

Upliftment of rural women through small entrepreneurship development in some selected areas of Mymensingh district

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Abstract

This study analyzed the performance and role of small entrepreneurship development in socioeconomic development of rural poor women. The selected households for the study divided into three categories of enterprises, namely livestock and poultry, nursery & handicraft making. The sample size for this study was 90. The major findings of the study revealed that the average annual income generation per household of livestock and poultry, nursery, and handicraft enterprise groups were Tk 51645, Tk 36254 and Tk 31923 respectively. Average change in annual income was 110.74 per cent after being involved with different small enterprises. The development indicators revealed that, most of the respondents of all three enterprises reported "high" development in different indicators. The different aspects of health status, sanitation awareness increased to the expected level. Change in housing unit after involvement is quite reverse to that of before involvement. There has been great increase in the number of own tube well (97 per cent) after involvement with enterprise and 100 per cent households used sanitary latrines whereas it was only 24 per cent before involvement. There was 138 per cent increase in working days; this positive change indicates that the small enterprise has generated new self employment activities for the rural poor women. This analysis revealed that participation of the rural women to different small enterprise activities contributed significantly to socioeconomic upliftment of the household in general and increased participation of women in economic activities and household decision making in particular.

Keywords: Rural women, Development, and Small entrepreneurship