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THE RURAL AREAS IN BANGLADESH: CASE OF GAINBANDHA DISTRICT**

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TEEN-AGED YOUTH ACCESS TO ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES AND FAMILY WELLBEING IN THE RURAL AREAS IN BANGLADESH: CASE OF GAINBANDHA DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

The economy of Bangladesh is village-based. However, Bangladesh's economy is shifting from an agriculture-based economy to industrial-based economy. 72% of the population lives in the village (BBS-2011). Twenty-two percent of the youth are aged 15-35 years. A whopping 42 percent of girls who take admission in grade-VI drop out before completing the secondary level. Girl's dropout rate is higher than that of boys, whose 33.43 percent discontinued school last year, says the report. Some of them fell into child labor after falling out of education and a large part of them were left unemployed. Rural women workforce analysis shows that only 10%-15% of youths girls are involved in work. Girls from poor and extreme-poor families are mainly employed in the garment sector. The rest are unemployed in their area. They want to work and make life worth living by transforming themselves into skilled labor force. But in the present reality, that opportunity is very limited. Some indigenous families live in Gobindganj and Palashbari Upazilas of Gaibandha district. Traditionally they are introverted. They usually like to be in their own community. At present, some changes can be observed in the youth of the indigenous community. Many of the boys go out of their communities to study or work. But in case of the youth girls, there is another picture. Education, social environment and linguistic and social conditions are making this situation more complicated. Until now the rural economy of Bangladesh is agro-based and is mainly seasonal and home-based. At present, some agriculture firms and agriculture-based industries have developed, where male workers work. On the other hand, few women are getting the chance to work. The industry-based labor market is entirely dependent on technical and vocational skills. In rural areas, there are very few institutions and opportunities for skill development in relevant areas. Moreover, children from poor and poor families are unable to avail of the existing training opportunities for financial insolvency. Due to the limitations of the application of training adopted in many fields, many potential group members are unwilling to receive training. The present study has realized the need for mobilizing the rural women in economic activities, mobilizing Bangladesh's economy through creating opportunities for empowering young women.



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