Women Empowerment through Agriculture in Chapainawabganj, Bangladesh

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ABSTRACT

Women constitute almost half of the population of Bangladesh and are heavily involved in different agricultural activities though their contributions are neglected as mainstream labor force which hinders their expected development. Considering this fact, the present study was designed to determine the women empowerment through agriculture in Chapainawabganj, a northern district of the country. A pre-structured questionnaire was used to collect data through face to face interview from randomly selected sample size of 120 respondents from four selected village namely Babudying, Hossaindying, Ramjibonpur and Thakurjoubon in Chapainawabganj district. The main findings indicated that about 83.3% respondents were middle age and 60% of the respondents were illiterate with 56.7% belonged to small size family which consists of up to 4 members. Agriculture was the main occupation among the respondents. Most of the respondents were found without own land although they continue their livelihood mostly by crop production, livestock rearing, and day laboring. They take lease (23.3%) of cultivable land from others. The respondents had an average monthly family income of about 9351.38 BDT whereas 95% of the respondents were under medium income category. The respondents had no extension contact (0%), having high farming experience (50%) and no cosmopolitan behavior (0%). Most of the respondents (71.7%) were unable to make their own decision and 33.3% of the respondents had educational rights. The economic participation rate of the respondents was very high (100%), on the other hand they had no economic opportunities (0%). The attitude of the respondents towards women empowerment were mostly moderately favorable (70%). Most of the respondents of the study area were lied between low to medium empowerment (96.7%) with minimal high empowerment (3.30%). Study suggests that there is need a lot of work for women to improve their present condition. Government and Non-government organizations should take proper step to decrease gender discrimination as well as ensure women's fundamental rights to make their life easy and make them more empowered.

Keywords: Agriculture, Chapainawabganj, Economic opportunity, Women empowerment.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Women's empowerment is the process of empowering women [1]. Empowerment is the process that creates power in individuals over their own lives, society, and in their communities. People are empowered if they have access to opportunities without any limitations or restrictions such as in education, profession and in their way of life. Empowerment includes the action of raising the status of women through education, raising awareness, literacy, and training and also give training related to defense our self. Women's empowerment is all about equipping and allowing women to make life-determining decisions through the different problems in society [2]. Women's empowerment is the most crucial point to be noted for the overall development of a country.

Globally 40% of world's total labor force is women. Sector-wide participation varies for countries and within countries, from 20% in Latin America to 50% in parts of Africa and Asia [3].

Bangladesh is a country of high population (144.7 million) with high population density (964/km²) of which women comprises half of the total population of the country [4]-[6]. Even though women percentage is half of the country, but they suffer from different types of penury [7]. Moreover, inconsistencies have been seen in between men and women in Bangladesh in different sectors, like, education, health, employment, income sector, also controlling on the assets and self-security though their role is very crucial inside the home [8], [9]. Agriculture is the chief occupation of women in many parts of Bangladesh. Many ethnic groups such as Santal, Chakma, Garo have been for centuries working as agricultural labor force. The same is also true for many female members of Muslim and Hindus communities [10].

There are 46% women are directly or indirectly related with farming in Bangladesh. Women also participate in a wide range in crop cultivation and fisheries and others agricultural activities. Women also spend most of their time in pre-harvesting with the average time in home gardening being 6-8 hours per week [11]. Sometimes women are more effective in harvesting of vegetables than man. In case of homestead gardening mostly women spend their much time because men are busy with outside work.

A number of three agricultural sector has increased over time between 1999/2000 and 2005/06, the proportion of women in the agricultural labor force increased from less than 20% to 33.6% of the total [12]. Though female has a significant contribution to productivity and technical efficiency as agricultural labor [13], gender discrimination exist in the labor market economical employment of labor remains skewed in favor of men [14]. A large number of women has entered in the labor force but not been treated as equals to men. They earn less than men and have less opportunity for growth [15]. Because of limited control and ownership of productive physical and human capital, women's ability to generate income in the agricultural sector is severely constrained. Bangladeshi women are disadvantaged relative to men regarding assets brought to marriage [16], productive assets such as land, livestock and agricultural machinery [17] and human capital [18], show that lack of education in adult women in Bangladesh is strongly correlated with extreme poverty, 80% of adult women with no education live below half a dollar a day.

The condition of women employment in agricultural sector in the northern Bangladesh has been changed a lot, from unpaid family labor to paid farm workers [19]. According to the last census in 2011, Chapainawabganj district had a population of 1,647,521. Among them, 837,303 were female and their literacy rate were 44.3%. In Chapainawabganj district, women have been engaged with agriculture mostly as family labor since long time. But, due to center based rapid urbanization and industrialization, swift out-migration of men [20] and commercialization of vegetable farming in northern Bangladesh [21], lacking of labor has been emerged. Such labor scarcity has created more work field for women as economically active participants in agriculture and consequently as a result the women have started working in the agricultural fields where men were used to be. Women have always been granted secondary role in the family and society. Women are aware of gender inequalities and are trying to fight them [22]. More participation of women in the agricultural fields has created a new era in the northern districts in which women's role in agriculture is shifting from unpaid family workers to paid farm workers, a phenomenon termed as "feminization of agriculture" [23]. Reducing gender discrimination is widely recognized around the world as well as in Bangladesh contributing to agricultural growth and the attainment of food and nutritional security. This research has shown that women can lead to improvements in their status both inside and outside the household including greater control over household resources, better mental health, reduced time constraints and increased access to financial services, health care, skills development, income-earning opportunities, information about markets and legal rights all of which may,

in turn, positively impact agricultural productivity, nutrition and food security by empowering. In order to achieve sustained food security, poverty alleviation in agrarian economies and rural development need to promote gender equality. Thus, the study made an attempt to comprehend the roles and extent of women's engagement in agriculture and to evaluate their empowerment attainment considering their increasing participation as economically active participants in the agriculture sector of four selected village in Chapainawabganj district of Bangladesh.

Although most of the women of Chapainawabganj are enjoying some domestic empowerment, they are unable to make their own decision which lead them to low empowerment [24]. However, the factors affecting the proper development of women of the northern part of the country are still unidentified. We therefore analyzed the empowerment level of the women achieved through agricultural activities and the constraints for which women are lagging behind. The following objectives have been established to guide the study:

1. To identify the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents;
2. To ascertain the level of women empowerment in the study area;
3. To determine the contribution of selected characteristics of the respondents towards women empowerment.

II. METHODOLOGY

A. Research Design

The present study was a descriptive survey research (A type of research that describes a population situation or phenomenon that is being studied). This study purposively selected 4 villages in Chapainawabganj district where economically active women in agriculture were available. The study used the simple random sampling technique to select 120 respondents (women) to collect data using household survey. Face to face interview method was used to collect data from the respondents using a pre-structured questionnaire. Primary data were collected during the period of December 2020 to January 2021. By using the prepared interview schedule, primary information was collected regarding the respondent's age, education, land ownership and land size, per day income as a laborer, membership in social organizations, production and household decision making, Constraints in agricultural participation, Attitude of the respondents etc.

B. Variables and Their Measurement

The independent variables of the study which influenced the respondent's opinion are age, educational status, family size, cultivable land, land ownership, monthly income, family member, number of children, farming experience, extension contact, and cosmopolitan behavior. Age of a respondents is measured in terms of actual years on the basis of their statement. Educational status was measured by the number of years of schooling and it was further categorized as illiterate (0), primary (1-5), secondary (6-10), tertiary (>10) on the basis of statement of the respondents [25]. Family size referred to the total number of members of a

family including the respondent herself, husband, children and other permanent dependent who lived together as family unit. Monthly income of the respondents was measured in Bangladeshi taka (BDT) on the basis of total yearly earning from agricultural and non-agricultural sources of their family. Respondents farming experience was categorized into low (<10 years), medium (10-20 years) and high (>20 years). This classification was in conformity with Haq (2000) and Ahmed (1995) [26], [27].

C. Measurement of Women Empowerment

Women empowerment of the study area was measured using 4 indices [28].

Index 1: Decision making ability: The ability to select between two or more alternatives to reach the best outcome in the shortest time. The respondents were asked whether they can make their own decision or not with a close question having “Yes” and “No” option. Binary dependent variable assigned with value “1” for respondents said “Yes” and “0” for “No”.

Index 2: Educational Rights: Educational right is defined by which recognizes a right to free, compulsory primary education for all, an obligation to develop secondary education accessible to all, on particular by the progressive introduction of free secondary education as well as higher education also. The respondents were asked, they got education opportunity like men or not with a close question including “Yes” or “No” option. Binary dependent variable assigned with value “1” for “Yes” and “0” for “No”.

Index 3: Economic participation: The economic participation of women refers to the presence of women in the workforce in quantitative terms. It is important not only for decreasing the levels of poverty among women, but also raising household income and encouraging economic development of the whole countries. Economic participation concerns with the numbers of women participating in the labor force comparing with male. The respondents were asked, they participate in income generating activities like men or not with a close question including “Yes” or “No” option. Binary dependent variable assigned with value “1” for Yes and “0” for “No”.

Index 4: Economic opportunity: It concerns the quality of women’s economic involvement, rather than their poor number of presences as workers because of remuneration on an equal basis [28]. This is a particularly serious problem in developing countries, where women may gain employment with relative comfort, but where their employment is either concentrated in poorly paid or unskilled job because the absence of upward mobility and opportunity. In this case the respondents asked about their per day income as a labor and about their payment system comparing with men. The participants were asked they got equal payment as like as men or not with a close question including “Yes” or “No” option. Binary dependent variable, assigned with value “1” for Yes and “0” No. In the research area generally per day income for men was >350 Taka (BDT). Women getting less than 350 Taka (BDT) was considered as economically undervalued.

Women empowerment was measured by summing the score of above four indices. The computed score ranged from “0” to “4” where “4” indicating high empowerment and “0”

indicating low empowerment. The sum value of four indices is divided into three categories at an equal split and named as low empowerment (<1.32), medium empowerment (1.33-2.65) and high empowerment (>2.66).

D. Measurement of Attitude of the Respondents towards Women Empowerment

Respondent’s attitude has been measured by constructing a 5– point Likert type scale [29]–[30]. A 5-point scale consisting of 10 items (statements) on women empowerment through agriculture was constructed for this purpose. A respondent was asked to express her extent of agreement or disagreement by checking against any of the five attitudes and scoring was assigned as i) strongly agree (5), ii) agree (4), iii) no opinion (3) iv) disagree (2) and v) strongly disagree (1) and alternatively for negative statements [31]–[32].

Attitude score of the respondents on women empowerment through agriculture was obtained by adding together scores on all the 10 items presented in the interview schedule. Thus, attitude score of a respondent on women empowerment could from 10 to 50, where 10 indicates low favorable attitude and 50 indicates highly favorable attitude. The sum value of ten items (statements) divided into three categories at an equal split and named as ‘low favorable attitude’ (10-23), ‘moderately favorable attitude’ (24-36) and ‘highly favorable attitude’ (37-50).

E. Data Analysis

Necessary coding of data was done after collecting the data and transferred these into computers for analysis. Different analyses like frequency count, means, range with percentage and categories were administered utilizing Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) to show the contribution of demographic characteristics and income generating activities of the respondents and then had made different chart from that data using excel. Multiple regression analysis was used for exploring the influence of independent variables on dependent variables.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Respondents Socio-demographic Characteristics

Data presented in table 1 indicated that the highest proportion (83.3%) of the respondents were in the middle (29 to 52 years) age with an average of 37.38, where 10.0% of the respondents belong to young (<29 Years) age and the old (>52years) age were 6.7%. Majority of the respondents (60.0%) were illiterate. The data further reveals that 26.7% of the respondents from primary level and 13.3% respondents from secondary level with an average of 1.81. There are no respondents from tertiary level. Hence, we can easily say that the illiteracy rate was too high in the study area. Most of the respondents had small sized family (56.7%) which contained up to 4 members, some of them had medium sized family (41.7%) which contained 5 to 8 members and the large family (1.7%) contained >8 members with a mean of 4.35. Most of the respondents (51.7%) had 3-5 numbers of children, followed by up to 2 children (45%) and more than >5 number of children of 3.3% respectively with a mean of 2.68.

TABLE I: DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO THEIR SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS (N=120)

Variable	Categories	Frequencies	Percentage	Mean
Age	Young (<29 Years)	12	10.0	37.38
	Middle (29 to 52 years)	100	83.3	
	Old(>52years)	8	6.7	
Education	Illiterate (0)	72	60.0	1.81
	Primary (1-5)	32	26.7	
	Secondary (6-10)	16	13.3	
	Tertiary (>10)	0	0	
Family Members	Up to 4	68	56.7	4.35
	5-8	50	41.7	
	>8	2	1.7	
No. of Children	Up to 2	54	45	2.68
	3-5	62	51.7	
	>5	4	3.3	
Marital Status	Married	120	100	1.00
	Unmarried	0	0	
Land Size	Small (<2 acre)	112	93.3	0.38
	Medium (2-5 acre)	8	6.7	
	High (>5 acre)	0	0	
Cultivable land	Own	8	6.7	3.25
	Lease	28	23.3	
	Khas	10	8.3	
	Others land	74	61.7	
Land Ownership	Own	0	0	-
	Family	8	6.7	
	Others	112	93.3	
Monthly Income	Low (<6973)	6	5	9351.38
	Medium (6973-27500)	114	95	
	High (>27500)	0	0	
Income Source	Agriculture	120	100	1.0
	Non-agriculture	0	0	
Farming Experience	Low(<10years)	20	16.7	21.50
	Medium(11-20years)	40	33.3	
	High(>20years)	60	50.0	
Extension Contact	Yes	0	0	0.00
	No	120	100	
Cosmopolitan behavior	Yes	0	0	0.00
	No	120	100	

All of them were married (100%). Most of the respondents (93.3%) had small land (<2 acre), some of them (6.7%) had medium land (2-5 acre) with an average of 0.38. From the sampled respondents we found that most of the respondents (61.7%) did not have own land and they work in others land in daily payment basis. About 23.3% of the respondents works in lease land, (8.3%) of the respondents works in government owned 'khas' land mainly for homestead and only (6.7%) of the respondents works in their own field with an average of 3.25. Most of the respondents (95%) had medium level of monthly income followed by low income (5%) and high income (0%) respectively with an average of Tk. 9351.38. All of the respondents (100%) were depended on agriculture for their income. Most of the respondents (50.0%) had a high level of farming experience followed by low level (16.7%) of farming experience and medium level (33.3%) of farming experience with a mean of 21.50. From this study no extension contact was found as well as they had no tendency to go outside from their own territory means cosmopolitan behavior was absent among the respondents.

B. Respondents Involvement in Agriculture

Apart from crop production the respondents were also engaged in other activities like livestock & poultry and homestead gardening. But from the interview, the study found that the interviewees were involved in agricultural activities entirely and side by side some of the respondents were also involved in livestock & poultry and homestead gardening. 56.7% & 21.7% of the respondents were engaged in livestock & poultry and homestead gardening respectively

alongside 100% involvement in crop production. Most of the women in the study area were engaged in cleaning, threshing, and drying (100%) with little involvement in planting (70%), weeding (71.7%) and harvesting (78.3%). Only 1.7% women were involved in marketing, but they had no involvement in land preparation (0%) activity indicates that women are not equally considered as men in these works. About 26.7% of the respondents were involved in only post-harvest activities whether 73.3% of the respondents were involved in both the pre- and post-harvest activities but interestingly involvement is agricultural activities of the respondents during pre-harvest period is null. Most of the respondents (68.3%) worked only as paid labor on others field followed by 31.7% worked both in their own field and others land. No one worked only in their own field.

Most of the respondents still use old technology in agricultural activities. Only 18.3% of the respondents used modern technology whereas 81.7% of the respondents used traditional technology. The respondents did not get any support in terms of seed, fertilizer & pesticide from government or any other NGOs. All of the respondents (100%) source of farming was own source. Regarding training exposure in agricultural activities, the study found that only 5% of the respondents received training on this while 95% of the respondents did not get any training. Most of the respondents (73.3%) were engaged in homestead works while only 26.7% respondents were engaged in field activities. In case of extent of participation, about 68.3% respondents participated in the field activities often (90 to 100 days in a year) with 28.3% of the respondents participated in

field regularly and 3.3% respondents participated rarely respectively. But none of the respondents was found frequent in their extent of participation. Only 31.7% of the respondents

took loan from NGOs for crop production indicating lower monetary support for their development.

TABLE II: DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN DIFFERENT AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Sectors of agricultural activities	Crop production	120	100
	Livestock & poultry	68	56.7
	Fish farming	0	0
	Homestead gardening	26	21.7
	others	0	0
Types of activities	Land preparation	0	0
	Planting	84	70
	Weeding	86	71.7
	Harvesting	94	78.3
	Cleaning	120	100
	Threshing	120	100
	Drying	120	100
	Marketing	2	1.7
	Pre-harvest	0	0
	Post-harvest	32	26.7
Period of involvement	Pre + post-harvest	88	73.3
	Own field	0	0
	Paid Labor	82	68.3
Place of work	Own field + Paid labor	38	31.7
	Old technology	98	81.7
Use of technology	Modern technology	22	18.3
Source of farming inputs (seed, fertilizer, pesticide)	GO	0	0
	NGO	0	0
	Own	120	100
Training exposure	Yes	6	5.0
	No	114	95.0
Place of participation	Field	32	26.7
	Homestead	88	73.3
	Frequently	0	0
	Regularly	34	28.3
Extent of participation	Often	82	68.3
	Rarely	4	3.3
	Never	0	0
Obtain loan from NGOs	Yes	38	31.7
	No	82	68.3

C. Constraints in Agricultural Participation

The constraints of the respondents in agricultural participation were identified and reported below in the Fig. 1.

Fig. 1. Distribution of the respondents according to their constraints in agricultural participation.

The constraints of the women in participation in agricultural activities were reported as lack of education, economic poverty, family conservativeness, gender discrimination, lack of training, physical constraints and cultural and social barriers. The most significant constraint was physical constraint (34.10%), followed by gender

discrimination (21.10%), family conservativeness (12.20%), lack of training (12.20%), cultural and social barriers (9.80%) and economic poverty (7.30%) respectively. Physical constraints develop through lack of proper nutrient, health care etc. Similar findings were also found in other studies [31], where the major obstacle of the women from rural farm families in participating in agriculture was physical constraints. Gender discriminations suppress development and has a negative effect on wellbeing of people [33].

D. Determination of Women Empowerment

Among the 4 indices used for computing women empowerment, economic participation scored highest. [34], conducted a study on “Women Empowerment through the Development of Micro Entrepreneurship in Rural Bangladesh” and found “Women’s participation in home typed, traditional business can significantly build social capital, create awareness and enhance their capability to uplift their position”. All the respondents participated in income generating activities with a mean of 1.00, followed by 28.3% respondents could take their own decision whereas 71.7% respondents could not take their own decision with a mean of 0.33. They also had less opportunity to get education. About 66.7% respondents had negative response to educational right with only 33.3% respondents replied positively with a mean of 0.33, dissimilar findings were found by [35], where men prefer other women to have rights because men care about their daughter sand women rights raises investments in

education of children. The economic opportunity of the respondents was totally 0. This reveals that although 100% respondents were involved in economic participation, but they had no economic opportunity. Not just an individual but an entire family successfully empowered by doing work and income generating activities [36].

TABLE III: DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO WOMEN EMPOWERMENT INDICES

Indices	Groups	Frequency	Percentage	Mean (Range: 0.00 to 1.00)
Decision making ability	Yes	34	28.3	0.28
	No	86	71.7	
Educational right	Yes	40	33.3	0.33
	No	80	66.7	
Economic Participation	Yes	120	100	1.00
	No	0	0	
Economic opportunity	Yes	0	0	0.00
	No	120	100	

Women empowerment was obtained by adding together scores of all the 4 indices. Thus, score could range from 0 to 4, where 0 indicating 'very low empowerment' and 4 is 'very high empowerment' shown in the following figure.

Fig. 2. Distribution of the respondents according to their level of empowerment.

From the figure 3 it is shown that most of the respondents (55%) had medium empowerment, followed by 41.70% respondents had low empowerment and 3.30% respondents had high empowerment respectively. [24], conducted a study on "Determinants of Women Empowerment at Domestic and Non-domestic Issues: Evidence from Chapainawabganj District in Bangladesh" and found that the women of Chapainawabganj district were low empowered.

E. Attitude of the Respondents to Women Empowerment

Respondents' attitude was measured based on ten different statements and categorized according to their score which is shown in the Fig. 3.

The information of Fig. 3 reveals that highest proportion (70%) of the respondents showed moderately favorable attitude and only 30% of the respondents showed highly favorable attitude toward women empowerment. There is no one who showed low favorable attitude to women empowerment, which indicates that women of the study area are very keen to get empowerment.

Fig. 3. Distribution of the respondents according to their attitudes towards women empowerment.

F. Rank Order of the Attitude Statements

The information of Table 4 indicates that "Women empowerment helps to develop future generation", this positive statement ranked first with a score of 486 followed by "Education is not necessary for agricultural activities" which is a negative statement, and its score was 462. The negative statement "Present situation is not suitable for women involvement in agriculture" ranked the last and its score was 314.

TABLE IV: RANK ORDER OF THE STATEMENTS ACCORDING TO THEIR ATTITUDE SCORE BASED ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

SL No	Statements	Score	Average	Rank
1.	Involvement in agricultural activities improve social status (+)	402	3.35	8
2.	Involvement in agricultural activities improve economic status (+)	440	3.67	5
3.	Life standard improves through agricultural activities (+)	458	3.81	3
4.	Involvement in agricultural activities improve help to understand their right in society (+)	412	3.43	7
5.	Present situation is not suitable for women involvement in agriculture (-)	314	2.62	10
6.	Gender discrimination fades away through women participation in agriculture (+)	364	3.03	9
7.	Education is Not necessary for agricultural activities (-)	462	3.85	2
8.	Agricultural involvement improves decision making ability (+)	444	3.70	4
9.	Women empowerment helps to develop future generation (+)	486	4.05	1
10.	Government can play important role in women empowerment (+)	438	3.71	6

G. Contribution of Selected Characteristics of the Respondents on Women Empowerment

Regression results in Table 4 indicated that two out of nine characteristics were statistically significant predictors: 1) age 2) education. The women who retained one or more of these characters at a higher level were found to have higher women empowerment. These variables together explained 21% of the variance of effective factors on women empowerment.

TABLE V: RESPONDENTS' CHARACTERISTICS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Characteristics of the respondents	Coefficient b	t – value	p (significant)
Age **	.514	2.746	.008
Family size	-.015	-.113	.910
Education**	.400	3.000	.004
Number of children	-.157	-1.080	.285
Monthly Income	-.029	-.220	.826
Farming experience	-.263	-1.524	.134
Land size	-.082	-.610	.545
Land ownership	-.216	-1.621	.111
Attitude	.084	.701	.486

Note: $R = 0.57$, $R^2 = 0.33$, Adjusted $R^2 = 0.21$, Critical Value of $F = 2.76$, and $*p < 0.05$, $**p \leq 0.001$.

The result of the regression table shows a positive and significant (at 1% level) contribution of age on women empowerment. Age is proportionally related with women empowerment. The study depicts that women who were aged have better decision making ability than younger women, similar findings were also found in other studies [25], [37], [38], where aged women have better decision making ability than younger women. Alongside increasing of age of women they grow and have better decision making ability. So, the more the age increase the more the women become empowered.

Respondents education showed a positive and significant (at 1% level) contribution on women empowerment. Similar types of results were also obtained by [25], [29]. It means that the higher the level of education of the respondents, the higher their empowerment. Education helped to gain knowledge and thus increase their power of understanding. Consequently, their outlook was broadened, and horizon of knowledge was expanded. The real and outer world is exposed to an educated man and he can gain various experiences for perceiving a thing better [39]. Education provides information to women about their rights, household decision making, self-confidence, respect for others' advice and information and freedom in voting [40].

IV. CONCLUSIONS

Based on above analysis, it is found most of the respondents were middle age, illiterate, belonged to small size family. Agriculture is the main occupation among the respondents. Most of the respondents were found without own land although they continue their livelihood mostly by crop production, livestock rearing and day laboring. Most of them were deprived from educational right, help from GO or NGO or all kind of agricultural training and they had no cosmopolitan behavior. They take lease of cultivable land from others. The economic participation rate of the respondents was very high, on the other hand they had no economic opportunities. About 95% of the respondents were under medium income category with high farming experience. Most of them were unable to make their own decision. The main constraints in agricultural participation were their physical weakness that indicates lack of proper nutrition. The attitude of the participant's towards women empowerment were moderately favorable. Finally, the research confirmed that the level of empowerment of the women of Chapainawabganj through agriculture was medium.

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