

A Critical Overview on Women Entrepreneurship through Poultry farming in Bangladesh

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Abstract: This study has been undertaken to investigate the determinants of stock returns in Karachi Stock Exchange (KSE) using two assets pricing models the classical Capital Asset Pricing Model and Arbitrage Pricing Theory model. To test the CAPM the involvement of women is one of the central issues in the development process of all developing countries in the world. The participation of women or the woman entrepreneurship is essential for the economic growth of a country and their participation in income generating activities increases the level of their empowerment. For sustainable economic expansion, women entrepreneurship is regarded as one of the crucial driving factors for overall development of Bangladesh. The involvement of women in diversified entrepreneurial movement especially in agricultural sector has empowered them culturally, socially and above all economically. The study particularly focuses on women entrepreneurship in poultry sector of Bangladesh. As poultry farming and poultry refuge (PR) management in Bangladesh has entered a new era, it has been able to create tremendous opportunities for the country. The increased number of poultry production volume, a satisfactory figure in total turnover rate has pushed women entrepreneurs to invest more in this sector. This overall entrepreneurial contribution has escalated the country's GDP (Gross Domestic Products) over the years. Female entrepreneurship in poultry sector has gone through many phases. In spite of some conspicuous success in this regard, women are still facing many obstacles in financial, social, marketing and technical levels which needs to be addressed soon. Moreover, proper training and technological assistance need to be ensured to make trained women labor force. Above all, financial reinforcement from national and international levels is highly required to ensure women empowerment for feasible rural development in Bangladesh.

Index Terms - Woman entrepreneur, Poultry farming, Poultry refuge, Empowerment, Bangladesh.

I. Introduction

In the rural area of Bangladesh, women are mostly involved with homestead agriculture like poultry rearing and homestead gardening. Poultry farming is such a sector where women contributed significantly transferring the small farms into large industries. Nowadays the selling of the poultry birds and eggs is an essential source of cash earning, which helps to overcome a household financial crisis. It is a great source of poverty reduction, which can change the lifestyles of many rural women. Agriculture plays a vital role in addressing the needs of a growing global population, and to poverty reduction, especially in developing countries. Sustainable agriculture and rural development are essential to the implementation of an integrated approach to increase food production and to enhance food security, food safety in a sustainable way [1].

Poultry farming (PF) is an important sector of agriculture in Bangladesh. Women are involved in almost all areas of farming, besides their home activities. If women are involved in PR management, they can educate more women and can contribute much in the household as well as in the national economy. In rural areas of Bangladesh, women are predominantly involved in low-income based economic activities such as poultry farming (PF) and homestead-based production. PF is a rapidly rising and profitable sector in Bangladesh where women has been contributing considerably. In many occasions the small farms are transformed into large industrial entities. At current stature, the selling of the poultry birds and their eggs is a vital source of earning dividends that helps households to meet financial challenges on one hand and to pursue a positive livelihood on the other. Every PF produces a huge amount of Poultry Refuse (PR) which can be linked with PR management. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP) already have taken initiatives to understand and develop sustainable poultry management practices in Bangladesh. Currently a significant number of women are working in the poultry industry and PR management.

The study further reveals that PF and PR management programs, in the long run, empower the rural women by providing them economic independence and power of decision making. This study concludes that PF and PR management may be milestones in poverty alleviation, and these may bring an excellent prospect for economic development of a country. The findings of this research may be useful for women farmers and relevant organizations operating in rural areas of Bangladesh in providing required information on appropriate PR management practices [2] (Rattanawi boonsom & Muhammad, 2016). Economic development is measured as an essential indicator for the government's successful entrepreneurial management. This paper sketched the overview of total entrepreneurship quality, woman empowerment through poultry farming and the factors which are influential for the success including economical, institutional and infrastructural. The study considering some factors of entrepreneurial facilities such as male and female entrepreneurs, infrastructural and institutional requirements, and those can help to enhance the growth of entrepreneurial management of the nation.

In Bangladesh, since the beginning of the 21st century, the poultry industry has become a platform for a quick revenue. It generates local employment and production of cheaper animal proteins. A critical analysis tells that the poultry industry by the woman entrepreneur in Bangladesh may become multi-dimensional and more stable very soon to establish SME industries [3] (Rahman et al 2017).

II. Entrepreneurship

The term entrepreneur comes from French word *entreprendre* meaning is to undertake (Edelman et al., 2016). An entrepreneur is a person with inspiration and initiative to form a business to produce something new in society (Chowdhury, 2017). Entrepreneurs are people who can translate thoughts into action; they are dreamers and thinkers who do. An entrepreneur is an economic agent with innovative activities, and they can calculate total risks to fulfill their dreams (Zamore, 2014).

Entrepreneurship is an essential part for the economic advancement of nations around the world (Erez et al, 2001; Rokish et al 2018) as it has the capacity to create sufficient jobs opportunities that reduce employment rates (Mustapha & Maitilee, 2015). It is one of the important ways to achieve financial independence and help in the overall business process overcoming business challenges (Mahmood et al, 2017). Entrepreneur characteristics such as courage to take risk, skill, innovation and more reliable to decide the women undergo self-employment or work as employees. Social entrepreneurship means the way of social development through the economically sustainable and viable model that focuses more on public wealth instead of private ones. Entrepreneurship brings economic benefits through creating wealth and decreasing unemployment; producing market opportunities and increasing the overall number of productions of a country. Sustainable entrepreneurship contributes towards both economic and social wellbeing, and it is entirely a non-profit organization that exclusively focus on social missions. In addition to this, the entrepreneur has the entrepreneurial characteristics to lead an organization with a social mission, regardless of whether it is a non-profit organization (Rahim & Shahimi, 2015).

III. Women Entrepreneurship: Reduce Poverty and vulnerability

Women entrepreneurship is regarded as a woman or a group of women who are involved in sustainable entrepreneurial activities. Women in entrepreneurial activities are commonly found all over the world, and they help to create vibrant economic activities in the domestic field (Nor and Zuraida, 2016). Women entrepreneurs can gain recognition and new opportunities to improve and increase their business scale. The income-generating activities of women can improve not only their position in the household but also contribute to family welfare, particularly to food and children education. Furthermore, sustainable women entrepreneurship is important for women position in society and it leads economic empowerment of them towards the development of family, community and country. Sustainable entrepreneurial initiatives lead to self-fulfillment and makes women aware of their existence, rights, status, and positions in society. Women entrepreneurs can gain recognition and new opportunities to improve and increase their business scale. Women entrepreneurs can build sustainable economic empowerment through learning power of economic decision making, ability to become economically solvent and raise self-confident in terms of income, property, savings and capital with having skillful knowledge and legal based supportive environment (Tanusia Arumugam, 2016).

An initiative to become a successful woman entrepreneur is the key factor to take advantage of all the accessible opportunities and overcome any prospective obstacle (Hassan et al, 2017). Earlier, entrepreneurship was only a male-dominated phenomenon, but now the situation has been changed and the women are known as the most memorable and inspirational entrepreneurs (Bhatnagar et al, 2017). At present a role of modern women has not been confined to the traditional woman as a mother or as a housewife. Although women entrepreneurs become more vital but, the number is still very small as compared to the men (Mahmood et al, 2017). Participation of rural women has become an integral part for the overall development of Bangladesh. The involvement of women in socio-economic advancement has made them able to contribute financially in their family affairs. A self-empowered woman has more competency to face sudden household crisis. Women's contribution in agricultural sector is essential for sustainable rural development. Advancement in farming and agricultural activities need minimum educational qualification of rural women. Suitable training and technological assistance need to be facilitated to make trained women force of farmers. In order to do that financial support from national and international level is highly required. All kinds of gender gap and discrimination need to be eradicated through improving their social status. Women empowerment requires entrepreneurship and self-empowerment of women in different socio-economic sectors which in return will bring new scopes for income generation. In this regard, micro credit program can play a vital role in ensuring women empowerment, poverty alleviation and for further development process. Above all it is necessary to ensure social, political and psychological involvement of rural women for sustainable rural community develop enterprise (Rattanawiboonsom & Muhammad, 2016).

IV. Entrepreneurial Motivation

There could be several reasons to look for an opportunity achieving financial independence and decision-making freedom. Academic literature suggests that entrepreneurship is often associated with the will to overcome a state of social eccentricity or discrimination (Cooney, 2008). If the business is successful, it gives a motivation to establish a person self-confidence (Harper & Momm, 1989). It is a process that requires an entrepreneur to identify opportunities, allocate resources, and create value despite obstacles and adversity (Shahidi & Smagulova, 2008). Successful women entrepreneurship is a consequence of socio-economic innovation in the entrepreneurial process of urban women. These are some entrepreneurial characteristic which motivated the women in successful entrepreneurial activities.

Passion: Passion is called the heart of entrepreneurship that forces the entrepreneurs to work hard with pleasure to achieve his dream through having focus on the journey. Passion can influence individual entrepreneur to engage in successful entrepreneurial ventures and enable her to get a better level of income. Entrepreneurship passion has been defined as a positive feeling which is obtained by entrepreneur involvement in all entrepreneurial activities (Sahedan et al., 2018). Passion is needed to achieve higher levels of performance and to overcome barriers to change. There are different inspiration factors influencing a woman to become an entrepreneur, and the circumstances are unique to the person. Here entrepreneurial passion has a significant relationship with the entrepreneurial success, and which increases ultimate business income (Ismail et al, 2016).

Self-efficacy: Self-efficacy is the belief in own ability to implement the necessary personal knowledge, skills, and capabilities to achieve a certain achievement on a given task (Farrukh et al, 2017). In other words, self-efficacy is seen as task-specific goal oriented for individual task (Alam et al, 2015). Self-efficacy or self-confidence has been examined as an entrepreneurial task which is enhanced by level of education, support of family and friends and other environmental factors (Mahmood et al, 2017). A working woman who can contribute to the family more than the women who are not engaged in any income-related works. The women who earn and add a little to the family expenditure can exercise their rights and increases their self-confidence. In a word, the women with high self-efficacy is able to take negative feedback in a more positive manner and they use that feedback to improve their performance (Sahedan et al, 2018, Farrukh et al, 2017).

Knowledge: The knowledge-based on entrepreneurship education in the artificial environment is significant for the entrepreneurial process. The entrepreneurial knowledge, especially through work experience, has a positive relationship with the income level and growth of a business or an organization (Sahedan et al., 2018). Entrepreneurship in the knowledge economy symbolizes innovation, stimulating the economic development, and stabilizing the economy by creating jobs and maintaining economic growth (Hassan et al, 2017). So, the education of urban women will be measured as the main sources of entrepreneur knowledge background and education levels. Further, the women entrepreneurs will be explored according to entrepreneurship knowledge such as entrepreneurial characteristics, preparation of business plans, management of small businesses and entrepreneurship process (Yusoff et al, 2015).

Skills: Skills include leadership skills, communication skills, management skills and more. If an entrepreneur has intention to become an entrepreneur, then she needs to learn and develop entrepreneurial skills (Alam et al, 2015). To become a successful entrepreneur, entrepreneurial skills of a woman has been required to run the business smoothly (Sahedan et al, 2018; Shane, 2003). The basic entrepreneurship skills improve the lifestyle and eradicate the percentage of poverty from the nation, which is in line with the government intention (Hassan et al, 2017). The higher level of entrepreneurial skills shows the more confident the respondents towards entrepreneurship (Erez et al, 2001).

Inspiration: Motivation is defined as an inner state that invigorates, activates and directs behavior towards goals of entrepreneurship, as well as social entrepreneurship (Shane, 2003). Further, motivation is a set of strengths that initiate entrepreneur's behavior and determine the procedure, direction, intensity and duration of entrepreneurship (Bhatnagar et al, 2017). A fully motivated women entrepreneur can easily achieve the goals desired and the unexpected success due to willingness of herself to expend energy to achieve a goal or reward (Shane, 2003). The entrepreneur's motivations such as need for achievement, vision, locus of control, desire for independence, and drive (Sahedan et al, 2018) influence the entrepreneurial process of B40 urban women.

Risk Taking: Risk-taking is any intentionally or unconsciously entrepreneurial behavior, which can control the economic and social well-being of a women (Trimpop, 1994). Risk taking is the most important success factors irrespective of business size, location and types as well as for the other entrepreneur traits (Kareem, 2015). Risk-taking helps to increase the micro credit single mother's entrepreneur's passion in striving toward their goal (Ismail et al.,2016). It is critical for entrepreneurs to perceive and address the risks they are facing to enable them to venture into the wider business market and thereby increase their income level. Risk-taking propensity is another motivation of interest, which emerged from McClelland's (1961) original research on entrepreneurs. McClelland claimed that individuals with high achievement needs would have reasonable tendencies to take risk. This claim by McClelland is especially interesting for entrepreneurship research because the entrepreneurial process involves acting in the face of uncertainty. Liles (1974) argued that entrepreneurs often must accept uncertainty with respect to financial well-being, psychic well-being, career security, and family relations. Moreover, several theories of entrepreneurship view the entrepreneur as bearing residual uncertainty (Venkataraman, 1997)

V. Challenges of woman Entrepreneurship

There are different challenges for woman entrepreneurs, and it can be personal, surrounding environmental, economic, operational, and lack of information. Some of the characteristics that are needed for an entrepreneur includes risk-taking partiality, creativity, and self-confidence (Chell, 2008). Entrepreneurial qualities such as passion, a strong sense of self, resilience, risk-seeking are traits of successful entrepreneurs (Rampton, 2014). Lack of encouragement and cooperation skill reduce their confidence. In majority of the cases, people lack the technical knowledge to run the business. Lack of formal education and proper knowledge also happened in the interviews. The success of a business depends on how quickly and efficiently it can respond to environmental challenges (Nadler, 1995). Majority of people are facing hardships to get startup funds, especially from financial institutions. For example, Clothing based businesses require credit transaction which makes a big challenge. If they fail to offer credit to their client repeatedly, they risk losing the client and eventually the business. There is also the challenge of managing funds efficiently, maintaining proper records of transactions. This is due to poor knowledge of cost management and credit management (Rattanawiboonsom & Muhammad, 2016)

VI. Empowerment of rural woman through Homestead poultry firming in Bangladesh

Labor force participation rate of women has increased from 15.8 % to 36 % from 1995-96 to 2010. However, according to the Labor Force Survey (LFS) 2010, out of 35 million women aged 15 years and above, only 17 million are part of labor force 16 million are employed and the rest are unemployed. Again, 92 % of these women is working in the informal sector. While the upward trend in women participation in labor force is a matter of appreciation. According to the LFS, 25% of 16 million employed women belong to the self-employed category, who may be considered as individual entrepreneur. Thus, there are more than 4 million women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh. Though the numbers seem attractive, 62 % of the self-employed women are working in the agricultural sector having limited capacity to generate employment for other women. These activities are cropping, livestock and poultry rearing, fish farming, nursery and tree planting, tool making, handcrafting, food processing, tailoring, rice processing, etc. Only 12.7 % of women are self-employed in manufacturing, which has higher potential to generate employment for other women. It is to be noted that 20 % of self-employed women are involved in wholesale and retail trade.

Access to finance – most crucial problem faced by women entrepreneurs

- Bangladesh Bank's refinancing scheme is a praise-worthy initiative to help SMEs, especially women entrepreneurs. However, this is yet to reach its anticipated goal.
- According to this scheme, 15 % of the SME loan should go to women entrepreneurs, which could not reach even 5 percent level yet.
- The commercial banks that are responsible to disburse the loan, are not always serious about catering to the women entrepreneurs.
- Though a maximum of 10 % is supposed to be charged as interest under this scheme, the women entrepreneurs face an effective rate of much more than 15 % in course of their repayment process. Moreover, NGOs are charging interest rate from 27.5% to 45% real effective interest rate. Such high rate of interest discourages women to take loan to start or expand their businesses.
- Women should also show professionalism in their business so that they can run the business with full information and market access facilities to ensure profitability.

Agricultural industries are dispersed and composed of numerous actors working in different clusters and socioeconomic classes. Their opportunities and limitations, priorities and needs are also different. From 2019-2020 budget of Bangladesh, Gov. Keep 5.5% development budget in agriculture sector from total development budget of USD 21.95 billion from Fig 1. Woman entrepreneurs are contributing to the agriculture sectors in Bangladesh through poultry farming and poultry refuge management. There are some stages of poultry entrepreneurs such as [16].

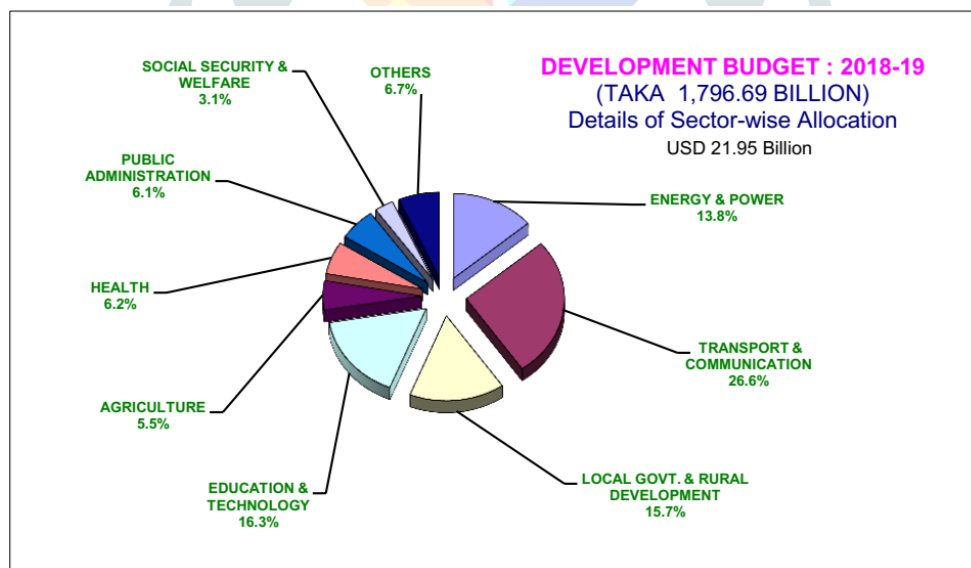


Fig.1: Total budget distribution year 2018-2019 (Bangladesh)

a) Marginal Farmers

Conversion of 1 Day Chick collect for growing as live broiler through proper nurturing, farm management, managing all take care, and controlling diseases to make profits for the small industry. They depend on local dealers for chicks' feeds, medicines and additional operational money. They face numerous problems that put hindrances for their growth and expansion. The input costs of OC, feed & medicine are very high. The demand and supply relationship for poultry products are very elastic. Absence of poultry products, make worse business situation and very difficult to expand business, implement bio-security on animal farming. Marginal farmers have limited access to credit from formal financial institutions.

b) Dealers

Dealers are the functional bridge between the input manufacturers and the SME farmers by sourcing the inputs from the large companies through their connection and self-credibility. They take a loan from the large companies to distribute it in forms i.e. DOC, medicines and feeds, and buy back products from the small farmers through the post harvesting channel to generate the cash revenue. A challenge to the industry is that some dealers may often play the role of “Mahajans”, and do not show responsibility to the small and marginal poultry farmers.

c) Large Industries

Large industries are the producers of inputs and they are doing complete forward and backward integration to establish a poultry brand. These old large industries those who took big risks and create successful awareness about poultry, opened the frontier of business and self-employment. Maintaining this complete integration channel imposes a very high risk on the investors compared to very high financial stakes. The first challenge for the large integrators is, they do not have any kind of insurance for running a risky live bird business. The second challenge is the risk for the new competitors with the existing players those are already established themselves. They are the sort oligopoly but generally lack competitive edges as the consumers usually buy products from the wet market and are not that ready to pay premium price for quality products. Indeed, branding of products is likely to help raise demand.

d) Government

Government has a goal for the development of the poultry industry, which is playing an essential role in achieving different long-term goals i.e. MDG & SDG. The key roles of the government include reviewing the rules and regulation, implementing and enforcing law and order, providing physical and energy infrastructure. Moreover, supporting the vast number of small and marginal poultry farmers with favorable credit and insurance policy, and encouraging the large commercial poultry sector on sustainable production and consumption patterns.

VII. Woman and Agriculture

In Bangladesh, the participation of women in the agricultural sector ranges from 60% to 98%. In addition, the percentage of women in the agricultural sector are higher than the men. According to FAO, this report is even more significant to exclude the unpaid work by rural women in farm and family work. At present men are more likely to join in non-farming sector as a result women's role has been transformed rapidly from unpaid family workers known as “feminization of agriculture” (Khalequzzaman & Chowdhury, 2012). The trends of livestock species from 2008 to 2018 to the main economy of the country and different categories of the livestock are shown in Table 1 below.

(Table.1: Livestock Economics Section, DLS, Bangladesh 2019).

Livestock Species	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Cattle	229.76	230.51	231.21	231.95	233.41	234.88	236.36	237.85	239.35	240.86
Buffalo	13.04	13.49	13.94	14.43	14.50	14.57	14.64	14.71	14.78	14.85
Sheep	28.77	29.77	30.02	30.82	31.43	32.06	32.70	33.35	34.01	34.68
Goat	224.01	232.75	241.49	251.16	252.77	254.39	256.02	257.66	259.31	261.00
Total Ruminant	495.58	506.52	516.84	528.36	532.11	535.90	539.72	543.57	547.45	551.39
Chicken	2213.94	2280.35	2346.86	2428.66	2490.11	2553.11	2617.70	2683.93	2751.83	2821.45
Duck	412.34	426.77	441.20	457.00	472.54	488.61	505.22	522.40	540.16	558.53
Total Poultry	2626.28	2707.12	2788.06	2885.66	2962.64	3041.72	3122.93	3206.33	3292.00	3379.98
Total Livestock	3121.86	3213.64	3304.90	3414.02	3494.75	3577.62	3662.65	3749.90	3839.45	3931.37

(Source: BBS)

Bangladesh is largely dependent on its agricultural sector. Agricultural sector of Bangladesh is further divided into various subsectors. Among them livestock is one of the most important sub-sectors in the economy. Currently livestock contributes 2.50% to Gross Domestic Product (GDP). More specifically poultry contributes significantly to the welfare of people both at household and national level. Predominantly, the annual average growth in poultry production from the year 2005 to 2011 was 3.7% (BER,2011) (Islam M. S. et al 2016)

Table 2: Contribution of Livestock and Poultry in the National Economy of Bangladesh (2017-18)

Contribution of Livestock in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (Constant Prices)	1.54%
GDP growth rate of Livestock (Constant Prices)	3.40 %
GDP volume (Current prices) (Million Taka)	396246
Share of Livestock in Agricultural GDP (Current prices)	13.62%
Employment (Directly)	20%
Employment (Partly)	45%

Calculated at constant price (Source: BBS); Livestock Economics Section, DLS.

Table.2 shows the Contribution of Livestock and Poultry in the national economy of Bangladesh in% of GDP where directly 20% of peoples are involved to poultry related employment and indirectly 45%. Nonetheless, contribution of women in crop production has remarkably reduced in recent years. Contrarily, women's involvement in livestock and poultry as well as in homestead gardening has gradually increased to a noticeable extent. Agriculture is a crucial part for a developing country like

Bangladesh. Considerably, it has contributed to domestic production, ensuring food security and employment. Assuring food security is a concerning issue in many developing and least developed countries. Participation of women in agricultural sector can lessen this problem to a great extent.

Female workers constitute around two-third of total labor force in agricultural sector of Bangladesh. The proportion of overall economically active population (EAP) in agriculture notably declined around the world in 1990s. Poultry breeding practice requires low cost of production compare to the output of it. There are three categories of chicken production in terms of biological and economic values of the farms in rural areas. Such as

- a) Confined full- ratio system (CFRS) or intensive system
- b) Semi- Scavenging system (SIS) or semi- intensive system
- c) Free range system (FRS) or scavenging system.

Due to different sepsis of the chicken, different management system the egg weight, final body weight, shall weight, feed consumption, egg production, feed cost, management cost, age at first laying and net profit can differ (Ershad, 2005). Hybrid Layer rearing is better than native hen under the intensive system in case of the higher egg production, higher weight of the egg, higher body weight, and lower mortality. Under the intensive system White Shelled Hybrid Layers are better than Brown Shelled Hybrid Layer. In addition to this, under the scavenging system, NH is better for the rural area of Bangladesh because of higher market demand, price of the eggs, comparatively lower production cost, live bird price and satisfactory profit. The native hen farming under scavenging scheme and White Shelled or Brown Shelled Hybrid Layer under the intensive farming system are proven profitable without further investment in Bangladesh. Poultry sub-sector can be a crucial factor for reducing poverty and malnutrition from the country within a short period. It is further observed that every firm has the maximum capacity of breeding chickens or hens which in return will bring maximum amount of profit (Menge et. al., 2005). Poultry farm in Bangladesh is often known as family poultry which contributes significantly to reducing food scarcity. It also facilitates gender equality by promoting household incomes for the rural women. Various networks about FP have been launched to facilitate the exchange of views and experiences among the people engaged in FP.

VIII. Women's Involvement in Poultry Farming

The farming system of Bangladesh is like other traditional farming systems around the world. A system which is tightly integrated with three vital elements, that is family, crop and livestock. Production of waste in this system is minimal and can be recycled with a minimum dependence on outside inputs. This way farms are kept ecologically balanced as well. Rural people of Bangladesh consist of around 84% of country's total population. Poultry, which is basically homestead based, is one of the important contributors to the agricultural sector of Bangladesh. After the independence to late 1980s, growth of poultry industry was very sluggish. However, many private firms were started to provide financial support to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) from 1990 till now. Recently Bangladesh has witnessed a revolutionary transformation in poultry sector including shift in chicken genotypes and production systems. High purchasing power of buyer and positive approach towards nutrition fulfillment has shifted the poultry industry into a new phase. At present in Bangladesh majority of chicken production is under integrated production system which once used to be single unit production system (Md Shahidur Rahman1, 2017). Reasons behind significant changes in different areas of poultry sector are given below.

- Increased production capacity of parent stock and hybrid chick.
- Net profit against large number of production volume.
- Large number of firms entered into operation.
- **Expansion of processed chicken industry.**

Present scenario of the poultry industry in Bangladesh has been given below

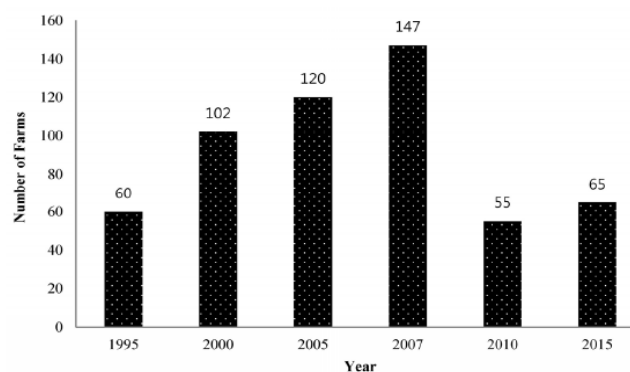


Fig.2: Number of poultry firms over 20 years. Data adapted from (Md Shahidur Rahman1, 2017)

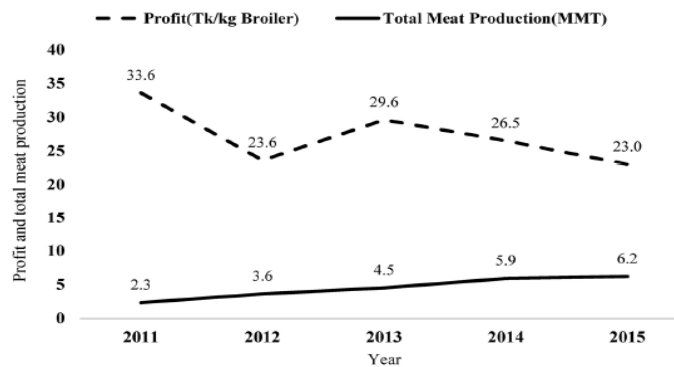


Fig.3: Profit margin of broiler meat and volume of total meat production (Md Shahidur Rahman1, 2017)

According to FAO participation of women to the overall economy has been estimated a high proportionate throughout Asia Pacific region, specifically in terms of labor force in agriculture. In Bangladesh agriculture is divided into four subsectors such as crops, fisheries, livestock and forestry. In Bangladesh rural women do five major categories of works such as household, agricultural, non-agricultural and socio-cultural/personal. In agricultural activities women make a direct contribution to the household economy, especially during pre-harvest, harvest and post-harvest periods. It has high percent of women employed in the agricultural sector, with estimates ranging between 60% and 98% and the number of women employed in agriculture as a percent of the EAP is higher than men.

IX. Problems and Constraints of Poultry Industry

The scenario in the family poultry farming is obscure and full of risk and uncertainty. It is suffering from various problems and does not have a scope to compete with the commercial poultry farm. Lack of adequate and proper market information, no-reliable statistics on demand and supply situation etc. make the household farming back behind. Family poultry farmers are facing economic problem, marketing problem and environmental problems defined in the following.

Economic problems

Lack of capital and credit institution: Cash capital and investment is an essential input for enlargement of any farm. Formal credit from different institutions is tough to get and it requires complicated procedure. Therefore, farmers borrowed money from land lord or mahazon or other person (relative and neighbor) against interest rate.

Higher price of feed: Farmers do not offer extra food for feeding family poultry. For proper growth, poultry requires balance feed. But the price of feed is quite high. Because of high rate of feed, only a few numbers of family poultry farmers could buy feed.

Price fluctuation of poultry: Family poultry farmers were not sure of their profit margin. Sometimes, price of poultry became low and sometimes, it fluctuates regarding broiler price or other meat price. As the poultry makers are rural poor, they often did not get real and or expected price of their poultry and eggs.

Social and natural problems

Problem of the thief: Risk of theft was found very common in family poultry. Greediness was the main cause of that delinquency. It was evident that mainly adult poultry birds were theft by human being during day time. It seems problematic to ensure the security of scavenging poultry.

Predatory animals: Almost every family poultry farmer faced problems of predatory animals. During summer and the rainy season, predators hunt family poultry chicks and minimize a huge number of chicks in the study area. It reduces a large scale of family poultry production in Bangladesh. Predators such as snake, rat, dog, cat, fox and bird of prey, were the main causes of bird losses, especially young birds. Fragile shelters constructed by using locally available materials make security status vulnerable.

Epidemic of disease: Healthy birds are very essential for meat and egg. Main consideration for come down the number of family poultry is mortality of chick in early stage. In the rainy season and wet weather, disease infects rapidly and create haphazard situation for chick mortality. High mortality occurs due to Ranikhet disease, Fowl Pox, Fowl Cholera, etc. Farmers have to bear a tremendous loss due to Newcastle, Ranikhet and Gumboro. Farmers are not able to give appropriate treatment to family poultry as there is scarcity of proper vaccine and higher cost of medicine.

Environmental pollution: Hunting poultry roam around and pollutes surrounding areas. It generates stink which leads to a quarrel with neighbors [20].

Marketing problems

The lower price of poultry meat and egg: Lower cost of poultry was the most important marketing problem. Due to spatial price difference and a small number of buyers at local markets family poultry farmers had less bargaining power and received lower price compared to the urban market.

Lack of competitive market: Family poultry farmers do not face any competitive market situation. They sell their poultry and eggs as many as they can. Sometimes, they sell at meager prices to the villagers. They do not have any fixed buyer who can regularly buy at a reasonable price.

Technical problems

Lower quality of chick: Indigenous or local breeds are generally raised in family poultry production system. These birds are exposed to natural selection from the environment for hardiness, running and flight skills, but not for egg production. Local varieties of poultry are susceptible to diseases and have a high mortality rate. Most of the farmers were facing the same problem.

Lack of training facility: Training facility enrich and upscale existing knowledge and experience. Family poultry farmers are still practicing traditional system as they do not have adequate knowledge of advanced poultry farming. Due to lack of training facility from extension workers, production rate of family poultry is declining rapidly.

Housing problem: Proper housing facilities could help to attain better production. Most of the farmers did not know how to make proper poultry shed. For this reason, birds do not get enough room and ventilation. Family poultrys mainly remain in their shed at night. Most of the time, they hiked outside of their shed. But farmers did not maintain proper space and quality while framing their house. That's why they face risk of predation and theft.

Inadequate parent stock: Genetic potential is the most important for parent stock. Local variety has not enough growth potentiality. Adequate parent stock of family poultry is not available in Bangladesh. Due to the lack of quality parent stock, the productivity of family poultry is reduced markedly.

X. Recommendations: Woman Entrepreneurship through Poultry Industry

Poultry is the better source of liquid cash in homestead level employment and the rural women can find a positive effect on poultry farm to be a solvent family. By contributing the improvement of household income, poor rural women can contribute to economic development as buyers and sellers of goods and services. Poultry rearing practices increase the economic sustainability and enhance their ability to family contribution. The overall decision-making authority of rural women is increased when they exercise their own methods to initiate and expand the poultry business. When the women have control over their poultry business, it can help rural families in many sides such as children's education and financial support for the family. Additionally, rural women take care of the chicks till they grow up. The chicks are fed mainly on the husk from rice. Baby ducks feed on snails which are collected from the paddy fields by children. Sometimes ready-made poultry feed is bought from the nearby market. After six months, these hens and ducks are able to produce eggs every day for at least six weeks. The male head of the family sells these eggs at the local market. Sometimes, shop-keepers buy eggs directly from the rural women who live nearby. The prices of the eggs are more or less the same across Bangladesh.

XI. Conclusion

The participation of women or the woman entrepreneurship is essential for the economic growth of a country and their involvement in income-generating activities increase the level of their empowerment. For sustainable economic expansion, women entrepreneurship is regarded as one of the crucial driving factors for the overall development of Bangladesh. Now a day the selling of the poultry birds and eggs is an important source of earning, which helps poor households to overcome the financial crisis. As such poultry (broiler and layer) industry has rapidly grown and turned into a profitable sector in Bangladesh. It has proved to be a great source of poverty reduction which changed the lifestyles of many rural households and women in particular. Poultry farming is one of the most significant parts of agricultural practices in Bangladesh. It is a common source of protein and daily income source in both rural and urban areas. Many of the women achieved their economic empowerment and enhanced their livelihood from such activities. Finally, the PF program increases the importance of the rural women in their families. Homestead poultry rearing can recover the women's position in the family.

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