

Terms of Reference (ToR)
Researching Scops of Equality in Property Inheritance Rights in Bangladesh

There are 50% of women involved in agricultural labor in the rural areas but despite this equal share of labor, an equal share of land ownership is a rare case for women. Even land holdings for male-headed households are often more than twice the size of those headed by women has been found in a study. During a 2013 study, through an FAO, it was estimated that the proportion of agricultural land owned by women had shrunk from 3.5% to 2% in the last 20 years. It does not help that households headed by unmarried women or widows with only daughters or no children are often excluded from land reform programmes.

Inheritance law and the practice itself might be discriminatory to women and are deferred by statutory law to governance through the different domestic religions. For example, under Islamic law, daughters inherit half the share of land compared to sons, and cultural norms support a daughter surrendering her inheritance to her brothers. A widow receives one-eighth of their husband's property if she has children, and one-fourth if not. However, there is a general risk that property ownership becomes monopolized by paternal relatives rather than passing to direct female kin. Hindu laws rarely entitle women to land inheritance. For which, households headed by unmarried women or widows with only daughters or no children are often excluded from land reform programmes.

In line with the SDG goal, Bangladesh has committed to ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls. However, the pandemic has pressured women for selling only assets land and creating violations in case of inability.

To initiate advocacy, Badabon Sangho intends to conduct research on inherited property rights, particularly investigating civil laws that are associated to promote equality and/or inequality, and put forward policy recommendations.

The audience of this study:

The result of this study will be used to seize the attention of policy actors. Therefore, government officials particularly the law commission, Ministry of Land, Ministry of Women Affairs, and other networks and civil society organisations directly working for women's rights will be the key audience.

Objectives of this Study:

The main objective of this survey is to find out-

- I. Identify opportunities in existing civil laws regarding equal inheritance properties
- II. Investigate specific article/rules/wording that creates inequality in exiting civil laws.
- III. Present the recommendations to policy actors.

Language

The research paper will be written in English.

Drafting report

A Consultant or a team of consultants will be responsible to prepare the draft report. Communications can be made over email, texts, and phone calls or by any other means convenient for both parties.

General condition and obligations

The research team/individual will conduct the research and analysis following the submitted proposal. Badabon Sangho will provide the necessary assistance.

Methodological guidelines:

The consultant(s) shall follow scientifically appropriate qualitative and quantitative methodology tools to identify the specific laws/articles/rules/wording for supporting equality in inheritance properties. The methodology and relevant tools will be finalised in consultation with Badabon Sangho. The methodology must consider and include the existing cases/laws/article/rules and wording investigation, literature review, and case study analysis within.

Timeframe:

3 months from signing date

Deliverables:

- Prepare and submit the following:
 - Inception report with a detailed work plan
 - Draft research report
 - Final research report;
 - Research methodology;

Key Competencies:

The interested researcher should have the following competencies:

- Excellent competency in research methodology that includes tools, methods, and techniques
- Should have excellent knowledge of civil laws and the constitution.
- Excellent writing skills in both Bangla and English
- Researcher should be familiar with non-profit organization's activities and working nature.
- Should be sensitive on gender issues
- Flexibility for traveling
- Ensuring the research with ethics

- Females are highly appreciated to apply

Submitting the Proposal:

A potential candidate is requested to submit a research proposal along with the CV and a cover letter to badabonsangho.bd@gmail.com by 30 January 2022. The committee will score according to set criteria and only the successful shortlisted candidates will be contacted for further procedures.

For any further clarification feel free to send an [email](#) to this address and visit Badabon Sangho's [website](#) for more information about us.

***Please take note- 15% VAT and 10% TAX will be excluded from the fees.**