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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 thorough creating opportunities for empowering young women.

INTRODUCTION

Bangladesh has experienced dramatic progress in reducing poverty. The remarkable progress in poverty alleviation has been recognized by international institutions. Bangladesh is not only one of the top performers in poverty reduction in the South Asia region, it is equally a top performer in improving non-monetary dimensions of welfare. However, there is no room for complacency. The job of ending extreme poverty is not complete. About 1 in 4 Bangladeshi still live in poverty, while almost half of those living in poverty live in extreme poverty and are unable to afford a basic food consumption basket. Using the international poverty line, a measure that allows comparison with poverty levels in other countries, the rate of poverty in Bangladesh is relatively high by regional standards (Figure E2a). In addition, more than half of the population can be considered vulnerable to poverty, as their levels of consumption are close to the poverty threshold (Figure E2b).¹ According to World Bank, more than 33 million Bangladeshi people have been lifted out of poverty since 2000; Bangladesh's poverty rate fell from 82% in 1972, to 18.5% in 2010, 13.8% in 2016, 8.3% in 2018, and below 4% in 2020 as measured by the percentage of people living on the equivalent of US\$1.90 or less per day purchasing price parity terms. Many people live in remote areas that lack services. An estimated 35 percent of the population in rural areas lives below the poverty line. They suffer from persistent food insecurity, own no land and assets, are often uneducated. Another 29 percent of the rural population is considered moderately poor. Though they may own a small plot of land and some livestock and generally have enough to eat, their diets lack nutritional value. Women are among the poorest of the rural poor, especially when they are the sole heads of their households. They suffer from discrimination and have few earning opportunities, and their nutritional intake is often inadequate. One of the biggest cause of rural poverty is due to the fast-growing population rate.²

Extreme-poor often live in hard-to-reach areas, are marginalized, and often excluded from community processes and traditional development program, An educated, well trained and healthy population plays an important role in improving the quality of life of people, reducing poverty and attaining sustainable economic growth. The priority sectors which are important to the sustainable development of the country are agriculture, industry, energy, transport and human resource development. The strategies suggested under these sectors are to provide direction to the economy as they will remain the engine for overall economic growth and support sustainable development of the country (NSDS).³

According to the latest Labour Force Survey in FY2016-17, the number of the economically active population above 15 years is 6.35 crore. Out of this, male 4.35 crore and female 2.00 crore. As many as 6.08 crore people are engaged in a number of professions. Agriculture employed 40.6 percent of the employed person, followed by service, at 39.00 percent with the smallest proportion in the industry sector, at 20.4 percent.⁴ Unequal gender dynamics translate into a disproportionately heavy burden on women and girls, who are likely to have fewer resources, lower access to healthcare and education, and are responsible for time-consuming and unpaid domestic tasks. Moreover, cultural norms or destitution may force youth female into abusive relationships, child marriage or exploitative livelihoods. While women and girls often face the highest levels of exclusion, marginalization, and poverty, they also carry a higher burden of providing for families and children, agricultural production, and caring responsibilities. Research shows that women play a critical role in social and economic development, typically investing a higher portion of earnings into the future of their children and households than men, thus promoting greater outcomes for child well-being.

¹ Bangladesh Poverty Assessment 2019: Facing old and new frontiers in poverty reduction

² Poverty in Bangladesh, From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

³ National Sustainable Development Strategy 2010-21 (NSDS)

⁴ Labour Force Survey in FY2016-17

Women's empowerment is, therefore, crucial for achieving the SDGs, (goal-1: no poverty, goal 2: zero hunger, goal-5: gender equity goal-8: decent work and economic growth & goal-10: reduced inequality. This youth bulge represents a tremendous opportunity for the country. It also represents a challenge. Without engaging and empowering this cadre, achieving Sustainable Development Goals of poverty alleviation and economic equity in Bangladesh will remain a challenge.

Selection of the Study Area

Gaibandha is a district in Northern Bangladesh. It is a part of the Rangpur Division. The main occupations of the people of Gaibandha district are agriculture 44.45%, agricultural laborer 27.72%, wage laborer 2.58%, transport 1.89%, commerce 9.11%, service 4.49% and others 9.76%. There are 1621 small industries, 2 medium industries and 1 large industry in Gaibandha.⁵ Gobindoganj and Saghata Upazila is rural setup where all poverty trend (three dimensions of poverty trends: –Trends in income poverty –Trends in human poverty –Trends in inequality) exists including indigenous minority group also living with high poverty. Here 25%-34% population is living in below poverty line.⁶ This area was selected to give a realistic picture of the rural Bengali young and indigenous young women's engagement in income-generating activity and its prospect in Bangladesh

METHODOLOGY

This study is a cross-sectional survey and conducted in 2 Upazila under Gaibandha districts. To address the objectives of the assignment as set out, a mixed-method approach adopted where both quantitative and qualitative data had collected and analyzed from primary as well as secondary sources. Here also on-site inspection method also applied. Determination of appropriate sample size is key to any research study. The study determined 139 households as sample. The sample determined 85 (61.15%) from indigenous community and 54 (38.85%) from Bengali community.

Objectives

The overall objective of the study is to see the scenario of rural young women engagement in income-generating activities. The specific objectives are;

- To see the present status of rural young women employment informal or non-formal sector
- To determine the impact of the empowerment of young women on the family
- To look into the existing employment scope at rural areas
- To identify the challenges of women employment in rural areas
- To learn the lessons of a way out the keeping sanitation facilities in schools

Study time duration

To collect required primary data has collected from the study area (Gobindoganj & Saghata Upazila from June'19-August'2019. During this period, relevant literature reviewed and picked up secondary data from reliable sources.

Rational of the Study

The age-sex composition of population is important as it has direct bearing on many socio-economic factors of the country. One of the tools of economic development of a country is the working population of the country. The large working group population force to economic growth of a country. 34.75% of the population of Bangladesh is 15-34 years old (among them 32.6% male & 36.9% female: BBS-2011. 33.25% aged 15-34, among them 29.6% male & 36.9% female: BDHS-2011)⁷, almost all of them working forces. The majority of this working population is unemployment and a large part of that is women. It has decided to

⁵ Gaibandha District, From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

⁶ POVERTY MAP OF BANGLADESH, WORLD BANKK-2010

⁷ Population Monograph of Bangladesh, Age-sex composition of Bangladesh, November 2015

conduct this research to identify how many young women of Northern Rural Bangladesh are not involved in work and to determine what kind of initiatives will be effective for all these people. So that, Empowerment of rural women is enhanced and economic development of Bangladesh is accelerated.

Limitations of the Study

Every study has some limitations. In this study, there are some limitations also, which are-

1. Small sample size to draw the right decision
2. The study conducted over only extreme poor households.

Occupation is one of the bases of family income and important indication of social dignity. Economic solvency contributes to well-being as well as living standards of the particular family. That is why the study emphasis on the family's sustainable income. The data reveals that 21.5% of adult family members are agricultural workers, 23.7% are non-farm worker, 4.8% are involved in small business and 14.8% members are housewife among the above 14 years aged family members. The data reveals big number of population are dependable members. Moreover, only 5% family has secondary source of income. Qualitative data said the new development interventions are creating families sustainable livelihoods option. On the other hand, BBS conducts the Labour Force Survey (LFS) to assess the overall situation of employment. According to the latest survey in FY2016-17, Agriculture employed 40.6 percent of the employed person, followed by service, at 39.00 percent with the smallest proportion in the industry sector, at 20.4 percent. According to the LFS- 2016-17, the largest share of the employed population 44.3 per cent worked as own-account workers, followed by 39.1 per cent as employees and contributing family workers (11.5 per cent). Between the sexes by largest share, there were more males in all categories except among contributing family workers, where there were more than three times employed females (5.3 million) than employed males (1.7 million). Compare to LFS FY2016-17 the study result shows, agriculture employed is high among the extreme poor families. Poverty reduction was rural but not predominantly agricultural. Although 47 percent of rural households were primarily engaged in agriculture in 2010, such households accounted for just 27 percent of rural poverty reduction between 2010 and 2016. This contrasts with the period 2005 to 2010, when 69 percent of rural poverty reduction was among households primarily engaged in agriculture (Figure E7). Most rural poverty reduction between 2010 and 2016, 59 percent, occurred among households whose primary sector of employment was industry or services (Figure E7). This reflects the slower growth in agriculture during this period but also the fact that agriculture growth was less poverty reducing, compared to the past and other sectors.⁸

Usefulness of support from development organizations

The development organization provided skill-based training and productive asset/support to raise employment of the young generation those drooped out from education. This training was designed impart vocational training based on livelihood option viz. garment sector and small business. The survey asked a question to respondent about “Does the training and product support was useful for you or your family members? 96.40% respondents replied that project initiatives were useful and effective for them. The initiator conducted need assessment on targeted population identified livelihoods sub-sector, and assessed market demand. Based on assessment outcome, determined the training topics and delivered service to targeted beneficiaries accordingly. They placed job, it helped to create access to job market and business market. The trainees’ witness, “Training content and quality of training was good. It matches to current jobs and helps in getting job as well as performing the job. Now they are earning consistent income and it contributing to reduction of poverty. Their living standard is gradually increasing.

⁸ Bangladesh Poverty Assessment 2019: Facing old and new frontiers in poverty reduction

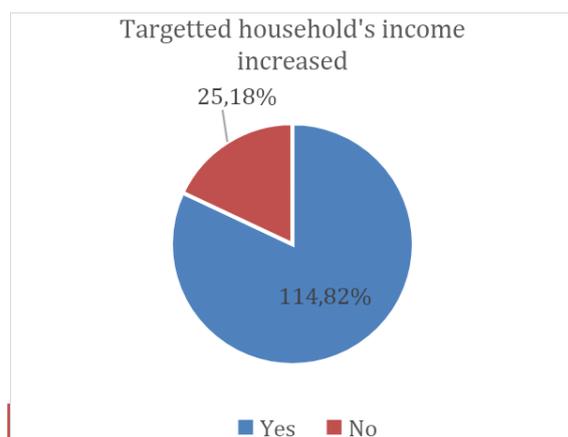


Figure-2: Targetted household's income

There is a strong relationship between family income and family members' wellbeing. Therefore, development partner was intentional to targeted families income increasing and improving their economic security. Survey result reveals 82% supported family income increased very short time. The development partner was initiated for job placement immediately just after completion of training. Rural women, especially indigenous girls, are introverted and had no experience of being out of their community, so it was very difficult to get out and find a job for them. It was very difficult for a rural ordinary young adolescent girl to adapt to the unfamiliar environment. In addition,

parents of extremely poor families are sometimes unable to afford their children at their own expense. In such a situation, it is important to help find a job or make sure for job placement and to bear the expenses of target groups create an opportunity for sustainable livelihoods. Here dropped out rate is almost zero.

Family income trends

Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Trainees monthly income	139	0	13000	5149.37	3300.927
Beneficiary families' current monthly HH income	139	2000	28000	10282.28	5041.361
Beneficiary families' monthly income in prior	139	2000	18000	5375.95	2720.587
Beneficiary families monthly income increased	114	0	16000	4906.33	3669.882

Table 1: Household Income Trend

Family income is a determinant of the quality of life of family members. Looking at rural extreme-poor families, it can be seen that these family members are involved in agricultural labor or many family members are involved in unskilled non-farm labor where the number of monthly working days is very limited. The female members of these families either do household caring tasks or rear livestock. Youth female members of the very minimum number of families are involved in income-generating work but the frequency of working days is very low. The number of dependent members of the family is very high. So, two years ago, the monthly income of these families was very low to run the family. A development partner has taken skill development initiatives for youth girl of extremely poor families in garment sector and small business operating. After completing training, they also made sure their job placement in garments. The development partner emphasizes the importance of increasing the income of the target family. They kept previous family income sources. The taken interventions added up previous family income. Data from the survey reveals that as result of the initiatives, income of the families and the targeted persons has increased significantly before enrolling in the project. Targeted beneficiary assessment data says all garment trainees were completely unemployed and unskilled before enrolling interventions. Beside employment opportunity, garment trainees are earning monthly average BDT.5149 (*1\$=83 taka*) and standard deviation is 3300. On the other hand, garment trainees family average monthly income increased BDT.10282.00 and in prior it was BDT. 5375. It is noted that garment trainees are contributing discretely monthly average BDT.4906.00. The data indicates

action taken is contributing to bring a significant change in family income. In previous, the trainees were dependable family member and no vision for future. Today they made themselves as earning force, managing their self-living cost and contributing to their family. Qualitative statement pronounces that their daughter got job. They are earning BDT. 75000-13000. after meeting their needs, they sending BDT 2000-5000 to their family. The apprentices earn BDT. 3000-12000 taka monthly. By this money, parents meeting family members' basic needs including education and health purposes. They also save some money for future prosperity.

Food security and Diversified food consumption

Food security is often defined in terms of food availability, food access and food utilization (USAID

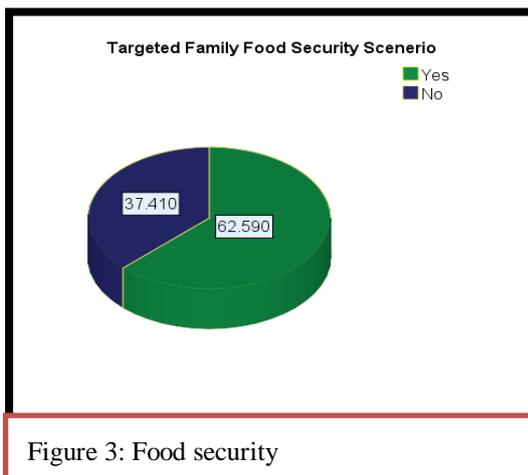


Figure 3: Food security

1995). ⁹Improved access to food through increased agricultural productivity and incomes is essential to meet the food needs of the world's growing population. Respondents' were asked about their family's food security. The data shows that 62.5% of the family think they feel food security and 37.41% of targeted family feel food insecurity. The negative effects of food insecurity include impaired physical and cognitive abilities of children. Generally, food insecurity and hunger amount to poor health status, making children sick more often, with higher rates of iron deficiency anaemia, and Children suffer from

illness. Due to some increase in household income, the ability to buy food has increased from the previous

Frequency of HH members' food consuming in last 24 hours

Adult HH members consumed food in last 24 hours			Child HH members consumed food in last 24 hours		
Times	Frequency	Percent	Times	Frequency	Percent
2	44	31.7	2	11	12.0
3 and more	95	68.3	3 and more	81	88.0
Total	139	100.0	Total	92	100.0

Table 2: Food consumption frequency

The primary indication of food security is food consumption frequency of family's adult and children member in the last 24 hours. Food security strongly linked to household income and food production. Food insecurity hampers physical and mental condition of the HH members. Moreover, it negatively reflects children's physical and cognitive development. Still 68.3% of adult HH members and 88% of child HH members consume food 3 or more times in a day among targeted community. The targeted group evidence that their food consumption frequency in days is gradually improving. So, continuous need base support for bringing livelihoods sustainability is still demanding.

⁹ FAO, Food Security

Diversified food consumed/Household Dietary Diversity

The amount of food consumed is not enough in the present, but more importantly how much-diversified food he took. Balance diet is very important for every human being to grow and good health. This not only

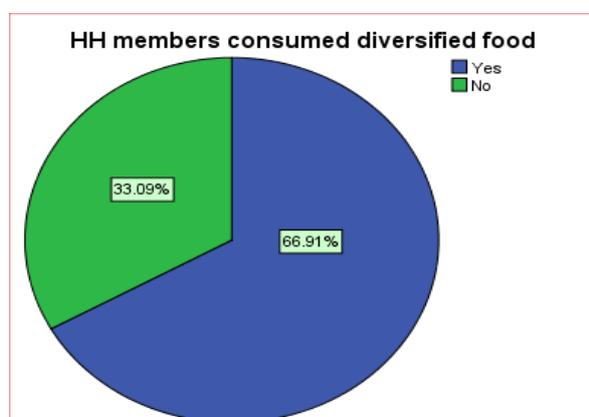


Figure-4: Diversified food consumption

reduces the risk of nutritional deficiencies; it also provides numerous health benefits. The World Health Organization (WHO) notes that a healthy diet contains [fruits, vegetables, legumes, nuts and whole grains](#).¹⁰ The study presented a food list to the respondent and marked on it, which they have taken it for the last 24 hours. The result shows 66.91% targeted family members are consuming diversified food. Still there has a room for working with it. Qualitative data says, they could not consume diversified food in previous, they were consumed 2-3 items of food group. Now, food habit little bit changed and food items added in food basket.

Food items consumed scenario among HH members in last 24 hours

Food item	Only HH head	Only HH male members	Only child & women	Only child	Only women	All members
Cereal (rice, roti)	2					137
Root food (potato)	2					112
Pulse, bean, nuts	1					65
Dairy food (milk, curd, cheese)						3
Meat (cow, goat)						3
Fish, sea fish						30
Oil, fat, butter, ghee						139
Sugar, honey	1			1		7
Fruits						8
Egg			1	25		7
Vegetable						43
Spices, drinks						41

Table 3: Food menu

Foods are grouped together because they provide similar amounts of key nutrients. Eating a varied, well-balanced diet means eating a variety of foods from each food groups daily, in the recommended amounts. It is also important to choose a variety of foods from within each food group because different foods provide different types and amounts of key nutrients. Eating a variety of foods promotes good health and can help reduce the risk of disease. The survey data explore that every family (139) eat cereal and oil, fat, butter, ghee group, 114 families eat root group and 65 families eat pulse, bean, nut group and one-fifth family eat meat/fish in last 24 hours. It is also notable that all family members receive the same kind of food and children eat more eggs than older ones. Data help to draw a conclusion that diversified food intake rates are

¹⁰ Health Diet, World Health Organization

very low among extreme poor family members yet.

HH faced food insecurity in last year

The study also tried to dig down the round the food security scenario which they faced in last year. The data reveals, 84% of targeted surveyed HHs faced food insecurity in last year. They managed it somehow. Sometimes adult family members consume less food, sometimes sacrificed quantity of food or sometimes eat the item of food that they did not like. Monthly food security reviewing picture demonstrates that most families faced food insecurity throughout the year. It **noted that food insecurity months are September to November and March-May**. Maximum 107 (77%) referred to October-November, 102 (72%) referred to September-October, 54 (39%) referred to March-April as food insecurity months. In that period, the agriculture-based works reduced significantly. Therefore, public and non- government organizations should be particularly paying attention to overcome this situation.

Family member’s food consuming scenario:

Diversified food intake is extremely important for the human body. This is not for a particular age group, but for all ages, child-adult. In our society, sometimes seen most valuable or most nutritious food is the elderly or young children of the family just eating and others being deprived of it. Fact finds remaining people face nutritious deficiency that influences to lose their physical and mental growth. The evaluation team asked to respond what you or your family members have intake in last 24 hours? 98.56% of respondents said that all family members ate hydrocarbon national food

Food items	Responses	Total	Only family headed	Only male member	Child and woman member	Only child member	Only woman member	All member of the family
Cereal (rice, nodules, roti)	Frequency	139	2					137
	Percent	100	1.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	98.56
Roots (potato, banana)	Frequency	139	2					112
	Percent	100	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	80.6
Bean, pulse	Frequency	139	1					65
	Percent	100	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Milk	Frequency	139	1			1		7
	Percent	100	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	5.0
Meat	Frequency	139	1					11
	Percent	100	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.9
Oil	Frequency	139						139
	Percent	100	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Sugar, honey	Frequency	139	4			2		89
	Percent	100	2.9	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.0	64.0
Fruits	Frequency	139				2		15
	Percent	100	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.8
Eggs	Frequency	139	3	1	2	7		20
	Percent	100	2.2	0.7	1.4	5.0	0.0	14.4
Vegetables	Frequency	139	1					87
	Percent	100	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	62.6

Table 4: Food consumption trend

Food insecurity indicating vulnerability to extreme poor families. Until now they have been living in great agony. The situation demands extra caution of government and world humanitarian agencies.

Comparison of asset development

Assets are tangible and intangible economic resources that can produce value for their owner. “Asset building” is a strategy to help families escape poverty and itself a poverty alleviation approach. To alleviate the poverty of targeted families, the development initiatives also forces HH asset building. The intervention provided goat, business capital (materials) and solar panel to the beneficiary and their HH. The study data and field observation say, they are utilizing the supported asset and previous owned asset properly. The data shows, within short period amount of average HH homestead land increased from 4 to 4.92 decimal (for 63 HHs), the average amount of agriculture land increased 6 decimal to 36 (for 12 HHs), amount of mortgage land increased from 3 decimal to 29 (for 7 HHs), average quantity of goat increased 4 to 5 (previously only 6 HH cultivated goat and now it is 79), now rickshaw van owner increased from 1 to 4, mobile users increased from 62 to 79, cow rearing farmers increased from 14 to 18. The essential insights of the development initiatives are assets becoming substantial matter economically, socially and psychologically in addition to family income.

SL #	Previous asset item	Number of family	measurement unit	Quantity	Previous asset item	Number of family	measurement unit	Quantity
1	Homestead	62	Decimal	4	Homestead	63	Decimal	4.92
2	Agriculture land	12	Decimal	6	Agriculture land	12	Decimal	36
3	Mortgage land	7	Decimal	3	Mortgage land	8	Decimal	29
4	Television	6	Number	1	Television	8	Number	1
5	Mobile	62	Number	1	Mobile	79	Number	1
6	Gold	1	Tola	0	Gold	1	Tola	0
7	Furniture	74	Number	4	Furniture	78	Number	5
8	Cow	14	Number	1	Cow	18	Number	2
9	Goat	6	Number	4	Goat	79	Number	5
10	Duck/chicken	27	Number	6	Duck/chicken	31	Number	6
11	Rickshaw/van	1	Number	1	Rickshaw/van	4	Number	1

Table-5 : Asset Development status

WASH Facilities for Targeted family

Drinking water source	Frequency	Percent	Toilet description	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Tubule	137	98.6	Pit latrine with slab	80	57.6	57.6
Shallow pump	2	1.4	Improved toilet with flush and gas pipe	33	23.7	81.3
			Pit latrine	11	7.9	89.2
			Pit latrine without slab	3	2.2	91.4
			Open slab latrine	12	8.6	100.0
			Total	139	100.0	

Table 6: Wash Facilities

Adequate water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are essential components of basic health services. Improved WASH facilities and practices protect the community from water-borne diseases, keep sound

health and uphold the dignity of populations. 100% family using safe water and 81.3% family members using improved sanitation facilitations. Qualitative data shows, mostly family members practising hygiene behavior. Previously, most families used pit latrine without slab. But development interventions provided them cash to renovate their toilet or newly installed low-cost toilet. So, health awareness, motivation and on time initial support can be brought better impact.

Confidence and awareness among beneficiary

A person's technical and vocational training is not enough for his life. To apply the technical skills successfully in life, management skill and social education are also very important. The development initiatives provided management skill, aware of gender senility and confidence-building session besides technical and vocational training with the trainees. A question asked to respondent knowing her perception and confidence level at now regarding utilization of skills and knowledge. Do you think, you are able to utilize the skills and knowledge n practical field? 100% respondent replied yes, I am self-confident. The quantitative and qualitative data also says, 92.4% trained girls involved themselves in job and remaining are in job pipeline. They will join in respective field of job very soon.

Usefulness of specific trade/support

Crosstab					
			Usefulness of supports		Total
			Yes	No	
Get support of garment training	Yes	Count	79	0	79
		% within Get support of garment training	100.0%	.0%	100.0%
Apprenticeship	Yes	Count	30	0	30
		% within Apprenticeship	100.0%	.0%	100.0%
Small business support	Yes	Count	25	0	25
		% within Small business support	100.0%	.0%	100.0%
Goat support	Yes	Count	103	1	104
		% within Goat support	99.0%	1.0%	100.0%
Toilet construction	Yes	Count	85	1	86
		% within Toilet construction	98.8%	1.2%	100.0%
Plinth area raising/solar support	Yes	Count	5	0	5
		% within Plinth area raising/solar support	100%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 7: Usefulness of trade support

Asset transfer to the beneficiary is not key issue, proper utilization of asset and optimal output of asset is the main objective of asset transfer. Transferee asset quality and needed it to beneficiary is most important here also. Here ask a question to respondent about quality of asset and its requirement to them. The case analysis result shows, training and other support were very appropriate and useful for them. 99% goat support receivers said the support was good quality and very helpful for them and toilet support receivers expressed same statement.

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

The approach has demonstrated its impact by elevating thousands of households from the worst forms of poverty. The impact of interventions in the area is largely positive with significant increases in work productivity and asset base, access to secure employment, resilience to shocks, women’s empowerment,

social cohesion and family members' wellbeing. The study shows strong gains in income, consumption, food security, assets, savings, health, social identity, and women's decision-making among extremely poor households. Any development initiatives should not just an initiative to enhance skill development; it is also an effective tool for their sustainable livelihood. At present the technology-based and market-driven profession should be chosen that support to survive in the job market. Small business intervention is a fruitful initiative for distressed and disadvantaged women. It is creating hope in their lives and contributing to well-being for most vulnerable children who are part of these families. Is it an integrated approach, it is parallel created workforce and developing household asset. This collective effort is donating household income generation as well as poverty eradication. Demand for time requires changes and refinements that make development approach effective and efficient.

The study observation and experience provide some suggestions for future consideration:

- Market-driven and technology-based employment creation for the youth
- Establish linkage with the employer and other like-minded organization in order to ensure job placement. Besides, direct support to youth's adult family members is an effective initiative for the initiatives to increase their income.
- Need to take nutrition sensitive interventions for extremely poor families.
- Nutritious food can be assisted on an emergency basis for extremely poor families

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