

Empowered
WOMEN
Empower
WOMEN



Association of Grassroots
Women Entrepreneurs
Bangladesh

empowering the grassroots women entrepreneurs



www.agweb.org.bd

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We at AGWEB inspire women's empowerment in Bangladesh. We support self-employed women in micro-businesses and those seeking to start them, with a focus on home-based production and micro-trading. Our achievements are impressive. Through training programs and financing initiatives, we've empowered over 30,000 women, with many becoming self-sufficient and some even expanding to create jobs. These programs go beyond just business skills, also offering training in health, leadership, and legal rights, ensuring a holistic approach to improving the lives of the women and their families.

Looking ahead, we have ambitious plans to further propel women's economic participation. We aim to establish a first-of-its-kind "Women's Bank" in Bangladesh, inspired by neighboring countries' success stories. This would provide much-needed financial resources specifically tailored to women entrepreneurs. Additionally, we plan to create dedicated sales centers for women-made products, eliminating the need for middlemen who often diminish profits. These initiatives would empower women entrepreneurs and create a more equitable marketplace.

AGWEB's dedication to women's empowerment is evident in our past accomplishments and ambitious future plans. Our holistic approach, combined with innovative ideas like the women's bank and sales centers, positions us to make a significant and lasting impact on socio-economic development in Bangladesh.

Mousumi Islam
President

Profile

Association of Grassroots Women Entrepreneurs, Bangladesh (AGWEB) is a non-governmental organization in Bangladesh, established in 2010. Its mission is to empower women through entrepreneurship for socio-economic development, enhance the capacity of women entrepreneurs, and lobby for women's active participation in the national economy. It aims to protect, develop, support, and promote all measures and steps toward capacity building of women in different areas of Bangladesh.



OUR VISION

Our vision is to provide a representative platform for women in business to bring issues to the attention of government, the business community at large and the media for the purpose of improving the business environment and facilitating the growth of business activity in which women are constructively involved. We also aim to provide networking opportunities for members, share information, meet with stakeholders and manage industry-specific awards.

It envisages a nation where absolute poverty is eradicated and women are economically empowered.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to encourage and support the growth of women-owned businesses in Bangladesh through collective efforts, providing business services, networking and building a single voice to relevant stakeholders on issues of common interest. Its particular interests are: the establishment and maintenance of a business-friendly environment and supporting the competitiveness of women-owned businesses in Bangladesh. It exists to help poor self-employed women in their effort to attain self-reliance and improve the quality of their lives and enhance their contribution to the development of Bangladesh.

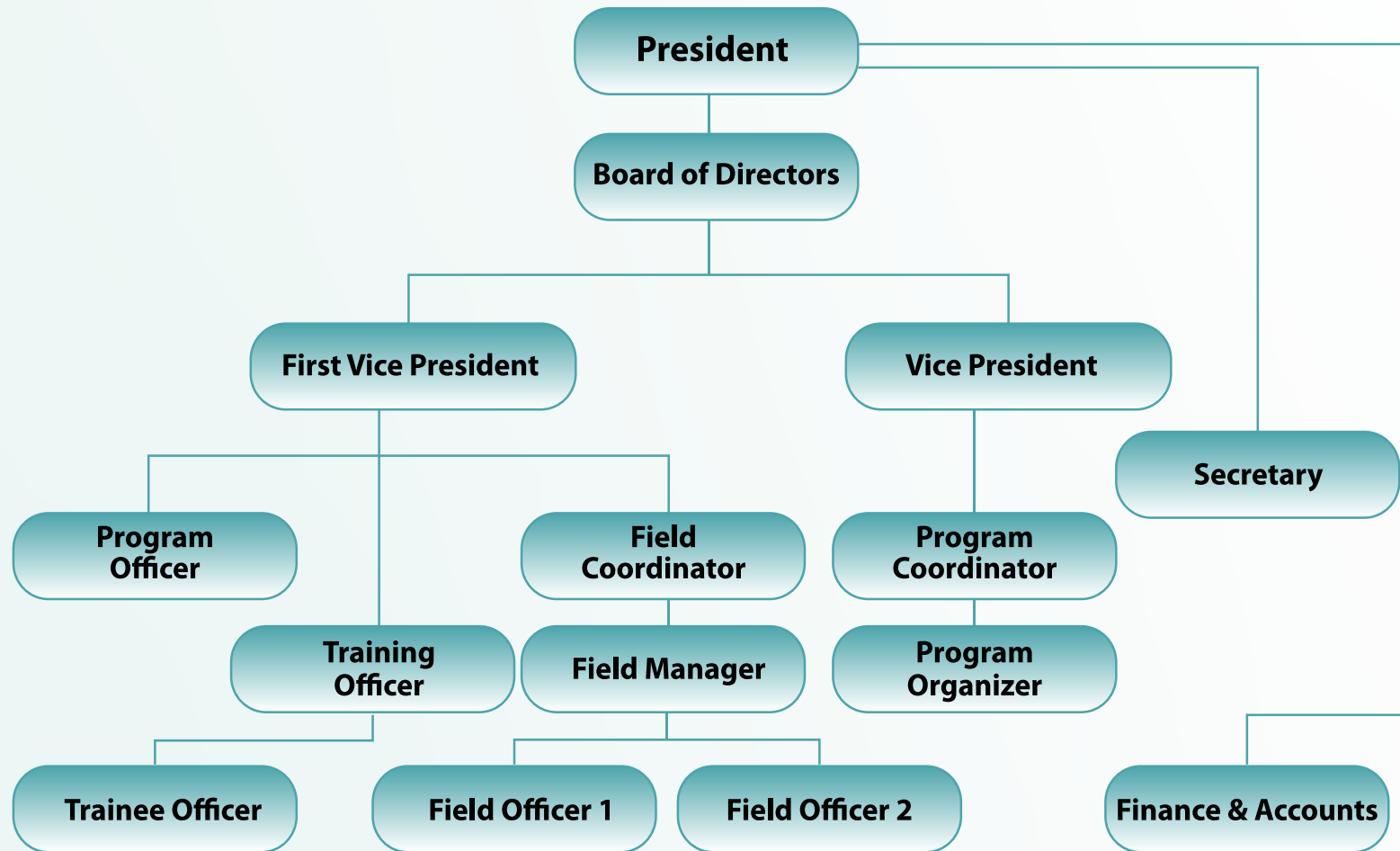
Strategic Direction

This strategic plan is organized around two central aspirations. The first, we want to evolve into a renowned national learning center and the second, we will continue to build and maintain the institution that render lasting service to their members. Refining our excellence in training, expanding our participation in truly collaborative partnerships, and creating and institutionalizing culture of impact, performance and service will lead us to fulfill the said aspiration. The strategic developmental roles organizing and institutionalizing enterprise development, and learning and strategic partnership-will support our emergence as an outstanding development organization.

Our organizational culture is based on the three priorities impact, performance, service and compassion. This is to put into action in a formal impact assessment initiative that measures and improves the quality and direct impacts of our activities in the development of individual and institutional performance indicators, targets and performance-based reporting.



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PHOTO GALLERY OF AGWEB



PROGRAM APPROACH

Women Entrepreneur Members guiding women through their voluntary efforts; adopting professional tools of counseling, training, hand-holding and peer-group support by creating, establishing, and implementing a complete system for empowering aspiring women entrepreneurs.

It struggles to promote entrepreneurship among as a means to achieve self-dependence and socio-economic independence. It provides support and guidance to aspiring women from rural, urban, national areas to be successful entrepreneurs, irrespective of their age, academic, social, economic background.

Our Course of Action in entrepreneurship development involves awareness programs, business counseling, training, skill development mentoring, business incubation, information sharing and networking, marketing assistance, credit referral and policy advocacy. This is to promote entrepreneurship among and thereby empower them to join the economic mainstream.

The organization comprises of women entrepreneurs from various sectors as its members. Members of us contribute their time and expertise to support women entrepreneurs, based on the approach 'Entrepreneur guiding Entrepreneur'. It has built up a strong support network with Government, non-government, corporate, developmental agencies, funding and finance agencies, working with them to provide the expertise in entrepreneurship development for both rural and urban women.



STRATEGIC DIRECTION

This strategic plan is organized around two central aspirations. First, we want to evolve into a renowned national learning center. Second, we will continue to build and maintain institutions that render lasting service to their members. Refining our excellence in training, expanding our participation in truly collaborative partnerships, and creating an institutional culture of impact, performance and service will give us the organizational structure and character necessary for us to become a leading organization focusing on micro and small business development. The strategic development of roles organizing and institutions development, enterprise development, and learning and strategic partnership will support our emergence as an outstanding development organization.

We will realize these roles by:

- Building capacity among women entrepreneurs
- Taking responsibility in developing enterprises,
- Working closely with partners and building alliances in all our research and knowledge sharing activities,

Our organizational culture is based on the three priorities of impact, performance, service and compassion. This is put into action in a formal impact assessment initiative that measures and improves the quality and direct impacts of our activities; in the development of individual and institutional performance indicators, targets and performance-based reports; and by regularly assessing the quality of services that the organization provides both internally and externally.

We envisage a nation where absolute poverty is eradicated and women are economically and socially empowered. Thus, the purpose of our existence will continue to be helping poor self-employed women in their efforts to attain self-reliance and improve the quality of their lives thereby enable them enhance their contribution to the development of the country. We will continue to mobilize resource from funding partners and also raise internal income using the opportunity given by the Charities and Societies Proclamation.

We will adopt the following framework to meet our mission.



WHAT WE DO & WHERE DO WE WORK

AGWEB is constantly working for the development of grassroots women, also for other women who want to get rid of their awful situation, and for those who are miserable and helpless. It has been providing many training and awareness-raising programs in different parts of the country mainly for women's economic & social development to prepare them for the 21st century. It has many training programs in different fields to prepare a woman for any sector they want to work. The main aim is to make a self-dependent woman breaking all the social & religious obstacles.

AGWEB provides free Advocacy and Consultancy to grassroots women for their development. There are many women in the rural area who are constantly suffering from discrimination in their family and social lives. There is no one to show them the way of light. There is no one to inspire them to do for their own and for the economy. It acts as the support for them. We guide them the appropriate way through its free consultancy programs. This is just a beginning of the change.

It has been providing many training programs in different fields, including Automobile Engineering, Agriculture and Farming, Marketing and Network, Information Technology, and many Skill Development programs to thousands of women to change their status in the society. It provides these training in all of the districts through its expert trainer teams. These expert trainers act as a representative for AGWEB at a district and rural level. These trainers train the women in a very simple but effective way, so that they can easily remember and implement their learnings into work. After the training, we awarded them with certificates and also with finance to start their business. This is not the end. It constantly keeps in touch with the trainees through its district representatives to guide them for appropriate business techniques. After this, if any of the trainees faces any problem with their business, it immediately solves those problems.

It conducts many awareness-raising programs in different parts of the country for different groups. In our society, women's contribution in their family, society and economy got unnoticed most of the time. To mitigate this, it conducts many awareness-raising programs in the rural and district level to make aware all the members of the society that, what women are doing and how they can be a valuable weapon to develop the economy. To make the women aware about their rights, it conducts awareness-raising program for women.

It also conducts other awareness-raising programs on food and nutrition of pregnant women and new born child for women and also for her family members. With the mission to decrease the number of HIV positives, it conducts awareness-raising programs for marginalized groups and sex workers. It continuously fights directly against women and child violence in each & every sector.

Education is the backbone of the nation & an educated mother can build an educated nation. With the mission to decrease the number of illiterate people, it conducts "Learn Easy" education program in different part of the country for women and children. This is a continuous project of us.

This is not the end of its missions. It has many other ends-less missions till the proper establishment of women rights in the society.



WORK AREA





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