

論文の内容の要旨

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論文題目

Women's Empowerment through Modern Dairy Farming in Rural Bangladesh
(バングラデシュ農村における近代的酪農を通じた女性のエンパワーメント)

Women empowerment is one of the most important issues for Bangladesh. Bangladeshi women face barriers, discrimination and disadvantages in every aspect of their lives including access to health services, economic opportunity, mobility, participation and control of finances. In Bangladesh, rural women are largely deprived of autonomy as their lives are controlled by male governance in the patriarchal society. Men in Bangladesh have sovereign power to control not only family but also society as a whole. The women are subjected to aggressive behavior at the hands of their husbands and other male members of husband's family. Due to long-standing traditions in rural Bangladesh society regarding the role of women, husbands commonly seek to limit the autonomy of their wives in all regards and do not show affection or respect for women. After marriage, a woman enters her husband's house and immediately takes on responsibility for all household works. Her most important duty is to bare a male child. These women are not at liberty to express opinions in front of their husbands or to make their own decisions and instead must obey any rules dictated by their husbands. Rebellion against the mandates of the husband can result in physical, mental torture and even threats of divorce. This oppression is a common experience for every woman in the traditional rural Bangladesh society and highlights the importance of fostering women's empowerment to remove gender inequality both within the family unit and in society. In this regard, small-scale dairy farming may be one of the opportunities for rural women to empower themselves. Through small-scale dairy farming, these women may gain confidence in their own capacity for governing their lives independently, become self-sufficient and thereby develop the strength to stand strong in the face of subsequent oppression. This study tries to explain how small-scale dairy farming play important role for the empowerment of rural women in Bangladesh. When I visited a village V1 in Mymensingh district, I observed that some women reared modern dairy cattle, which is denoted as V1 (M), while other women reared traditional dairy cattle, which is denoted as V1(T). I found

more improvement empowerment in V1 (M). V1 (M) women are able to adopt modern technology for rearing cow through getting information from university professors, veterinary surgeons and project workers. Therefore our research question is “What is the relationship between empowerment of women and modern dairy farming”. So, this study attempts to explore the women’s empowerment through modern dairy farming in a village of Mymensingh district in Bangladesh. For this purpose, this study chose V1 (M), V1 (T) as well as another village where there is only traditional dairy cattle, which is denoted as V2 (T) for comparison.

In chapter 3, we explained about the villages, income status and poverty profile of the dairy farmers. This study chooses one village namely V1 (M) which is situated near Bangladesh Agricultural University campus area and starting to become urbanized introducing modern technology of dairy farming (crossbred cattle), breaking down traditional culture, enjoying electricity facility, developing infrastructure (road, building) and another village namely V2 (T) that is almost traditional village. At first, we investigated the economic situation of V1 (M), V1 (T) and V2 (T). We also measured poverty profile of V1 (M), V1 (T) and V2 (T). We observed that number of poor people was higher in V1 (T), V2 (T) than V1 (M), which have high household income, good socio-economic condition than V1 (T) and V2 (T) women. In this study, the Ordinary Least Square regression analysis found that rural women’s engagement in modern dairy cattle was the most significant economic factor influencing their household income. Rural women gained more earning from modern dairy farming because this crossbred cattle has higher productivity than traditional dairy cattle. Modern dairy farming helped to reduce poverty and improve quality of life of rural women. Before starting dairy farming, rural women were only housewives but after involvement in modern dairy farming which created income earning potential for them and contributed to the household income, which led to improve their livelihood. Modern dairy farming helped to improve their socio-economic condition and change life pattern. Through earning money from modern dairy cattle, rural women in V1 (M) are becoming more conscious about children’s education, health and economic well-being. On the other hand, due to rearing traditional dairy cattle, V1 (T) and V2 (T) women were able to earn less money and contribute less to the family expenses and this did not facilitate their reduction of poverty. So, in this chapter we observed that rural women’s involvement in modern dairy farming helped to reduce poverty in V1 (M) and that they have good condition than V1 (T) and V2 (T).

In chapter 4, we see the measurement of women empowerment and factors affecting overall women’s empowerment in the study area. We found that rural women in V1 (M) have improved their autonomy in decision-making, income earning potential, independence in spending money, confidence, self-esteem, awareness about gender inequality than V1 (T) and V2 (T). To measure empowerment level between V1 (M), V1 (T) and V2 (T), five women empowerment dimension index were constructed. Combining all these empowerment indices, we found overall women’s empowerment index to quantify the empowerment of V1 (M), V1 (T) and V2 (T). From this study we observed that V1

(M) women are more empowered than V1 (T) and V2 (T) women. Rural women have increased their decision-making power through their involvement in modern dairy farming and also increased their participation in decision-making on household matter. Economic empowerment facilitated rural women to become self-sufficient and improved their independence in spending money. V1 (M) women increased their self-confidence, improved their position in the family as well as society and raised bargaining power about their right. Psychological empowerment helped to bring psychological well-being and happiness among the women in V1 (M). The study also found that income earning potentiality of women was the most significant indicator and highly correlated with other women empowerment indicators. Their high income earning potentiality from modern dairy cattle facilitated their improved decision making power, involvement in household decision-making matter, independence in spending money, increased self-esteem, self-confidence, social status and mobility. On the other hand, in V1 (T) and V2 (T), their income earning potentiality was low due to rearing traditional dairy cattle and hence, this indicator was less correlated with other women empowerment indicators. In this study, the most important factor for higher empowerment level found in the Ordinary Least Square regression analysis was women's engagement in modern dairy cattle and other important factors were age of women, education of husband and wife also significantly affected overall women's empowerment. Through modern dairy cattle, rural women got the scope to earn money, improved economic well-being which facilitated their autonomy, increased economic independence, and contributed overall empowerment of women.

In chapter 5, we described how rural women's are empowered through modern dairy farming in the study area. At first we investigated rural women's involvement in dairy farming activities in V1 (M), V1 (T) and V2 (T). We also measured the extent of contribution in dairy farming activities of rural women in V1 (M), V1 (T) and V2 (T) by using four point scale such as 3 = regular, 2 = often, 1 = sometimes and 0 = none. In this study, we found that in V1 (M), women's extent of contribution in dairy farming activities were higher than V1 (T) and V2 (T). OLS regression analysis also found that modern dairy cattle was the most significant reason influencing rural women's higher extent of contribution in dairy farming activities. Women's higher extent of contribution in modern dairy farming (crossbred cattle) activities is an important tool in empowerment of women in V1 (M). Rural women of V1 (M) have been able to improve their position in the family as well as in the society and become self-sufficient through earning income. Improved financial autonomy of women in V1 (M) has boosted their bargaining power and allowed them to become more active in the decision-making on various aspects of their family matters. Through higher extent of contribution in modern dairy farming activities in V1 (M), rural women achieved good confidence and motivated them to reach their desired goal. Rural women think that modern dairy farming as their employment and this is a powerful instrument for their improvement in V1 (M). In V1 (M), higher extent of contribution of rural women in modern dairy farming activities was responsible for changing the domestic and economic life of the society. Modern dairy farming is a significant way to improve their economic well-being. Previously, rural women in V1

(M) suffered gender discrimination inside and outside family. To reduce gender inequality and establish their equal right in the family and society, rural women in V1 (M) have increased their inner strength, self-efficacy through their higher extent of contribution in modern dairy farming activities. They have learned to give preference on their own interest and able to get out from traditional society. They enjoyed their freedom, increased capability and reduced poverty by improving the quality of life. Through their higher extent of contribution in modern dairy farming activities, rural women in V1 (M) were able to come out from under the patriarchal social system, which means they removed all constraints which have historically limited their autonomy in decision-making, confidence, controlling power and independency. They have established equal rights and power as men in the family. This power facilitated rural women to control household income. To the contrary in V1 (T) and V2 (T), they are not financially solvent and could not reduce their dependency. Their less extent of contribution in traditional dairy farming activities could not improve their decision- making power and limited right to participate in the household affair. As a result, they could not establish their own right in the family and could not control the household income. Their extent of contribution in traditional dairy farming activities was low because they reared dairy cattle in a very traditional way.

From this study, it can be concluded that rural women's contribution through modern dairy farming in the family helped to increase their total household income and reduce poverty in V1 (M). So, numbers of non-poor people were higher than poor people and as a result, poverty incidence was low in V1 (M). Overall women's empowerment index of V1 (M) was higher than V1 (T) and V2 (T). Through modern dairy farming, rural women in V1 (M) were able to increase their confidence, decision-making power with regard to their household, personal care, increased self-esteem, reduced dependence and ultimate enhanced overall empowerment through the breakdown of traditional socio-cultural norms. Achieving empowerment and poverty reduction of rural women will help to improve human development in the rural society. Thus, in V1 (M) women's increasing extent of role in modern dairy farming activities is likely to contribute to the empowerment of more rural women. To the contrary, in V2 (T) and V1 (T), their less extent of contribution in traditional dairy farming activities was responsible for their less empowerment of women. So, modern dairy farming played a vital role for achieving empowerment of rural women in Bangladesh through their higher extent of contribution in farming activities.