

MEASURING THE FACTORS OF PROBLEMS TO DEVELOP WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN BANGLADESH

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Abstract

The study is descriptive in nature and attempts to identify the factors of problems to develop women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh. More women entrepreneurs are getting involved in economic activities of the country especially in the small scale of business and more or less they are playing a significant role to boost up our economy. But, they have faced different problems where all of the problems nature is not same. As the nature of their problems we have tried to find out the different dimension of their problems. Paucity of fund is one of the major problems along with lacking of knowledge, lacking of sufficient information are other mentionable problems. Besides, institutional support from different government and non-government institutions is insufficient for development and growth of women entrepreneur. To accomplish the objective of the study primary data, based on structured survey questionnaire, were collected from 100 successful woman entrepreneur of Bangladesh. Considering the importance of women entrepreneurship issue, Government, donor agencies, NGOs, business community and all other relevant stakeholders should give a special emphasis through different interventions to ensure increased women's participation in formal economic sectors, especially in business and industry and promote women entrepreneurship in Bangladesh. This study will help us to find out the factors of their problems which will guide us to take necessary steps to overcome those problems.

Key words: Entrepreneur, Women Entrepreneur.

Introduction

Bangladesh is a developing country in South Asia that exists at the bottom of the development status. Approximately half of the total population of our country is women. In fact, development cannot be achieved without women's participations in the development sectors of the country (Sultana, 2006). A country may have resources but the problem of development is to put those resources into the process of production (Hossain & Rahman, 1999). Despite possessing natural and physical resources, machinery and capital may go underutilized or misused if rural human resources are not properly utilized (Hossain & Rahman, 1999). Thus, it is apparent that entrepreneurship development is a prerequisite of all sorts of a nation's development.

Entrepreneurship is a term which has acquired special significance in the context of economic growth in the rapidly changing socio-economic and socio-cultural climates both in developed and developing countries (Begum, 1993). It is a unique resource which is indispensable for any country's economic development. Woman entrepreneurship development is the key variable which connects socio-cultural environment with the rate of economic development. It is also noticeable that

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entrepreneurship development and empowerment are complementary to each other. Women empowerment depends on taking part in various development activities. In other words, the involvement of women in various entrepreneurial activities has empowered them in social, economic and cultural fields. The power of and access to taking decisions has increased for women in Bangladesh, within as well as outside the family. It is inspiring to mention here that a new woman's entrepreneurs' class is increasingly emerging each year taking on the challenge to work in a male-dominated, competitive and complex economic and business environment (BWCCI, 2008). Even though, women are entering into business sector every day, they are still vulnerable and marginalized as well as facing lots of barriers and obstacles the aim of this paper is to analyze the critical factors of women entrepreneurship development in Bangladesh.

Objectives of the Study

Broad Objective

- To identify the factors of problems to develop women entrepreneur in Bangladesh.

Specific Objectives

- To analyze the current situation of women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh.
- To measure the socio economic problems faced by women entrepreneurs in starting and operating women-run enterprises.
- To identify factors of problems of developing women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh.

Research Methodology

To identify the factors of problems to develop women entrepreneurship in Bangladesh, descriptive study have been conducted on women entrepreneur of Bangladesh. We have collected primary data on women entrepreneur to conduct the study and to identify those women entrepreneur a sample frame has been developed based on Women Entrepreneurship Award list 2013. From those sampling frame, by using simple random sampling technique we have collected those 60 respondents. Besides those a structured questionnaire has been developed to collect those primary data based on likert scale, multiple choice question and dichotomous questions. After collecting data, SPSS software has used to input data and analyze the required finding. above all to identify the actual problem of women entrepreneurship one sample "t" test have been used and to identify the factor of these problem a sophisticated factor analysis have used. Even though, a perceptual map has also developed to know about the dimension of women entrepreneurship problem, which will be useful to gain insight the real problem of development.

Theoretical Key Concepts

Entrepreneurship may be regarded as what entrepreneurs do. In other words, entrepreneurship is the act of being an entrepreneur. Entrepreneurship is a process of

involving various actions to be undertaken to establish an enterprise, while some call entrepreneurship as risk bearing, and others view it innovating and also consider it thrill seeking (Khanka, 2002).

An entrepreneur can be defined as one who initiates and establishes an economic activity or an enterprise. Thus, entrepreneurship refers to the general trend of setting up new enterprise in a society (Begum, 1993). ILO (1984) defines an entrepreneur as supposed to have several typical characteristics as self-confidence, result oriented, risk taking, leadership, originality and future oriented.

Meanwhile, women entrepreneurs refer to those who innovate, imitate or adopt a business activity (Khanka, 2002). Entrepreneurship is a set of activities that are performed by an entrepreneur. Thus, entrepreneur precedes entrepreneurship. The definitions described above highlights risk-taking, innovating and the resource organizing aspects of entrepreneurship.

A number of studies (e.g., Faraha, 2009, Lovely, et.al 2012; ADB 2012; MIDAS 2009) have shown that involvement of women in entrepreneurial activities can improve their social status and contribute to economic growth. Normally micro and small and medium enterprises (MSE) are the channels through which rural poor especially the most marginalized and vulnerable sections of the community such as rural women, youth and the landless, can diversify their incomes, create new sources of economic growth and generate additional employments (including self-employment) in the rural areas. It has been observed that women's little participation in the income generating activities and their insignificant contributions in the cash income of the family have made them vulnerable socially and economically. The findings and issues of the previous related studies have been reviewed to focus on further potentiality of this sector.

As women engage in business activities, they face different constraints and opportunities compared to their male counterparts. Nevertheless, the potentialities of women entrepreneurship are recognized from different corners. Asian Development Bank in consultation with the Bangladesh Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BWCCI), the Women Entrepreneurs Association (WEA), and Micro Enterprise Development Assistance and Services (MIDAS), 2009, have identified a set of barriers to women entrepreneurship development (Bangladesh). In addition to persistent gender biases and gender-based discriminatory laws and regulations, the consultations identified three critical impediments to women entrepreneurship, these relate to women entrepreneurs' limited access to skills and technology; financial resources and services; and market information and business services particularly backward and forward linkage opportunities.

Lovely, et.al. (2012) has identified a set of problems for the women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh. Of which, an inadequate starting capital is one of the main problems for the women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh. The study is done on the basis of secondary data. Generally, women start their business with limited capital accumulating from the family savings and the relatives and other sources. Collateral is another obstacle as identified in the study. Because women often do not have fixed capital such as land to use as collateral or a guarantor to get a small loan from the

bank. On the other hand, bank charges around 13% of interest for SMEs loans and 10% for women entrepreneurs which is higher as compared to neighboring countries (India charges 5 to 7%), thus making it difficult for the sustainability of SMEs in a competitive global market. Lack of information on domestic and international market is another barrier found in the study. The lack of adequate infrastructure facilities in the rural and urban areas is severe in some respects. Inadequate supply of electricity and gas badly affect the production process.

Socio-economic Problems that Faced by Women Entrepreneur in Bangladesh

Financial Problems: We know women always have to face a lot of financial problems in the time of conducting their business. There are some common financial problems that women usually face in conducting their business. Here, we have found out some possible financial problems of them such as; they have no land property to get loan, lack of financial help from family, lower knowledge of bank loan etc. among these financial problems which problems they have to face most at the time of conducting business, we need to find out. So, to find out these problems we have developed a descriptive statistics table. This is shown on table above:

Financial Problems (Table- 1)						
	Test Value = 4					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
No land and documents	5.252	19	.000	1.500	.90	2.10
Lack of financial support from family and friends	2.031	19	.056	.850	-.03	1.73
Bank particulars is not possible by the women to provide	4.841	19	.000	1.550	.88	2.22
Lower knowledge of bank loan	2.531	19	.020	1.100	.19	2.01
Lower knowledge of financing scheme	4.876	19	.000	1.700	.97	2.43

According to the table-1, we may say that all the financial problems have significant impact on the development of women entrepreneurship as all the factors significance value less than .05. Among the factors no documents and lands, lower knowledge of financial scheme, bank particulars is difficult to provide by the women, lower knowledge of loan and lack of financial support from family & friends have t values from higher to lower respectively. As a result we may conclude that no land & documents place greater financial obstacles on development of women entrepreneurship as this factor has the highest t value. On the other hand lack of financial support from friends & family has lowest t value and create fewer obstacles

on women entrepreneurship.

Social Problems: Women entrepreneur have to face a lot of social problems from the society. There are some common social problems that women entrepreneur usually face. Here, we have found out some social problems of them such as; they do not get support from the family, face gender discrimination, face domestic violence and negative attitude from the society etc. among these social problems which problems they have to face most we need to find out.

Social Problems (Table- 2)						
	Test Value = 4					
					95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Lower	Upper
Do not get support from family	1.221	19	.237	.400	-.29	1.09
Face domestic violence and negative attitude of society	3.455	19	.003	1.250	.49	2.01
Face lots of social obstacles	4.904	19	.000	1.800	1.03	2.57
Face gender discrimination	5.107	19	.000	1.800	1.06	2.54
Cannot show leadership in family decision making	1.945	19	.067	.850	-.06	1.76

From the table-2, we may say that the major social problems of women entrepreneur are face domestic violence & negative attitude of society, face social obstacles, face gender discrimination because these three has contained the significance value lower than .05. Among the social problems face gender discrimination has the highest impact and face domestic violence & negative attitude of society has lowest impact on women entrepreneurship as they have the highest and lowest t value respectively.

Problems of Leadership Capabilities: We know, women entrepreneur has low leadership power in business sector. There have some reason for that they have no leadership power in the Family and society. We have found out some reason for that they deprived from this power. These problems are: they have lack educational background, lower confident level, lower level of opportunity in Bangladesh, and much dependency on male. Among these reason which reason is most liable for low leadership power of women entrepreneur we need to find out.

Leadership Problems (Table- 3)						
	Test Value = 4					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Not able to show leadership in family decision making	1.945	19	.067	.850	-.06	1.76
lack of educational background	1.823	19	.084	.800	-.12	1.72
lower confident level	2.881	19	.010	1.150	.31	1.99
Lower level of opportunity in Bangladesh	4.077	19	.001	1.400	.68	2.12
much dependency on male	5.467	19	.000	1.800	1.11	2.49

From the table-3, we may say that lower confidence level, lower level of opportunity and much dependency on male these factors have significance level lower than .05 and act as the major obstacles of creating leadership capability among women entrepreneurs of our country. Among the factors much dependency on male has highest t value 5.467 and lower confidence level has the lowest t value 2.881. So much dependency on male is the main barrier for creating leadership capability among women entrepreneur of our country.

Problems Regarding Violence against Women: Women entrepreneur have to face a lots of violence from the society. There have different types of violence that women have to face in conducting their business. I found out some usual women violence. These are: physical and mental torture in family, acid throwing, sexual harassment, pay dowry etc. Among this violence which is worst violence for the women entrepreneur we need to find out.

Problems Regarding Violence (Table- 4)						
	Test Value = 4					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	99% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Inaccessibility to decision making in family	2.392	19	.027	.900	-.18	1.98
Victim of acid throwing and sexual harassment	4.951	19	.000	1.300	.55	2.05
Pay dowry for their daughter's wedding	2.333	19	.031	1.050	-.24	2.34
Face physical and mental torture in family	4.152	19	.001	1.550	.48	2.62

According to the table-4, we may say that all type of violence have significance value below .05 and significantly affect women entrepreneurs of our country. The worst type of violence is acid throwing having highest t value 4.951. Face physical and mental torture in family, burden of dowry and inaccessibility to decision making also create barriers for women entrepreneurs and have t values 4.152, 2.392, 2.333 respectively.

Lack of Knowledge and Skill: We know, women entrepreneur have lack of knowledge and skill than men for some reason. We have found out some reason for that women are behind leg than men. These are: lack of professional skill, do not know use of modern technology, lack of information and use of information. Now we need to find out which reason have the best affect of women entrepreneur's knowledge and skill lacking. Moreover, to find out these reasons I have developed a descriptive statistics table. This is shown below:

From the table-5, we may say that among all the factors only lack of professional skill has significance level below .05 and act as a single major obstacles for women entrepreneur for legging behind than men.

Lack of Knowledge & Skills (Table- 5)						
	Test Value = 4					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
lack of professional skill	2.031	19	.056	.850	-.03	1.73
Do not know the proper design and product development	.119	19	.906	.050	-.83	.93
lack of information and use of	1.453	19	.163	.600	-.26	1.46

information						
Do not know use of modern technology	1.741	19	.098	.850	-.17	1.87

Lack of Scope for Capacity Building and Training: Women entrepreneur in Bangladesh do not have more scope for capacity building and training. They have to face some barriers of building their capacity and taking training. The barriers may be low quality training, unqualified trainers, undeveloped training facilities etc. Here we need to find out the factors which hinders are effected the scope of women entrepreneur capacity building and training.

According to the table-6, we may say that lower level of scope of business training, low quality training, unqualified trainers, undeveloped training facilities, lack of need based training all these have significance level below .05 and create major obstacles for capacity building for women entrepreneurs. Among the factors low quality training has the highest t value 6.941 and lower level of scope of training facility has the lowest t value 5.378 respectively. So low quality training is the most strong barrier against the capacity building of women entrepreneurs of our country.

Lack of Scope for Capacity Building & Training (Table- 6)						
	Test Value = 4					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
lower level of scope of business training	5.378	19	.000	1.300	.79	1.81
low quality training	6.941	19	.000	1.550	1.08	2.02
Unqualified trainers	5.446	19	.000	1.600	.99	2.21
Undeveloped training facilities	5.715	19	.000	1.400	.89	1.91
lack of need based and technical based training	5.663	19	.000	1.850	1.17	2.53

Marketing Problems: Women entrepreneur in Bangladesh always have to face a lots of marketing related problems. These problems create a lot of effect in their business in every aspect. For these problems they become unable to continue their business smoothly and easily. Here, I have found out some marketing related problems of women entrepreneur. These are: women entrepreneur do not set their product design properly, lack of knowledge about marketing strategy, do not set right price, less involvement with mass media for publicity etc. now, we need to find out which marketing related problems they face most for conducting business.

Marketing problems (Table- 7)					
	Test Value = 4				
	t	df	Sig. (2-	Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the

			tailed)	Difference	Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Face problems about product design	2.392	19	.027	.900	.11	1.69
Lack of knowledge about marketing strategy	2.969	19	.008	1.350	.40	2.30
Inability to set the right price and face price discrimination	2.269	19	.035	.900	.07	1.73
Do not get opportunity to export product	3.865	19	.001	1.250	.57	1.93
Less involvement with mass media for publicity	5.286	19	.000	1.850	1.12	2.58

From the table-7, we may say that all marketing related problems have significance value lower than .05 and create significant marketing barrier for women entrepreneur. The major marketing related problems of women entrepreneur is "less involvement with mass media for publicity" because it contained highest t value which is 5.286. Next important problems are insufficient opportunity to export product & lack of knowledge about marketing strategy as they have the t values 3.865, 2.969 respectively. Inability to set right price is the least important problem for creating marketing barriers as it has the lowest t value 2.269.

Corruption Problem: We know, women entrepreneur face corruption problem in the time of conducting their business. They need to pay bribe to different public and private sectors. As a result women entrepreneur cannot conduct their business easily.

According to the table 3-8, we may say that paying bribe to different public and private organization is the major corruption problem for women entrepreneur in our country to conduct their business which is contained 5.60 mean values. Pay bribe to different public and private organization is the major corruption problem for the women entrepreneur that they have to face in conducting their business.

Corruption Problems (Table- 8)		
Corruption Problem	Mean	Std. Deviation
Pay bribe to different public and private organization	5.60	2.088

Problems regarding Government Policy: Government has different types of policy which affect the business of women entrepreneur. In our country, women entrepreneur do not know about tax, vat and regulatory barriers set by the government, women have low involvement in government policy, government allocate low amount of budget. These factors affect the business of women entrepreneur. Now, we need to find out which policy or factors affect most of women entrepreneur. So, to find out these problems I have developed a descriptive statistics table. This is shown below:

Problems Regarding Govt. Policy (Table- 9)					
	Test Value = 4				
	t	df	Sig. (2-	Mean	95% Confidence

			tailed)	Difference	Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Pay bribe to different public and private organization	3.428	19	.003	1.600	.62	2.58
low involvement in government policy	8.008	19	.000	1.800	1.33	2.27
lower knowledge about tax, vat and regulatory barriers set by government	3.479	19	.003	1.200	.48	1.92
Government allocate low amount of budget	9.180	19	.000	2.050	1.58	2.52
Do not get opportunity to attend government training session	4.841	19	.000	1.550	.88	2.22
Policy regarding property rights	9.692	18	.000	2.368	1.86	2.88

From the table 3-9, we may say that all policy related problems have significance value lower than .05 and create significant governmental policy barrier for women entrepreneur. Among the problems policy regarding property rights is the major factor that affects the business of women entrepreneur because it is has the maximum t value which is 9.692. Low involvement in government policy and allocation of low amount of budget contain t values 9.180 & 8.008 respectively and act as the second and third important problems in development of women entrepreneurship in our country. A bribery problem has the lowest t value 3.428 and creates fewer barriers for women entrepreneur business.

Problems of Developing Women Entrepreneur in Bangladesh

Rotated Complex Matrix

To find out the interdependence among the factors of problems of women entrepreneurs, we have conducted a factor analysis on 25 variables of women entrepreneurs' problems that we have collected from previous study. Those variables are: no land and documents, unable to provide bank particulars, lower knowledge of financing scheme, face domestic violence and negative attitude of society, face lots of social obstacles, face gender discrimination, lower confident level, lower opportunity in Bangladesh, much dependency on male, victim of acid throwing and sexual harassment, face physical and mental torture in family, low level of scope of business training, unqualified trainers, undeveloped training facility, lack of need based and technical based training, lack of knowledge about marketing strategy, do not get opportunity to export product, less involvement with mass media for publicity, pay bribe to different public and private organization, low involvement in government policy, do not know about tax, vat and regulatory barriers set by government, government allocate low amount of budget, do not get opportunity to attend government training session, policy regarding property rights. Based on those variables we have conducted the factor analysis and find that variables are interrelated through null hypothesis of factor analysis, as KMO and Bartlet test

results, is rejected (because level of significance is $.00000 < .05$ or $.01$). so we can say that the factors of problems to create barrier for women entrepreneur are interrelated. So based on the interrelation of factors of problems we will be able to find out factor. Note that: Number of factor will be selected as the value of Eigen value. So as Eigen value we have found six four factors: which shown as Rotated component Matrix (Table 10)

Rotated Component Matrix^a (Table 10)				
	Component			
	1	2	3	4
Problems of land and documents				.706
Problems regarding provide Bank particulars.	.658			
Lower knowledge of financing scheme	.793			
Face domestic violence and negative attitude of society		.840		
Face lots of social obstacles		.793		
Face gender discrimination		.613		
Low confident level	.808			
Low opportunity in Bangladesh			.655	
Much dependence on male				
Victim by acid throwing and sexual harassment		.843		
Face physical and mental torture in family		.642		
Low level of scope of business training			.788	
Low quality training				
Unqualified trainers			.669	
Undeveloped training facilities	.772			
Lack of need based and technical based training			.785	
Lack of knowledge about marketing strategy	.831			
Do not get opportunity to export product				.718
Do not involve with mass media for publicity	.849			

Pay bride to different public and private organization				
Low involvement in government policy		.603		
do not know about tax, vat and regulatory barriers set by government	.613			
government allocate low amount of budget	.671			
do not get opportunity to attend government training session				.695
Policy regarding property rights				.687
Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis. Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.				
a. Rotation converged in 11 iterations.				

By observing rotated component matrix, we find four factors of problems of women entrepreneurship in Bangladesh as a name of “Component”. Here component 1 incorporates the problem of unable to provide bank particulars, lower knowledge of financing scheme, lower confident level, undeveloped training facility, lack of knowledge about marketing strategy, less involvement with mass media for publicity, lower knowledge about tax, vat and regulatory barriers set by government, government allocate low amount of budget. Whereas component 2 include face domestic violence and negative attitude of society, face lots of social obstacles, face gender discrimination, victim of acid throwing and sexual harassment, face physical and mental torture in family, low involvement in government policy. Beside those, component 3 integrates lower opportunity in Bangladesh, low level of scope of business training, unqualified trainers, lack of need based and technical based training, on the other hand no land and documents, do not get opportunity to export product, do not get opportunity to attend government training session, Policy regarding property rights incorporate as component 4. Now, we can assign name of each component, based on the nature of variables of each component, which name will acquaint as factor. Here, component 1 named as knowledge and skill problems factor, though all of the variables of component 1 related with knowledge and skill problem of women entrepreneur; and component 2 is known as social problem factor; whereas component 3 is known as capacity building and training problems factor; above all component 4 named as governmental policy problems factor.

So, we can say that there have four factors, named as knowledge and skill problems factor, social problem factor, capacity building and training problems factor, and governmental policy problems factor to create obstacles for women entrepreneurship in Bangladesh. Among those factor, first factor known as knowledge and skill problems factor incorporate the problem of unable to provide bank particulars, lower knowledge of financing scheme, lower confidence level, undeveloped training facility, lack of knowledge about marketing strategy, less

involvement with mass media for publicity, lower knowledge about tax, vat and regulatory barriers set by government, government allocate low amount of budget. Among those knowledge and skill problems, lower knowledge about tax, vat and regulatory barriers set by government is most important problem hence the probability of its impact is 0.849. Subsequently others important problems as probability are lack of knowledge about marketing strategy (.831), lower confidence level (.808), lower knowledge of financing scheme (.793), undeveloped training facilities (.772), government allocate low amount of budget (.671), unable to provide bank particulars (.658), lower knowledge about tax, vat and regulatory barriers set by government (.613). The other factor known as social problem factor incorporate face domestic violence and negative attitude of society, face lots of social obstacles, face gender discrimination, victim of acid throwing and sexual harassment, face physical and mental torture in family, low involvement in government policy. Among those motives, victim of acid throwing and sexual harassment have highest impact on the factor rotate though its impact probability is 0.843; and other's important motives are face domestic violence and negative attitude of society, which impact probability is 0.840, face lots of social obstacles (.793), face physical and mental torture in family (.642), face gender discrimination (.613) and low involvement in government policy whereas its impact probability is (0.603).

Besides those two factors other important factor is building and training problems factor which incorporate lower opportunity in Bangladesh, low level of scope of business training, unqualified trainers, lack of need based and technical based training. Among those motives, low level of scope of business training motives get more priority due to its impact probability is 0.788; subsequently others important factors as probability are lack of need based and technical based training (.785), unqualified trainers (.669), and lower opportunity in Bangladesh (.655). Then, last factor which is known as governmental policy problems factor include no land and documents, do not get opportunity to export product, do not get opportunity to attend government training session, Policy regarding property rights. In between of those motives do not get opportunity to export product have highest impact though its probability of impact is (0.718), and subsequent motives are no land and documents (.706), do not get opportunity to attend government training session (.695) and Policy regarding property rights (.687).

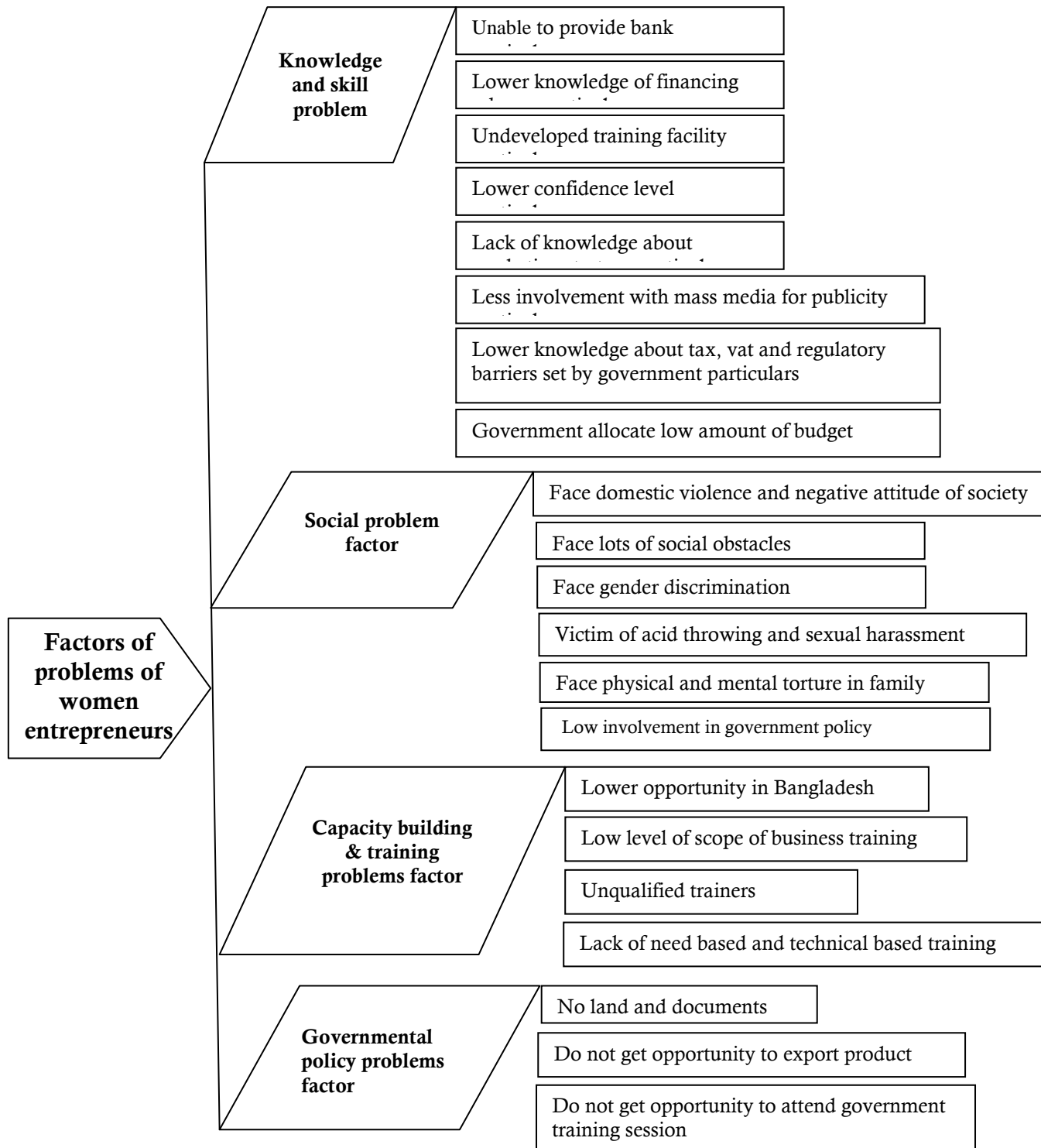


Figure 11: Factors of problems of women entrepreneurs**Conclusion**

This study successfully identified the measuring the problems of women entrepreneurship in Bangladesh. Women entrepreneurship is not only a source of income generation but also a way of achieving economic independence. Realizing the importance of women entrepreneurship, Bangladesh government has taken several initiatives to encourage women getting involved in various micros, small and medium enterprises. Government should introduce training program to educate women about financial scheme and benefits available for women entrepreneur. Establish a separate cell at the City Corporation and other local government bodies to deal with women entrepreneurs regarding trade license, company formation, and company registration. Create easy access for women entrepreneurs to the local administrative support. The central bank should fix up a target for each bank to provide loan for women SMEs and form a monitoring team to check the implementation of its circular. Introduce a holistic program for capacity building of women. Women have now become aware of their socio-economic rights and have ventured to avail the opportunities initiated for them. It is impossible to achieve the target of a poverty-free society without incorporation of women in the mainstream economy. Considering the issue, a special emphasis has been given by the Government, donor agencies, NGOs, business community and all other relevant stakeholders through different interventions to ensure increased women's participation in formal economic sectors, especially in business and industry and promote women entrepreneurship in Bangladesh.

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