

WOMEN'S ROLE AND STATUS IN BANGLADESH AGRICULTURE

A SURVEY REPORT

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CHAPTER I

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE

1.1 Introduction

The structure of labour force is a complex one. According to the estimation of the LFS (Labour Force Statistics) of 1995-96, total labour force was accounted for 56.0 million of which 34.7 male and 21.3 female. The dis-aggregated figure shows that only 10.2 million constitute the urban labour force among them 7.4 million are male and 2.8 are female labour force. As against this rural labour force is accounted for 45.8 million with 27.3 million male and 18.5 female. (Source, B. S. S, chapter Labour and Manpower. tab 3.03).

But these figures does not reveal the whole truth. The whole structure of labour force system is complex and the statistical accounts comprise only visible labour. Here visible labour means only the paid labour. But there is a large number of invisible labours who have been making indirect contribution to the national economy. These numbers are not accounted for, and contributions are not recognized only because they are unpaid. Labours of both sexes belong to this category but rural females labours constitute the lions share.

Besides, in the rural areas, the women form about half of the rural population are particularly disadvantaged. They have been contributing significantly through their agricultural and household works. However, their efforts do not get reflected in the official statistics. Not only that, the women have to work under harsh condition defying social, religious barriers and discriminations.

Poverty, illness and negligence are their common allies. The rural women have in particular, been continued to be downtrodden, oppressed and worst sufferers both at home and outside in the society. So far much have been talked about gender equality. But gender equality is yet a far cry.

The causes of these injustice, discrimination and all type of human deprivation have to be seen as very fundamental and deeply rooted in our socio-economic structure of the country. No development programmes of the past as well as present governments have taken these fundamental issues into serious consideration. During the last three decades of independence a moderate change has been made in the areas of females education, employment and health service. But these success appeared to be very insignificant in mitigation of the suffering of the female work force. Nonetheless, experience shows that women's participation in income generating activities are among the means through which their sufferings can be mitigated and rights and prerogatives can be enhanced. For this reasons more and more females have joined the income generating activities, defying socio-cultural barriers particularly in agriculture sector, as the options to other areas are limited. So, as more and more women will join the income generating effort, more will be their economic gain, more strengthen will be their position in the society, more will be their contribution to the national economy.

1.2 Relevance of the present study

The participation of women in agriculture is not new. In many parts of Bangladesh, agriculture is the chief occupation of women. Many ethnic groups, for example Santal, Chakma, Garo have been for centuries working as agricultural labour force. The same is also true for many female members of Muslim and Hindus communities. Until very recently, the female labour force was mostly confined to agriculture. Only during eighties, the country's female labours have emerged as the largest industrial labour force in the garments sector. But still, 88% of the female labour force work in agriculture. In the household, women provide 80% of the food, whereas the male men make only 20%. In spite of their intensive contribution women are disfavoured from all sides-law, religion, tradition and society.

In the agriculture sector, the female workers get on an average about 40% less wage in spite of performing the same duty or providing the same amount of their counter part. The situation deteriorated in the recent years with increase of female labour force in the rural areas.

The economic hardship forces the female labours to go out in search of jobs. Many are involved in such physical works like earth digging, brick-carrying which are harmful for their health. But poverty and the lack of alternative jobs forced them to do these jobs.

Many research works have been carried-out on women empowerment. But in the rural Bangladesh, the work done by the female labours has never been properly assessed before. So it is of crucial need to study into the matter and identify the major factors which the female labours are to encounter in the process of their work. Viewing this, the study organized by ADAB is timely and appropriate to bring it to the concerned authority for proper action.

1.3. Objective of the study

The main objective of the study was to assess the role of women in agriculture. Besides, it concentrated on identifying the women's extent of participation in the crop as well as non-crop activities in the field as well as in the household levels. While doing this, the study has also estimated the ownership structure on assets and their position in the decision making process.

In addition, it also aimed at identifying and assessing the type of problems the women are facing in the working place as well as at home. The study has also focused on the assessment of women's participation in socio-cultural activities and the level of awareness.

Lastly, on the basis of our field level data and information, some relevant suggestions for mitigating the sufferings and enhancing empowerment of women are put forward.

CHAPTER II

METHODOLOGY AND IMPLEMENTATION

2.1. Data collection

In order to specify the scope and coverage of the study, it is important to follow an appropriate method of data collection which could give a precise idea about the type and sources of data material. Given the diversity and significance of the problem the study has been conducted in three phases.

- I. The first phase concentrated on identifying the location. Besides, the structure of labour force and share of female labour force, existing rules and regulations, trend of participation of female work force have been analysed. In this phase the data and information have been collected from published and unpublished journals, documents, books, seminar reports and news papers.
- II. The second phase was devoted to the field level data collection to inquire into the role of women in agriculture, the extent of participation, the problems they are facing in the process of work, their level of awareness, about discrimination and deprivation, and so on. The questionnaire for data collection have been developed in accordance with the objectives set-up in the proposal.
- III. Phase three was placed to analyse the data collected in the field and prepared for writing draft report.

2.2. Sampling Frame

In spite of the fact that the Bangladesh is almost a monolinguistical, agrarian and poverty-stricken country, problems related to the agricultural female work force are not absolutely the same throughout the country. Due to the variations in geographic, ethnic, tradition and economic conditions, the extent of women involvement varies among regions and areas which also reflected in the gender relations. Given these facts, we have developed a scientifically and complete sampling frame dividing the country into six agro-ecological zones with a view to gauge the extent of women's role and related problems.

The selection of samples has been made on the basis of geographical location, land type, and social condition. The primary data collection was done covering the above mentioned six locations taking each district an agro-ecological zone except zone 1 which comprise Dinajpur and part of Rangpur, and zone 2 which includes Rajshahi and part of Rangpur. The District of Khulna and Kushtia fall to the zone 4. The others are zone 3 Mymensing, zone 5 Sylhet and 6 covers Chittagong. The size of sample has been restricted to 70 in each zone which made the total sample size 420 (70X6).

2.3. Variables

Data and information were obtained on the following group of variables:

- Patterns of ownership/assets owned.
- Occupational status.
- Demographic status.
- Income and expenditure.
- Time spend in the field.
- Time spend in household agriculture.
- Problems faced in the way to work place and in the work place.
- Actors create barriers or discourage the women to work.
- Wage discrimination.
- Women's access to decision making.
- Situation in case of females illness.
- Insecurity variables.
- Awareness about women's rights prerogatives.
- Awareness about discrimination.
- Access to credit and utilization.
- Socio-cultural and community variables.

2.4. Implementation plan

The study was conducted by ADAB with the cooperation of HDRC (Human Development Research Centre) with Dr. Shafique uz Zaman as chief consultant. The field work was undertaken with 8 teams of 8 NGOs comprising 3 persons in each team. Later, the number was reduced to 21 for various reasons. Each of the team members had working experience in various in their respective areas. So the members were well aware of the problems in their locality. The team members have gone through a two-days intensive training programmes which was conducted by chief consultant and ADAB Coordinator. During these two days, the team members were acquainted with questionnaires through statistical informations, devices, role-modeling. Since the proposed study was made to assess the role and status of female labours, the team included fifty percent female members in the study. This was done consciously to get specific information regarding women's health and violation or other type of human abuse.

In order to ensure the accuracy of the data, cross checking mechanism has been applied. Besides, occational visits were made by the chef consultant along with ADAB Coordinator associated with the project.

The duration of the field work was fixed for fifteen days starting from 20th August 2001 and accordingly the submission of the first draft report was aimed by 31st September 2001. But due to political turmoil and natural calamity many field staff have failed to complete the task timely. The complete samples of data collection have reached to HDRC office in 10th November 2001. However, soon the staff members the HDRC and the chief consultant serially structured the interview schedules quickly, according to the zone, one for each category of respondents.

The SPSS statistical package was used to enter, edit, and analyze data. Although the month of November was a busy month for the staffs of HDRC, the researcher, computer programmer spent extra time for this work and complete the first draft report.

CHAPTER III

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

3.1 Introduction

In order to study the status of women in agriculture, a detailed description of the characteristics of asset structure is needed to assess the economic conditions of the respondents. As have been hinted earlier though Bangladesh is often considered to be a homogeneous country in many respects, the people of different regions have varying life style and asset structure depending upon their social formation and facilities available.

This chapter focuses on families as well asset structure, education, gender based occupational structure which influence the women's role.

Our study shows that mean age of the respondents was 35.8 with family size averaging 5.3 persons out of which 3.3 are aged (adult) and 2.1 persons are children.

Among this family members, the mean of male members engaged in agriculture are 1.5 while the figure for the female members was to 1.4. The highest number of female members involved in agriculture was 2.1 in Mymensing (zone 3), and the lowest in Dinajpur - Rangpur (zone 1).

Table 1: Background Characteristics of Respondent.

Characteristic	Agro-Ecological Zone						ALL
	Zone-1	Zone-2	Zone-3	Zone-4	Zone-5	Zone-6	
Average household size	4.8	5.3	4.7	4.8	6.6	5.9	5.3
of which							
-Male	2.4	2.6	2.7	2.5	3.2	2.9	2.7
-Female	2.3	2.6	2.1	2.3	3.3	3.2	2.6
-Adult	2.6	3.0	2.9	3.2	4.3	3.7	3.3
-Child	2.1	2.2	1.8	1.7	2.5	2.2	2.1
Age of respondent (in years)	31.5	36.6	38.6	35.5	34.5	39.4	35.8
Average highest class passed	2.9	3.4	2.0	2.8	2.7	1.5	2.5
Average number involved in agricultural activities:							
-Male	1.1	2.1	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.5
-Female	1.0	1.6	2.2	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.4
N	80	40	80	80	80	60	420

It is worth mentioning that the level of education among female members in the rural areas are low, and three-fourths of all female above 7 years are illiterate. Even today, customs, tradition, religion (by misinterpreting) and superstition still stand on the way of education for the female members. This has been reinforced by the economic hardship. Truly speaking, illiteracy is one of the barriers of women empowerment. Table 1 shows, among the respondents, only 2.5 are literate (class five passed) which shows a very close correlation between poverty and illiteracy.

3.2 Land ownership

Bangladesh is still an agricultural country and in the rural Bangladesh land is still the determining factor of the position and prestige of individuals in the society, The pressure of population increased the scarcity of land which led to the fragmentation of land. As the fragmentation of land continued unabated more and more people have been becoming landless.

Although the rural agriculture has undergone some changes over the last two decades, the absence of alternative source of income and employment, the land become an invaluable asset than any time in the past. However, our study shows that this invaluable assets mostly belonged to the male member and the females owned little or no land.

Table 2: Ownership and Lease (in/out) of land.

Land types	Agro-Ecological Zone						ALL
	Zone-1	Zone-2	Zone-3	Zone-4	Zone-5	Zone-6	
Average amount of family land (in decimal)	64.3	329.0	65.4	144.1	153.0	202.0	141.5
Average amount of land owned by the respondent (female) (in decimal)	4.2	9.6	9.9	26.8	7.6	9.0	11.5
Average homesteaded size (in decimal)	7.8	22.3	11.0	21.1	25.6	17.3	17.1
Average agricultural land (in decimal)	42.0	82.7	48.1	102.8	62.2	75.9	67.3
Average amount of abandoned land (in decimal)	1.8	0.9	2.9	2.9	11.2	28.0	7.7
Average amount of leased-in land (in decimal)	20.5	27.5	16.2	51.0	15.4	29.4	26.5
Average amount of leased-out land (in decimal)	0.0	24.4	1.2	2.6	7.3	3.9	5.0
Average amount of mortgage land (in decimal)	6.1	9.5	10.9	9.6	6.4	7.9	8.3
N	80	40	80	80	80	60	420

Table 2 shows that average familial land ownership is 141.5 decimals, but the figure goes down to 11.5 decimal (or only 7.5%) for the respondent (female member) which shows that only a very marginal amount of land resources are owned by the women.

The disaggregated figure depicts, that of the average 141.5 decimal, 67.3 decimals are cultivated, 26.5 decimals are undertaken as share croppers, 17.1 decimals are homestead, and the remaining lands are fallow, mortgaged land and given to the share croppers. The highest amount of land ownership was found in zone 3 which is 202.0 in Chittagong areas and lowest in Rahshahi - Rangpur, zone 2. However, this does show a positive correlation of the respondent and land ownership. The figure shows that the mean familial land ownership for zone 4 amounts to 144.1 decimal which is far below than zone two and zone 6, but the female members of zone 4 i.e. Kushtia - Khulna ranks first and zone 1 or Dinajpur and Rangpur has the lowest in terms of land ownership.

3.3 Household Asset

The aforesaid land ownership showed that most of the family belong to the marginal farmers and are poor. This has also been reflected in other household assets. The findings depicted in the table 3 show that on average each family own 1.0 Darbar house, 0.6 (less than one) mud house, 0.8 tin house, 0.1 semi-pucca house and none own building. Among other resources, 3.1 have gardens. Each of the family own on an average 11.1 poultry birds, 3.2 cattle, 0.2 ponds and 8.3 trees.

Table 3: Average number of assets (other than land).

Asset by type	Agro-Ecological Zone						ALL
	Zone-1	Zone-2	Zone-3	Zone-4	Zone-5	Zone-6	
Darbar House	2.2	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.9	1.0
Mud house	0.7	0.4	0.0	1.8	0.5	0.2	0.6
Tin house	0.9	2.1	1.2	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.8
Semi-pacca	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1
Pacca	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Garden	0.1	17.7	0.6	0.3	1.7	6.6	3.1
Pond	0.1	1.5	0.3	1.0	0.6	0.7	0.6
Domestic anim	2.9	3.5	2.4	3.4	4.0	3.1	3.2
Poultry	8.5	7.5	9.2	13.3	16.5	14.3	11.8
Trees	5.9	11.4	5.2	7.7	6.3	16.7	8.3
Others	0.3	1.0	1.1	0.7	1.0	2.0	1.0
N	80	40	80	80	80	60	420

3.4 Household income and expenditure

The table 4 and 5 highlight the average income and expenditure of the households of the respondent giving surplus income over expenditure per year. The zone Rajshahi - Rangpur shows the highest score averaging 67,186.2 Tk. per year while the lowest came in zone 4 or Kushtia - Khulna. The findings points out - that in all the zones the maximum income was earned from agriculture, the second highest came from others or miscellaneous, and the third highest income has been obtained from day labours.

But this income structure varies from zone to zone. For example, zone 2 obtained the third highest income from domestic animals and fourth highest from service while zone 3 gets the second highest from day labours which shows an increasing number of female labours or Mymensing are engaged in income generation job.

Table 4: Average household income by sources.

Source of income	Agro-Ecological Zone						ALL
	Zone-1	Zone-2	Zone-3	Zone-4	Zone-5	Zone-6	
Land	12564.2	22149.1	12378.3	10493.9	14990.7	11075.2	13296.8
Pond	1060.0	4626.3	2763.0	3920.0	4077.5	975.0	2831.4
Service	90.0	8924.0	3957.3	750.0	4907.0	1798.2	2955.2
House rent	0.0	60.0	270.0	0.0	90.0	0.0	74.3
Selling assets	362.5	95.0	143.8	862.5	737.5	800.0	524.5

Source of income	Agro-Ecological Zone						ALL
	Zone-1	Zone-2	Zone-3	Zone-4	Zone-5	Zone-6	
Gardening	1291.2	4450.5	956.3	893.8	2815.3	5357.2	2323.7
Domestic animals	1453.2	10776.8	2315.9	4235.6	2728.2	5854.7	3907.1
Day laborer	2869.6	5609.1	7892.0	7429.8	6431.5	4473.4	5863.3
Fish catching	388.8	317.0	334.0	1049.8	3827.5	2133.3	1401.6
Earn wood from forest	15.0	1460.0	0.0	235.0	0.0	690.0	285.2
Honey collection	0.0	0.0	0.0	37.5	0.0	20.0	10.0
Snail/oyster collection	278.8	0.0	0.0	332.5	0.0	0.0	116.4
Others	14230.9	8718.6	1915.1	1500.6	8012.5	1951.4	5996.6
Total	34604.1	67186.2	32925.7	31741.0	48617.7	35128.3	39586.2
N	80	40	80	80	80	60	420

Table 5: Annual average household expenditure by items.

Areas of expenditure	Agro-Ecological Zone						ALL
	Zone-1	Zone-2	Zone-3	Zone-4	Zone-5	Zone-6	
Agro-production	4202.7	8844.9	2816.4	2139.0	1145.0	2851.0	3212.2
Fish production	782.8	1573.3	756.2	1222.6	1218.8	73.5	918.5
Livestock and Poultry production	1567.5	4423.1	1763.5	5643.6	2973.5	4023.3	3271.8
Household recurrent expenditure	19429.4	15369.8	11452.8	11027.0	26788.5	19473.3	17331.0
Child education expenditure	2584.4	3522.8	2109.7	1587.8	5029.6	2376.3	2829.5
Others	5135.5	10092.5	2107.0	3429.8	3737.0	3021.2	4137.4
Total	33702.2	43826.2	21005.5	25049.7	40892.3	31818.7	31700.4
N	80	40	80	80	80	60	420

The pattern of expenditure shows that the highest allocation of income spend on households recurrent costs accounting to more than half of the total and which is applicable to all the zones, and the second highest goes to the miscellaneous expenditure. The third largest share comes to the crop cultivation. However, the zone 5 or Sylhet spent the second highest amount for children's education and the zone 4 or Kushtia - Khulna spends the lowest amount for education (table 5). The region of Rajshahi - Rangpur provides the 2nd highest allocation for rearing livestock and poultry and the lowest allocation comes to zone 1 for the same.

After comparing the balance of income and expenditure we found that mean savings amounted to Tk. 5233. The highest savings was shown by zone 2, and the lowest average comes to the share of zone 6, which indicates that the region of Rajshahi - Rangpur zone enjoy the lowest savings (table 6).

Table 6: Average annual savings of households.

Savings	Agro-Ecological Zone						ALL
	Zone-1	Zone-2	Zone-3	Zone-4	Zone-5	Zone-6	
Average annual savings (in Tk)	3922.0	22166.9	2260.6	5451.3	4439.2	424.5	5233.3
N	80	40	80	80	80	60	420

CHAPTER IV

THE EXTENT OF INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE WORK

4.1 Introduction

The main problem which shackles the people of rural Bangladesh is poverty. The extent of poverty has been manifested in mass unemployment, landlessness, illiteracy, children's mortality, malnutrition, famine, and many other human deprivation. But rural women are the worst victim in such situation. Chronic poverty in the rural areas creates mistrust, frustration and a family quarrel. As a result of this, physical and mental torture on women and incidence of divorce of the later are common.

So the poverty, injustice break-up of family ties are among the reasons that compelled many female members to look for another source of existence. But it is not only the poverty that force the female to work. The expansion of infrastructure of both physical and social, education, access to credit facilities and the ambition of a better life have also influenced the female to join the income generating work. The women have come to the realization that they could have a sigh of relief from poverty and at the same time by empowering themselves dream of a better life.

4.2 Average time spent in crop-cultivation

Women after joining agricultural work have taken a double burden, which includes earning money by working in the field and at home, and maintaining household works. The accomplishment of both of these work needs huge time leaving for them no leisure or recreation. Our findings show that on average, women (of all zones) spend about 1703.6 hours per year for crop agriculture in the field (table 7), 1064.4 hours for homestead crop cultivation (table 8), 1855.3 hours for livestock production (table 9), 1418.0 hours for poultry (table 10), 404.8 for pisciculture (table 11) and 7.4 hours for fisheries (table11A). In other words, the women spend annually 6451.2 hours in non-household works. If we include the household works including cooking, taking care of children, then the female members in the rural areas have hardly any time other than sleeping at night.

Table 7: Annual average time spend by the respondent for crop agriculture (in hours).

Activities	Agro-Ecological Zone						ALL
	Zone-1	Zone-2	Zone-3	Zone-4	Zone-5	Zone-6	
Land preparation	54.2	139.5	39.2	153.9	277.1	228.2	145.8
Fertilizer use	17.0	69.6	5.4	32.3	98.7	22.4	39.1
Bio-fertilizer use	153.8	179.2	2.1	244.0	205.0	13.4	134.2
Seed purchase	0.0	13.4	3.5	30.8	112.0	3.9	29.9
Seed cleanliness	46.5	18.1	3.1	265.0	77.0	11.4	77.9
Seed dry	38.4	47.0	8.0	397.7	214.8	21.0	133.0

Activities	Agro-Ecological Zone						ALL
	Zone-1	Zone-2	Zone-3	Zone-4	Zone-5	Zone-6	
Seeds making	44.5	23.7	6.4	129.0	98.3	70.5	65.3
Land preparation for seed	27.2	115.7	4.1	73.6	155.1	36.7	65.8
Weeding	277.0	160.7	13.1	41.0	78.0	111.9	109.2
Irrigation	2.7	37.3	18.2	33.8	135.4	41.1	45.6
Pesticide use	46.8	29.2	18.9	181.7	48.0	17.4	61.5
Crop cutting	197.5	191.1	7.9	47.7	196.6	113.9	120.1
Crop threshing	103.2	89.4	41.1	298.9	179.0	148.8	148.3
Crop Drying	105.7	78.9	34.9	742.9	233.8	104.8	235.3
Seed husking with wood made pedal	4.5	16.9	40.8	2.0	44.0	40.2	24.7
Seed production of seeds	0.5	3.0	2.5	48.4	78.8	20.2	28.0
Reservation of seeds	28.3	9.2	4.9	198.5	79.9	11.4	61.9
Selling seeds	0.5	7.6	1.1	116.0	77.3	9.3	39.2
Production Plantation	31.8	6.4	3.0	46.8	103.2	28.1	39.8
Lift-up of plantation	161.9	23.8	4.9	5.4	101.6	72.0	64.7
Purchase of fertilizer	8.1	3.8	1.5	9.3	55.7	11.9	16.3
Shallow pump/paddle pump	1.6	49.8	0.1	53.3	3.0	16.4	18.1
Total time	1352.4	1313.2	264.7	3151.8	2652.3	1154.6	1703.6
N	80	40	80	80	80	60	420

The distribution of time shows that in the field level crop agriculture, the female labours spend maximum time in crop drying and crop crushing which indicates intensive involvement of women in the post harvesting period. In the pre-cultivation period, women spend annually 134.2 hours in the production of organic fertilizer ranking third in the distribution of time. In the household crop cultivation, the female member invested their maximum time in vegetable collection and cleaning. The livestock and poultry production marks a wide variation in the distribution of times among the study zone. For example, the zone 4 ranks highest in the distribution of times for the livestock followed the zone one. In the poultry sector, zone 4 or Kushtia and Khulna invests highest time followed by zone 6 Chittagong. The highest score was found in zone 5 (table 11). In case of fisheries, zone 4 makes the highest score, (table 11A). This indicates an intensive involvement of the female labors of zone 4 and 5 in both crop and non-crop production.

Table 8: Annual average time spend by the respondent in homestead cultivation activities (in hour).

Activities	Agro-Ecological Zone						ALL
	Zone-1	Zone-2	Zone-3	Zone-4	Zone-5	Zone-6	
Land preparation	38.5	76.4	10.7	227.5	121.7	36.5	88.4
Vegetable plant cultivation	38.9	17.2	4.1	304.4	126.8	25.9	95.7
Fruit tree, wood/nursery	19.1	115.3	4.4	162.8	24.0	112.8	67.1
Nursery for wood	3.7	53.1	0.2	20.9	3.8	0.4	10.5
Seed sow	45.0	14.2	3.5	127.3	124.6	26.6	62.4
Pant sapling	61.9	52.6	6.4	249.2	149.9	39.0	99.6
Fertilizer use	42.9	47.4	2.7	103.2	76.8	36.4	52.7
Seed production	8.8	7.6	5.3	32.1	137.5	10.5	37.2
Seed reservation	19.9	7.5	6.3	20.3	100.1	10.0	30.1
Plant sale	1.0	4.6	2.3	4.3	90.1	6.8	20.0
Vegetable sale	14.2	11.8	6.3	235.8	175.0	83.5	95.2
Fruit/wood sale	0.8	6.3	0.8	0.5	3.0	20.7	4.5

Activities	Agro-Ecological Zone						ALL
	Zone-1	Zone-2	Zone-3	Zone-4	Zone-5	Zone-6	
Fence building	6.0	52.1	3.8	155.3	111.5	6.8	58.6
Vegetable collection	122.0	124.6	10.6	165.0	188.4	66.6	113.9
Vegetable sorting	73.8	86.2	2.8	130.8	131.1	42.6	78.8
Vegetable cleaning	66.0	64.0	6.3	307.1	176.4	37.1	117.3
Vegetable reservations	19.3	18.0	0.9	45.8	94.9	35.9	37.5
Total	581.6	758.8	77.3	2292.1	1835.4	598.0	1069.4
N	80	40	80	80	80	60	420

Table 9: Annual average time spend for livestock production (in hour).

Activities	Agro-Ecological Zone						ALL
	Zone-1	Zone-2	Zone-3	Zone-4	Zone-5	Zone-6	
Food preparation	335.1	147.1	108.1	362.3	187.2	300.0	245.9
Food collection	310.6	309.8	105.5	228.8	233.7	727.8	300.8
Feeding	296.2	149.7	45.4	301.4	256.4	258.7	222.5
Food reservation	102.7	19.9	14.5	138.4	113.1	117.7	88.9
Cleanliness of cattle house	300.1	149.5	156.6	271.0	245.6	270.5	238.3
Cow-dung collection	355.9	157.2	67.5	193.9	233.5	123.7	194.7
Ranching	376.4	304.6	24.7	454.8	111.0	346.2	262.6
Milk collection	37.0	67.1	30.2	196.6	130.2	41.7	87.4
Milk sale	31.9	27.6	7.3	243.9	138.5	22.3	86.1
Milk processing	0.0	30.0	2.2	4.6	0.0	4.0	4.7
Treatment of animal	24.8	12.6	3.9	72.0	77.2	3.8	35.6
Kids Rearing	45.8	125.7	23.4	215.3	58.4	73.1	87.7
Total	2216.5	1500.7	589.2	2683.0	1784.6	2289.2	1855.3
N	80	40	80	80	80	60	420

Table 10: Average annual time spend in poultry farm (in hour).

Activities	Agro-Ecological Zone						ALL
	Zone-1	Zone-2	Zone-3	Zone-4	Zone-5	Zone-6	
Building of Chicken-duck house	12.9	10.2	4.4	69.5	86.6	17.1	36.4
Cleaning of houses	286.9	36.0	32.9	156.1	267.0	75.9	155.8
Food preparation	407.7	58.4	23.3	180.1	204.0	340.7	209.5
Food collection	157.1	59.3	28.0	105.9	128.5	257.3	122.3
Feeding	383.3	81.9	31.4	81.1	241.8	420.1	208.3
Treatment given	48.4	9.7	8.9	149.8	216.0	113.5	97.7
Disease preventing	13.4	10.6	3.2	37.9	16.7	12.2	16.3
Egg collection and reservation	118.9	44.2	11.7	63.0	151.7	49.0	77.0
Egg sale	85.6	10.2	6.2	79.5	138.3	22.3	63.1
Broilering	23.8	13.8	5.5	686.3	242.0	297.1	226.1
Chicken rearing	119.8	111.6	27.8	654.9	74.7	194.5	205.5
Total	1657.6	445.8	183.1	2264.0	1767.2	1799.5	1418.0
N	80	40	80	80	80	60	420

Table 11: Annual average time spend in Pisciculture.

Activities	Agro-Ecological Zone						ALL
	Zone-1	Zone-2	Zone-3	Zone-4	Zone-5	Zone-6	
Production of fry (Reno)	0.0	0.0	0.2	41.8	51.0	0.3	17.8
Collection of fry (Reno)	0.0	1.4	2.0	35.8	113.4	2.5	29.3
Preparation of pond	0.4	4.8	1.8	84.0	137.0	1.5	43.2
Fry scattering over the pond	0.2	1.8	2.0	25.1	82.0	5.5	21.8
Preparation of food	6.8	17.6	2.9	124.9	73.6	54.8	49.2
Collection of food	6.8	17.5	1.0	123.9	120.5	49.7	56.8
Fed the food	9.0	19.4	6.1	125.6	104.5	8.5	49.8
Management of fish	3.8	1.5	1.7	125.4	93.3	1.7	43.1
Catching fish	0.2	4.5	3.1	10.7	203.2	1.1	41.9
Fish selling	0.0	1.2	0.5	2.7	181.5	0.8	35.4
Manage treatment for fish	0.2	1.6	0.2	1.2	84.2	1.1	16.6
Total time (Pisciculture)	27.5	71.3	21.4	700.9	1244.1	127.4	404.8
N	80	40	80	80	80	60	420

Table 11A: Annual average time (in hour) spend in Fisheries.

Activities	Agro-Ecological Zone						ALL
	Zone-1	Zone-2	Zone-3	Zone-4	Zone-5	Zone-6	
Production of fry	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Renu collection	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Repairing of water bodies	0.7	0.2	0.2	17.0	0.0	0.0	3.4
Fry scattering into the pond	0.0	0.1	0.1	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.5
Food making	0.2	1.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Food collection	0.0	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Feding the food	0.2	1.3	0.6	13.6	0.0	0.0	2.9
Management of fish	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Fish catching	0.7	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Fish selling	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Manage treatment of fish	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total time (in haterachy)	2.6	4.6	1.3	32.8	0.0	0.0	7.4
N	80	40	80	80	80	60	420

CHAPTER V

DISTANCE BETWEEN HOME AND WORKING PLACE AND TRANSPORT

In the rural areas, despite expansion of physical infrastructure, distance between the home and place of work is an important factor for the women. In many cases, the female labours have to work in the evening and at night. Particularly, during the harvesting time, the female labours work day and night. In such cases, the question of security is an important factor.

Our study shows that, 78% of our respondent's work place are located within less than one Km. (table 12) and 73% of them go on foot, 14% reported that their work places are between 1 and 2 km, and 4.3% between 2 and 3 km, while 1.2% and 1.9% of the respondent reported to travel between 3 and 4 and above km. Those who have to take any help of transportation, 3.3% of them travel richshaw, 13.3% by bus, 6.7 tempo, 8.9% either by bicycle or van (table 14).

Table 12: Mean distance between home and place of work, percentage distribution of respondents who work

Distansce	Agro-Ecological Zone						ALL
	Zone-1	Zone-2	Zone-3	Zone-4	Zone-5	Zone-6	
<=1 Km	72.5	62.5	87.5	83.8	76.3	81.7	78.6
1-2 Km	18.8	25.0	7.5	8.8	13.8	16.7	14.0
2-3 Km	7.5	10.0	1.3	3.8	3.8	1.7	4.3
3-4 Km	1.3	-	1.3	2.5	1.3	-	1.2
4+ Km	-	2.5	2.5	1.3	5.0	-	1.9
Mean	1.2	1.0	1.3	1.5	1.0	0.7	1.1
N	80	40	80	80	80	60	420

It is quite understandable that those who have workplace near their houses, and can go on foot, enjoys some advantages by saving money and time. Furthermore, due to nearness of their houses, they can also come and look often their children and in many other cases of emergency. If we look at the percentage distribution by zone, we see that all of the reported 22% have their working place within less than one km and go on foot, while on the other hand, 52.6% of the reported respondents in zone 5 or Khulna and Satkhira travel by bus and 26.3% by tempo showing almost an opposite picture of that of zone 1 or 2. This deviation indicate pattern or occupation in which the female of zone 5 have an intensive involvement in non-crop occupation. Nearly half of the respondent out of 296 (45.3, table 13) reported difficulties in setting job.

Table 13: Percentage reported difficulties in getting job/ employment.

	Agro-Ecological Zone						ALL
	Zone-1	Zone-2	Zone-3	Zone-4	Zone-5	Zone-6	
% reported difficulties	83.6	36.4	10.3	43.3	25.0	81.1	45.3
N	61	22	68	60	48	37	296

Table 14: Percentage of respondents (who travels >1 Km to the workplace) by means of transport usually avail.

Mode of transport	Agro-Ecological Zone						ALL
	Zone-1	Zone-2	Zone-3	Zone-4	Zone-5	Zone-6	
On foot	100.0	86.7	100.0	53.8	15.8	100.0	73.3
Rickshaw	-	-	30.0	-	-	-	3.3
Bus	-	-	-	15.4	52.6	-	13.3
Tempo	-	-	10.0	-	26.3	-	6.7
Bicycle/Van	-	13.3	-	38.5	5.3	-	8.9
N	22	15	10	13	19	11	90

Table 15: Annual Average earning from household work.

Earning	Agro-Ecological Zone						ALL
	Zone-1	Zone-2	Zone-3	Zone-4	Zone-5	Zone-6	
Annual Average hh earning (in Tk.)-All cases	1499.3	10920.0	4515.5	2233.8	8819.4	7061.7	5299.8
N	80	40	80	80	80	60	420
Annual Average hh earning (in Tk.)-reported cases	3634.64	19854.45	8400.93	9927.78	11566.43	7846.30	9636.07
N	33	22	43	18	61	54	231

CHAPTER VI

SECURITY/INSECURITY RELATED TO WORK

One of the most crucial issues of the female labours in the rural areas is the security. The deterioration of the law and order situation in the rural areas causes more sufferings than that of their counter part male members. Besides, discrimination in the wage distribution, physical and mental torture, threatening on the way by the miscreants and street dwellers, or by the bus passengers sitting nearby, are pronounced. And in most cases, they raise no resistance and seek no help from anybody else.

But the type and extent of insecurity feelings varies from occupation to occupation and area to area. Among the respondents, who travels more than one kilometer, 86% reported to have security on the way to the work place, 7 persons reported eve-teasing (table 16). But in the working places out of 271 respondents 46% said that they have security while 53.1% said to have insecurity. 255 persons out of 420 or 39.3% reported that they get less wage, than that of male member; 7.6% informed about physical tortures; 29.5% said about excessive labour; 18.1% reported that they work under adverse weather condition i.e. under cold or hot atmosphere. Among 420 respondents 3.8% said that they get no sympathy from employers during illness, and lastly 3.1% informed that they are bound to work even in case of illness (Table 16).

Table 16: Work/ Employment related security/insecurity.

Characteristics /discriminations	Agro-Ecological Zone						ALL
	Zone-1	Zone-2	Zone-3	Zone-4	Zone-5	Zone-6	
% reported insecurity on the way to workplace	83.6	95.2	92.1	96.3	73.3	80.5	86.8
N	67	21	76	54	45	41	304
% reported eve-teasing	-	-	50.0	-	33.3	100.0	42.9
N	-	-	2	1	3	1	7
% reported insecurities in the workplace	57.8	81.0	33.8	62.8	43.6	17.9	46.9
N	64	21	65	43	39	39	271
Types of insecurities:							
Low wages	73.8	45.0	37.5	11.3	25.0	48.3	39.3
Physical abuse	8.8		20.0	1.3	8.8	1.7	7.6
Over work	41.3	32.5	42.5	8.8	18.8	36.7	29.5
Bad or unhealthy work environment	57.5	17.5	15.0	8.8	3.8	1.7	18.1
No sympathy from the owner if sick	-	-	20.0	-	-	-	3.8
Bound to work if comes illness too	-	5.0	5.0	2.5	6.3	-	3.1
Total	80	40	80	80	80	60	420

While asking about their problem in case of inability to work--- 87% out of 270 respondents averaging all zones reported that due to economic hardship, 11.9% torture by the husband,. 46.3% psychosocial reasons they were forced to work (table 17).

Despite some variation's of the reasons which forced the female to go to work with illness, economic factor is most important for all the study zones.

Table 17: Percentage distribution of respondent by their report about type of problem faced in case of inability to work due to sickness/ physical illness.

Problem by type	Agro-Ecological Zone						ALL
	Zone-1	Zone-2	Zone-3	Zone-4	Zone-5	Zone-6	
Economic Hardship	95.1	94.7	92.5	78.4	66.7	100.0	87.4
Torture by husband	1.6	-	14.9	18.9	25.5	2.9	11.9
Psychological	67.2	15.8	49.3	40.5	15.7	71.4	46.3
N	61	19	67	37	51	35	270

The findings show that in spite of the fact that the female members contribute to a large extent to the rural economy, they have to encounter enormous insecurity in the process of their work.

CHAPTER VII

FACTORS/STAKEHOLDERS DISCOURAGE OR CREATE

OBSTACLES FOR THE WOMEN TO WORK

Chapter VI have described the various type of insecurities which have been faced by the women working in agriculture. But there are other factors which do not pose any direct threat but discourage and in many instances prevent the women from doing their job. Out of 420 respondents 100 or 23.8% (table 18) reported that there were people who discourage them to work outside. From this group of people, who discourage the women, 44% out of hundred come from guardians of the village, 34% from husbands, 9% from mother-in-law, 24% from religious leaders and the rests from other.

These figures show that, the discouragement mostly comes from the guardians of the local community which indicates that old generation of people are still stuck to their traditional belief that the women should not be involved in any type of jobs beyond the boundaries of the houses. No less important was the percentage of husbands (34%) who are still reluctant to allow their wives to go for work. The percentage of religious leader, although ranked third in our investigation exercise their influences on the women for not to go for work. However, the experiences of the earlier years show that the influence of the religious group has been decreasing.

CHAPTER VIII

WOMEN'S ACCESS TO CREDIT, USE AND OUTCOME

The distribution of credit facilities for the women is a new development in the credit system which came in operation following the emergence of Grameen Bank. Earlier rural women even the poor male members were never considered to be a potential borrower since they were unable to offer collateral. The poor men or women took usually money from traditional money lenders at an exorbitant rate of interest or in exchange of land and other resources. But the situation has changed with the introduction of micro-credit to the poor by the NGOs. Truly speaking, Grameen Bank is pioneer in breaking the traditional banking system which has now earned worldwide reputation.

Table 18: Percentage distribution of respondents by their statement about people discourage or create obstacles for the women to work.

	Agro-Ecological Zone						ALL
	Zone-1	Zone-2	Zone-3	Zone-4	Zone-5	Zone-6	
Have any obstacle to work outside of home as a women	15.0	32.5	7.5	22.5	48.8	20.0	23.8
N	80	40	80	80	80	60	420
Types of people discourage:							
Local Matbar	66.7	38.5	16.7	5.6	51.3	75.0	44.0
Husband	8.3	53.8	66.7	61.1	20.5	25.0	34.0
Mother-in-laws	-	15.4	16.7	5.6	10.3	8.3	9.0
Religious Leader	41.7	23.1	-	5.6	28.2	33.3	24.0
Others	-	-	-	-	2.6	-	1.0
NR	8.3		66.7	27.8	10.3	16.7	16.0
N	12	13	6	18	39	12	100

Now a days, many NGOs have also been supplying the female member with loans. Our study shows that 98% (table 19), of the respondent reported credit facilities are available in the locality.

Although the money lenders have still been existing, very few of the people depend for their money on them. According to study, 87.4% of our respondent reported to have taken their loan from NGOs, 8.5% from commercial banks, and 13.4% from Grameen Bank and only 5.9% from local money lenders. The annual average rate of interest amounted to 15.39%. Among the conditions, under which a respondent is entitled to take loan are the following:

Out of the 388 persons 7.2% reported mortgage, 11.6% person as a collateral, 87.4% group membership and 0.3% others. Annual average loan taken by individuals was estimated by 6242.4 Tk. If we look at the areas of utilization of credit, the pictures are very promising. For example out of the 287 persons interviewed, 26.8% reported to have invested in paddy or other crop cultivation, 25.1% cow rearing, 19.9% small business, 13.2 % poultry and others used in nursery, cattle rearing pisciculture and others (Table 20).

Table 19: Distribution of credit related information.

	Agro-Ecological Zone						ALL
	Zone-1	Zone-2	Zone-3	Zone-4	Zone-5	Zone-6	
% reported availability of credit in the locality	100.0	97.4	100.0	100.0	93.6	96.7	98.0
N	69	39	76	75	78	60	397
% Reported availability by source:							
Bank	4.3	2.6	26.3	4.0	5.5	3.4	8.5
NGO	82.6	84.2	84.2	96.0	89.0	86.2	87.4
Money Lender		7.9	13.2	-	4.1	12.1	5.9
Grameen Bank	15.9	15.8	19.7	1.3	4.1	27.6	13.4
NR	-	-	28.9	1.3	1.4	3.4	6.7
N	69	38	76	75	73	58	389
% Reported conditionalities:							
Mortgage	-	2.5	22.7	-	2.7	15.4	7.2
Collateral as persons	19.7	-	9.3	18.7	4.0	13.5	11.6
Group Member	80.3	97.5	94.7	81.3	93.3	82.7	87.9
Others	-	-	1.3	-	-	-	0.3
N	71	40	75	75	75	52	388
Average Amount of loan taken (only reported)	5955.4	7912.8	5794.6	6127.1	6266.7	5681.8	6242.4
Mean annual interest rate	14.38	16.46	14.46	14.85	16.03	16.64	15.32
N	56	39	56	59	54	33	297
% report outstanding loan	14.0	38.5	69.5	4.9	12.1	23.5	26.6
N	57	39	59	61	58	34	308
Average amount of loan (in Tk)	4250.0	10785	4074.0	1958.3	6550.0	1556.3	5207.1
N	8	15	41	3	7	8	82

The distribution of credit clearly shows that the lion's share was invested in productive purpose. Out of 319 respondents, 26.3% reported that they have outstanding loan while 73.7% have no outstanding loan at date.

The information received above highlighted that women were not only involved in income generating activities as a agricultural labour but they have established themselves as a trustable client of the credit organizations and has been emerging as a potential entrepreneurs in the rural areas.

Table 20: Percentage distribution of loans by spheres of utilization of loan (areas of investment).

Purpose of utilization	Agro-Ecological Zone						ALL
	Zone-1	Zone-2	Zone-3	Zone-4	Zone-5	Zone-6	
Poultry	4.0	20.0	7.4	14.8	20.0	15.6	13.2
Cattle	20.0	17.1	25.9	31.1	23.6	31.3	25.1
Goat	-	5.7	9.3	1.6	7.3	-	4.2
Small trade	20.0	17.1	25.9	9.8	21.8	28.1	19.9
Paddy and other crop	50.0	22.9	31.5	18.0	7.3	37.5	26.8
Vegetable cultivation	2.0	14.3	1.9	6.6	1.8	21.9	6.6
Fisheries	-	5.7	14.8	23.0	3.6	3.1	9.4
Purchase of Sewing Machine		8.6	1.9	3.3	1.8	-	2.4
Others	32.0	17.1	22.2	21.3	25.5	18.8	23.3
Total	50	35	54	61	55	32	287

CHAPTER IX

WOMEN AWARENESS ABOUT THEIR RIGHTS AND DISCRIMINATION

With the deteriorating law and order situation the security of the female labor force in the rural areas has to be considered with utmost concern. It would be wrong to leave the whole gamut of security issues in the hands of security forces. The question of security of women is also related with human deprivation and discrimination. Along with the traditional measures regarding security rights and discrimination, increase of awareness among the female members are very significant. In many cases the women's are deprived of their rights simply because of their ignorance. Generation of income opportunities, expansion of education, involvement on socio-cultural functions are important component of increasing awareness as well as empowerment.

The information received from respondent said that 79% of the 420 of them on an average have educational facilities, and 93% of their children are going to the schools (table21).

As regard to the participation in the cultural activities, only 12.4% reported that they participated. The figure shows a significant variation among the study zones. For example, zone 2 shows the highest participation amounting to 21.3% and lowest participation shows zone 6 having only 7.5%. While taking about involvement in social organizations, 43.6% reported to have participation. An average zone-wise distribution shows that zone 2 enjoys the highest 80% participation followed by zone 3 and the lowest 20% goes for zone 4. When asked about their representations in any social institution, 21.9% on average gave positive answer but the Rashahi - Rangpur or zone 2 make the highest representation with 43.8% and Mymensing or zone 3 enjoys the lowest 5.8% of representation. While asking about their candidature in the local election, 9.8% on an average confirmed their candidature, but in regional distribution, zone 4 or Khulna - Kushtia enjoyed the highest 32.5% and zone 1 and 6 enjoy the lowest having 2.5% each. But 97.4% on an average franchise their voting showing an increasing awareness of rural women. When asked about their social consciousness 69.8% answered that they were conscious about their social status, 95.2% reported their awareness about safe drinking water, and 91.7% said that children must have education. Very interesting answer came when asked about recreation facilities. Out of 420 respondents, 74.5% told that women need recreation facilities (table 22).

Table 21: Rights and Awareness related dimensions.

	Agro-Ecological Zone						ALL
	Zone-1	Zone-2	Zone-3	Zone-4	Zone-5	Zone-6	
Have educational facilities	38.8	87.5	93.8	95.0	87.5	75.0	79.0
% reported availability of educational facilities for children	93.8	95.0	93.8	95.0	98.8	81.7	93.3
% reported participation in cultural activities	21.3	27.5	6.3	8.8	7.5	10.0	12.4
% reported participation in social activities	26.3	80.0	65.0	20.0	51.3	35.0	43.6
% reported representing any	33.3	43.8	5.8	37.5	17.1	14.3	21.9

	Agro-Ecological Zone						ALL
	Zone-1	Zone-2	Zone-3	Zone-4	Zone-5	Zone-6	
institute							
% reported participation as a candidate in local election	2.5	7.5	7.5	32.5	2.5	3.3	9.8
% reported participation in voting	95.0	97.5	98.8	98.8	97.5	96.7	97.4
% reported consciousness about her social standing	21.3	87.5	73.8	97.5	77.5	70.0	69.8
% reported consciousness about use of drinking water	96.3	97.5	98.8	96.3	98.8	81.7	95.2
% reported awareness about educating children	97.5	97.5	87.5	91.3	93.8	83.3	91.7
% reported necessity of entertainment	92.5	62.5	66.3	72.5	85.0	58.3	74.5
N	80	40	80	80	80	60	420

Asking about gender-based wage discrimination, 96% answered categorically that there should not be any gender discrimination since they were performing equal task. But of the total respondents, 46.7% on average, informed that women's work is not recognized or appreciated enough, but in zone 1, 82.5% reported non-recognition of their job. More than half of them reported that working facilities existing in their localities but the highest score 92.5% goes to zone 3, which means enough working facilities were existing there, 74% on an average reported that women are downgraded and oppressed, and 90% of the respondents of zone 2 expressed the similar view. And lastly, 88.1% of the respondent viewed that women should have role in decision making in the family as well as in the society.

CHAPTER X

SUMMARY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In this study, the information regarding role and extent of involvement of women in agriculture, nature of agricultural work in the field and at homestead, problems facing in the work place, level of awareness about their rights and discrimination, and the ways and means of overcoming obstacles which stand on their way had been obtained from various categories of female members working in six different agro-ecological zones. Based on the analysis of the various dimensions of knowledge, attitude, perception and practice, the key findings having major implications are presented here.

The ownership pattern of the respondents in terms of household assets, land, pond, domestic animal, and trees show that despite some variation in asset structure within the study zones, the respondents came mostly from poor families. But whatever the resources the respondent's family own, very few fell of the share of respondent because she is a women and our findings showed that only 11.5 decimal out of average 141.5 decimal owned by the respondent. Only 2.5 on average have education and the zone-wise deviation is not significant which indicated very low rate of education among the female workers. For all the regions, the maximum income was obtained from labour zone 3, indicating a higher percentage of participation of labour force in the Mymensing. The highest savings was found in zone Rahshahi - Rangpur while the lowest was in Chittagong. Women in the study zones spent on average 6451 hours annually in homestead and field agriculture excluding the time spent in domestic family works like cooking, child rearing, washing and cleaning and food preparing. As was mentioned earlier, 80% of family food were prepared by the females which showed, a very intensive work-load of the female members. Study shows that 78% of the respondents work place is located within one km and most of the women used to go on foot. The others whose work place is more than one km used to by bus, richshaw and tempo.

In the working place 53% reported insecurity feeling which arise due to low wage 39.3%, excessive labour 29.5%, adverse weather condition 18.1%, physical torture 7.6%, no sympathy during illness 3.8%, and 3.1% worked even in case of illness. 87% reported that they had to work hard due to economic reason even when where physically unfit. Among the respondents 23.8% reported that they were discouraged to work in the field. The discouragement came mostly from local guardian 44%, husbands 34% and religious leaders 24%. According to the study, 98% said that they have access to credit and 87.4% took loan from NGOs and most of them invested in productive sector and have improved their economic condition.

Regarding awareness the findings show that 93% of their children go to school, 12.4% participated in cultural activities, 21.9% are representatives of social institutions, 9.8% of the reported had participated in the local election, and 97.4% on an average cast their votes showing an increasing awareness about the local government.

About 70% said that they were conscious about social status, 95.2% said they should drink safe water, and 74% spoke in favour of recreation facilities, and 46.7% said that their contribution in the society is not recognized. Given above findings the following suggestions are made for consideration:

- Women's working area should be expanded;
- Although more than 90% children of the respondent go to school the level of education among the respondent is very low. Their education facilities should be increased as this a very important means through which they could be aware of their rights. Along with the government programmes, NGO should come forward to expand educational facilities.
- More participation in social, political and cultural activities should be encouraged.
- The women should be acquainted with laws ensuring equal rights of man and women. Particularly, they should be made aware of the discrimination and deprivation;
- Deployment of female police force and implementation of law need to be ensured;
- More employment opportunities should be generated and minimum wage in accordance with market price needed to be fixed;
- Special savings schemes should be developed so that the women could use in time of needs;
- Gender based discrimination in wage and working hour should be stopped;
- Local NGOs and social organization should come forward to form female workers organization like trade union to protect their rights;
- More training facilities for the women to expand their job opportunities on crop and non-crop sector need to be provided;
- Credit facilities should be increased so that the rural women develop their own entrepreneurship;
- All type of barriers should be removed so that the female labour force could raise their issues in the court;
- An eight hours working days should be fixed and working at night for the female banned;
- Local tradition and cultural heritage should be presented with active participation of women;
- Creation of awareness through music and songs should be encouraged;
- Female participations in the village *shalish* should be increased to ensure a fair trial against women's repression;
- Rural electrification, Tele-communication should be increased to expand the scope of working service, business and infrastructure;
- In most cases, it is an acute problem for working women to take care of small children. In that, in place, where there are a large number of women are working keeping their children at home alone, a setting-up of nursing home or a day-care may be suggested to take care of the children. Although such institution is a new idea and even in the town and cities are not fully developed. However, once a process starts functioning, it would be popular and the working women could contribute towards expansion of such nursing homes as they would be benefitted of it.

Women constitute almost half of the total population of the country. No country has achieved or can achieve economic emancipation bypassing the half of these human resources. The good news is that more and more women are going out to work and they have been proved efficiency. In the agriculture too, their role has been increased over time. At the same time, they have been facing enormous trouble in their working place and at home. Some of these problems have its roots in our soci-economic structure of the society, which can be solved only through a structural change, which is not achievable over night. However, increasing awareness and empowerment of the women could mitigate the sufferings of the working women as well as accelerate the process of social transformation. Our discussion with the working women had showed that the educated female labours in the rural areas could not only speak and understand the problem better than many male but they are articulate, better conversant and can more wisely deal with their counter parts. So, generation of employment opportunities is essential precondition to improve their living condition as well as free from discrimination and oppression. But the process can be and has to be accelerated with increasing educational facilities and income generating opportunities.

ID No. #

Annex: DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENTS

1. Agro-Ecological Zone

1	2
3	4
5	6

2. Name of the Interviewer _____ Signature _____
3. Date of Interview _____ Start time _____ End time _____
4. General Information.
Name of the Respondent _____
Age _____ Education _____ Occupation _____
Address:
Village _____ Union _____ Upozila _____
District _____

5. Marital status:
Married 1 Unmarried 2 Divorced 3 Widow 4

Family Structure: Joint 1 Single 2

Name of the family head _____

Relation of the respondent with the family head _____

Total family member _____, Male _____, Female _____, Adult _____, Adolescent _____

Highest educational qualification in the family _____

Education of the young's (above 5 years) in the family _____

Number of persons involved in agriculture: Male Female

5.1 Land related information:

Total familial land acre

Total land own by the respondent acre

Homestead, Cultivable land, Fallow land

Land taken under Share-cropper (if there is) acre

Land given to Share-cropper (if there is) acre

Land under mortgage acre

Garden acre

5.2 Description of Assets other than land:

Item	Familial	Own by the respondent	Amount (number)
Darbar house			
Mad house			
Tin house			
Semi-Pacca house			
Building			
Garden			
Pond			
Domestic animal:			
Cattle/goat			
Chicken/Duck			
Tree			
Others			

5.2. a) To what extent you are entitled to take decision about land and other resource:
(In which case you can or can't take decision!)

	Full	Partial	Not at all
Land cultivation	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>
	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>
	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>

Crop production

Crop Consumption/Sale

6.1 Source of Income:

Description	Monthly (Taka)	Yearly (Taka)
From land		
From pond		
From service		
From house rent		
Selling property		
From garden		
From Animal husbandry		
Day labour		
Fishing		
Wood collection		
Honey collection		
Snail, the cockle collection		
From other sources		
Total		

6.2 Areas of expenditure:

Crop production	Monthly (Taka)	Yearly (Taka)
Fish cultivation		
Poultry/Bird production		
Household/recurring cost		
Children's education		
Others		
Total		

6.3 Savings

7. Involvement in Agriculture

7.1 Work in the field

Type of work	Daily	Monthly	Yearly average	
	Hours	Days	Days	Hours
Preparation of land				

Fertilizer distribution				
Production of bio-fertilizer				
Seed purchase				
Seed cleaning				
Seed drying				
Seed threshing				
Preparation of seed field				
Cleaning of grass				
Irrigation				
Protection from insects				
Harvesting				
Crop threshing				
Crop drying				
Rice making				
Seed bed preparing				
Seed preservation				
Seed selling				
Seed plant production				
Seed plant harvesting				
Fertilizer purchase				
Shallow pump/Paddle, Tubewell driving				

7.2 Homestead based Agriculture:

Type of work	Daily	Monthly		Yearly average	
	Hours	Day	Hour	Day	Hour
Fencing, Canal, Stage making and preparing foundation for vegetable					
Planting of vegetable sapling					
Tree/fruit tree/wood/ fire wood collection					
Preparation of nursery for wood tree					
Seed sowing `					
Sapling planting					
Fertilizer using					
Seed production					
Seed preservation					
Sapling selling					
Vegetable selling					
Fruits/Wood selling					
Fencing					
Vegetable collection					
Vegetable arranging					
Vegetable cleaning					
Vegetable preserving					

8.1 Animal husbandry:

Type of work	Daily	Monthly		Yearly average	
	Hours	Day	Hour	Day	Hour
Preparation of food					
Collection of food					
Feeding					
Food preservation					
Cleaning of cow-shed					
Collection of cow-dung					
Cattle rearing					
Collection of milk					
Milk selling					
Milk processing					
Veterinary					
Calbs rearing					

8.2 Working as a day labour in cattle firm

Type of work	Daily	Monthly		Yearly average	
	Hours	Day	Hour	Day	Hour
Hours worked					
Income, in terms of wage					

8.3 Poultry bird production

Type of work	Daily	Monthly		Yearly average	
	Hours	Day	Hour	Day	Hour
Poultry - shed making					
Cleaning poultry-shed					
Preparing feed					
Arranging poultry feed					
Feeding					
Treatment:					
Disease preventing					
Disease resisting					
Egg collection and preservation					
Selling eggs					
Broiling					
Chicken rearing					

8.4 Working as day labour in Poultry firm

Type of work	Daily	Monthly		Yearly average	
	Hours	Day	Hour	Day	Hour
Hours worked					
Income in terms of wage					

9. Participation in Fishery

9.1 Fish cultivation in Pond

Type of work	Daily	Monthly	Yearly
Production of fish fry			
Collection of fish fry			
Preparation of pond/re-excavation			
Preparation fish meal			
Distribution of fish meal			
Fish nursing			
Fish catching			
Fish selling			
Using medicine			

9.2 Hatchery/working as a day labour

Type of work	Daily	Monthly		Yearly average	
	Hours	Day	Hour	Day	Hour
Releasing fish fry <input type="text" value="1"/>					
Nursing <input type="text" value="2"/>					
Catching fish and others <input type="text" value="3"/>					
Income from day labour					

9.3 Fish cultivation in a lake/low-land area

Type of work	Daily	Monthly		Yearly average	
	Hours	Day	Hour	Day	Hour
Production of fish fry					
Collection of fish fry					
Preparation, re-excavation of lake, low-land area					
Release of fish fry					
Preparing fish feed					
Collection of fish feed					
Using medicine					
Fish nursing					
Fish catching					
Selling fish					

10. Work and wage - labour related information:

a) Type of work: Agriculture Non-agriculture Both

b) Part-time Full-time

c) Place of work: At home Outside

Type of work at outside _____

d) Wage (in Taka):
Daily _____ Tk., Weekly _____ Tk., Monthly _____ Tk., Yearly _____ Tk.

e) Wage discrimination in working place.

Daily: Male _____ Tk., Female _____ Tk.

Weekly: Male _____ Tk., Female _____ Tk.

Monthly: Male _____ Tk., Female _____ Tk.

Yearly: Male _____ Tk., Female _____ Tk.

f) Is there any problem in getting job: Yes _____ No _____

g) Distance from home to workplace _____ Km.

h) If the distance is above one Km, then type of transport use:

Transport:
On foot 1 Rickshaw 2 Bus 3
Tempo 4 Van 5 Others 6

i) Income from household work

Monthly	Yearly

11. Security related issue

a) Do you have security on the way towards working place?

Yes 1 No 2

(If the answer in no then)

b) Type of insecurity _____
Harassment, eve-teasing on the way: Yes 1 No 2
If the answer in yes, who are those persons, their identity _____

Other type of insecurity - describe _____

If you were the victim or harassed or any harassment or attack, please describe the whole story and how did you get rid of it? (Describe in earlier page marking * sign)

c) Do you have security at your working place? Yes 1 No 2

d) If the answer is no, then what type of insecurity?

Low wage Physical insulting Too much work load
 Untolerable atmosphere such as too cold or too hot
 Any sympathy from the employer in case of illness

e) What can to be done to get relief of insecurity as mentioned in b and c?

State, Social organization, N.G.O, Local elected representative
 Cultural organization

f) What type of problem you had to face in case of inability to work due to illness?

Economic hardship Rebuked by the husband or head of the family
 Mentally demoralized because of inability to earn money 3

g) Who take care of your children when you are at work?

Adult son/daughter 1 Mother 2 Grand mother 3 Mother 4
 Others 5

h) Do you have any access to treatment when your children are sick?

Yes 1 No 2

12. Is there any opposition or prevention form any quarter to allow the women to work outside?

Yes 1 No 2

a) If the answer is yes then it comes form:

The influentials of the village 1 Husband 2
 Mother-in-law 3 Religious leaders 4

b) If the answer is no, then did you face any opposition earlier?
 If it had been so, then describe how did you overcome that challenge?

c) If the answer is yes, then in case of long description, please use the previous page marking * sign.

d) What is to be done in order to overcome this obstacles?

State, Social organization, N.G.O, Local elected representatives
 Cultural organization.

13. Do you have full rights to spend the you earned?

Yes 1 No 2

a) If the answer is yes then how do you spend?

b) If the answer is no, then who decide?

Husband 1 Others 2

14. Information about loan, credit:

a) Do you have any credit facilities in your locality?

Yes 1 No 2

If the answer is yes then give a mark:

Bank 1 N.G.O 2 Grameen money lender 3 Grameen bank 4

b) Under what conditions loan is distributed (give a mark):

Mortgage 1 Against bail of an individual 2

Group membership 3 Others 4

c) How much credit have you taken?

_____ Tk.

d) What is the yearly rate of interest?

_____ Tk.

e) Amount of money to be repaid as installment:

Monthly 1 Yearly 2

f) How do you repay the credit?

Weekly installment 1 Monthly installment 2 Fortnightly installment 3

g) How many installments are needed to repay the total loan?

..... installment.

h) Do you have any outstanding loan?

Yes 1 No 2

i) If you have taken (at present) loan from several sources, give description in a similar way.

j) Are you under pressure for repaying loan? If yes, what kind of pressure are you facing?

k) Have you been benefited from this loan?
If yes, how much taka or resources have you earned (after repaying loan)?

Please mention _____

15. Information pertaining to the pattern or utilization of credit.

a) How have you used/invested the credit, in:

Poultry firm Cattle rearing Goat rearing
 Small business Nursery Rice or other crop cultivation
 Vegetable cultivation Fishery Purchase of swing machine
 Others

b) Do you have authority/control over the utilization of credit?

Yes No

c) If the answer is no, then mention who interfere? Who _____

d) Do you have any restriction from any quarter or the society in utilization of credit?
If yes, what kind of?

16. Information regarding consciousness.

a) Do you have any access to educational facilities?

Yes No

b) Have your children any educational facilities?

Yes No

c) Do you participate in the cultural function?

Yes No

d) If no, are you associated with any organization?
If yes, what kind of organization?

e) Do you participate at social/cultural functions?

Yes No

If yes, do you represent any social institution?

Yes 1 No 2

If yes, mention the name of that institution _____.

f) Do you participate as a candidate at the local government?
(Union council, Upozila parisad)

Yes 1 No 2

g) Do you franchise in election?

Yes 1 No 2

h) Are you conscious about your social status/position?

Yes 1 No 2

i) Are you aware of drinking clean water?

Yes 1 No 2

j) Are you conscious about your children's education?

Yes 1 No 2

k) Is there any need to recreation?

Yes 1 No 2

l) What are the ways of increasing awareness? (give mark)

TV 1 Radio 2 Newspaper 3 Friends 4

Relatives 5 N.G.O 6

17. Awareness about discrimination.

a) Do you think that there should be wage discrimination between male and female labours?

Yes 1 No 2

b) Is the women's work labour recognized?

Yes 1 No 2

c) Is there enough job opportunities for women?

Yes 1 No 2

d) Are the women repressed in the society?

Yes 1 No 2

Your opinion.....

e) Do you think that the women should have any role in the decision making in the family/society?

Yes 1 No 2

Your opinion

18. Role of women in the backdrop of natural calamity.

- a) Flood
- b) Cyclone
- c) River erosion
- d) Drought

19 To face the challenge of other problem.

- a) Deterioration of health/Epidemic.
 - Preventive measure
 - Protective measure
- b) Economic
- c) Social/Political
- d) Familial
- e) Religious

P. S. *In order to write the answer in a more easy (understandable) way please write in the blank page with * mark or use the green copy book (Cherry blossom) and write the answer.*