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Does the Women who are in Entrepreneurship Face any Challenges or Enjoy any Facilities to Contribute in the Economy of Bangladesh?

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Abstract- Women entrepreneurship can play a vital role in the economic development of Bangladesh because more than half of the total population is women. In this male dominated country, the numbers of women entrepreneurs are rapidly increasing. Almost in every sector, women are in a noticeable percentage. The journey of women sometimes easy or sometimes difficult. The main objective of this research is to find out the problems regarding women entrepreneurship and find out the benefits that they enjoy to contribute in Bangladesh economy. This research is being conducted based on the Khulna region. A well-structured questionnaire was developed for the findings part to collect the valid data from the female entrepreneurs. Sample size of this survey was twenty five which are randomly selected. In this research we have found that there are so many scopes that our women entrepreneurs enjoy; they have the freedom to do the business, dealing with men in field does not drain them, Money lender does not put excessive pressure for returning money, intermediaries does not interrupt them to get the right price of the products etc.

Keywords: *women, entrepreneurship, challenges, facilities, economy.*

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Does the Women who are in Entrepreneurship Face any Challenges or Enjoy any Facilities to Contribute in the Economy of Bangladesh?

Md. Rafiul Islam

Abstract- Women entrepreneurship can play a vital role in the economic development of Bangladesh because more than half of the total population is women. In this male dominated country, the numbers of women entrepreneurs are rapidly increasing. Almost in every sector, women are in a noticeable percentage. The journey of women sometimes easy or sometimes difficult. The main objective of this research is to find out the problems regarding women entrepreneurship and find out the benefits that they enjoy to contribute in Bangladesh economy. This research is being conducted based on the Khulna region. A well-structured questionnaire was developed for the findings part to collect the valid data from the female entrepreneurs. Sample size of this survey was twenty five which are randomly selected. In this research we have found that there are so many scopes that our women entrepreneurs enjoy; they have the freedom to do the business, dealing with men in field does not drain them, Money lender does not put excessive pressure for returning money, intermediaries does not interrupt them to get the right price of the products etc. Beside this they are facing some challenges; funding for business is an unmanageable and long process, they don't have knowledge and awareness on using technology, they don't have knowledge about the legal aspects of business etc In spite of having so many problems women entrepreneurs are doing very well on their field. Government of our country is taking steps to help the entrepreneurs. If we want our country to have a strong economy we have to help and support our women entrepreneurs to grow.

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I. Introduction

Bangladesh, a developing country, in South Asian region where around 165158616 people lives in and among them 83347206 are women which is 50.43 percent of the total population (According to the Bangladesh Population and Housing Census 2022) . A country basically male dominated (Wright, 2016), empowering women is difficult but it's not impossible. In Bangladesh Everyone involved in mainstream economy has gradually realized that a society cannot afford to waste more than half of its human resources on discrimination based on gender (Puhl et, al., 2008). At all levels of society, Entrepreneurship has been a popular career choice among Bangladeshi women. Women's advancement and participation in social and business arenas is steadily expanding. Hundreds of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and development groups are trying to assist women (Diva, 2023). Females are now conquering various societal challenges with the assistance of numerous development organizations. Women's empowerment has progressed dramatically throughout South Asia. Women are increasingly succeeding in a variety of significant jobs across several industries (Akter, 2018). There are numerous examples of its effectiveness in Bangladesh. There is now no sector or place in Bangladesh where women are not present. Women are everywhere, from entrepreneurship to leadership. But sometimes it's easy for women and sometimes it's very tough to deal with the situation. The research is being conducted in Khulna region and trying to find out the challenges and scopes for women entrepreneurship in Bangladesh.

II. Objectives and Methodology

The main objective of the study is to identify the challenges which are faced by the women entrepreneurs and to identify the factors that create scopes and challenges for entrepreneurial activities. Beside this the objective of this research is to suggest some way to overcome the challenges. A well-structured questionnaire was developed for the findings part to collect the valid data from the female entrepreneurs. Sample size of this survey was twenty five. All of them were randomly selected from all female entrepreneurs of Khulna city. A well structure has been used to collect the data that required the demographic questions and most likely five scales point's questions where Never=1, Rarely=2, Sometimes=3, Often=4, Always=5. This research executed the primary data collection task through meeting with the women entrepreneurs. And the secondary data has been collected from the various journals, articles regarding the topic, website etc. For analyzing the data there have been used standard weighted average and tabulation form. To reach the objectives of the research we develop twenty questions regarding entrepreneurial activities.

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III. Analysis and Discussions

Most of the respondents of this study are between the age of 25 to 30 and most of them are married. Around 48 percent of the entrepreneurs sell the women clothing items. In case of freedom for marketing the product to the customers, the weighted average scored obtained by the entrepreneurs is 3.2 which are above the standard level 3 that indicates the family of the entrepreneur gives them freedom to market their products to the customers. In case of dealing with men in field psychologically drains the entrepreneurs, the weighted average scored obtained by the entrepreneurs is 2.44 which is below the standard level 3that indicates dealing with men in field does not drain the entrepreneurs. In case of facing difficulty in handling money and bookkeeping, the weighted average scored obtained by the entrepreneurs is 1.88 which is below the standard level 3. So it can be said that the entrepreneurs do not face difficulty in handling money and bookkeeping. In case of funding is a long and unmanageable process, the weighted average scored obtained by the entrepreneurs is 3.56 which is above the standard level 3. So it can be said that funding for business is an unmanageable and long process. In case of getting raw materials is a problem due to poor transportation, the weighted average scored obtained by the entrepreneurs is 1.76 which is below the standard level 3. So it can be said that getting raw materials is not a problem due to poor transportation. In case of interference of intermediaries is a problem to market finished goods, the weighted average scored obtained by the entrepreneurs is 3.92 which is above the standard level 3. So it can be said that interference of intermediaries is a huge problem to market finished goods. In case of production gets affected due to delayed supply of raw materials, The weighted average scored obtained by the entrepreneurs is 2.2 which is below the standard level 3. So it can be said that production does not get affected due to delayed supply of raw materials. In case of concentrating on the business become difficult during agricultural season, the weighted average scored obtained by the entrepreneurs is 1.68 which is below the standard level 3. So it can be said that concentrating on the business is not difficult during agricultural season. In case of don't have knowledge and awareness on using technology, the weighted average scored obtained by the entrepreneurs is 4.12 which are above the standard level 3. So it can be said that the entrepreneurs don't have knowledge and awareness on using technology. In case of don't have knowledge about the legal aspects of business; the weighted average scored obtained by the entrepreneurs is 3.28 which are above the standard level 3. So it can be said that they don't have knowledge about the legal aspects of business. In case of unable to expand business due to lack of marketing information, the weighted average scored obtained by the entrepreneurs is 2.16 which is below the standard level 3. So it can be said that the entrepreneurs are not unable to expand business due to lack of marketing information. In case of can't reach many customers due to lack of advertisement, the weighted average scored obtained by the entrepreneurs is 2 which is below the standard level 3. So it can be said that the entrepreneurs can reach many customers in spite of having lack of advertisement. In case of, lack of confidence to convince customers for long term business relation, the weighted average scored obtained by the entrepreneurs is 2.04 which is below the standard level 3. So it can be said that the entrepreneurs do not have lack of confidence to convince customers for long term business relation. In case of, money lenders put excessive pressure for returning money before due time, The weighted average scored obtained by the entrepreneurs is 1.72 which is below the standard level So it can be said that Money lender does not put excessive pressure for returning money before due time. In case of, lack of training for development leadership and management skills, the weighted average scored obtained by the entrepreneurs is 3.16 which is above the standard level 3. So it can be said that they have lack of training for development leadership and management skills. In case of, family responsibilities stop me to expand business, the weighted average scored obtained by the entrepreneurs is 3.12 which is above the standard level 3. So it can be said that family responsibilities stop the women entrepreneurs to expand their business. In case of, unaware of government policies about women entrepreneurs, the weighted average scored obtained by the entrepreneurs is 1.68 which is below the standard level 3. So it can be said that the entrepreneurs are aware of government policies about women entrepreneurs. In case of, don't have proper training on financial management; the weighted average scored obtained by the entrepreneurs is 4.08 which is above the standard level 3. So it can be said that they don't have proper training on financial management. In case of, family restriction to go out creates difficulty to purchase raw materials; the weighted average scored obtained by the entrepreneurs the entrepreneurs is 3.64 which are above the standard level 3. So it can be said that family restriction to go to different place creates difficulty to purchase raw materials. In case of, involvement of intermediaries interrupt me to get the right price for products, the weighted average scored obtained by the entrepreneurs is 1.84 which is below the standard level 3. So it can be said that involvement of intermediaries does not interrupt them to get the right price of the products

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IV. Results, Challenges and Scopes

Sl. No.	Result	Challenge/Scope
1	The family of the entrepreneur gives them freedom to market their products to the customers.	Scope
2	Dealing with men in field does not drain the entrepreneurs.	Scope
3	The entrepreneurs do not face difficulty in handling money and bookkeeping.	Scope
4	Funding for business is an unmanageable and long process.	Challenge
5	Getting raw materials is not a problem due to poor transportation.	Scope
6	Interference of intermediaries is a huge problem to market finished goods.	Challenge
7	Production does not get affected due to delayed supply of raw materials.	Scope
8	Concentrating on the business is not difficult during agricultural season.	Scope
9	The entrepreneurs don't have knowledge and awareness on using technology.	Challenge
10	They don't have knowledge about the legal aspects of business.	Challenge
11	The entrepreneurs are not unable to expand business due to lack of marketing information.	Scope
12	The entrepreneurs can reach many customers in spite of having lack of advertisement.	Scope
13	The entrepreneurs do not have lack of confidence to convince customers for long term business relation.	Scope
14	Money lender does not put excessive pressure for returning money before due time.	Scope
15	They have lack of training for development leadership and management skills.	Challenge
16	Family responsibilities stop the women entrepreneurs to expand their business.	Challenge
17	The entrepreneurs are aware of government policies about women entrepreneurs.	Scope
18	Family restriction to go to different place creates difficulty to purchase raw materials.	Challenge
19	They don't have proper training on financial management.	Challenge
20	Involvement of intermediaries does not interrupt them to get the right price of the products.	Scope

V. Recommendations and Conclusion

Family of the entrepreneurs needs to give enough freedom to do their job rightly. Family is the first place from where many women get discourage and they end their thought to pursuing their dream to become an entrepreneur. If the family will be supportive then they can overcome the other challenges. The entrepreneurs must train themselves according their respected fields. Without training and skill they cannot sustain for long run. Finance is a big problem. Many bank and NGO gives loan to the women entrepreneurs. They should take money from them instead of the money lenders. Banks should give loan to the entrepreneurs with a very low interest rate. Using technology and doing business are two obvious things nowadays. Reach to the customers has become easy through technology. Many women entrepreneurs still don't know much about the technology. They should educate themselves about technology for their betterment. Interference of intermediaries is a big problem for the entrepreneurs. If the entrepreneurs sell their product directly to their customers without having any intermediaries they can avoid this problem. The entrepreneurs need to learn about the legal aspects of business. Since the entrepreneurs don't know about the legal aspects they are missing out the advantages of this part. In our male dominated society still there's a perception that women should take care of a family by only sitting at the home. They should take all the responsibility of the family by doing their daily chores. Family of the entrepreneurs need to more supportive towards them and their expansion of business. Managing finance correctly of your business is a necessity. Many women entrepreneurs don't have enough knowledge or experience to manage their finances. They need to learn how to manage these things professionally. In this era Bangladeshi women still have the problem of family restriction even if it's bad for their professional life. Family and society needs to be more supportive towards women entrepreneurs.

Women's entrepreneurship is a means of achieving economic independence as well as a source of income and employment. In spite of having so many problems women entrepreneurs are doing very well on their field. Government of our country is taking steps to help the entrepreneurs. If we want our country to have a strong economy we have to help and support our women entrepreneurs to grow. Because more than half of the population of our country are women. One country can't make a strong economy without its half of the population. In the meantime, banks, financial institutions, Micro Finance Institutions, and Non-Governmental Organizations in Bangladesh have given attention to establishing women entrepreneurs. Bangladesh Bank guidelines offer credits mainly the women entrepreneurs in Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprise sector still there is lack of supportive

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institutions. There's lack of training, skilled manpower, finances, loans, acceptance of the society, using technology, availability of materials, interference of intermediaries etc. Both the government and Non-Governmental Organizations help is needed to solve all the problem of the women entrepreneurs of Bangladesh. If they can assure their help it will be a great effort to make women entrepreneurship more successful in Bangladesh. These initiatives will have a tremendous impact not only on the national economy, but also on the socio-cultural and economic development and growth of women entrepreneurs.

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