some women started participate in politics. After 1947, this participation just fell down and then after some month it goes through. Though women’s participation is less, but that time it was rare that women are in political affairs. In 1971, women play a great role on politics but they didn’t get any inspiration for that. After some years, women participation in politics is going on.

**1.1 Women’s percentage of participation in Parliament of Bangladesh**

Jatiya Sangsad or the National Parliament of Bangladesh consists of 300 general seats filled  by direct election from single member territorial constituencies. In the Parliamentary electionheld in 2002, women candidates won from 13 electoral constituencies and captured 2.0% of the 300 directly elected or ‘general’ seats. In 1996, women won 1.36%, in 1991 1.5%, in1988 0.7%, in 1986 1.3% and 1979 0.9% of general seats. Thus it is clear that from 1979 to1996 less than 2 % of the candidates standing for parliamentary elections were women.

**1.2 Women’s Position in Politics**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Government | Total number of Ministers | Total number of Men Ministers | Total number of Women Minister | Total number of Women Ministers% |
| Mujibur Rahman (1972-1975) | 50 | 47 | 2 | 4 |
| Ziaur Rahman (1979-1982) | 101 | 95 | 6 | 6 |
| HossainM.Ershad (1982-1990) | 133 | 127 | 4 | 3 |
| Begum Khaleda Zia (1991-1996) | 39 | 36 | 3 | 5 |
| SheikhHasina (1996-2001) | 46 | 42 | 4 | 8.69 |
| Begum Khaleda Zia (2001-2006) | 60 | 58 | 2 | 3.5 |
| Sheikh Hasina (2009-) | 46 | 49 | 6 | 3.5 |

**1.3 Example of women who are now in high position of politics:**

**Sheikh Hasina**

Sheikh Hasina, present prime minister of Bangladesh pays a great role in field of politics of Bangladesh. She has elected as prime minister of Bangladesh for three times and one of the role model for the women of the world.

**Begum Khaleda Zia**

Begum Khaleda Zia was the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and brought a new change in political participation of women. And this participation is going ahead.

**Advocate Sahara Khatun**

 Advocate Sahara Khatun was the founding president of Bangladesh Awami Ainjibi Parishad, General Secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Samity, member of International Women Lawyers' Association and International Women's Alliance. She has also contributed in the liberation war of Bangladesh and has been involved in politics since student life. Sahara pledged to people in her constituency that he would reconstruct the roads and improve the drainage system in the area.

**Dr. Dipu Moni, MP**

Dr. Dipu Moni was the first woman Foreign Minister of Bangladesh. She is also one of the two Joint Secretaries of the Bangladesh Awami League. Now she is the educational minister of the government of Bangladesh.

**2. The role of women in sports of Bangladesh**

Bangladesh, as a part of Muslim world, has a highly patriarchal society in which women’s roles are heavily defined by age-old social, cultural and religious norms, and which almost always favor men. Physical exercise or participating in sports is almost prohibited for girls irrespective of age, whereas boys of the same age groups are encouraged by both schools and families to participate. A strong cultural biasness exists that lead men and women to develop different attitudes towards sports. Due to stereotypical attitudes and values, sports institutions are entirely male dominated. From the very beginning, female children are given dolls, crockery, utensils etc. to play with, and eventually it moulds their future behavior and lifestyle. But apart from these the women played a great role in the field of sports of Bangladesh.

**2.1 Women's cricket of Bangladesh**

Women's cricket in Bangladesh has changed in a big way over the last few years. Many more parents are willing to let their daughters come out on the field and play. Our domestic structure today is a lot stronger than before since we play a lot more matches," explains the young captain of the Bangladeshi team, Salma Khatun.

**2.2 Women's football of Bangladesh**

women's football league which took place last year is a classic example. Although the league encouraged several female players to compete in a professional manner, the standard of some of the games was below par. One of the clubs for instance, conceded 28 goals in two matches with the team's coach stating that most of the players came from different sports and were competing just for the sake of participation. The final of the tournament, however, was a lot more competitive as Sheikh Jamal beat Mohammedan SC by two goals to none.

**2.3 Others games and sports of women in Bangladesh**

Apart from excelling in cricket, Bangladeshi women have also bagged medals in Kabbadi. They received bronze in the recently held Asian Games and silver in the South Asian Games (SA) hosted in 2010. The SA games in 2010 saw Bangladesh achieve its highest ever medal tally in any international tournament with 18 gold medals -- ight of which came through female athletes in events like shooting, taekwondo, karate and wushu. Perhaps one of the more surprising victories came from the Central South Asian Artistic Gymnastics Championships, where the Bangladesh women's team bagged the silver medal, finishing second only to India. This was Bangladesh's first silver medal in gymnastics at the international level since 1995.

The abovementioned examples have made one thing quite clear -- the demand to take up sports at a professional level amongst women in Bangladesh has increased over the last couple of years.

**3. The role of women in Literature of Bangladesh**

Bangladeshi women play a great role in the literature of Bangladesh. Their writing encourage not only the women but also the whole nation to develop the society. [Begum Rokeya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Begum_Rokeya) was a pioneer writer and a social worker of the undivided [Bengal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bengal). She is most famous for her efforts in favour of [gender equality](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gender_equality) and other social issues. Others Women who also improve the literature of bangle are Begum Sufia kamal, Kamini Roy etc.

**4. The role of women in arts of Bangladesh**

Art and Crafts rank among the oldest as regards aesthetics in the history of Bangladesh. Archaeological evidences authenticating this fact have been brought to light by the excavations at Mahasthangarh, Bogra, Mainamati, Comilla and most recently since 2001 AD, from Wari-Bateshwr in Narsindhi district. Handcrafted objects provide essential pointers to the socio-economic and cultural status, the spiritual and intellectual development and values of a society. Women of Bangladesh play a great role in the field of arts and crafts. Nakshi kantha, Nakshi pitha, Mat weaving, Alpana, Bamboo products, Jute handicraft etc arts and crafts are mainly women based and they are giving much effort to improve these field.

**B. Major economic sector of Bangladesh (IIT)**

Bangladesh is a low-income country, and its gross national income per capita of $1,190 in fiscal year 2015 (FY2015; the fiscal year in Bangladesh ends on June 30) was significantly below the South Asian average of $1,533. Annual economic growth averaged 5.6% during FY1996 – FY2015, and real gross domestic product (GDP) per capita grew at a rate of 4.0% a year during the same period. But now a days IIT play a great role in the economic sector of Bangladesh.

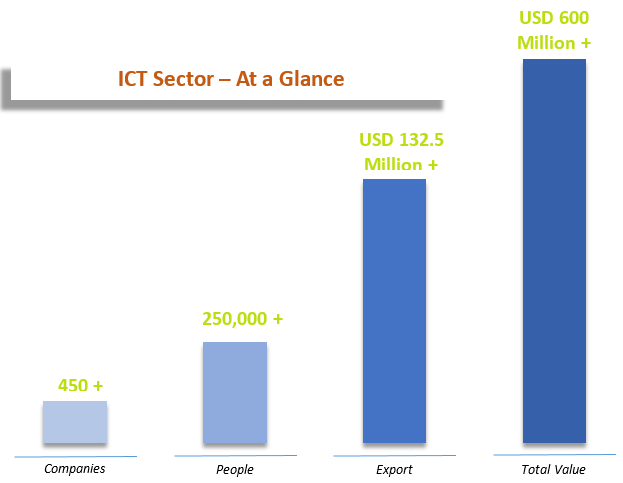
**Background of the ICT Industry in Bangladesh**

Bangladesh′s ICT industry has been developing slowly over the past three decades, culminating to hundreds of millions of dollars of value addition every year recently. In fact, Bangladesh is now considered to be among the next high prospect destinations in the segment, with accolades from AT Kearney, Gartner, Goldman Sachs and a host of others. The industry has seen strong growth over recent years, characterized by local demand as well as global exports. Total earnings of the industry in FY 2014 was USD 600 million, out of which exports amounted to USD 132.5 million.

**ICT Industry Fundamentals: The Numbers, Past, Present and Future**

The ICT industry in Bangladesh has grown to 250,000 people, with 1500+ companies and revenues near USD 500 million. On top of this are the legions of freelancers registered in platforms like Upwork and Elance who have gained a reputation for providing quality service at affordable costs; albeit at the lower tier job categories.

The fundamentals of the industry are summed up in the diagram below.



The sector currently brings in a paltry USD 132.5 million, which is dwarfed by the billions earned by the top exporting sector of the country, RMG. However, there is scope for enormous expansion in the sector, driven by insatiable demand from developed and developing countries alike as all facets of life and business move into the digital realm, taking with it the demand for digitization, automation and economization of IT.

**The Dream**

The prospects of the sector have compelled the government of Bangladesh to set a target of USD 1 billion export earnings by 2018. Bangladesh has to think big and think different in order to achieve this mammoth feat. Current growth rate forecasts show exports to be USD 490 million by 2018. Less than half of the target amount. As with all things technology, there is a way however, but it will require everyone from the freelancer working from his home in Rajshahi to the policy makers at the very top to completely disrupt their operating model.

**Time to Get a Move On**

At USD 132.5 million, exports of the ICT industry have a long way to go. But the essentials such as government will, private sector capability, talent availability and enabling infrastructure are already in place. Now, with the right set of structured actions, Bangladesh can leapfrog into the domain of IT/ITES outsourcing heavyweight by leveraging its inherent advantages.