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icddr,b launches study to map gender violence in Bangladesh

On Wednesday, 1 February, icddr,b formally launched a research study that will map the areas of the country where women are most vulnerable to violence.

The study, titled 'Addressing Gender-Based Violence against Women and Girls in Bangladesh: From Evidence to Policy,' will provide evidence-based research to policy makers who are working to fight gender based violence, which is on the rise in Bangladesh.

"Several indicators over the last decade suggest that women's status in the country has been gradually improving, yet when it comes to violence against women, we see them increasingly victimised both within their families, and outside," explained icddr,b scientist, Dr. Ruchira Tabassum Naved as she introduced the study in icddr,b's Saskawa Auditorium. "This study will try to give policy makers, both in the government and at donor level, a context as to where they might be going wrong, and point out the areas of the country that need more attention"

"From a donor's perspective, we need to know what we are doing right and at the same time where we can improve,"said Ms. Gwen Hines, Country Representative of Department for International Development (DfID), Bangladesh, which is funding the study. "I appreciate icddr,b's continued efforts to provide evidence based research that builds upon previous studies on the topic, while at the same time sheds new light on the issue".

The study will use both quantitative and qualitative research methods and will nationally map out the various degrees to which women are vulnerable to violence in the country, which will be important to give policymakers, donors and government officials a more complete picture of how violence against women is spread out geographically.

Also present at the event were Sultana Kamal, Chairperson, We Can Alliance and Laila Rahman from Population Council, who is a co-writer of the study.

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