

## WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN BANGLADESH: A MIXED METHODOLOGY APPROACH

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### **Abstrak**

*Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji peran kewirausahaan perempuan dalam proses pemberdayaan perempuan di Chittagong, Bangladesh. Studi ini meneliti hubungan antara bisnis perempuan dan pemberdayaan sosial perempuan. Sebanyak 160 responden diwawancarai selama fase pengumpulan data pertama (80 ibu rumah tangga non-usaha dan 80 ibu rumah tangga perusahaan). Berdasarkan kesimpulan penelitian ini, kewirausahaan memiliki pengaruh yang signifikan terhadap kemampuan perempuan dalam menentukan pilihan dalam keluarganya, khususnya di rumah. Selain itu, penelitian ini menemukan bahwa perempuan pengusaha memiliki kontrol yang lebih besar atas sumber daya dan aset mereka daripada non-pengusaha (ibu rumah tangga). Mereka juga memiliki lebih banyak mobilitas sosial, keterlibatan politik, dan suara di rumah dan kesehatan keluarga mereka daripada wanita yang tidak bekerja. Di sisi lain, perempuan yang tidak bekerja dalam bisnis memiliki pengetahuan dan kesadaran yang lebih sedikit tentang perubahan iklim, penanggulangan bencana, dan hak-hak perempuan dibandingkan mereka yang melakukannya. Menurut temuan penelitian, memiliki akses cepat ke pinjaman pembayaran dengan syarat dan ketentuan yang menguntungkan sangat penting untuk kesuksesan bisnis. Penelitian lebih lanjut harus dilakukan di Chittagong, Bangladesh, di mana pendapatan rumah tangga perempuan signifikan untuk pertumbuhan sosial dan ekonomi.*

**Kata Kunci:** Pemberdayaan, Pengusaha, Bangladesh, Pembangunan, Pengambilan Keputusan, SDGs.

### **Abstract**

*This research aimed to examine the role of female entrepreneurship in the process of female empowerment in Chittagong, Bangladesh. The study examined the link between women's business and women's social empowerment. A total of 160 respondents were interviewed throughout the first data-gathering phase (80 non-enterprise homemakers and 80 enterprise housewives). According to the conclusions of this study, entrepreneurship has a significant influence on women's*

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*ability to make choices in their families, notably at home. Additionally, this study discovered that businesswomen had greater control over their resources and assets than non-businesswomen (homemakers). They also have more social mobility, political involvement, and a say in their home and family's health than women who do not work. On the other hand, women who do not work in the business have less knowledge and awareness about climate change, disaster management, and women's rights than those who do. According to the research findings, having rapid access to a pay loan with favourable terms and conditions is critical to a business's success. More research should be done in Chittagong, Bangladesh, where household women's income is significant for social and economic growth.*

**Keywords:** Empowerment, Entrepreneur, Bangladesh, Development, Decision Making, SDGs.

## A. INTRODUCTION

All the remarkable creations in the world; half of them are women, half of them are men' - this is how the national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam saw men and women (Geeti, & Habibullah, 2016). At present, women are not lagging behind in any way. On the contrary, they are constantly moving ahead with their respective qualifications. Furthermore, three decades ago, women's walks at work were not noticeable. Nevertheless, now women are engaged in almost all professions outside the house. New entrepreneurs are being created. An entrepreneur is a woman who thinks of her employment and tries to set up or start a business independently without being subordinate to any job or jail (Goffee, & Scase, 2015). However, overcoming this social barrier in our society, many women entrepreneurs have reached a very high success with their work. Women entrepreneurs have now taken place in people's minds.

Increasing women's financial and economic independence is a critical component on the path to sustainable development. Without the involvement of women in the mainstream development program, the institutionalization of the sustainable development process would be difficult to achieve in its entirety. Bangladesh is a developing nation in South Asia that is now one of the most hazard-prone countries on the planet due to its geographical location. Because of the effects of disasters and the damage they cause to the environment, the country's economic growth is in real danger. Women's empowerment is a process by which women can come out of their previous position, highlight their qualifications and achievements, and highlight their decisions and situations by

participating in family, society, or public life. Women's empowerment is primarily a means of experiencing and making decisions in economic and political infrastructure. Women can express their talents and qualifications and strive to achieve their rights. Women's empowerment is possible only when, without any restrictions or limitations, women have the opportunity to use existing facilities to change education, career and lifestyle. Women's empowerment is one of the keys to economic development, political status quo and social change (Kabeer, 2008).

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was a pioneer in empowering Bengali women. Bangabandhu created the Women's League in 1967, giving women a chance to participate in politics (Mantoo, 2015). In 1972, the People's Republic of Bangladesh adopted a constitution that guaranteed women equal rights at all levels of state and public life and the power to make special provisions for the development of women and backward communities (Articles 27 and 28) (Huq, 1973). Following the ideals of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Bangabandhu's daughter Sheikh Hasina, soon after coming to power, formulated numerous policies and laws to ensure gender equality, women's development and empowerment at all levels and has worked tirelessly to consolidate and implement it in all stages in real terms. Now the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's initiatives and achievements to ensure 100% participation of women in education, make them economically self-reliant, create a women-friendly work environment, ensure women's safety and rights through legislation, and encourage active participation of women in education politics are incredible. A maximum of BDT 25 lakh SME loan has been provided without collateral to make women economically self-reliant. Women entrepreneurs can also borrow from Bangladesh Bank and Asia Development Bank at 10 per cent interest (IFC, 2016). At present more than 30 lakh women workers are working in the garment industry. The government's seventh five-year plan (2016-2020) pledges to ensure women's empowerment by engaging in economic and political activities. In addition, in 2011, the National Women's Policy was enacted to promote gender equality at the workplace. Vulnerable Group Development (VGD), Vulnerable

Group Development (VGD), Poor Allowance, Maternity and Pregnant Mothers Allowance, Allowance for Disabled Mothers and Divorcees, Food for Work, Programs One Home-One Farm, and more schemes are available from the current government. In addition, maternity leave has been raised from four to six months to make it easier for women to return to work (Sultan, & Mahpara 2020). Through all these activities of the government, the oppressed women groups of the society can be involved in economic activities through which the empowerment of women is possible.

#### The Statement of Problem

Women's entrepreneurship can play an influential role in eliminating women's problems at work and enhancing women empowerment. Therefore, the fifth goal of SDGs is gender equality become important. It should be noted that the inequality that creates inequality between men and women is much stronger than all other inequalities due to its multidimensionality. Every goal of the Sustainable Development Goals is, directly and indirectly, related to women's empowerment. Bangladesh ranks 50th out of 153 countries in the 2019 Global Gender Gap Index (GGGI) (Sharma, eds. 2021). Moreover, Bangladesh ranks seventh in the world in terms of women's empowerment in politics. In this case, Bangladesh holds the top position among the neighbouring countries of South Asia for the fifth time in a row. The issue points to solid progress in women's empowerment. In 1990, the number of female students at the primary education level was about 54 lakhs. In 2016, it increased to 6.90 lakhs. At the secondary level, the enrollment of girls was 39 per cent in 1980, which increased to 8 per cent in 2016. However, the dropout rate of girls at the secondary level is 42 per cent. Reaching this stage, only 59 per cent of the students can complete secondary education (Hasan, 2020). In the case of tertiary level education, the trend of dropping out continues. As a result, women's participation in the labour force decreases. The government has taken several legal and policy measures to protect women's rights in achieving SDG-5. However, there are several fundamental challenges to achieving gender equality. These challenges include

eliminating violence against women and the inequality of opportunity, preventing child marriage, and promoting women's financial empowerment.

Existing gender inequality is one of the obstacles to the creation of a hunger-free and self-reliant Bangladesh. It is impossible to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by suppressing women. Real experience also shows that birth rate is more successful when women's financial condition improves. Men and women are much more creative and responsible than men in economic activities (Shackelford, 1992). The increase in the rate of female education increases the overall education rate in society and reduces the family's medical expenses and criminal tendencies. Women can take decision when she feels empowered and formulates gender-friendly laws and plans (Shabib & Khan, 2014).

Women are seen to be victims of harassment in various ways. Due to these problems in the workplace, women who are educated in higher education are often reluctant to enter the workforce. Women are subjected to physical and mental abuse. These adverse effects reduce women's work satisfaction, degrade relationships with coworkers, and even lead to job losses. Therefore, the workplace has a responsibility to make women work-oriented. Women also become career-oriented when they get proper status in the workplace. Since women have to play different roles simultaneously (such as worker, wife and mother), there are some exceptional opportunities for women in the workplace. When a woman faces relatively few obstacles or conflicts in fulfilling these responsibilities, she will give importance to her family responsibilities and career. Nevertheless, the opposite will happen if there are problems at work. There are some barriers to women's participation in the workplace in our country, such as lack of vehicles, lack of toilets, lack of child care centres, and lack of safety. In addition, there are some private jobs where women have less maternity leave (Jayachandran, 2021).

#### Rationale of The Study

In the current socio-economic context of Bangladesh, women entrepreneurs are playing an influential role in women's empowerment. On the other hand, it is not possible to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) without women's empowerment. The Covid-19 pandemic has increased the sale of women's products through the different online platforms. Mainly because they did not leave the house in lockdown, many women bought products online at this time, which was a blessing for women involved in e-commerce. Women Entrepreneurs Association of Bangladesh mentioned that about 60 per cent of women had come online to sell products to keep the business in the Covid-19 pandemic time (Rahim, eds. 2019). Many women entrepreneurs have been interested in selling products online to sustain business in the Covid-19 pandemic. Specially educated women have come this way more. Women entrepreneurs have promoted products on Facebook, WhatsApp, Messenger, and Viva. Many have also done business by opening personal websites. Those concerned say it is possible to encourage and promote products online easily. Buying and selling goods online reduce the cost of operating the business. The increase in the participation of women entrepreneurs in selling products online will have a positive impact on the economy.

#### Research Hypothesis

Economic emancipation serves as one of the critical forces in women's empowerment, and women entrepreneurs are one of the economic liberations of women. Through these women entrepreneurs, Bangladeshi women become self-reliant and influential in making various decisions in the family and society. Women's entrepreneurship plays an influential role in women's empowerment. In the same way, the empowerment of these women also plays an essential role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

#### Research Questions

1. Does women entrepreneurship ensure women empowerment?

2. How Women Empowerment and Women Entrepreneurship play an influential role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Bangladesh by 2030?

#### Aim and Objectives of the Research

1. To check if women's entrepreneurship ensures through women's empowerment.
2. To identify the limitations of Women's empowerment in Bangladesh.
3. To categorize the limitations of creating women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh.
4. To examine how Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can be achieved through women entrepreneurs and women empowerment in Bangladesh.

#### Literature Review

Nagarajan said that Entrepreneurship is a concept of more significant concern in the contemporary era. Entrepreneurship holds no gender biases, and women have to face all challenges in domestic needs fulfillment. In addition, women entrepreneurs must be able to create opportunities and financial independence (Nagarajan, 2016). The empowerment of women is a process of personal and social change. It takes place in the interrelated and mutually reinforcing psychological, political, social and economic fields. Through this process, women individually and collectively obtain power, meaningful choices and control over their own lives (Islam, 2020)). Women's entrepreneurship can achieve financial and social empowerment, which is important for women's sustainable livelihoods (ILO, 2017). Entrepreneurship plays a prominent role in creating employment opportunities for rural communities, providing self-employment for those who have already started a business, and improving rural areas' economic status. Nowadays, women are also interested in creating a professional company in urban and rural areas by overcoming poverty, generating income for the family, and improving living standards (Manashi 2015).



The population of any country plays a vital role in accelerating its development. For example, half of the people of Bangladesh are female. If this half of the population is backward, then the actual product of the country is not possible. Therefore, the women's society of the country has a vital role in taking the country forward. Thus, one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (Nalule, 2020). Sustainable Development aims to rid the world of hunger and poverty and all forms of inequality and inequality. The period from 2016 to 2030 has been set as the period for achieving SDG so that people can live in a beautiful and safe world with their rights. Almost all the nations of the world will continue to work towards achieving the goals of the SDGs during this period. Women's empowerment is a reflection of gender equality which is essential for a country's sustainable oven (Lee, 2021). Women's participation in the workplace, leadership in the social and political spheres, involvement in the economy, etc., are closely related to women's empowerment. However, at present, the increasing participation of women in these fields is not satisfactory. In particular, women's participation in the workplace is negligible compared to commodities. There are many reasons behind this—currently, the participation of women in the workplace in the essay. In particular, educated women have expressed reluctance to go to the workplace and discussed its survival.

The development of small and medium enterprises in Bangladesh has a vital role in increasing employment (Islam, eds. 2011). In addition, the role of micro, small and medium enterprises is also recognized in the areas of balanced development and spreading development flow to all types of communities and regions. Realizing this importance, Bangladesh Bank has launched an SME loan facility to increase the flow of credit in these initiatives. Under this facility, the terms of credit have been made easier for women entrepreneurs (Aziz, & Siddique, 2016). Here the progress of this loan in the field of women entrepreneurs is being reviewed. According to the UN declaration, Bangladesh is on its way to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.



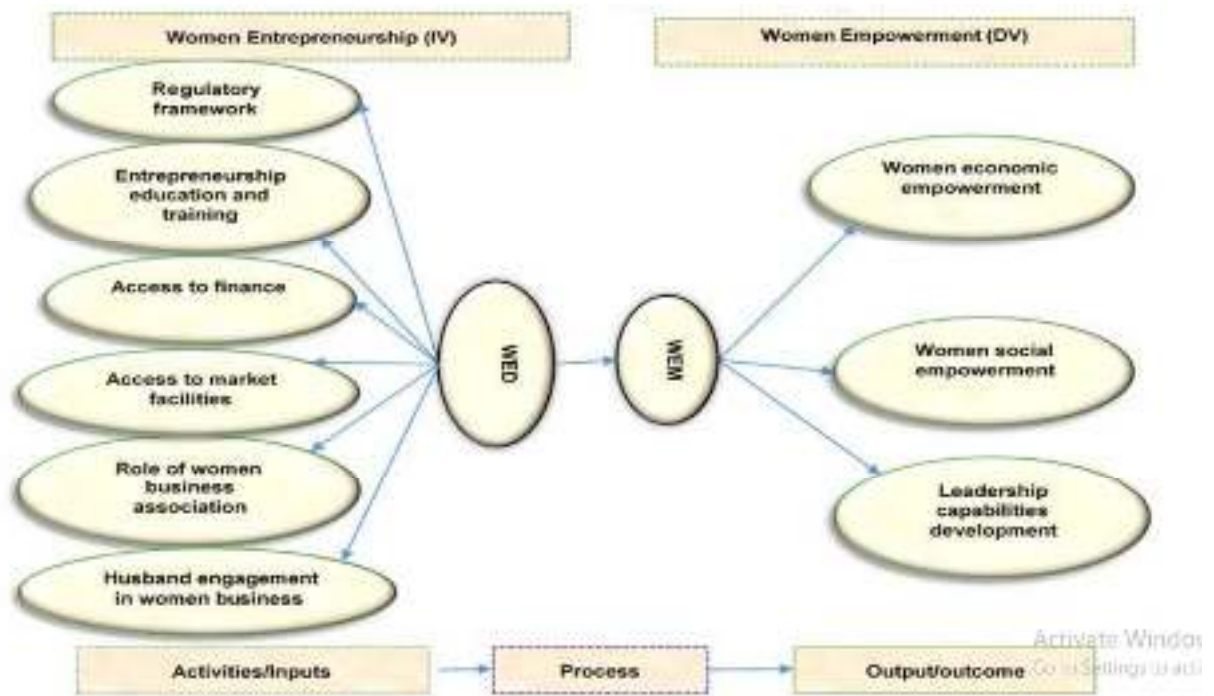
Earlier, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina won the United Nations Award in 2010 for completing the Bangladesh Millennium Development Goal (MDGs). The development of Bangladesh is a role model for the world. Women's development and empowerment have worked as regulators behind this. That is why there has been a massive change in the country in a short period. Once upon a time, women could not move freely. They had to face obstacles in entering the workplace. There was no opportunity to use women's human resources, had considerable staffing. Due to a lack of education, our women's society was lagging far behind. The condition of women has changed today with the massive efforts of the present government. The education rate has increased. The presence of women in all spheres of the country has changed the country's society and economy. Women's power is being fully utilized (Sayem, eds. 2011).

Microfinance schemes and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) contribute to poverty alleviation and women empowerment. At least 10 per cent of the loans have been allocated for women-run SMEs. The government has established a foundation called Jayeeta to help women businessmen and entrepreneurs. The foundation provides 18,000 women entrepreneurs at the grassroots level and trains women in various professions like sewing, mobile phone service, nursery, primary computer, and IT training for self-employment. As a result, women's participation in our economy is increasing. The Prime Minister said that more than 40 lakh women are working in the garment industry. Thirty-five per cent of women have bank accounts. Women contribute 34 per cent to GDP. The government is working to increase participation in each sector to 40 per cent by 2021 and 50 per cent by 2030 (Khan et al., 2017). Finally, it is essential to state clearly that women's employment, earnings are all needed to empower them. However, they do not ensure empowerment in all respects. To be certified through these, women need the power and freedom to decide. Various studies and surveys have shown that women's freedom to choose is still limited in many respects. One promising aspect is that women's education expands the ability to make independent decisions. Nevertheless, this happens when the

female education level is higher than the secondary. Therefore, for the overall position of women to develop and empower, there is a need for a coordinated effort everywhere, through which Bangladesh can achieve the sustainable development target by 2030 (Odera, & Mulusa, 2020).

The studies mentioned above have discussed how women entrepreneurs can play an influential role in women's empowerment but have not discussed how women empowerment can achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This proposed study will help identify issues that can contribute to achieving Sustainable Development Goals through women's empowerment. The "Theory of Change" focuses on how the United Nations Development System (UNDS) can better work together to support the Sustainable Development Goals. Where the SDG constitutes the UNDS needs to help satisfy, this change theory focuses on the how, emphasizing that if UNDS is more "fit for purpose", reform efforts should be more purpose-oriented. The document takes the United Nations development system as its primary focus. It points out that the paper requires more consideration of developing theories of change through the pillars of the United Nations system (Hendra, & FitzGerald, 2020). Feminist research in international politics takes the experience and contribution of women seriously. In international politics, women play an essential part in the political, economic, and social processes. Feminism works in gender power and world politics to highlight different forms of discrimination and power relations towards women. Blanchard presents feminists have presented a broad discussion of security theories that have historically challenged the core concepts of international relations, primarily in security, peace, and war. Discussing various feminist writers worldwide and their work, he emphasized that international relations have been further enhanced through feminist security theories (Blanchard, 2003). To understand women and gender security in international relations, feminists first introduced women and security. Sylvester examining feminist behaviour concerning feminism and the international community proves that feminism has a historical connection with peace and partisanship. She

discusses how feminist international researchers have increasingly demonstrated how women support political violence and war (Kabeer, 2008).



### Research Methodology

To establish a hypothesized causal relationship between women empowerment through women entrepreneurship, I have conducted causal research using the quantitative method. The primary data have been collected from the women entrepreneurs of the Chittagong division of Bangladesh. I have used both probability (cluster) and non-probability (convenience) sampling techniques, using multivariate analysis techniques-exploratory, factor analysis, structural equation modeling, and paths analysis. The Common Factor Analysis with an orthogonal rotation method will use SPSS (v-22.0) to extract and separate the significant factors that develop women's empowerment through women's entrepreneurship. The face-to-face interview survey strategy is proper where the exact population is unknown, and respondents cannot answer written surveys.

Therefore, a survey guide is prepared comprised of open-ended or close-ended questions that the respondent answered based on their experience and understanding.

#### Research Sample Size:

The sample for the present study will comprise 60 women (in two groups, with 30 women entrepreneurs in group 1 and 30 women entrepreneurs cum homemakers in group 2 residing in Chittagong, Bangladesh.

#### Research Design:

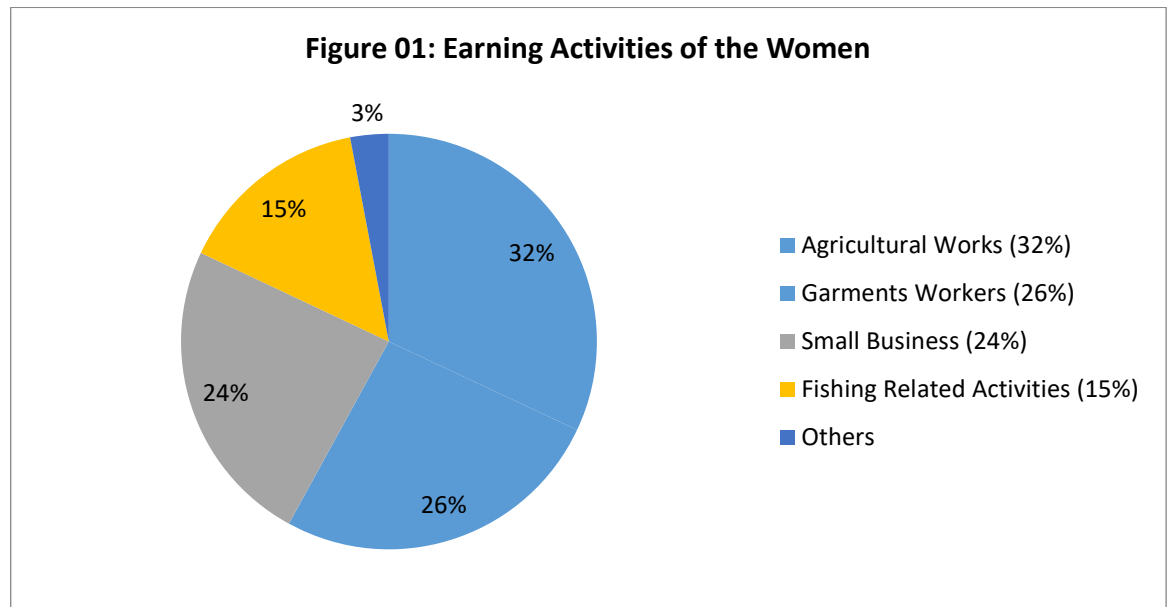
The nature of the study is both exploratory and descriptive. It is exploratory as the study aims at identifying the significance of women empowerment through women entrepreneurship. To complement some empirical material and theoretical perspectives, in the final stage of my research, I interviewed some academicians, think tank specialists, policymakers through e-mail.

## B. RESULTS

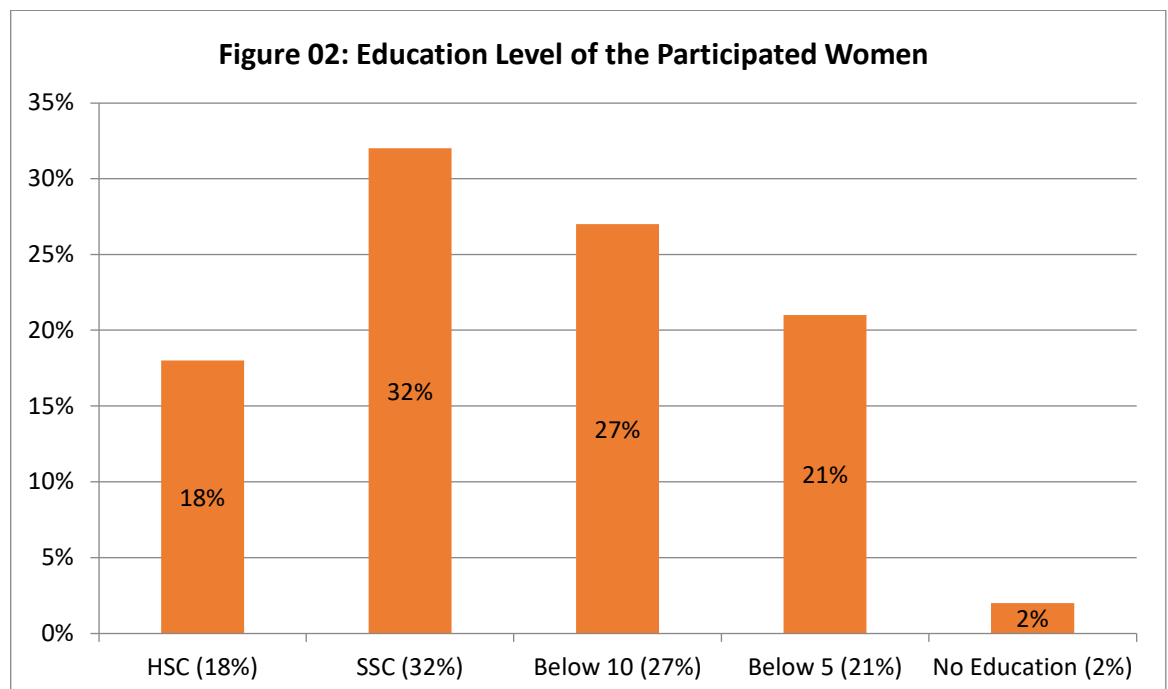
### Socioeconomic Status of the Respondent

The port city of Chittagong is located in Bangladesh's southern coastline region, where it often experiences coastal natural disasters. The livelihoods of the people are badly impacted. This region's socioeconomic situation is precarious. The majority of people work in agriculture and labour. According to Fig. 1, “women makeup 32% of the workforce in agricultural-related occupations, 26% in the apparel industry, 24% in small companies, and 15% in the fishing industry. Fig. 2 depicts the degree of education held by female business owners. According to the survey, 32% of the female population completed the SSC, followed by 27% who finished classes up to class 10, and 18% passed the HSC. 2% of people do not have formal schooling. Fig. 3 demonstrates that Grameen Bank provided microcredit loans to 35% of businesswomen. 12% came from local institutions, 2% from other institutions, 29% from BRAC, and 22% from ASA”. Furthermore,

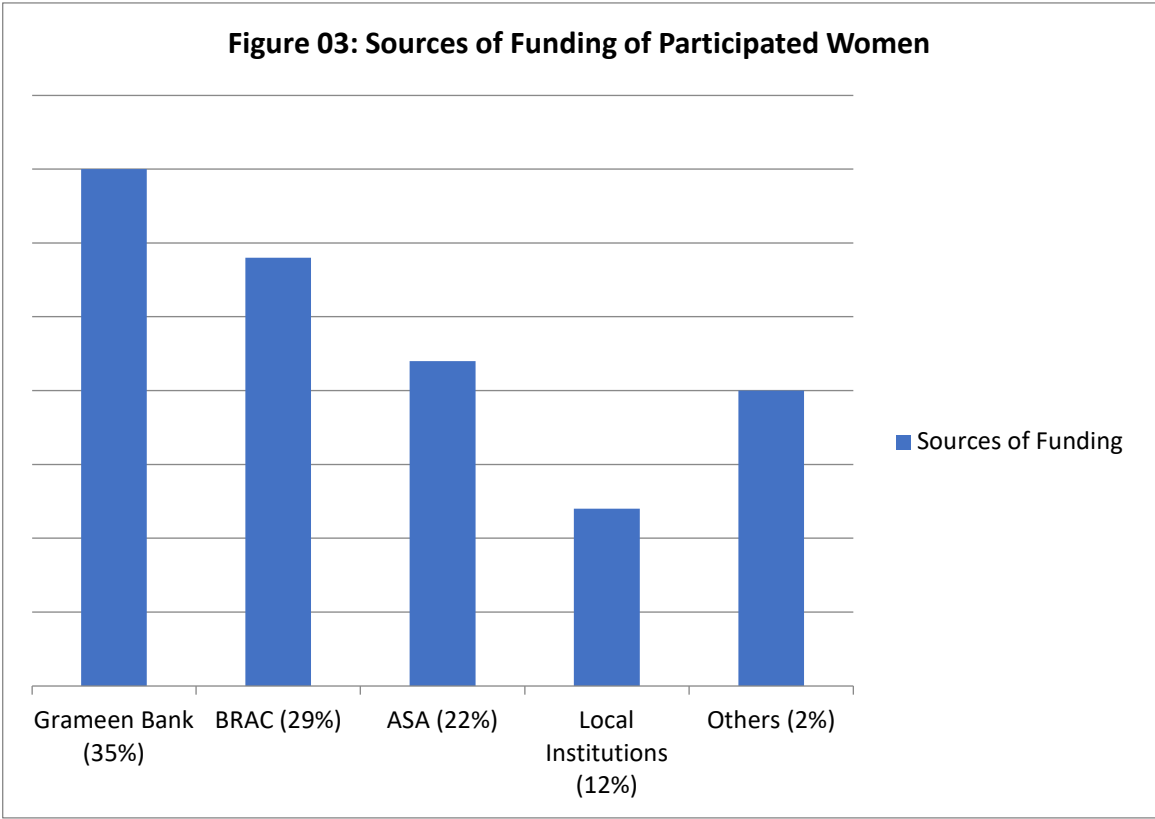
it has been shown that Grameen Bank, BRAC, and ASA microcredit loans have more issues than BRAC and ASA microcredit loans.



Source: Author's own calculation based on primary data



Source: Author's own calculation based on primary data



**Source: Author’s own calculation based on primary data**

Metrics for Measuring Women's Empowerment

Indicators of Resource Access and Asset Ownership

Table 1 demonstrates that while all non-business women have lower indicators of controlling over resources, “65% of women in businesses have higher/more substantial indications. Businesswomen are seen to have more indicators of control over resources than non-businesswomen. Table 2's statistics, on the other hand, showed that most non-business women, 80% had low indicators of property ownership, whereas 60% of women in business had medium values”. The data suggest that women who do not run their businesses are less conscious of their ownership of assets.

**Table 1: Indicators of Access of Resources of Participated Women**

Control Over Resources	Business Women		Non-Business Women	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Low (< 6)	0	0	80	100
Medium (7-14)	24	30	0	0
Strong (15-22)	44	55	0	0
Very Strong (23>)	8	10	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Author's own calculation based on primary data

**Table 2: Indicators of Proprietorship of Assets of Participated Women**

Control Over Resources	Business Women		Non-Business Women	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Low (< 6)	8	10	64	80
Medium (7-14)	48	60	12	15
Strong (15-22)	16	20	4	5
Very Strong (23>)	8	10	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Author's own calculation based on primary data

### Signs of Participating in Social Activities



Based on the analysis, Table 3 reveals that “90% of homemakers who participate in social activities are followed by 60% of women in the enterprise who have higher/more vital indicators of engagement in social activities, such as child immunization, dowry, early marriage, and women's health. According to the findings, businesswomen have more influence to engage in various social activities than non-businesswomen”.

**Table 3: Indicators of Engagement in Social Activities of Participated Women**

Control Over Resources	Business Women		Non-Business Women	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Low (< 11)	0	0	72	90
Medium (12-24)	24	30	4	5
Strong (25-37)	48	60	0	5
Very Strong (38>)	8	10	4	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Author's own calculation based on primary data

#### Indicators of Political and Developmental Activity

According to Table 4's findings, “medium political activity is indicated by 65% of businesswomen. However, non-enterprise women took part in fewer political or leadership-related activities. Therefore, it is implied that businesswomen are better capable than non-businesswomen of playing leadership or political positions in society, both cognitively and monetarily”.

**Table 4: Indicators of Involvement in Political Activities of Participated Women**

Control Over Resources	Business Women	Non-Business Women
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	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Low (< 8)	12	15	80	100
Medium (9-17)	52	65	0	0
Strong (18-26)	12	15	0	0
Very Strong (27>)	4	5	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Author's own calculation based on primary data

### Signs of Involvement in household Decision-making

According to Table 5, “among women in business, 70% actively participate in most home choices, including those involving the acquisition of property, the education of children, and family possibilities. In contrast, 90% of non-entrepreneurial women play more minor roles in domestic decision-making. The male/father then actively participates in family decision-making”.

**Table 5: Indicators of Participation in Household Decision Making of Participated Women**

Control Over Resources	Business Women		Non-Business Women	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Low (< 20)	4	5	72	90
Medium (21-40)	8	10	4	5
Strong (41-60)	12	15	4	5
Very Strong (61>)	56	70	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Author's own calculation based on primary data

### Role Indicators in Healthcare Decision-making

According to Table 6's statistics, "women make up the majority of decision-makers in the workplace (65%) regarding health matters, including family planning, sickness, and disease management. In comparison, just 65% of non-businesswomen are moderately active in family health-related decision-making". Women must get primary education and empowerment to handle health-related challenges adequately.

**Table 6: Indicators of Healthcare Related Decision Making of Participated Women**

Control Over Resources	Business Women		Non-Business Women	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Low (< 7)	4	5	16	20
Medium (8-15)	8	10	52	65
Strong (16-23)	12	20	8	10
Very Strong (24>)	52	65	4	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Author's own calculation based on primary data

### Signs that People are aware of Women's Rights

Table 7 demonstrates that the majority of non-businesswomen, "70% are only moderately aware of women's rights. In contrast, 85% of businesswomen strongly or significantly recognize their rights in the family and society. The study assumed that businesswomen have to engage with various clients, salespeople, and dealers for professional reasons". They may expand their understanding of women's rights in the household and in society in this way.

**Table 7: Indicators of Awareness about Women's Right of Participated Women**

Control Over Resources	Business Women	Non-Business Women
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	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Low (< 7)	0	0	12	15
Medium (8-15)	4	5	56	70
Strong (16-23)	8	10	8	10
Very Strong (24>)	68	85	4	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Author's own calculation based on primary data**

### Measures of how People see Women's Empowerment

According to Table 8's findings, "businesswomen are more influential than non-businesswomen. The survey found that 80% of businesswomen had an extensive understanding of empowerment, whereas 90% of non-business women have poor levels of perspective on their empowerment in society. The view and understanding of their empowerment would support encouraging corporate success". In contrast, businesswomen can better support their families and the community than non-businesswomen.

**Table 8: Indicators of Perception of Women Empowerment of Participated Women**

Control Over Resources	Business Women		Non-Business Women	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Low (< 75)	0	0	72	90
Medium (76-129)	4	5	8	10
Strong (130-183)	12	15	0	0
Very Strong (184>)	64	80	0	0

<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>
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Source: Author's own calculation based on primary data

### Metrics of Knowledge of Disaster Preparedness and Climate Change

Of the majority of non-business women, “66% had little knowledge of climate change and catastrophe management concerns, as seen in Table 9. In contrast, 72.5% of businesswomen are highly knowledgeable and aware of disaster management and climate change. Due to their government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) training in dealing with climate change and disaster management, businesswomen are more informed than non-enterprise women. Successful women in business are very conscious of disasters and climate change because they pose an immediate risk to their industry”.

**Table 9: Indicators of understanding about Climate Change and Disaster Management**

<b>Control Over Resources</b>	<b>Business Women</b>		<b>Non-Business Women</b>	
	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Low (< 5)	4	5	12	15
Medium (6-12)	8	10	56	66
Strong (13-23)	58	72.5	6	7
Very Strong (24>)	10	12.5	9	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Author's own calculation based on primary data

**Table 10: Women Empowerment through Women Entrepreneurship**

<b><u>Economic Factors</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Source of Income</li> <li>• Source of Micro-credit loan</li> <li>• Family Education</li> </ul>	<b><u>Social Factors</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage in Social Activities</li> <li>• Engage in Political Activities</li> <li>• Awareness of Political Rights</li> <li>• Awareness of Women Rights</li> <li>• Awareness of Women Empowerment</li> </ul>
<b><u>Family Factors</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to resources</li> <li>• Proprietorship of Assets</li> <li>• Household Decision Making</li> <li>• Health Related Decision Making</li> </ul>	<b><u>Environmental Factors</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of Climate Change</li> <li>• Knowledge of Global Developmental Agenda</li> <li>• Knowledge of Environmental Degradation</li> </ul>

**Source: Author's own calculation based on primary data**

## Discussion

This paper sought to ascertain “how women's entrepreneurship may influence women's empowerment and how it could contribute to the growth of a society and a nation. More precisely, the main goal was to ascertain how various forms of female entrepreneurship may influence the advancement of women's empowerment and development. The fact that all of the hypotheses were confirmed suggests that the independent variables employed in this study have meaningful connections to women's empowerment”. The work's reliability and validity were also endorsed. However, the tiny sample size and brief trial duration left the authors unsatisfied. Additionally, the research was carried out in a particular setting. In order to give readers more accurate findings, the writers decided to undertake in-depth interviews with people from various business disciplines. We learn about several facets of women's entrepreneurship and their effects on women's emancipation from the perspectives of this study.

A successful business requires highly motivated women to create “sustainable growth via women's empowerment, and recently the government promoted women entrepreneurs and offered financial assistance and input facilities. Researchers have been drawn to this issue to learn about the many different aspects of women's entrepreneurship, including environmental influences. However, with the expansion of research, few theoretical and empirical studies have noticed the performance of women entrepreneurs (housewives) concerning their empowerment. By breaking up a sample group of housewives into two separate dimensions, this study contributed to the field by identifying and assessing the elements that affect women entrepreneurs' (housewives') performance at four study hypotheses with various components. A homemaker may possess an extraordinary capacity for commercial success, but several factors might limit her performance and women's empowerment. This study's main goal was to comprehend how numerous financial, familial, social, and environmental elements affect how well women succeed in the workplace. According to this study's findings, some climate and disaster-related issues, described in detail in Table 9, may negatively impact how well women's businesses succeed in attaining women's emancipation. The findings of the interviews highlighted and noted numerous difficulties and the potential for female entrepreneurs”. However, the research has found that successful businesswomen have more access to resources and ownership of assets than non-business homemakers. Compared to non-business women, successful businesswomen show a greater interest in participating in social and political activities. This study's findings also show that businesswomen know better about catastrophe and climate change issues. The study's findings also showed that businesswomen are better equipped than homemakers to participate in family decision-making.

Implications, Limitation, Future Research Directions, Conclusion



I sought and enlisted the help of several active homemakers in the group to achieve the study's objectives. "The study examined a range of elements, including economic, family, social, and environmental issues, all of which are connected to the impact that female entrepreneurship has on the empowerment of women, in order to dive deeper into the findings. It allowed the researchers to explore the ramifications of the findings in more detail. The study's conclusions indicate that female entrepreneurship significantly influences women's empowerment, impacting how quickly development advances. Additionally, the advancement of development is impacted by this empowerment of women. The research undertaken for the study revealed that the perceived value of understanding women's rights and women's empowerment is a complicated issue that makes it challenging to gauge the effect on women's empowerment. By examining the study's research findings, this was learned. However, the numbers also showed that women who managed their enterprises had more access to resources, real estate, and other assets than women who did not. In contrast to women who did not own their enterprises, this was the situation. Additionally, research has revealed that business-successful women have a significant role in the critical decisions that affect their families". Additionally, compared to non-businesswomen, businesswomen have a piece of higher knowledge and awareness about managing natural disasters and climate change. This is because businesswomen prioritize these issues more often.

#### Practical Implications

This study examined "the subject from four distinct angles and was founded on a robust theoretical foundation. The results of this study were in line with those of previous studies, and by identifying the part that female entrepreneurship plays in women's empowerment, they also made new and essential additions to the theory. The statement "female entrepreneurship plays a role in the empowerment of women" was used to achieve this. The first hypothesis states that other socioeconomic factors, such as social taboos, religious

restrictions, and societal superstition, can be added to the socioeconomic features of this study, namely the more diversified occupations of women. This is feasible because, according to the second hypothesis, this study's socioeconomic components are more intricate than earlier research. It is due to the first hypothesis' contention that women are more likely to be affected by the socioeconomic aspects of this study. This particular analysis used the environmental factor to specify the company's susceptibility and risk due to recurring natural disasters and climatic changes. The investigation's findings support all four theoretically supported hypotheses in the section. Additionally, bringing up the idea of successful female company owners in the discussion about women's empowerment added fresh ideas to the theory”.

#### Limitations

To verify the accuracy and validity of the study's results, the report's author went through several phases of analysis. Having stated that, I am aware of the fact that there are certain restrictions on our research. Given the vast range of cultural and familial superstitions held by the respondents, it is challenging to quantify the effect female entrepreneurship has on women's empowerment. The research also examined “the results of the information on women's businesses from a small sample of respondents in the Chittagong municipal zone. The data comes from a small sample size; the respondents were housewives. As a result, it will not be possible to generalize any of the study's possible results. An empirical study on this topic with bigger sample size and participants from a variety of jobs who are not housewives might offer more accurate and sincere results and possibly have a more overt effect on the researchers”.

#### Future Research Directions

The liberation of women via “the practice of women's entrepreneurship is a novel phenomenon within the context of the development process that offers vast opportunities for further investigation. Significant research opportunities are

how these opportunities present themselves. To be more precise, future studies should address the issue of whether or not women's emancipation through the support of female entrepreneurs has significantly influenced the development of a country. One of the questions that need a response is this one. It has been proposed that a study be carried out in the Northwestern region of Bangladesh to develop the future research area. This part of the country is located in a region where the household women's income significantly influences the socio-economic growth of the area”.

### C. CONCLUSION

All non-business women have lower indicators of controlling over resources, “65% of women in businesses have higher/more substantial indications. Businesswomen are seen to have more indicators of control over resources than non-businesswomen. “90% of homemakers who participate in social activities are followed by 60% of women in the enterprise who have higher/more vital indicators of engagement in social activities, such as child immunization, dowry, early marriage, and women's health. According to the findings, businesswomen have more influence to engage in various social activities than non-businesswomen”. Empowering women without economic emancipation is not feasible given the socioeconomic situation in Bangladesh. The economic independence of Bangladeshi women entrepreneurs is having a significant impact and will ultimately help Bangladesh achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Women's remarkable awakening and empowerment had a big part in our nation's present advancement in economic, social, and political indices. However, the numerous obstacles that lie ahead cannot be avoided; therefore, there is no room for complacency. To improve our legal disparities and attitudes toward women, the nation has to make more progress.

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