

Revisiting the Policies and Budgetary allocation on the development of Women Entrepreneurs in Bangladesh

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Women entrepreneurship has become a pertaining issue of the economy of Bangladesh. In spite of the social and economic barriers, they are coming forefront. Their increased role in economic development had spurred the government in developing policies. However, several studies have discovered that women performance was still low. Problems like low productivity, high rates of business failures, and no access to credit among others had hindered their growth. The policies alone can not bring about any positive impact as adequate budgetary allocation is absent. The paper aims to analyze the existing policy framework. The analysis is supported by empirical research findings done on the basis of ADP allocation. The paper provides many significant policy implications on how to improve women entrepreneurship development in Bangladesh with the help of appropriate policies and budgetary allocation.

Field of Research: Women Entrepreneurship, budgetary allocation, development economics.

1. Introduction

It is noticeable that 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. Yet, women entrepreneurship development needs a lot of policy support and budgetary allocation.

There is a difference between women's and men's choice of type of business. Women often choose a type of business line among the traditional women's trades, and also the values and priorities of the two sexes are different. More often than male entrepreneurs, woman entrepreneurs give a higher priority to the well being of their family and their children, which creates a conflict between the values of the enterprise and those of the family. These differences are important in connection with the possibilities and barriers encountered by the women for example regarding financing and decisions on expanding the business.

The differences are felt most keenly by the women entrepreneurs who have a family. More women than male entrepreneurs have a family and children. The same applies when a comparison is made with the workforce in general. These differences influence the general picture of women entrepreneurs, although the childless women entrepreneurs are more similar to male entrepreneurs in values and priorities.

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2. Literature Review

A good number of studies have been done on entrepreneurship in Bangladesh. Habibullah (1987) showed that training is an effective tool for entrepreneurship development in Bangladesh. Rahman, Mian, Bhattacharjee and Khan (1979) critically appraised the impact of different programs and policies relating to entrepreneurship and small enterprises. Habibur Rahman (1995) emphasized the importance of project viability, collateral and entrepreneurial evaluation at the project appraisal level of banks. Saleh (1995) found inadequate cash flows, marketing deficits and discriminating treatment from supportive service agencies to create obstacles to women entrepreneurship development in Bangladesh. Rahman (1999) examines women borrowers' involvement with the microcredit program of the Grameen Bank, and the grassroots lending structure of the bank. He focuses on the processes of village-level microcredit operation and addresses the realities of the day-to-day lives of women borrowers and bank workers and explains informant strategies for involving themselves in this microcredit scheme. The study also covers some power dynamics. Aktaruddin (1999) showed that personal attributes are key factors for entrepreneurial success or failure, while Aktaruddin (2000) focused on the social-economic background of the entrepreneurs. Momen and Begum (2006) measured the impact BRAC's micro credit program had for the development of rural women entrepreneurship. Afrin, Islam and Ahmed (2008) aimed at identifying the factors related to the development of entrepreneurship among the rural women borrowers through micro credit programs. Using a multivariate analysis, they showed that financial management skills and the group identity of the women borrowers have significant relationship with the development of rural women entrepreneurship in Bangladesh. Most recently, Rotaru (2009) provided a case study on the Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BWCCI), which was established in 2001, as the country's first trade body working exclusively for women's economic and social empowerment.

The aim of this paper is to analyze the critical regulatory factors of women entrepreneurship development in Bangladesh. The paper is structured as follows. The next section summarizes the concept of framework for analysis. The fourth section describes the methodology and hypotheses. The fifth and sixth sections review the policies, programs and budgetary allocation for women entrepreneurship development. The last section provides various policy implications before the seventh section provides the analysis.

3. Framework for Analysis

Policy implementation is mainly the activities that are carried out in the light of established policies. Egonmwan (1991) was of the view that implementation refers to the process of converting inputs such as financial, material, technical, human into outputs – goods and services. He further described it as the stage where the earlier preparation and designs, plans and analyses are tested in the harsh light of reality. Policy implementation has been described as one major problem confronting developing countries. The implementation problem in developing countries is the problem of a widening gap between intentions and results. A manifestation of implementation gap is the phenomenon of the rich getting richer while the poor are getting poorer in spite of avowed stated policy goal of elimination of poverty and

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equality of access to the basic needs of life. Implementation gap also manifests in the widening of the distance between stated policy goal and the realization of such planned goals. (Egonmwan 1991). Boserup (1970) opined that development programs in developing countries tended not to be effectual or productive because planners had failed to understand gender inequalities.

Development can be viewed as empowerment, the liberation of women. Development is not complete without the reduction of poverty through increasing productivity. However, to achieve a high level of empowerment, structural inequality in the society should be addressed. Therefore, for the empowerment of women, there must be women's collective mobilization to overcome particular instances of institutionalized gender discrimination.

4. Methodology

The paper only considers secondary materials regarding women entrepreneurship development in Bangladesh. Various policy instruments and programs have been reviewed to see whether they are congenial for women entrepreneurship development. In doing so we developed some hypotheses. Like-

1. **Fiscal and Monetary Policies create hindrance for women entrepreneurship development.**
2. **Banking policies are not women friendly.**
3. **Access to finance is not assured in the policies.**
4. **Appropriate allocation of funds are absent in the National Budget.**

5. Policies and Programs Affecting Development of Women Entrepreneurship in Bangladesh

The development of women entrepreneurship in Bangladesh is perceived as a low priority. Therefore, it is evident that the policies and programs encouraging and supporting women entrepreneurship are very few. This section attempts at identifying women entrepreneurship related policies and objectives adopted in various national document of Bangladesh. Women entrepreneurship related policies and objectives adopted in various international documents, which the GOB ratifies, have also been identified in this section.

5.1 Women Entrepreneurship Related Policies and Objectives in Various Five Year Plans of Bangladesh

- The importance of women entrepreneurship in Bangladesh has been acknowledged first in her **Second Five year Plan (1980-85)**. It emphasized creating a congenial atmosphere for women's increased participation in development through expanding opportunities for skill development, credit and entrepreneurship development program.
- The same policies and programs were adopted in the **Third Five Year Plan (1985-1990)**. **The Fourth Five Year Plan (1990-95)** placed women within the context of macro framework with multi-sectoral thrust. During which women were brought under various credit programs mainly for developing micro entrepreneurship among the poor and disadvantaged women.

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- The gender policies and objectives adopted in the **Fifth Five Year Plan (1997-2002)** were also supportive of developing entrepreneurship among women of Bangladesh. This includes:
 - ensure women's legal rights in property inheritance.
 - ensure women's equal right to skill, information, resources and opportunities.
 - promote women's economic self reliance.
 - ensure women's access to managerial training.
 - ensure women's access to credit facilities.
 - create appropriate institutional arrangement with necessary financial and human resources and authorities at all levels to mainstream women's concern at all aspects and sectors of development.

5.2 Women Entrepreneurship Related Policies and Objectives in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)

- PRSP extensively discusses the gender dimension of poverty and adopted a right-based approach to eliminate gender gap from all spheres of life. The same approach has been adopted for the advancement of women.
- In this context, PRSP has emphasized the development of women entrepreneurship as one of the means to women's advancement.
- The PRSP suggested three types of interventions- immediate, short and long run.

5.3 Industrial Policy 2010

The government recently finalized the Industrial Policy 2010. The policy includes the following major strategies (i) while the private sector will assume a lead role in industrialization, give priority to improving productivity of the agriculture and labor-intensive sectors;

(ii) ensure public investment in industry is limited and specific; give priority to public investment in facilitating private sector investment, ensure social balance in the public interest, and maintain national security; (iii) take measures to provide one-stop service to investors using modern information technology facilities to simplify the process and reduce the cost of doing business; (iv) give priority to providing support to land acquisition for setting up new industries;

(v) build critical infrastructure (a major priority) like power, energy, and port facilities; rail and road transportation; and telecommunications; (vi) undertake reforms in banking and government financial institutions to meet the demand for long-term industrial financing;

(vii) take measures to recast existing financing facilities i.e., the Equity and Entrepreneurship Fund aiming to provide operating capital to industrial borrowers;

(viii) undertake measures to consolidate and strengthen activities of the Security Exchange Commission;

(ix) support small, medium, micro, and cottage industries and information technology-based industries; and

(x) develop woman entrepreneurs.

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The Industrial Policy announced several incentives to be offered to investors, such as

- (i) duty and tax facilities on imported capital goods to attain balanced development across the country; (ii) establishment of special economic zones in the underdeveloped northern regions including districts of greater Dinajpur, Rangpur, and Rajshahi;
- (iii) a 100% tax holiday on income for the first 2 years for industries located in Dhaka and Chittagong, except in the three hill districts; a 50% tax holiday for the next 2 years and 25% for the final year; (iv) a 7-year tax holiday for industries located in Barisal, Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Sylhet, and three hill districts: a 100% tax holiday during the first 3 years, 50% in the next 3 years, and 25% in the 7th year;
- (v) approval of the tax holiday facility to be considered in 45 days (if not approved earlier) upon receipt of the investor's application; (vi) no application of tax holiday will be rejected without hearing the applicant;
- (vii) the rate of customs duty and taxes will be higher for imported final goods than for imported raw materials for goods that are locally produced; (viii) investment of nonresident Bangladeshis will be given equal status and facilities with foreign direct investment; (ix) full repatriation of invested capital is allowed; and
- (x) a special quota will be made available for women entrepreneurs in existing export processing zones.

5.4 Export Promotion Strategy Paper 2006-2009

- It declares that it is necessary to reduce the discrimination between men and women, and to integrate more and more women in business development activities. This will result in strengthening our economic base, enabling the producers/exporters to attain more strength and competitive ability to face the challenges of a changing world trading system. To that end number of strategies has been outlined:
 - Promoting labor-intensive (especially female labor) export-oriented production.
 - Encouraging female entrepreneurs in the export sector.
 - Encouraging them invent new production and product diversification.
 - Selecting of female Commercially Important "Points and
 - Honoring best female entrepreneurs by awarding Annual Export Trophy.

5.5 Millennium Development Goals 2000-2015 (MDGs)

MDGs came as the universal declaration of human rights at the very outset of 20th century and cover the women development issue from the most general poverty eradication and basic human right protection standpoint. The relevant goals that address the women empowerment and SME development issues are:

- Achieve universal primary education (by 2015 boys & girls alike will complete full course of primary schooling).
- Promote gender equity and empower women (eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary levels by 2005 and in all educational levels by 2015).
- Female literacy rate enhancement.
- Employment generation for women (non agricultural sector).

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- Parliamentary positions held by women.
- Develop a global partnership (in cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies).

5.6 Agricultural Policy

- All national policies under the ministries of agricultural sector recognized women as farmers and suggested actions to provide agricultural services. But in reality, women do not get advantages from this policy. Result of a study shows that women's share in the total agricultural inputs supplied by the government institutions is only 14.7%. The same study shows that while men received training mainly in farming, women get training on poultry farming. This finding suggests that women are not considered as farmers'.
- Non-recognition of women as farmers is revealed further when it is found that most of the agricultural loan is provided to men. About one-fifth of the loan taken by women was used by men. Only a little more than 14 % of women use the loan money absolutely themselves.
- Analysis of the agricultural policy shows that women get negligible facilities in the agricultural sector even though policy is women sensitive. (*Choudhuri Zohir 2005*).It is mainly because of the fact that in most cases, women do not own agricultural land. Hence, women-focused policy should be adopted to supply agricultural services.

5.7 Monetary Policy

Monetary policy plays a vital role in facilitating access to credit and availability of credit is an essential condition of developing entrepreneurship. But, no such credit policy in the country is devoted for development of women entrepreneurship. A set of credit arrangements is founded guided by Bangladesh Bank. Where a lot of flexibility has been ensured for running the credit system and women entrepreneurs may get some benefits from these flexibilities.

i) **Bangladesh Bank:**

- ii) As a part of its Action Plan to support the SME Centers, Women Entrepreneurship and one-stop facility, Bangladesh Bank has issued ACSPD Circular No-01 dated February 7, 2007 declaring the special allocation of 15% of total SME Refinance able loan for women entrepreneurs so as to extend their involvement in the economic activities
- At the initial stage total amount of fund for women entrepreneurs were TK 45 crore which is now raised to TK 120 crore.
 - Bangladesh Bank issued a circular on March, 2008 directing all Banks & NBFIs to set up separate "Women Entrepreneur's Dedicated Desk" and to provide necessary training to the suitable workforce after recruiting them to assist & encourage women entrepreneurs and also advising them to consider the disbursement up to TK 25,00,000/- only against personal guarantee.
 - Bangladesh Bank, ACSPD Circular Letter No. 02 dated March 02, 2009 has been issued directing Banks & NBFIs approaching to BB for refinancing claim after disbursing 10% of their total SME loan to the Women Entrepreneurs.

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- Bangladesh Bank has created a Tk 665 crore (\$95 million) fund for providing loans to SMEs at low interest. Asian Development Bank will contribute \$76 million, while the government will provide the rest \$19 million to the fund, according to a central bank circular issued. 15 percent will be reserved for women entrepreneurs and the highest interest rate of 10 percent. While the male borrowers will get the loans on the basis of market rate of interest. The borrowers will get Tk 50,000 to Tk 70,000 in loans. The banks will get around 75 percent refinance facility from the central bank. The bank concerned will give 15 percent of the total loan and the entrepreneur will bear the rest 10 percent. The highest tenure of a mid-term loan will be three years and that for a long-term loan will be five years. The refinancing scheme will be applicable for the projects outside Dhaka and Chittagong metropolitan areas. For getting the refinance facility for giving loans under the SME category, the banks will have to fulfill some criteria. One of those is that the bank will have practical prior experience about SME financing. In the long-term national rating scale, they must have BBB- rating.

ii) SME Foundation's Initiatives: Women Entrepreneurship development is one of the most prioritized commitments of SMEF. SMEF is working in diversified sectors in relation with the empowerment of women entrepreneurs in SMEs. The goal of these activities is to bring the women entrepreneurs in the mainstream of development process and thus ensure their empowerment. The remarkable initiatives undertaken by the SMEF for women entrepreneurship development are:

- A five year Gender Action Plan has been developed for Women Entrepreneurship Development.
- A working Group has been established to provide strategic support for Women Entrepreneurship Development.
- Arrangement has been made for encouraging Women Entrepreneur by awarding 'Best SME Women Entrepreneurship Award'.

iii) Other Nationalized Banks: Almost all nationalized banks have women branch aiming at mobilizing savings from women rather than providing loan to women for investment. For this reason, these branches are running at a loss. Some banks like Janata bank have undertaken a policy to provide big loan to women without collateral. But in practice, it has been found that banks often insist women to bring husbands' or other male relatives' consent as guarantee before providing loan to women.

iv) Krishi bank also has a program to provide Krishi loan to women. But information collected shows that very few women have demanded this loan. Because of complicated loan giving procedure for less educated women and need for women to have some material base to invest loan. But women lack material base.

v) BASIC bank was established with the mandate to finance small and cottage industries sector. Since its direct lending program could not be so successful, so it is now operating through NGOs in this respect. But, unfortunately, its mandate is not adequately utilized by the lending of NGOs which do not finance small industries or even cottage industries of higher levels. The statistics of BASIC Bank shows that out of 237 projects directly funded by the bank in 1998, only two were women entrepreneurship related.

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5.8 Women Entrepreneurship Related Objectives in the International Treaties

Bangladesh is also a signatory of several international treaties regarding women's development. Among these noteworthy are:

- Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against women (CEDAW) and Platform for Action (PFA),
- As CEDAW has very little to do with the development of women entrepreneurship, Article 11 and 13b are conducive to the development of women entrepreneurship. Article 11 of this convention provides for equality of employment and training and also provides free choice of profession. Article 13b provides for women's rights to bank loan, mortgage and other forms of financial facilities. But analysis of various national policies reveals that except NAP, all other national policies have taken these articles into consideration very little. The Fourth World Conference of United Nations on Women Development in Beijing adopted Platform for Action Plan (PFA). Article 12 of this treaty mentions the issue of the equal economic right and opportunities and development of women. It includes the right of the women for credit, which is a basic pre-condition for the development of women entrepreneurship. The government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh has adopted the Platform for Action and thus commits to implement the resolution of the PFA. The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs has set up an inter-ministerial Task Force to follow-up the implementation of the resolution of the PFA.

5.9 SME Policy 2005

SME Policy 2005 is very brief about women entrepreneurs and describes that women entrepreneurs will be accorded preference, wherever appropriate.

6. National Budget- the instrument for Developing Women Entrepreneurship

The paper attempts to evaluate the performance of the national budget to implement women entrepreneurship related policies and objectives. The extent, to which the budgetary measures enable women to solve the problems faced by them to undertake any business venture will also be an indicator of the performance of the national budget to develop entrepreneurship among women.

National budget has two components –revenue budget and development budget. More than half of all government expenditure is revenue expenditure. The salary and other amenities given to the government employees constitute the lion share of the revenue expenditure. This component of budgetary expenditure has very little to do with the development of women entrepreneurship. A part of the revenue resources is allocated for some safety net programs among which old age pension program, widow pension program, GR; TR and VGD programs are worth noting. Safety net programs target hard-core poor to ensure them a minimum level of income and consumption. Therefore, these programs have no role to develop women entrepreneurship. But findings showed that in few cases, women beneficiaries of

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these programs developed as micro entrepreneurs (*Mannan and Paul-Majumder 2003c*). This fact indicates that entrepreneurial potential in women is so strong that even a very little support speeds it up.

Fiscal policy and measures undertaken in the revenue budget has tremendous bearing on the development of women entrepreneurship. These measures and policies have been assessed in order to find out to what extent fiscal measures encourage, discourage or hinder the development of women entrepreneurship.

6.1 Budgetary Analysis

Annual development Programmes (ADPs) are the primary tools of the government to achieve women related commitments made nationally and internationally. As the budget expenditure is not categorized by gender, finding out the women's share in it is a intimidating task.

We went through the names of all the projects in every sector in the ADP from 1997 to 2005 to identify the projects having impact on women (direct and indirect) and project only aiming at women entrepreneurship development. We start our analysis with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Women Affairs and Youth Development and Ministry of Industries since only these two Ministries have projects on women entrepreneurship development.

6.2 Ministry of Women and Children Affairs

The issue of women development remains the responsibility of this ministry, even though in order to mainstreaming women development with the national development women development is made a multi sectoral matter. This ministry represents 75% of population. However women development only refers to the development of destitute women where as non-destitute women and women entrepreneurs are also in great need to budgetary measures to facilitate both their working and housewifery life.

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Table 1: Budgetary Allocation for Ministry of Women and Children Affairs

(In Lac Taka)

Year	Total no. of Project	WED Project	Total ADP Allocation (In Lacs)	Total ADP Allocation For the Ministry (In Lacs)	ADP allocation for WED Projects (In Lacs)	RADP Allocation for WED Projects (In Lacs)	WED allocation as a % of Total ADP Allocation	WED Allocation as a % of Total Ministry Allocation
01-02	59	1	1900000	21543	640	235	0.012368	1.090842
02-03	75	1	1920000	26974	340	340	0.017708	1.260473
03-04	59	1	2030000	25017	336	250	0.012315	0.99932
04-05	43	2	2200000	24868	658	654	0.029727	2.629886
05-06	40	2	2450000	28562	808	203	-	-
06-07	30	-	2600000	37658	-	-	-	-
07-08	38	-	2650000	16765	-	-	-	-
08-09	31	-	1200000	33481	-	-	-	-
09-10	36	-	3050000	36956	-	-	-	-

WED= Women Entrepreneurship Development.

RADP = Revised Annual Development Program

Source: Ruba Rummana, 2006-2010, 'The Budget aspiration of Women Entrepreneurs In Bangladesh' prepared for Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industries (BWCCI) for An Interactive Discussion with the Media.

Table 1 shows allocation for women entrepreneurship development is not done purposively in the budget document except some allocations in the budget of the Ministry. There was only one project for women entrepreneurs in FY2001 (Entrepreneurship Development of Women) with allocation of Taka 47.5 million. This budget is very minuscule and it comprises only 0.03 per cent of the total Annual Development Plan (ADP). The number of projects increased to two in FY 2005 (Entrepreneurship Development of Women and Promotion of Women Entrepreneurs for Economic Development) with a volume of Taka 65.4 crores, however in terms of share it remained unchanged. This makes only 2.62% of total allocation of the Ministry. In the following FY 2006 it became insignificant. Then from 2006 to 2010 there was no budgetary allocation for women entrepreneurship development projects.

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6.3 Ministry of Industries

Ministry of Industries is primarily responsible for promotion, expansion and sustainable development of Industrial sector of the country. Today the Ministry of Industries has taken the role of a facilitator of the private sector as it is playing an important role in the industrialization of the country, with a view to creating increased industrial activities in the country in the changing trend of globalization and industrialization.

Table-2-Budgetary Allocation for Ministry of Industries

Year	Total no. of project	WED project	Total ADP allocation (In Lacs)	Total ADP allocation For the Ministry (In Lacs)	ADP allocation for WED projects (In Lacs)	RADP Allocation for WED Projects (In Lacs)	WED Allocation as a % of Total ADP Allocation	WED Allocation as a % of Total Ministry Allocation
01-02	61	1	1900000	38520	663	500	0.02632	1.298027
02-03	52	1	1920000	36267	800	600	0.03125	1.654397
03-04	36	1	2030000	26668	616	-	-	-
04-05	25	-	2200000	41449	-	-	-	-
05-06	28	-	2450000	44558	-	-	-	-
06-07	35	-	2600000	45767	-	-	-	-
07-08	29	-	2650000	34181	-	-	-	-
08-09	31	-	1200000	53602	-	-	-	-
09-10	29	-	3050000	52918	-	-	-	-

(In Lac Taka)

Source: Ruba Rummana, 2006-2010, 'The Budget aspiration of Women Entrepreneurs In Bangladesh' prepared for Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industries (BWCCI) for An Interactive Discussion with the Media.

Table 2 shows that actually nothing has been done for the development of women entrepreneurship. The only project aiming at women entrepreneurship development was completed in 2003-2004 fiscal year and no new project has been undertaken.

6.4 Other Ministries

As a part of the process to introduce a gender sensitive budget the government undertook an initiative to disaggregate the budgets and beneficiary data for four ministries on a gender basis: Education; Health and Family Welfare; Social Welfare;

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and Food and Disaster Management. This new initiative is a starting point for deeper understanding of the challenges to be faced in introducing gender budgeting so as to identify where and what actions need to be taken. But no women entrepreneurship development project was found among the top ten projects under these ministries.

7. Discussion and Analysis

Elaborate discussion of fiscal and monetary policies depict that our first hypothesis is true. Examination of banking policy also confirms our second and third hypothesis. Discussion on budgetary allocation supports our final hypothesis.

8. Recommendation

8.1 At the Policy Level

The government should act as facilitator for women entrepreneurs. So an investment and business friendly policy framework needs to be formulated for women's empowerment that is directly related to economic development. Therefore engagement of women in national economic development should be legally ensured. Empowerment for women entrepreneurs will help reforming the traditional society and liberate the women culturally, economically and politically. The government should formulate different policies suitable for women entrepreneurs. Like - Abolishing discrimination between men and women.

Analysis of the government policies regarding women entrepreneurship development let us direct to propose suggestion for the development of the women entrepreneurship.

8.1. 1.Development Policies and Strategies

In respect of the government development policy, strategy and direction following suggestions are made:

- Ensuring Implementation of the Beijing UN Convention on Women Development.
- National Action Plan for the development of women entrepreneurship should have provision of arranging resources for women entrepreneurs.
- Ensuring the Implementation of the Policies of National Action Plan.

8.1.2. Financial Policies and Strategies

In respect of the policy, strategy and function of Bangladesh Bank and Commercial Banks following suggestions are made:

- Identification of viable women entrepreneurs.
- Establishing credit guarantee scheme for women entrepreneurs.
- Lowered interest rate for loans for women entrepreneurs.
- Setting up special window for financing women entrepreneurs.
- Pre- and post investment counseling for women entrepreneurs for credit.
- Allocation of women share in equity development funds.
- Preferential treatment of the women entrepreneurs by credit in thrust sectors.
- Monitoring of credit disbursement for women entrepreneurs.
- Maintaining gender based data on credit disbursement and dissemination information on credit opportunities.
- Establishing a separate and exclusive women bank.
- Enabling credit for the women without collateral.

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- Separate Income tax floor and single digit Value Added Tax.

8.1.3 Institutional and Technical Support

8.1.4 Institutional Measures

- Establishing a strong relation among different ministries, departments and divisions of the government involved in the development of the women in general and sharing their experiences.

8.1.5 Study and Lobbying

- Studying prospect on joint venture and providing support in this respect to the willing women entrepreneurs.
- Undertaking sector based study to identify potential sectors and ensure women participation.
- Preparing sector based study paper to collect viable information and lobby with government for necessary reform.

8.1.5 Management Support

- Arranging management training for women entrepreneurs.

8.1.6 Marketing Support

- Supporting and ensuring the participation of the women entrepreneurs in national and international trade fairs
- Arranging display centre for national and international for the products of the women entrepreneurs
- Counseling and supplying of national and international trade information regularly

8.1.7 Other Suggestions

- For new women enterprise tax may considerably be reduced or exempted.
- The procedure for TIN should be simplified.
- Procedure for Income Tax should be simplified and made investment friendly.
- Tax holiday for women entrepreneurs should be extended further and made more supportive for them.
- Gift Tax should be dismantled in the case of women beneficiaries.
- Issuing of trade license should be made simple for women entrepreneurs.
- Either the registration procedure for import and export business should be simplified and made women friendly or completely dismantled.
- Women representation in Import Trade Control Committee should be ensured.
- Pre-shipment Inspection should be more simplified and made speedy.
- All anomalies in custom procedure must be removed and women friendly.

8.2 At the Allocation Level

Inadequate allocation of the ADP continues to hinder the timely development of women entrepreneurs. Again low capacity for implementing the ADP has slowed the crowding-in of private investment. Short-term and medium-term reform measures are necessary for full utilization of the ADP along with adequate allocation. Immediate actions are necessary to set appropriate priority and rationalization of development

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projects based on the principle of maximizing economic and social returns. The project approval process needs to be need based, simplified, speedy and transparent. The monitoring and evaluation mechanism needs to be strengthened. Enhancing the capacity of planning wings in various ministries will improve ADP implementation.

9. Concluding Remarks

Women entrepreneurship is one of the key to the creation of new enterprises that energize and rejuvenate the economy. Women entrepreneurship also plays a vital role in economic development and serves as the catalyst in the process of industrialization and economic growth. The emergence and development of women entrepreneurship largely depends on the supporting conditions of different factors such as economic, social, cultural, and psychological. Since entrepreneurship development is extremely important to activate the economic development of Bangladesh, it would be of utmost importance to ensure the facilitating factor of women entrepreneurs. Conducive policy environment, harmony among the ministries, departments and divisions of the government along with appropriate budgetary allocation, women have a great opportunity to make a mark in the overall development of Bangladesh.

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