

Urban Women Entrepreneurship Development in Bangladesh: A Study on some Small and Medium Scale Enterprises in City Areas

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Abstract: Bangladesh is one of the poverty ridden least developed countries in South Asia where half of the population are women, whose mainstream into the process of economic development is essential through self-employment activities like entrepreneurship. The study is conducted on the urban women entrepreneurs in small and medium scale enterprises in some major urban areas highlighting their socio-economic and organizational status, potentials in these business and problems in their business to suggest a policy guideline in order to encourage their successful survival in entrepreneurship. In identifying their socio-economic status their age, educational level, marital status, previous occupation etc. are studied. For assessing organizational status size of investment, ownership pattern, sources of investment, experience, training, earnings, efficiency, workers employed etc. are taken into consideration. Some motivational factors are also identified such as availability of raw materials, demand for their products, cheap labor force etc. Their status and importance have increased into their family and society and they are now inspired to do the business. However, some problems such as inadequate funds, marketing inefficiency, scarce of security in society, absence of sufficient training and skilled manpower etc. hamper their progress. If necessary steps are taken according to the policy guideline, their participation into this sector will increase and this will enhance the socio-economic development of the country.

Key words: Entrepreneurship, development, medical scale, city areas

Introduction

The term entrepreneur is generally used to denote a dealer who bought a thing at a certain price and sold it at an uncertain price making a profit out of it (Mohiuddin, 1983). Entrepreneurship is the process of creating something different of value by devoting the necessary time and effort, by assuming the accompany of financial, psychological and social risks and by receiving the resulting rewards of monetary and personal satisfaction (Hisrich and Bush, 1985). Entrepreneur is a person who takes the risks necessary to organize and manage a business and receives the financial profits and non-monetary rewards. According to Joseph A. Schumpeter (1959), "entrepreneur is the innovator who introduces something new into the economy".

In the context of developing countries like Bangladesh, Pakistan and India, the term entrepreneur is used to mean a person who undertakes to organize, own and run an enterprise. To take a more broad view to suit the present day context, an entrepreneur should be a person who would not only be self employed but would also generate employment and income for others through a combination of efforts requiring zeal, capability to inspire and would not accept the boundaries of a structured situation.

Woman entrepreneur is defined as anybody, who initiates business (trading, manufacturing or marketing) and becomes aware of success or failure in taking standard risk associated with investment with the hope of making profit. They do not differ from the male entrepreneurs. The woman entrepreneurs possibly need to have an extra quality in the form of dogged determination and resilience since this is needed to fight with adverse situation, which seem to confront the female entrepreneurs more than their male counterparts in the present day context. So women entrepreneur is an adult woman, who creates, own and run an enterprise. The women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh require more efforts than their male counterparts to gain a foothold as independent economic change agents.

Small Women Entrepreneurs in Bangladesh: As a consequence of industrialization, urbanization and change in the educational pattern, our society is gradually undergoing a change and a number of women are coming ahead to take up self-enterprise apart from seeking employment. Yet women entrepreneurship is in traditional phase. It is generally believed that entrepreneurs are born and not made. This is not correct as entrepreneurship can be created by providing appropriate environment (Rani, 1986). Increasing number of women in Bangladesh is coming ahead mainly in small and medium scale enterprises. They successfully contributed as entrepreneurs in some traditional business and artisanal works and industry like handicrafts, readymade garments, clothes, Boutique, screen print, embroidery, textile, jute products, leather goods, 'nakshi katha', 'shital pati', etc. successfully and boldly. The causes behind low participation of women entrepreneurs into the non-traditional industries are scarce supply of raw materials, marketing problem of commodities (Karim, 1995) and lack of sufficient financial investment. In

Bangladesh, fifty percent populations are women. Their literacy rate is low. Moreover, they do not have sufficient technological knowledge and expertise. Family responsibilities and problems narrowed their way to earning by employment. Majority of the women go for employment segregating them from their family. So they prefer to work in house and to work in suitable time (which is not possible in case of employment). It is risky to come ahead as self-dependent entrepreneur in industry and business. According to Dr. Patricia (1994), women entrepreneurs in this South East Asia region are aged 40s, active, industrious, eager to work, responsible and bold to do something. They may not be highly educated but can gather experience and knowledge from various sources. Their families help them to their economic empowerment. A woman in Bangladesh may not only a woman, he is a homemaker, mother and entrepreneur.

Rationale of the Study: Bangladesh is an independent severing country with an area of 147,570 square k.m. situated in South East Asia surrounded by India to the West and North, India and Myanmar to the East and the Bay of Bengal to the South. It has 1231million population (GOB, 2001) with density 834 per k.m. The economy is characterized by a dominant traditional agricultural sector, low industrial base, and acute unemployment and under employment (Rahman, 1979) and low per capita income of \$ 407 (GOB, 2003). Through reliable estimates are not available, yet it is frequently stated that the average up to 30 percent of the available labor force are unemployed and underemployed (GOB, PC: 5th FYP). The rapid population Growth, resulting in additions to the civilian force, is posing a great threat to the economic development process of the country. Consequently, the economic development program of the country is required to be designed in such a way that a substantial contribution is made to solve the central problem of mass employment.

Of the total population half are women (ratio of men and women 104:100); (GOB, BBS, 2001). Of the 50 percent population living below absolute poverty line, two third are women (5th Five year Plan, GOB; 1996-2000). A significant portion of the women is working in non-agricultural sector as the producer or entrepreneur. Both in rural and urban areas of the country, many women entrepreneurs have come ahead to undertake and establish small industries and business and found way to earn and maintain an improved standard of living. This participation is in a limited scale but has been increasing significantly. To enhance the stream of economic development, mainstreaming of women into the process of development are need due consideration. Through efficient and reliable economic program, it will be easy to encourage women entrepreneurs and this will consequence establishment of various industry, employment of unemployed women and make a positive change into the socio-economic arena of the country. The creation and establishment of urban based industries and business by women potentials and creation of new employment opportunity for women cannot be possible without development of women entrepreneurs. From the review of previous study, literature and other information, it is found that, the study and scope on urban women entrepreneurs are rare and it did not make significant contribution towards entrepreneurship development. To reduce this gap and to make efficient policy guideline, the result of this research study may contribute a lot.

Objectives of the Study

The specific objectives of the study are:

- (a) To critically assess the socio-economic status of urban women entrepreneurs of selected areas.
- (b) To know the nature and type of their business
- (c) To understand the impact of entrepreneurship into their family and society.
- (d) To assess the future potentials of their business.
- (e) To identify the problems of urban women entrepreneurs and to suggest probable policy guideline for successful survival of their business.

Scope and Methodology of the Study: For this study both primary and secondary data were collected and used. Primary data was collected by a structured questionnaire through field survey focusing the objectives of the study. To collect data through field survey, first area wise list of the women entrepreneurs are selected. The selection of the area was taken through stratified sampling. From this area wise list, women entrepreneurs are selected through random sampling from each area. The study includes both small and medium scale business of Dhaka and Chittagong City. The included enterprises are poultry, grocery, stationery, beauty parlour, handicrafts, boutique shop, and fast food shop etc. where women entrepreneurs come ahead. From these industry and business, 80 women entrepreneurs are selected for interview. The samples, so selected are mostly representative to the population under study.

Secondary data are collected from various publications relating to entrepreneurship. This includes statistical yearbook, five years plans, Bangladesh Economic Survey, Industrial statistics etc. Also, a framework of the study is made after studying various books, literature, dissertations, articles and research relating to entrepreneurship. Moreover to make the study more pragmatic and successful, some statistical techniques namely mean and

percentage were used in the study. The study was conducted through own finance, and so the scope of the study is limited only in some specific urban areas. The data was collected from June 2003 to November 2003.

Findings and Analysis: The findings and their analysis are made under the following caption keeping in mind the objectives of the study.

Socio-economic Status of Samples: Entrepreneurship just cannot be considered an individual phenomenon and strictly intrinsic to the personality involved (Deshpande, 1984). However, in order to measure the socio-economic status of the sample women entrepreneurs, some indicators such as age, marital status, educational level, previous occupation, husbands and parental occupation are taken into consideration.

(a) Age Profile of Samples: Age is the main stage of experience. Lower aged people cannot do anything efficiently due to the lack of experience. Also in their old age they lose their efficiency due to loss of capacity to do anything. But young aged women are active, industrious, and conscious and can try their best to succeed in life. From the age profile of the survey of the sample, it is found that of the total, 42.25 percent are aged 30-40 years, 25 percent are 40-45 years, 18.75 percent are aged 20-30 years and only 13.75 percent are 50 years or more. Majority of their age is 30-40 years representing 34 samples (Appendix table-1). So it is inferred from the study that if other factors remain unchanged or favorable, urban women entrepreneurs aged between 30-40 years are more engaged in this business. In this age they can take actual risk, have enthusiasm to do something and want to undertake any business and they want to achieve success in life through active participation in business.

(b) Educational Level: As a strong strategy, education mainstreams the social institutions into the process of development and ensures transparency for the welfare of people (GOB, 1990). From the study, it is found that majority of the respondents i.e. 43.75% have completed secondary education, 21.25% studied class I to class V, 15% have studied class VI to VIII; 7.5% studied class IX to class X; 6.25% have passed higher secondary examination, 3.75% are graduate and only 2.5% are post-graduate (Table 2). From the data, it is clear that 45 women entrepreneurs studied from secondary to master level. The remaining are ranged from class I to class X. The study reveals that educated women are now want to come in risky venture like entrepreneur after completing their study.

(c) Marital Status: Most of the sample entrepreneurs (90%) are married; of whom 80% are continuing their couple lives; 5% are divorced, 5% are widowed and remaining 10% are unmarried (Table 3). By studying their marital status, it is found that if they are self-dependent through their own effort; and if their income increases and their family benefited from them, their family, husband and relatives do not make any obstacle to their entrepreneurial activities. The study also reveals that married women are also come ahead to establish them as entrepreneur.

(d) Previous Occupation of Sample Entrepreneurs: In response to the question whether they were engaged with any occupation before starting business, it is found that 77.5% of the urban women entrepreneurs were not engaged in any occupation before coming here and 22.5% answered that they were engaged. The women, who were engaged as home make or housewife before, are now realizing that, they need to do something for their own, family and society through earning. By these, they want to be a partner or contributor of economic activities of their family and society whether they are literate or not. They are creating not only their self-employment, but also employment for other and contributing significantly to reduce the burden of poverty. Especially, women are not wanted to be a dependent due to their economic weakness. They want to stand behind men with equal rights.

(e) Parental and Husbands' Occupation: In selecting occupation their previous tradition, culture, outlook, belief and value make inference. From the study on their parent's previous occupation, it is found that 30% of women's parental occupation was business; 25% were engaged in agricultural work; 20% were engaged in teaching; 15% women's father was public employee and 10% women's parent worked abroad; (Table 4). From the study it is also found that 90% women were married. The occupation of their husbands' were investigated at the time of survey and it is found that (Table 5) 41.67%, 22.22%, 20.83% and 6.94% husbands of the women entrepreneurs are engaged in public service, work abroad, businessmen, teaching profession and work in NGOs respectively. The study revealed that, there is no any relationship or similarity between the women entrepreneurs and their husbands' occupation.

Situation/Status of Business of Urban Women Entrepreneurs: In this section amount of capital employed in business, types of ownership, duration of business, sources of capital, training status, number of employees in business, their income etc. are enquired. The situations of their business highlighting those points are presented here.

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Table 1: Age distribution of samples

Age	No. of Samples	Percentage
20-30	15	18.75
30-40	34	42.25
40-50	20	25
50 and above	11	13.75
Total	80	100

Source: Field Survey.

Table 2: Distribution of sample according to their educational status

Education Level	Frequency	Percentage
Up to Class V	17	21.25
Class VI-VII	12	15
Class IX-X	6	7.5
S.S.C. (Secondary level)	35	43.75
H.S.C. (Higher Secondary Level)	5	6.25
Graduate	3	3.75
Masters	2	2.50
Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey

Table 3: Distribution of sample according to their marital status

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage
Unmarried	8	10
Married and Coupled	64	80
Divorced	4	5
Widowed	4	5
Total	80	100

Source: Field Study.

Table 4: Distribution of sample according to their parents' previous occupation

Occupation	No. of respondents	Percentage
Agriculture	20	25
Business	24	30
Work Abroad	8	10
Government Service	12	15
Teaching	16	20
Total	80	100

Source: Field Study

Table 5: Distribution of sample according to their husbands' occupation

Occupation	No. of respondents	Percentage
Government Employee	30	41.67
Work in NGOs	6	8.33
Work Abroad	5	6.94
Engaged in Business	16	22.22
Teaching	15	20.83
Total	72 (married)	100

Source: Field Study.

(a) Size of Investment: Investment plays a long consequence in entrepreneurship and in various economic activities. The study (Table 6) revealed that the sample urban women entrepreneurs taken risk of investment in starting the business are ranged from Tk.50, 000 to Tk. 250,000. Of the sample, 56% invested capital ranges from Tk. 150,000 to Tk. 250,000; 37.5% invested Tk.50, 000 or less and only 6.25% has capital ranged Tk. 50,000-

100,000.

(b) Forms of Ownership: In studying the forms of ownership of the samples, it is found that 87.5% owner entrepreneurs are operating their business in sole tradership and remaining 12.5% operate their business in partnership (Table 7). From the study it is clear that the women entrepreneurs have courage, efficiency, and ability of face challenge in operating their business.

(c) Sources Of funds: In analyzing the sources of funds of their business it is found that 62.5% invested from own source, 17.50% from other private sources; 10% from their relatives, 2.5% from their friends and only 1.25% have take loans from bank (Table 8). The study clears that majority of the women used their own fund in starting and operating the business. It is noteworthy that, their family has confident their efficiency and confident in operating the business by the women's.

(d) Experience in Entrepreneurship: The study on the duration of their business, it is found that 62.5% women entrepreneurs engaged for 1-4 years, 25% for 5-8 years and only 12.5% for 9 to 12 years in their business (Table 9). From the table it is clear that, majority of the women entrepreneurs have come ahead recently and majority of them is still novice and their participation will sooner increase. Their increased participation will strength economic base of the country.

(e) Training of the Sample Entrepreneurs: Women entrepreneurs need some training to start this work. In answer to the question whether they have taken any training in starting this business, it is found that 56.26% sample women entrepreneurs have taken training before starting the business while 43.75% did not have any training. What was that type of training they have taken in response to this question it is found that 88.88% taken training relating to their present business and 11.12% women entrepreneurs answered that they have taken only theoretical training. In studying the impact of training it is found that 100% women have achieved sufficient knowledge to operate a business or industrial enterprise, 88.89% are able to maintain accounting records, 44.44% are now train to others after trained herself 20.22% achieved the capability to survive in the society and 22.22% answered that they now know the process of taking credit from banks (Table 10). So, without training it is not possible to achieve success in entrepreneurship.

(f) Number of Workers and their Efficiency: From the study it is found that there are two types of employees in their enterprise- regular and irregular. Of the organization operated by women entrepreneurs in urban areas, 75% respondent said that they have regular employees, 21.5% have irregular employees and only 2.5% respondents said that they have no employee (Table 11). It is evident here that the women entrepreneurs are only earning for their own, they are also helping a lot in solving the unemployment problem of the country. Of the 240 sample workers under study 140 (58.33%) are semi skilled the remaining 40 (16.67%) are unskilled (Table 12). It is clear from the table that there is shortage of skilled workers in the women owned enterprises.

(g) Earnings of Entrepreneurs: Elimination of poverty through planned income earning activities make a positive impact in the socio economic sphere of the country. This is also a motivational factor of the women entrepreneurs in operating their business by taking the risk of investment. The study revealed that 62.5% women entrepreneurs earn Tk. 16000-20000 monthly; 8.75% earn Tk. 1000-5000 and 10% earn Tk. 6000-10000 monthly (Table 13). The women entrepreneurs earn more than the government and non-government professionals and this make inspiration to them to become an entrepreneur.

Potentials and Motivational Factors in Women Entrepreneurship: Form the study about why they have chosen this types of business and what are its potentials, 65% said that it is an honorable profession; satisfactory availability of workers at reasonable cost (63.75%); availability of raw materials (62.5%); bright potentials for their products (62.5%); pointed the demand for their products (50%); marketing facilities of their products (37.50%); and 40% pointed other beneficial causes to become an entrepreneur (Table 14). From the response of the sample women entrepreneurs it is noteworthy that they have entered into this types of business after considering the cost, benefit, problems and prospects of their business.

From the study on what are the sources of inspiration in coming ahead as entrepreneur it is found that 75% said from their husbands; 70% answered as for their own need to become an entrepreneur; 66.25% their friends; 65% their father and mother in law; 62.5% their mothers; 60% women answered from their fathers; 52.5% their

Table 6: Distribution of sample according to the size of investment

Investment Size (in Taka)	No. of respondents	Percentage
Less than 50,000	30	37.50
50,000 – 100,000	5	6.25
100,000 – 150,000	15	18.75
150,000 – 200,000	28	35
200,000 – 250,000	8	2.5
Total	80	100

Source: Field Study

Table 7: Distribution of sample according to the ownership status of their business

Type of Ownership	No. of respondents	Percentage
Sole Tradership	70	87.50
Partnership	10	12.50
Total	80	100

Source: Field Study.

Table 8: Distribution of sample according to the sources of finance

Sources of Investment	No. of respondents	Percentage
Own Source	50	62.5
Relatives	8	10
Friends	2	2.50
Other Private source	14	17.50
Bank Loan	1	1.25
Total	80	100

Source: Field Study.

Table 9: Distribution of sample according to the duration of their business

Business Duration (Year)	No. of respondents	Percentage
1 – 4	50	62.5
5 – 8	20	25
9 – 12	10	12.5
Total	80	100

Source: Field Study

Table 10: Distribution of sample according to the impact of training

Consequence of training	No. of respondents	Percentage
Engaged in business	30	66.67
Achieved capability to survive in society	10	22.22
Teach others after taking training	20	44.44
Know the process of taking loan	10	22.22
Taken advantage of how to maintain accounts	40	88.89
Achieved capability to manage the organization	45	100
Total	155	100

Source: Field Study.

Note: Each respondent answered more than one impact of taking training and so the frequency increased.

relatives; and 50% their brothers. It is now a source of inspiration that all the members of modern society like husband, father, mother, brother; sister, friends, relatives etc. are now giving the testimony of the work of women. So women entrepreneurs are now the partner of economic activity of their family and society.

Impact of Women Entrepreneurship in Family and Social Status:

(a) **Impact on Family Status:** How they are evaluated in their family after they come as entrepreneur, from the

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answer of this question 93.75% replied that they are now also to participate in taking family decisions; 87.5% stated that their status in family increased; 75% said that their status increased to their father mother in law and other relatives. 62.5% said that their relatives praise them; 37.5% said that their relatives come to them to help in taking decision on various matter and 25% said that their friends and relatives come to them for taking credit (Table 15). They are now operating business with strong personality and now created a strong position and status. Their economic independence created their status and it is not possible without self-dependency thorough participation in economic activities.

(b) **Impact on Social Status:** What is the change in social status after coming in entrepreneurial activities- from the investigation about this, 81.25% answered that their status have increased than before due to undertaking this types of business, 77.5% answer that they now getting offer to attend in various social functions; 71.25% now participate or give opinion in various women development programmes; 68.75% give opinion and participate in social work; 65% now help financially their neighbours and 62.50% said that their neighbors now come to take opinion on various issues (Table 16). The table revealed that their status has increased into their society due to their economic activities and earning and can help others now. Through this economic self-dependency, they are now acquiring an important status in society.

Table 11: Distribution of sample according to the workers employed

Type of Employee	Respondents	Percentage
Regular	60	75
Irregular	18	22.5
No employee	2	2.5
Total	80	100

Source: Field Study.

Table 12: Distribution of samples according to the skills of the employees

Type of Skill	Respondents	Percentage
Skilled	60	25
Semiskilled	140	58.33
Unskilled	40	16.67
Total	240	100

Source: Field Study.

Table 13: Distribution of sample according to their income

Income Range (in Taka)	No. of respondents	Percentage
1,000 - 5,000	7	8.75
6,000 - 10,000	8	10
11,000 - 15,000	15	18.75
16,000 - 20,000	50	62.50
Total	80	100

Source: Field Study.

Table 14: Distribution of sample according to the cause of selecting a specific business and potentials of entrepreneurship

Cause of selecting the business	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Availability of raw materials	40	62.5
Demand for the products in the market	50	50
Easy marketability	30	37.5
Satisfactory availability of labourers	51	65
Honourable profession	52	65
Potentials of the business	50	62.5
Other facilities	32	40
Total	305	305

Source: Field Study. Note: Some respondents answered more than one as the cause of selecting the business; so the frequency increased.

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Table 15: Distribution of sample according to the changes in family status after starting the business

Types of Change	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Increase their value and status to their husbands	70	87.5
Increase their importance to their father/mother in law and other relatives		
Can participate in taking family decision	75	93.5
Relatives are now encourage and support them	50	62.5
Relatives now honour them more than before	40	50
Relatives are now come to take counseling on various matters	30	37.5
They come to take credit or financial help	20	25

Source: Field Study.

Note: Some entrepreneurs answers more than one as changes of their family status.

Table 16: Distribution of sample according to the changes in social status after starting the business

Types of Change	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Increase their value and status as they earn	65	81.25
Neighbours come to them for counseling	50	62.50
Neighbours come to take financial help	52	65
Take offer to attend in various social functions	62	77.50
Take offer to participate in various social work and can give opinion	55	68.50
Take offer to participate in women development activities	57	71.25

Source: Field Study.

Note: Some entrepreneurs answers more than one as changes of their social status.

Table 17: Distribution of sample according to the problems faced by them in operating the business

Types of Problem	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Lack of skilled workers	50	62.5
Lack of proper training	52	65
Problems in marketing the products	70	87.5
Financial limitations	72	90
Problems to operate business in rainy season	50	62.5
Lack of sufficient order due to the old machinery and technology	48	60
Problems in taking regular and sufficient payment	58	72.5
Lack of proper security	60	75
Problems in supplying the orders	62	77.5
Problems in receiving goods from the sellers after closing the shops	40	50
Lack of proper government support	66	83.75
Total	537	

Source: Field Study.

Note: Some entrepreneurs answer more than one as the problems in operating the business.

Problems Faced by the Entrepreneurs: Women entrepreneurs face many problems in operating their business. From the enquiry about what are the problems they faced in operating their business, 90% pointed inadequate fund (financial limitation); 87% pointed problems in marketing their products; 77.5% mentioned problem in supplying orders; 75% mentioned inadequate social security; 72.5% mentioned problem in collecting debtors and receivables; 68.75% mentioned lack of government support; 64% mentioned lack of sufficient training; 62.5% mentioned lack of skilled manpower; 62.5% mentioned problem in operating business during rainy season; 60% mentioned problem in taking huge orders due to the absence of modern technology and 50% mentioned that they face problem in carrying materials to their shops by closing their shops (Tables 21).

Policy Recommendation: On the basis of the study and discussion above, to encourage the women entrepreneurs and in order to development of entrepreneurship, some steps are necessary to take. These steps are mentioned in a summarised form as follows:

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- (a) Arrangement of funds and loans for the women entrepreneurs by liberalising the collateral system and reducing interest rate than normal rate of interest for women entrepreneurs. To encourage them, separate financial institutions can be formed only for the women entrepreneurs. Arrangement of preferential loan is essential for those who want to produce non-traditional goods.
- (b) Arrangement of training facility at home and abroad to develop their skill in marketing, production, finance and for human resource management.
- (c) Help them in collecting raw materials and marketing their products efficiently at low cost.
- (d) Ensure Co-operation from every sphere of the society and family like their husbands, parents, relatives and neighbors etc. Create a positive and supportive mentality in the society to enhance women entrepreneurial activities.
- (e) Provide information and counseling service on various related issues to them in this connection.
- (f) Establishment of separate sales center in every district or arrange a special corner in government sales center in every district for sale of product of women owned enterprises only.
- (g) Arrangement of institutional help to the women entrepreneurs in project formulation and evaluation and encourage them to produce traditional and non-traditional goods for diversification and innovation in production.
- (h) Construction of warehouse and preservation center for store and maintenance of women entrepreneurs' products by the government.
- (i) Encourage the women entrepreneurs considering them focal point by BSCIC and other government and non-government organisations to enhance industrialisation and production. To promote their products in the market, BSCIC can arrange trade fair/ exhibition of their products and arrange showroom in large cities of the country.
- (j) Help the women to create successful qualities of entrepreneurship like ability to organise, strong risk bearing mentality, motivational personality, honesty and ability to do something to be a successful entrepreneur.

Conclusion

With the changes in the socio-economic infrastructure, the women around the world are now coming ahead into economic activities by overcoming the traditional concepts, culture and obstacles. Bangladesh is not miracle to this. Though they are not very countable, they come into the mainstream of development by engaging in employment in various public, private and autonomous organizations and doing risky profession like entrepreneurship in small and medium scale enterprises. Moreover in conducting business, they face some problems as indicated above. Sufficient social security, positive attitude, encouragement will enhance their future potentials. Now it is no doubt that the women entrepreneurs are conducting their business by their best effort, integrity and capital and by these, they are contributing a lot to their family, society and even the country significantly. If the identified problems are fulfilled by reducing obstacles of their business and provide encouragement and co-operation to their entrepreneurial activities, they will contribute more to the socio-economic development of the country. Co-operation is needed from every sphere for capital accumulation, technological development, management counseling and for the sustainable development, diversification of business and to improve their future potentials.

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