

# Alternate Gender Empowerment Approaches in Rural Bangladesh

Ali MS\*, Cook Kevin

Department of Social Science, Nottingham Trent University, Nottingham, United Kingdom

## Email address

[ali.green.univ@gmail.com](mailto:ali.green.univ@gmail.com) (Ali MS)

\*Corresponding author

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**Abstract:** Women empowerment is a mechanism in which women influence and share control and responsibility over the decisions and resources that concern them. Almost 1 in 4 Bangladeshis (24.3 percent of the population) live in poverty, and 12.9 percent of the population lives in extreme poverty and among them 74% women. To order to meet their basic needs, most rural women are deprived. They are the victims of high mortality, malnutrition, increased analphabetism, gender discrimination, job loss, etc. They will improve their economic independence through the participation of women, adding to their self-esteem and status. This study focused on examining the economic participation of women in the rural economy in the sense of poverty eradication. The goal of this study is to analyze the effects of the changing role of women in the eradication of poverty, in the economic sphere, in the face of socio-economic and cultural difficulties in economic affairs, and to consider how women need to respond to the conditions of poverty in rural areas.

**Keywords:** Empowerment, Poverty Alleviation, Funding from Government, Rural

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## 1. Introduction

The economy of Bangladesh is characterized by unfavorable land per capita, low per capita income, glaring and accentuating income disparity, high unemployment, low productivity and persistent high levels of poverty and deprivation [1-3]. Bangladesh has about 86,000 villages. In these villages, more than 70 percent of people stay. Bangladesh operates primarily on a rural economy basis. Approximately 50% of rural people are women. Earners of income are mainly male. Most of the household chores are female. Like many other developing countries in Bangladesh, women are limited in access to positions of influence and power. Female presence in the workplace is very limited and female earnings are smaller than those of men. They have to deal with their traditional roles to put right outside the house. As a result, rural economy is lagging behind due to non-participation in women's economic activities. Most of the people in the village are poor. Effective rural women's participation is therefore essential for eradicating poverty. Now the knowledge of a day has grown up. In a small sphere, women take part in the rural economy [4-7]. But a wide

range of women's participation is needed to change the rural economy [8-9]. The main focus of this research is to determine the changing role of women in the rural sector, in particular by showing how they effectively combine these two roles, and to determine how significant their economic contribution is in economic activities [10-12]. It is therefore clear that there is a need for a coordinated and expected participation of women in the economic sphere. Subordination is required in order to ensure the participation of women in economic activities [13-16]. "The goal of gender planning is women's liberation through their achievement of dignity, justice and empowerment," according to Caroline. To maximize their economic contribution, there is a need to build technical and educational opportunities as well as infrastructure [17-19]. The issue of women's economic contribution was also dealt with at institutional level, such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund. The study was conducted under following agenda-Identify rural women's role in eradicating poverty; Effective area for women to participate in the rural sector in the war against poverty and socio-economic and cultural barriers to women's economic participation.

## 2. Methodology

This study uses qualitative and quantitative approaches as well as numerous instruments for collecting data. This work is an exploratory study based on a survey that is carried out mainly from secondary data. Secondary evidence is written by academics in books and articles.

## 3. Results and Discussions

From our findings, we predict from figure 1, that the total poverty rate falls from 1992-93 to 2011. The rate of rural poverty is higher than that of the urban economy.

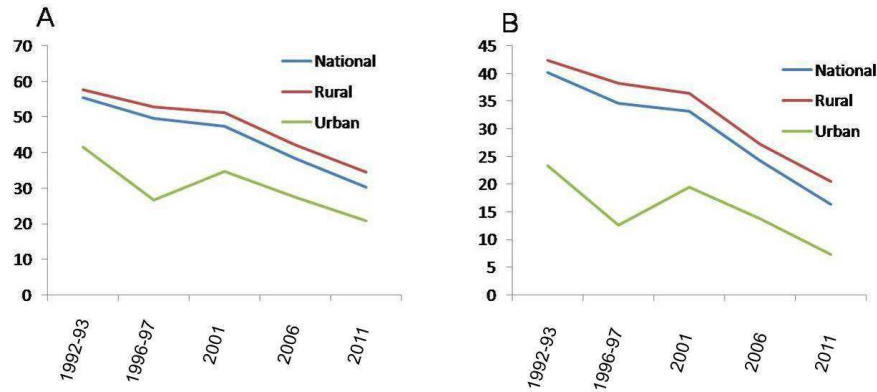


Figure 1. Poverty situation in Bangladesh. Year wise head count rates of incidence of poverty (BBS, 2011), upper poverty line (A), lower poverty line (B) (BBS, 2011).

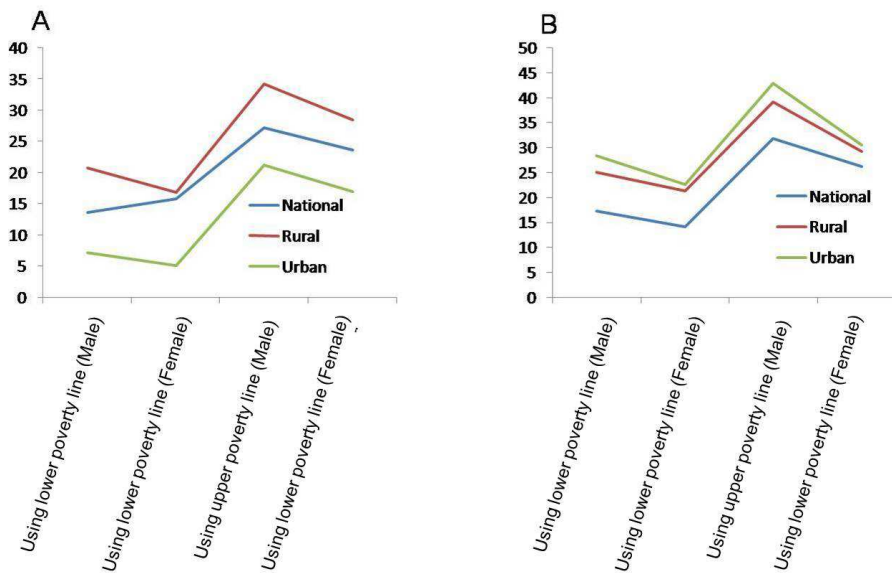


Figure 2. Gender wise the poverty situation of Bangladesh. Incidence of Poverty by Selected Household Characteristics (BBS, 2011). (A) for year of 2006, (B) for year of 2011.

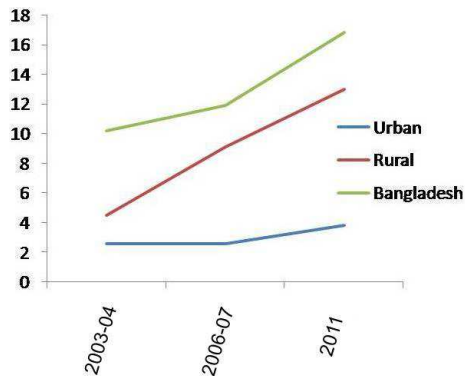


Figure 3. Economically active women (Million) (15+).

In both rural and urban cases, female labors are poorer than male labors. The poverty rate is lower than in 2006 compared to two years in 2011. Women's economic independence will increase in 2011. It becomes easier to engage in economic activity. Thus, the percentage of women's poverty in 2011 is lower than in 2006. Over the years from 2003-04 to 2011, female labor is increasing dramatically. There is more representation in the number of rural women relative to urban women-rural women.

Economically active women are growing in Bangladesh. Rural and urban-rural women are more active than urban women. Rural women therefore play a vital role in the rural economy. The chart below indicates that women's activity rates are increasing over the year. They will play an

important role in eradicating poverty through their economic independence. Age 25-29 is more active than other age groups. In the case of female gender, they are lagging behind male gender but improving the scenario. In 2011, women's participation in different age groups was low, 20-24 increased, and 25-29 peak. There was an increase in the number of jobs in both rural and urban areas. But the rural people working are higher than the urban ones.

In Bangladesh, there were a lot of unpaid female workers. In rural areas, the number is more than in urban areas. Many women in this field work as "family donors" and are therefore unpaid. Nonetheless, the proportion of women working listed as "contributing family workers" has fallen. There was a small number of skilled women's labor. But there was a rise in their employment status. Yet their unemployment has reduced.

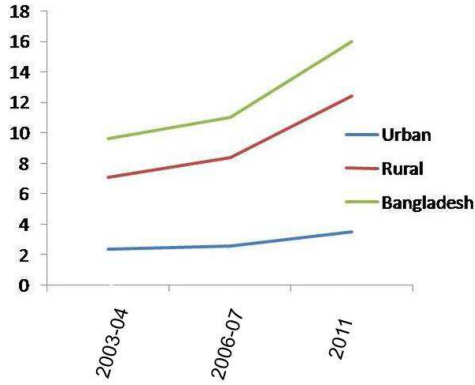


Figure 4. Female labor force participation (in million).

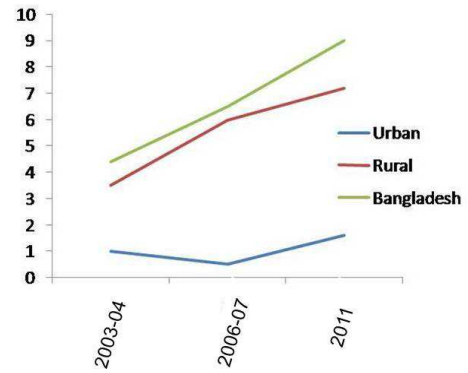


Figure 5. Contributing family workers (in millions).

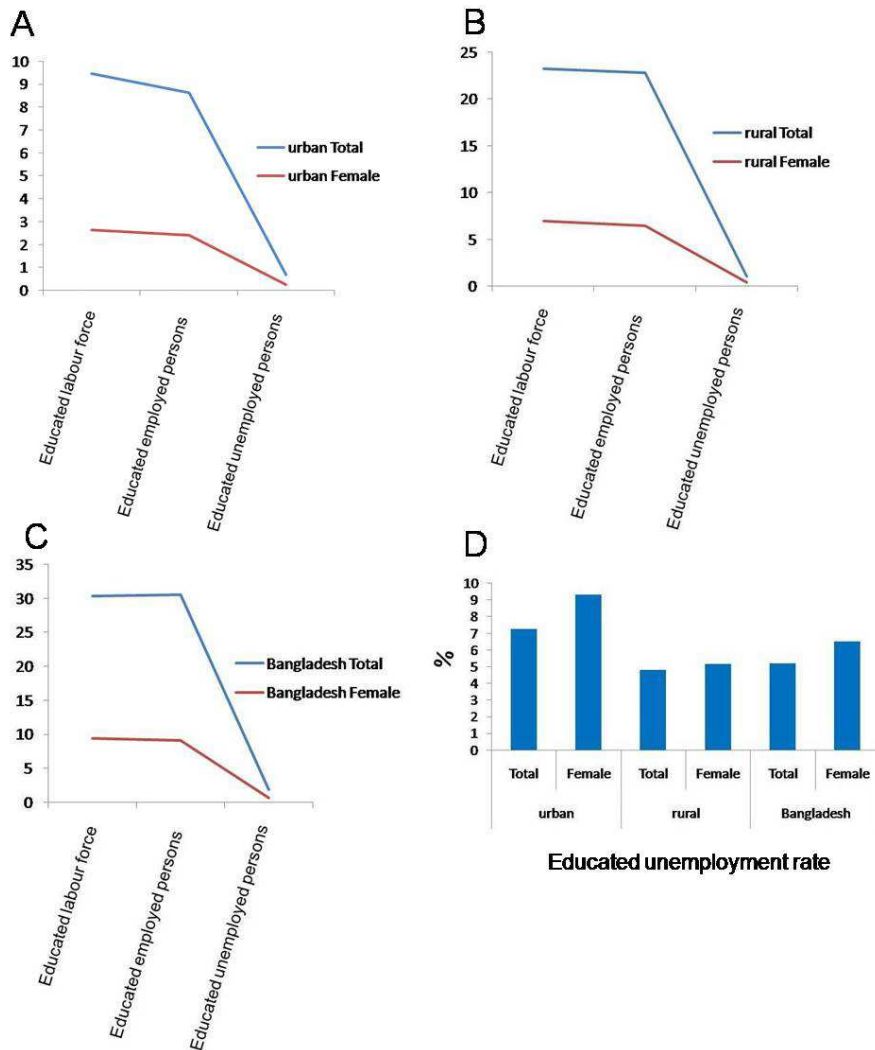


Figure 6. Educated Female labor force aged 15 years and over and educated unemployment rate (in millions).

Sometimes women's role in making the right choices for them is not understood by politicians. As a result, in setting up their role in economic activities, women get sufferers. The rural women are becoming more poor. It is generally believed that women are required to perform jobs that are simple and near to put. As a result, the availability of these types of jobs and family management is difficult to handle their work. Women have to do household chores and run smoothly in their home. She executes a family's boss here. Most of the work is done solely by her. She gets no support from her family in this case. Most of the times she had to leave work for the family's operation. This problem is serious in rural areas. The steps may be taken to empower them- Fostering women and men's equal rights in all areas of development, including access to information, expertise, resources and opportunities; Promotion women's economic self-reliance and creating economic policies that have a positive impact on women's employment and income in both formal and informal sectors; Develop and implement specific economic, social, agricultural and related policies and programs to support poor women's households; Take appropriate measures to minimize women's and girls' vulnerability, eradicate all kinds of violence against women and treat and rehabilitate victims of violence and survivors of violence; Help rural women who are willing to increase their economic activity by developing resources and networks; Reinforce the role of rural women in community-based decision-making by building capacity and networks; Sensitizing the private sector (banks, non-bank credit units and private businesses) to women's gender needs and interests in rural areas.

#### 4. Conclusion

People are born with potential capacities. Technology aims at creating an environment in which all people can increase their potential and opportunities. In this way, women who make up half of the world's population remain largely inactive, meaning that part of the world's human resources remain unused and therefore the maximum potential world production is not realized. Because this study attempted to understand the growing role of women and their contribution to the rural economy. In rural areas, a greater part of the country stays. The central focus of policy makers was therefore on rural development in order to achieve national economic and social goals. In this scenario, as active participants in rural development, women were given critical consideration. In our research, we have attempted to highlight the importance, dimensions and structures of women's involvement in the way rural poverty is eradicated. We also assessed the phenomenon and its implications of rising women's economic participation in Bangladesh. The main constraints for achieving this precondition for creation and the possible solution method for setting suitable and necessary priorities are finally confirmed.

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