

SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN BANGLADESH

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ABSTRACT

The paper aims at presenting the Small and Medium Enterprises and its impact on women empowerment in Bangladesh. The study is mainly based on secondary data, which have been collected from various publications relating to this issue by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Non-Government Organizations, Asian Development Banks, World Bank, and United Nations. The main objective of the study is to examine the impact of Small and Medium Enterprises for the women empowerment in Bangladesh. During the study, it is clarified that in Bangladesh a large number of women work in the informal sector, but their contribution has not been recognized in society. Differences and inequality between men and women exist in case of opportunities, rights, and benefits. The women are facing various constraints to the up-gradation of their skills and enhancement of their products which are related to poor access to market, information, technology, finance, poor linkages and networks with support services in the unfavorable policy and regulatory environment. During the study, it is seen that despite the constraints the Small and Medium Enterprises has developed women entrepreneurs class taking on the challenges to work in a male-dominated, competitive and complex economic and business environment. Thus in Bangladesh women's entrepreneurs improve their living conditions and earn more respect in the family and the society contributing to the business, export growth, supplies employment generation, productivity and skill development.

Keywords: Small and Medium Enterprises, Women Empowerment, Non-Government Organization, Male Dominated, Regulatory Environment, Productivity and Skill Development