

**DETERMINANTS OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT UNDER
ULLAPARA UPAZILA OF SIRAJGANJ DISTRICT**

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ULLAPARA UPAZILA OF SIRAJGANJ DITRICT**

BY
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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis enlighten, "DETERMINANTS OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT UNDER ULLAPARA UPAZILA OF SIRAJGANJ DISTRICT" submitted to the faculty of agriculture, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural university, Dhaka in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of MASTER OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION, embodies the result of a piece of bona fide research work conducted by TANZINA RAHMAN LUNA, Registration no. 15-07001 under my supervision and guidance. No part of this thesis has been submitted for any other degree or diploma.



I further certify that any help or source of information, received during the course of this study has been duly acknowledged.

Dated: Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Dated: June, 2017
Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Dr. Mohummed Shofi Ullah Mazumder
Associate professor
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**DEDICATED TO
MY
BELOVED PARENTS**

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**DETERMINANTS OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT UNDER ULLAPARA
UPAZILA OF SIRAJGANJ DISTRICT**

TANZINA RAHMAN LUNA

ABSTRACT

Women in Bangladesh have made major strides over the past decades, putting the South Asian country at the forefront among the least-developed countries in addressing gender disparity. The purpose of the study was to describe the selected characteristics of the women; to ascertain the determinants of women empowerment; and the level of contribution of the selected determinants to women empowerment. The study carried out in Ullapara upazila under Sirajganj district. Data were collected from 116 women by using a pretested interview schedule during the period from 10 January to 11 February 2018. Descriptive statistics, multiple regressions were used for analysis. Women empowerment was measured by social, political and economic dimensions. The result also revealed that women education, and knowledge on empowerment had significant contribution on social empowerment, family annual income, knowledge on empowerment, and education had significant contribution on political empowerment and family annual income, age, and body mass index had significant contribution on women economic empowerment. The findings showed that social and political empowerment had positive effects on women empowerment due to empowerment status. It is concluded that women had potentiality to enhance their knowledge regarding empowerment issues and change their present status. Therefore, Bangladesh government should take necessary initiative like introducing self-help program to overcome the existing disaggregated situation.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Background

Established as a secular people's republic in 1971, Bangladesh is the most densely populated country in the world with a population of approximately 160 million. Roughly half of Bangladesh's population is made up of women (48.9 percent in 2004, according to the World Bank gender profile), 80% of whom live in rural areas (BBS 2001). Bangladesh has a significant history of women organizing movements to claim their rights. Over the years, women's groups have mobilized themselves and made sure their voices are heard in various issues, starting from violence against women, gender equality in securing economic opportunities and participation, equal representation in politics, reproductive rights, family law reforms and gender mainstreaming in public policies. One of the women empowerment factor is power. Power is assumed by the weak individuals in the society through empowerment process, also they can effectively influence their own lives by accomplishing the milestones (Kishor, Gupta 2004).

Golla et al. (2011) claim that women's economic empowerment is fast becoming a key instrument in promoting their abilities to achieve their rights and well-being which subsequently reduces household poverty and increases economic growth, productivity and efficiency. A basis of gender equality is women's equal contribution in decision-making. Combined participation is also one of the critical aspects of women empowerment. Participation in decision-making is combined with conscientization - the process of raising awareness among women about gender discrimination and the resulting domination it creates for women as a social group. Through this process, women collectively analyze different aspects of gender inequality that they face.

Empowerment is an active, multi-dimensional process which enables women to realize their full identity and power in all spheres of life. Power is not a commodity to be transacted nor can it be given away. Power has to be acquired and once acquired it needs to be exercised, sustained and preserved (Pillai, 1995). Women comprise some 43% of the agricultural labor force in developing country (FAO, 2011). It consists of greater access to knowledge and resources, greater autonomy in decision making to enable them to have greater ability to plan their lives,

or to have greater control over the circumstances that influence their lives and free from shocks imposed on them by custom, belief and practice.

Women empowerment has been studied as an important medium to achieve the goal of gender equality in recent times. Gender equality impacts not only the women but the society as a whole. They may also become victims of violence and face additional problems because of long-existing gender disparities. There is a genuine need to present the determinants of women empowerment in difference that the indicators. The efforts to empower women and to attain the goal of gender equality can only take a real shape once the determinants are clearly identified. This study addresses the issue of women empowerment in a psychological perspective, distinguishing clearly between the indicators and determinants of women empowerment.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

A large proportion of women in village live below the poverty line than men. In Bangladesh 54% of rural and 63% of urban women live below the poverty line. In addition to low or lack of education, limited access to economic resources is one of the major reasons against women empowerment specially those living in the rural areas. Despite the fact that women constitute about 80% of agricultural labor, yet credit to this sector disproportionately favors men. Women in village are also 'time poor' because of their dual roles in household economy, and labor market. On average women work longer hours (12.9 hrs) compared with those of men (8.2 hrs) yet they earn less because more of these hours are not remunerated. The government has supported women empowerment through the women enterprise fund, affirmative action in the education sector and the new constitution which empowers women socially, economically by guaranteeing that a third of all appointments should be from either gender. A number of non-governmental organizations also support women empowerment such as grameen bank, brac, proshika, TMSS etc. The women have come together to empower themselves through women groups.

In the context of the above circumstances the researcher intended to find out the answers of the following research questions-

1. What are the socio economic profiles of the women?
2. What are the determinants of women empowerment?
3. What are the level of contribution of the selected determinants to women empowerment?

1.3 Specific Objectives

In order to answer the above the questions the following specific objectives were drawn up that supposed provide proper direction and to the study

- i. To describe the socio-economic profile of the women,
- ii. To ascertain the determinants of women empowerment,
- iii. To explore the level of contribution of the selected determinants to women empowerment.

1.4 Justification of the Study

In the male dominant society women's are in a disadvantageous position. Women, in custom and practice, remained subordinate to male in almost all aspect of their lives; greater autonomy was the privilege of the rich or the necessity of the very poor. Most women's lives remained centered on their traditional roles and they had limited access to markets, productive services, education, health care, and local government. At the household level, women often has unequal access to nutrition, health care and education compare to man. Many discriminatory practices arise out of some deep-rooted socio-cultural factors. Women still earn less than men earn and are mostly occupied in low paid jobs. They often do not have easy access to credit and other income generation opportunities, and are still under represented at management and policy levels

The findings of this research will be acceptable in the selected area. The socioeconomic condition of the women will be visible due to empowerment through this research. Thus, the findings of the study will have great importance to the empowerment status of Bangladesh.

1.5 Assumptions of the Study

An assumption is the supposition that an apparent fact or principle is true in the light of the available evidence (Goode and Hatt, 1952). The following assumptions were in mind of the researcher while undertaking this study:

- i. The respondents included in the sample had capacity of furnishing proper responses to the questions contained in the interview schedule.
- ii. The responses furnished by the respondents were valid and reliable.
- iii. Information furnished by the women included in the sample was representative of the whole population of the study area.
- iv. The researcher who acted as interviewer was well adjusted to the environment of the study area.
- v. The data collected from the women were free from bias.
- vi. The independent and the dependent variables of this study were normally and independently distributed with their respective means and standard deviation.
- vii. The findings of the study are expected to be useful for planning and execution of various programmes in connection with development of the country.

1.6 Limitations of the Study

It is necessary to impose definite limitations to make the research manageable and meaningful.

1. The research was confined to the 7 villages of Ullapara upazila under Sirajganj district.
2. Data were collected from a small group of women taken as the sample of the study because of time and resource constrains.
3. The researcher had to face many obstacles during data collection. All the data were recall data. So, the researcher had to depend on the data as given by the respondents.
4. Only eight socio-economic characteristics of the women were selected as independent variables.

5. Time allocation and budget was also limitation in this study.

6. The researcher had to face many difficulties in conducting the research as ascertainment of effect is very complex especially in case of measuring women empowerment as it has slow changing nature.

1.5 Definitions of some frequently used terms

The researcher used some uncommon terms and references in this study. They should be clarified and explained them properly by the researcher for easy understanding for all concerned quarters. Therefore, the terms used in this piece of research work are defined and interpreted as follows:

Age: Age of the respondents is defined as the period of time from birth to the time of interview.

Education: It is the act or process of imparting or acquiring general knowledge, developing the powers of reasoning and judgment, and generally of preparing oneself or others intellectually for mature life

Family annual income: The term annual family income referred to the total earning by the earning members from agriculture, livestock, fisheries, and other accessible sources (business, service, daily labor etc.) during a year. It was expressed in thousand taka.

Training experience: Training experience refers to the extent of participation of the farmers to any kind of training program offered by different organizations and agencies up to the time of interview.

Women empowerment: Empowerment of women is the process by which women gain power and control over their own lives and acquire the ability to make strategic choices. Women's empowerment has five components: women's sense of self-worth; their right to have and to determine choices; their right to have access to opportunities and resources; their right to have power to control their own lives, both within and outside the home; and their ability to influence the direction of social change to create a more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally

Body mass index: Body mass index is a measurement of person's weight with respect to his or her weight

Communication skill: The ability to convey information to another effectively and efficiently.

Social empowerment: Social empowerment is understood as the process of developing a sense of autonomy and self-confidence, and acting individually and collectively to change social relationships and the institutions and discourses that exclude poor people and keep them in poverty

Political empowerment: Women's political empowerment, usually envisioned as political participation in elections and government, is necessary to give women a voice in the policies that affect their lives.

Economic empowerment: Women's economic empowerment, which entails that women have the authority to make their own decisions regarding use of their resources, leads to prosperity for families and communities.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This chapter deals with a brief review of previous research studies relating to the present study and to formulate and construct a framework that will be fitting for accurate understanding of the research. The researcher has tried her best to collect needful information through searching relevant studies. Finally the researcher drawn a conceptual framework of the study presented in this chapter.

2.1 Concept of Women Empowerment

Several attempts have been made by authors to improve upon definitions of women's empowerment. Empowerment is a continuous, phased and relational process that occurs across scales and pathways (Goldman and Little, 2014). Allsopp and Tallontire (2014) define empowerment as a dynamic process that follows a series of sequential steps in which ownership of one type of power increases the likelihood and the ability to exercise other forms of power thus creating apposite 'power spiral'

Kabeer (2005) views the empowerment concept as revolving around the idea of power to make a choice and conceptualizes disempowerment as the denial of the possibility of making a choice by people who deserve to. Put differently, empowerment can be conceptualized as a dynamic process by which people who were previously deprived of the ability to make a choice gain such an ability. For this to happen and the choice to be successful, there should be the capacity or possibility to choose otherwise.

Empowerment is a process which results from two milestones -- agency and opportunity structure. Agency is defined as the potential to make effective choices and the opportunity structure is conceptualized as the environment/context in which individuals exercise agency or pursue their interests including institutional, political and social contexts and societal informal rules and norms (Samman and Santos, 2009). However, three main concepts should be cautiously analysed while defining and measuring empowerment -- the existence of choice (whether a choice exists), use of choice (whether individuals use a chance to choose) and the achievement of choice (whether the choice generates desired outcomes/results).

In the new global economy, women's empowerment has become a central issue for countries to be able to achieve development goals such as economic growth, poverty

reduction, health, education and welfare (Golla et al., 2011). Women's involvement in decision-making and their attitudes towards negative cultural norms such as domestic violence have been highlighted as the main determinants for the use of maternal healthcare services (Nasreen et al., 2011).

Measuring a dynamic process like women's empowerment necessitates indicators that measure the end result, that is, indicators that measure evidence of empowerment and indicators that measure various sources of empowerment as well as indicators for measuring the setting of empowerment (Kabeer, 2003).

2.2 Social Empowerment

There is evidence of positive effects of women's empowerment from around the world. There is also internationally recognized knowledge about channels of empowerment and effects. For example, the World Bank Poverty and Gender Group Report (2012) shows that women's control over resources creates spill-over benefits that have a significant positive impact on the health and education of children thus leading to better well-being prospects for future generations. Similarly, (Ghuman and Smith, 2011) highlight women's empowerment as one of the key drivers in promoting their abilities, rights and well-being which subsequently reduces poverty and increases economic growth, productivity and efficiency. Social vulnerability produces physical vulnerability when it comes into contact with a hazard that produces physical or economic damage or human mortality and morbidity. (Watts and Bohle, 1993) state that the individuals, groups, and communities who are unable or incapable of obtaining and managing their assets through legitimate economic means have increased vulnerabilities.

Women's access to fundamental freedoms and increased access to and control over resources improve not only their welfare but also contribute to reduction in fertility). Women's autonomy, as measured by the level of education, age at first marriage and spousal age difference, is inversely associated with fertility. Wealth is likely to increase not only access to healthcare and in reducing child mortality rates but also in increasing access to education and reducing child labor through increased chances for children to attend school (Abadian, 1996).

Larsen and Hollos, (2003) postulate that the progression from having one child to the next declines owing to the status of women especially free partner choice, women's education and household wealth. Attitudes towards wife beating have a negative relationship with a small ideal number of children while household decision-making and positive attitudes towards violence are strongly associated with a larger ideal number of children (Upadhyay and Karasek, 2012).

2.3 Political Empowerment

Women's political empowerment is now a high-priority issue in international development cooperation (Mosedale 2014). But despite several attempts to measure and track women's empowerment, researchers still do not have measures that can help us test important theories. Existing measures combine disparate dimensions of power (Malhotra et al. 2002); Our focus is on women's political empowerment. Politics is the arena for societal decision making. Individuals who hold formal and official positions in government allocate scarce resources, e.g., tax revenues, and direct resources to some groups at the expense of others (Bratton and Ray 2002, Frances het and Piscopo 2014). Decisions by politicians affect people's individual choices by encouraging some behaviors and outlawing others. To hold a political position is to hold a position of authority. Yet, not all decision-making takes place in elite spheres of society. Those with formal or informal political power hold power over other social institutions, such as the family or education, and are able to codify particular practices into law (Martin 2004).

Empowerment is the capacity to fulfil this capability and not just the choice to do so. Sen's view on women's empowerment is indicated in his discussion on measurement of empowerment (Sen, 1993). Empowerment is also related to the process of internal change and to the capacity and right to make decisions (Kabeer, 2001). It consists of change, choice and power. It is a process of change by which individuals or groups with little or no power gain the ability to make choices that affect their lives. The structures of power (i.e. who has it, what its sources are, and how it is exercised) directly affect the choices that women are able to make in their lives (Mayoux, and Singha, 1998). As mentioned by Galie, (2013), empowerment of the most marginalized sectors particularly women is considerably important to provide marginalized groups having the courage of voicing out their needs, desires to take

action so they can influence in the community development. (Nasreen, 2000) stated that the economic empowerment means greater access to financial resources inside and outside the household. It is also linked with reducing vulnerability of poor women in crises situations like famine due to food crisis, riots, sickness causing death, and accidents in the family

Women's participation in political activities remains unvalued at the national level because of the patriarchal structure, tradition, and norms. More than three quarters of employed women of 15 years and above are found to be unpaid family laborers as opposed to less than one tenth who are self-employed and a few percentage contract workers (Islam and Sultana 2006).

In the developing world women are disproportionately involved in natural resource dependent activities, such as agriculture, compared to salaried occupations. Basically, the vulnerability of women dependent on agricultural sector is affected by their relative insecurity of access and rights over resources and sources of wealth is agricultural land (Nasreen, 2010)

2.4 Economic Empowerment

United nation (2009) argues that women's economic empowerment can be achieved by targeting initiatives to expanding women's economic opportunity; strengthen their legal status and rights, and ensure their voice, inclusion and participation in economic decision making. A woman is economically empowered when she has both the ability to succeed and advance economically and the power to make and act on economic decisions (ILO, 2008). It examines women's social roles, experience, and feminist politics in a variety of fields such as sociology, communication, economics and education (Brabeck and Brown, 1997). Feminist researchers embrace two key tenets that their research should focus on, the condition of women in society and their research must be grounded in the assumption that women generally experience subordination. Themes explored in feminism include discrimination, objectification, oppression and stereotyping (Macionis and Linda, 2010)

Furthering economic empowerment is hugely complex, given its wide-ranging implications for different aspects of women's lives. It requires changes within individuals (capability, knowledge and self-esteem); in communities and institutions

(including norms and behavior); in markets and value chains; and in the wider political and legal environment (Golla et al., 2011). Ultimately, no single intervention can address all these aspects and be effective for all women (Buvinic and Furst-Nichols, 2014). Women economic empowerment and gender equality are key to poverty reduction, growth and human development (Kabeer, 2005)

Sen (2000:115) argues that the denial of women's freedom to seek employment outside of the household is a serious violation of women's liberty and gender equity. The economic empowerment of women is weakened through this lack of freedom and effects women's status within the family and in intra-household distributions.

According to Kabeer (1999) access to education expands women choices and improves income, health and nutrition of the families.

A focus on choice stresses the importance for women of being able to make meaningful decisions on critical areas and key aspects of their lives (Kishor 2000). Human rights include freedom of expression, association and assembly, freedom to move, practice religion, and participate in the selection of political leaders and freedom from violations to physical integrity (Blakden and Bhanu ,1999).

The participation dimension of women's political empowerment corresponds to Lukes' first dimensional power the ability to prevail in a conflict over overt political preferences (Lukes 1974). Women must have a presence in sufficient numbers to engage in overt conflict or influence during decision-making. Previous empirical studies on women's empowerment often include political participation in operational definitions. This is accelerated by women's unequal access to economic resources including income and property rights. ILO data in 2007 indicate that 59% of women in the total labor force in South Asia work as contributing family workers, compared to only 18% of men (ILO, 2008)

2.5 Research Gap of the Study

There are lots of researches on women empowerment indicator but very few researches was so far conducted to ascertain the determinants of women empowerment. Only a few researchers followed systematic method of effect analysis to ascertain the determinants of empowerment. Variables of the study were adjusted according to the researcher study area. This was a research gap of the study. Hence, the researcher carried out the present study to ascertain determinants the women empowerment of Ullapara upazila under Sirajganj dristrict.

2.6 The Conceptual Framework of the Study

The contribution between the experimental variables and the main focus of the study can be clearly précised with the help of conceptual framework of the study. The researcher was made an attempt to ascertain the determinants of women empowerment of Ullapara upazila under Sirajganj district as the main focus of the study. It was conceptualized in the research that the determinants of women empowerment may be influenced and affected by the interacting forces of many socio-economic and others characteristics of the respondents. To make the process outstandingly interpretable a conceptual framework has been presented in a schematic diagram (Fig 2.1).

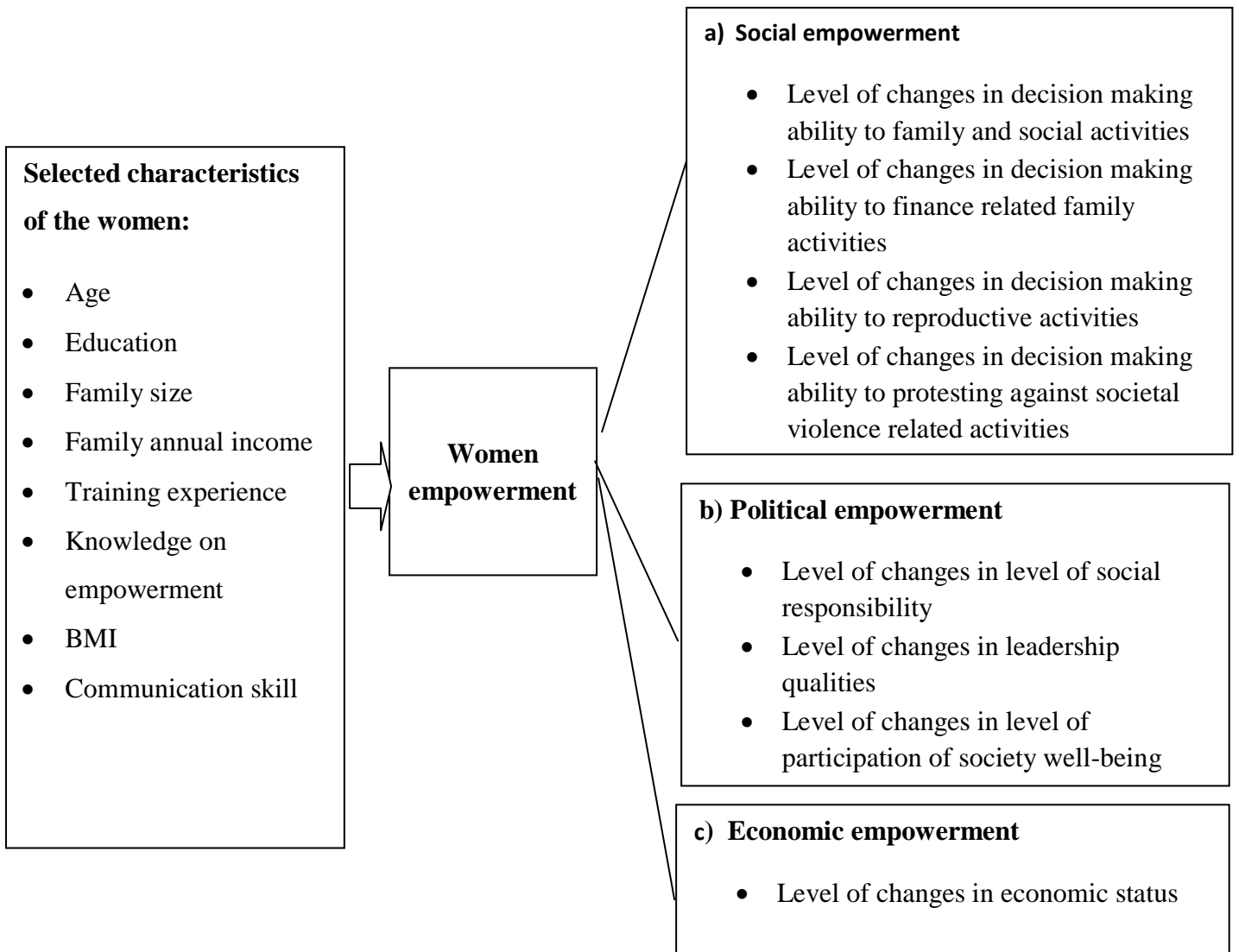


Figure 2.1 The Conceptual Framework of the Study.

CHAPTER III

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A researcher should do work very carefully in formulating methods and materials. Methodology gives clear direction to a researcher about his works and activities during the total period of the study. Proper procedures for collecting data were taken by the researcher to collect valid and reliable information. Methods of analysis of data were appropriate to arrive at correct conclusion. Various methods, tools and techniques were used during different stages of this research work and compilation of data. The purpose of this chapter was to describe the methods and procedures used in conducting this study.

3.1 Locale of the Study

The study was conducted purposively at Ullapara upazila under Sirajganj district of Bangladesh. Five unions of Ullapara upazila namely Durganagor, Barahor, Salop, Panchocroshi and ullapara sador were selected for the study. Seven villages were randomly selected from the five unions. 1-2 villages were selected from each union randomly based on population size of the union. A map of Sirajganj district showing the Ullapara upazilla and a map of Ullapara upazila showing the union of the study area are presented in Fig. 3.1 & Fig. 3.2.



Figure 3.1 Map of Sirajganj District showing Ullahpara upazila



Figure 3.2 Map of showing study area in Ullahpara upazila

3.2 Population and Sampling Procedure

The Researcher himself with the help of Upazila Agriculture officer, local leaders, and concerned sub assistant agriculture officer (SAAO) was collected an updated list of the women of the selected villages. The women of the selected seven villages constituted the population of the study. The total numbers of farm families head in seven villages were 1450.) To determine the sample size, Yamane (1967) formula was used.

The formula is

$$n = \frac{Z^2 P (1 - P) N}{Z^2 P (1 - P) + Ne^2}$$

Where, n = sample size

N = population size

e = the level of precision (10%)

z= the value of the standard normal variable given the chosen confidence level (e.g. z= 1.96 with a CL = 95%)

p = the proportion or degree of variability

Thus, 116 respondents constituted the sample size of the study from the study respondents. The test respondents were selected by using proportionate random sampling procedure. Thus the sample size fo Durganagor, Barohor, Powrosova, Solop, Panchocroshi were 8, 56, 12, 8, and 32 respectively. Reserve list of women (about 10% of the sample) was kept purposively if any respondent was unavailable at the time of data collection. The distribution of population and sample was shown in table 3.1.

Table 3.1 Distribution of Population, Sample and Reserve list for the Study area

Upazilla	Union	Villages	Population sample		Reserve list
			Population (No of respondents)	Sample (No of respondents)	
Ullapara	Durganagor	Mohespur	100	8	1
	Barahor	Olipur	350	28	3
		Defolbari	350	28	3
	Powrosova	Ghatina	150	12	2
	Solop	Sontila	100	8	1
	Panchocrishi	Ramkantopur	200	16	2
		Satbaria	200	16	2
Grand total			1450	116	14

3.3 Data Collecting Instrument

An interview schedule was prepared to fulfill the objectives of the study. Direct questions and various scales were kept in the questionnaire to get the reliable information. After preparation of data collecting instrument pretest was conducted on 15 women of the sample .On the pretest experiences, necessary correction, addition and alternation were made in the interview schedule. Valuable suggestions and comments were received from the research supervisor. After necessary correction, the interview schedule was finalized for the data collection.

3.4 Data Collection

Data were collected by the researcher himself through face to face interview of the selected women using a structured interview schedule. Interviews were usually conducted with the respondents during the leisure time before going to the respondents for interview, they were informed earlier so that they might be available at their respective residence at the scheduled time. Interviews were conducted with the respondents at their home.

3.5 Variables of the Study

The researcher employed adequate care in selecting the variables of the study. Considering personal, economic, social and psychological factors of the rural community, time and resources availability to researcher, reviewing relevant literature

and discussing with relevant expert, the researcher selected the variables for the study. An organized research usually contains at least two identical elements viz. independent and dependent variable. An independent variable is that factor which is manipulated by the researcher in his attempt to ascertain its relationship to an observed phenomenon. A variety of factors might have influence to the empowerment. It is very difficult to deal with all the factors in a single study. To determine women empowerment was the main focus of this study. As the study was conducted to women benefit, so the characteristics of women in some cases were different for the selection of independent variables, the researcher went through the past studies as far as available and also discussed with teachers, experts, and supervisor. The researcher carefully considered the various characteristics of the women as independent variables. These were: age, education, family size, family annual income, training experience, knowledge on empowerment, BMI, communication skill. The dependent variable was treated as women empowerment in this study.

3.6 Measurement of Independent Variables

For conducting the study in accordance with the objectives it was necessary to measure the independent variables. The independent variables were age, education, family size, and family annual income, training experiences, and knowledge on empowerment, BMI, communication skill. Procedures for measuring these variables are described below:

3.6.1 Age

The age of a respondent was measured by counting the period of time from her birth to the time of interview on the basis of response of the respondent and was expressed in terms of complete years. A score of 01 was given for one year. No fractional year was considered for the study. Based on the available information answered by the respondents, they were classified into three categories.

Categories	Years
Young age	Up to 35
Middle age	36-50
Old age	Above 50

3.6.2 Education

The education level of a woman was measured by the number of years of Schooling completed in an educational institution. A score of one (1) was given for each year of schooling completed. If a woman didn't know how to read and write, her education score was zero, while a score of 0.5 was given to woman who could sign her name only. If a woman did not go to school but took non-formal education, her educational qualification was determined as the equivalent to a formal school student.

According to Reza (2007) the level of education of a respondent were classified as:

Categories	Score
Illiterate	0
Can sign only	.5
Primary education	1-5
Secondary education	6-10
Above secondary education	Above 10

3.6.3 Family size

The family size of the respondents was measured by the total number of members in the family of a respondent. The family members included the respondent herself, her spouse, children and other dependents who jointly live and eat together during interview time. It was measured by counting total number of member in the family. One score was given for each family member. According to Haque (2002) based on their total family size, the respondents were classified into three categories

Categories	Family members
Small family	1-4
Medium family	5-8
Large family	Above 8

3.6.4 Annual family income

Annual family income of a respondent was measured in thousand taka on the basis of total yearly income from agriculture and other sources of her family. The method of determining income from agriculture and other sources like service, business etc. was determined by asking direct question. Yearly earnings of all the members of the family from agriculture and other sources were added together to calculate the actual amount of annual family income of the respondents by using the following formula.

Total annual income = Agricultural income + nonagricultural income

A score of 1 (one) were assigned for the income of one thousand taka. Based on their total annual family income, the respondents were classified into three categories as low income, medium income and high income.

3.6.5 Training Experience

Training experience was measured by total number of days of agricultural training received by the respondents` women in his/her whole life. One score was assigned for each day of training received by the respondent. According to training experience the respondents` women were categorized as no experience, low experience, medium experience, high experience.

3.6.6 Knowledge on empowerment

Knowledge of the empowerment was measured on 15 basic open ended questions. Each question contains 2 marks. Knowledge of empowerment was determined by summing up the weights for their responses to all the fifth teen statements. Thus knowledge of the women towards empowerment score of the respondents ranged from 0 to 30, where zero (0) indicating no knowledge and 30 indicate sound knowledge. Based on their empowerment knowledge, the respondents were classified into four categories: no knowledge, low knowledge, medium knowledge and high knowledge.

3.6.7 Body mass index

Body mass index (BMI) is obtained by measuring a subject`s weight in kilograms (kg) or pounds (lb.) and subject`s height in meter (m) or inches (in).The BMI then calculated by dividing the subjects height by the weight. According to BMI chart the respondents were categorized as underweight, normal weight, overweight

According to formula

Categories	BMI
Underweight	18.5
Normal weight	18.5-24.9
Overweight	25-29.9

3.6.8 Communication skill

The Communication skill of a respondents was measured on the basis of the response of the communication user women against the extent of her using of selected ten communication media by putting tick mark against any one of the five responses-regularly, frequently, occasionally, rarely, not at all. The responses were scored as 4, 3, 2, 1 and 0 respectively. The use of communication skill score of the respondents ranged from 0 to 40 where, 0 indicates no communication and 40 indicates very high communication. Based on their communication skill, the respondents were classified into four categories: no contact, low contact, medium contact, and high contact.

3.7 Measurement of dependent variable

The dependent variable was treated as women empowerment. Women empowerment were measured by three selected dimensions: social, political and economic. Social dimension had four selected sub dimension viz. a) Level of changes in decision making ability to family social activities, b) Level of changes in decision making ability to finance related family activities, c) Level of changes in decision making ability to reproductive activities, d) Level of changes in decision making ability to protesting against societal violence related activities. Political dimension had three sub dimensions viz. a) Level of changes in level of social responsibility. b) Level of changes in leadership qualities c) Level of changes in participation of society well-being activities and Economic dimension had a dimension a) Level of changes in economic status.

A. Social empowerment

a) Level of changes in decision making ability to family and social activities

Family and social empowerment of a respondent was measured on the basis of the response of the items of operations like opinion on household work, family expenditure, purchasing essential goods, decision making in family planning, rearing and selling of poultry birds and donation/gift. The responses were scored as 0, 1, 2, and 3 where 0 indicates no ability, 1 low, 2 medium and 3 high respectively. Tick mark was given for each item of operations then summing the score. Level of ability ranged from 0 to 18. Based on their decision making ability to family activity the respondents were classified into three categories: low decision making ability, medium decision making ability and high decision making ability.

b) Level of changes in decision making ability to finance related family activities

Decision making ability to finance related family activities were measured in score. there are eight types of finance related family issues as child education, child care, family healthcare, purchasing food items, purchasing clothes, purchasing utensils, entertainment, purchasing land. Level of ability measured by no, low, medium, and high ability and assigned score were 0, 1, 2, 3, respectively. Marks ranges from 0-24 where 0 indicated no decision making ability about finance related family issues and 24 indicated high decision making ability to finance related family issues. Based on their decision making ability to finance related family activity the respondents were classified into three categories: low decision making ability, medium decision making ability and high decision making ability.

c) Level of changes in decision making ability to reproductive activities

Decision making ability to reproductive family social activities was measured in score. There are four types of reproductive family and social issues as selecting family planning methods, selecting intimate time for biogenetic activities, selecting time for taking baby, selecting family size. Level of ability measured by no, low, medium, and high ability and assigned score were 0, 1, 2, and 3, respectively. Marks ranges from 0-12 where 0 indicated no decision making ability to reproductive family issues and 12 indicated high decision making ability to reproductive related family issues. Based on their decision making ability to reproductive related family activity the respondents were classified into three categories: low decision making ability, medium decision making ability and high decision making ability.

d) Level of changes of protesting ability against societal violence related activities

Decision making ability to protesting against societal violence related social activities were measured in score. There are seven types of society violence related family and social issues as dowry, fatwa, illogical divorce in the society, illogical torture, early marriage, wage difference between man and woman and child labor. Level of protesting ability measured by no, low, medium, and high ability and assigned score were 0, 1, 2, 3 respectively. Marks ranges from 0-21 where 0 indicated no protesting ability and 21 indicated high protesting ability to societal violence related issues. Based on protesting ability the respondents were classified into three categories: low protesting ability, medium protesting ability and high protesting ability.

B .Political empowerment

a) Level of changes in level of social responsibility

Social responsibility related issues were measured in score. There are five types of social responsibility related issues as to identify the family and society issues, to protest against any unfair family decision, to protest against any unfair society decision, to play role in local salashi, and to working with voluntary service provider development organizations. Level of social responsibility ability measured by no, low, medium, and high ability and assigned score were 0, 1, 2, and 3, respectively. Marks ranges from 0-15 where 0 indicated no social responsibility and 15 indicated high social responsibility ability. Based on social responsibility ability the respondents were classified into three categories: low social responsibility ability, medium social responsibility ability and high social responsibility ability.

b) Level of changes in leadership qualities

Leadership qualities were measured in score. There are eight of leadership qualities as to be assertive and persuasive, to take risk as advancer, to be empathetic and flexible, to be stronger in interpersonal skills, to group formation ability, to have managing capacity, to take quick decision ability, to be industrious. Level of leadership ability measured by no, low, medium, and high ability and assigned score were 0, 1, 2, 3, respectively. Marks ranges from 0-24 where 0 indicated no leadership qualities and 24 indicated high leadership qualities. Based on leadership qualities the respondents were classified into three categories: low leadership qualities, medium leadership qualities and high leadership qualities.

c) Level of changes in participation of society well-being activities

Society welfare related activities were measured in score. There are six societies well-being related activities as in building educational institution, in building religious institution, in local cultural program, in local political meeting, in local salish, in rural development activities. Level of society welfare related activities measured by no, low, medium, and high ability and assigned score were 0, 1, 2, and 3, respectively. Marks ranges from 0-18 where 0 indicated no participation and 24 indicated high participation. Based on participation of society well-being activities the respondents were classified into three categories: low participation, medium participation and high participation.

C. Economic empowerment

The method of measuring losses from agriculture and other sources like services, wage value, fisheries, poultry, livestock, etc. was determined by asking direct question. Annual losses of a respondent was measured in thousand taka on the basis of total yearly losses from agriculture and other sources of her family Yearly earnings of all the members of the family from agriculture and other sources were added together to calculate the actual amount of losses.

3.8 Descriptive Statistics

Data were coded, tabulated, compiled, and analyzed according to the objectives of the study. SPSS were used for data analysis. Descriptive statistical measures, including number, percentage distribution, average, and standard deviations were used.

3.9 Multiple Regression Analysis

Multiple regression analysis was conducted to examine the contribution of the independent variables to the determinants of women empowerment. Five percent (0.05) level of significance was used as the basis for rejecting any null hypothesis.

3.10 Statement of Hypothesis

As defined by Goode and Hatt (1952), “a hypothesis is a proposition which can be put to a test to determine its validity. It may be seen contrary to or in accord with common sense. It may prove to be correct or incorrect in any event however, if leads to an empirical test. Hypothesis may be broadly divided into two categories, namely, Research hypothesis and null hypothesis.

3.10.1 Research hypothesis

“Each of the eight selected characteristics (age, education, family size, Family annual income, training experience, knowledge on empowerment, BMI, communication skill) of the respondents has significant contribution to the change in different indicators of dependent variable in study Group.” However, when a researcher tries to perform statistical tests, then it becomes necessary to formulate null hypothesis.

3.10.2 Null hypothesis

A null hypothesis states that there was no contribution to the concerned variables. The following null hypothesis was undertaken for the present study “There was no contribution of the selected characteristics of women to the determinants of their empowerment.” The selected characteristics were age, education, family size, Family annual income, training experience, knowledge on empowerment, BMI, communication skill.

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the research have been presented in this chapter in the following three sections: a) Selected characteristics of the respondent women b) The determinants of women empowerment c) Contribution of the selected determinants to women empowerment.

4.1 Selected characteristics of the respondents

The findings of the nine selected characteristics of the respondents have been discussed in eight subsections. A brief summary of the characteristic profile of the respondents like measuring unit, categories, and distribution, mean, standard deviation have been presented as follows in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 Characteristics profile of the respondent women

Sl. No.	Characteristics	Measuring unit	Possible range	Observed range	Mean	Standard deviation
1.	Age	Year	Unknown	20-56	36.81	10.931
2.	Education	Year of schooling	Unknown	0-12	4.04	4.01
3.	Family size	Score	Unknown	3-12	6.70	1.97
4.	Family annual income	'000' taka	Unknown	100-310	198.71	52.09
5.	Training experience	No of days	Unknown	0-5	1.36	1.35
6.	Knowledge on empowerment	Score	0-30	14-24	18.79	2.44
7.	Body mass index	Score	Unknown	15.10-25.80	19.79	2.38
8.	Communication skill	Score	0-40	20-35	26.41	3.33

4.1.1 Age

Age of the women ranged from 20 to 56 years with a mean and standard deviation of 36.81 and 10.93, respectively. On the basis of age women were classified into three categories considering National Youth Policy: young aged (18- 35 years), middle aged (36-50 years), and old aged (>50 years). Number and percentage distribution of the respondents are presented in Table 4.2 according to their age category.

Table 4.2 Distribution of the respondents according to their age

Categories (Years)	Respondents number	Percent	Mean	Standard deviation
Young aged (18- 35)	56	48.4	36.81	10.93
Middle aged (36-50)	44	38		
Old aged (above 50)	16	13.6		
Total	116	100		

It was found that 48.4 percent of the respondents were young aged, 38 percent of the respondents were middle and rest 13.6 percent were old (Table 4.2). It revealed that the most of the women in the study area were young aged it may be indicated that young aged women can carry more challenges because they had more energy and had good health.

4.1.2 Education

Education of the women was ranged from 0-12, with a mean and standard deviation of 4.04 and 4.01, respectively. Considering the observed age of the women they were classified into five categories namely Illiterate (0), Can sign only (.5), Primary education (1-5), Secondary education (6-10) and Higher secondary education (above 10). Number and percentage distribution of the respondents are presented in Table 4.2 according to their educational category. According to Reza (2007) the level of education of a respondent were classified as:

Table 4.3 Distribution of the respondents according to their education

Categories(schooling years)	Respondents number	Percent	Mean	Standard deviation
Illiterate (0)	31	26.7	4.04	4.01
Can sign only (.5)	21	18.1		
Primary education (1-5)	20	17.2		
Secondary education (6-10)	37	31.9		
Higher secondary education (above 10)	7	6.1		
Total	116	100		

It found that 26.7 percent of the women were illiterate, 18.1 percent can sign only, 17.2 percent Primary education, 31.9 percent Secondary education, 6.1 percent higher Secondary education. It revealed that most of the women in the study area were secondary education (31.9%). It seemed that most of the women could not reach for higher study it might be due to hardship of their everyday life.

4.1.3 Family size

Family size of the women was ranged from 3-12, with a mean and standard deviation of 6.70 and 1.97, respectively. Considering the study area respondents were classified into three categories namely small family (up to 4), medium family (5-7) and large family (above 8). According to Haque (2002) based on their family size, the respondents were classified into three categories:

Table 4.4 Distribution of the respondents according to their family

Categories (No. of members)	Respondents number	Percent	Mean	Standard deviation
Small family (up to 4)	16	13.8	6.70	1.97
Medium family (5-7)	60	66.5		
Large family (above 8)	40	19.7		
Total	116	100		

Data presented that 16 percent of the women were small family, 60 percent medium family and 40 percent large family. It revealed that majority of the respondents were medium family. The family size is bigger than the national average it might be due to

lack of family planning awareness, religious faith and lack of enjoyment facilities other than the sexual activities.

4.1.4 Annual family income

Data presented in the Table 4.5 shows that the respondent having medium annual family income was higher than the respondents of high annual family income and low annual family income respectively. Respondents were categorized into low, medium, and high income.

Table 4.5 Distribution of the respondents according to their income

Categories ('000' Taka)	Respondents number	Percent	Mean	Standard deviation
Low income (up to 140)	17	14.3	198.71	52.09
Medium income (150-250)	79	68.2		
High income (above 250)	20	17.5		
Total	116	100		

Reza (2007) found the similar result where highest number of respondents was medium annual income. In this table presented that 68.2 percent respondent had medium income, 17.5 percent had high income and 14.3 had low income. The average of income of the respondents was 198.7 and standard deviation of 52.09. It might be due to their involvement in other sources like making embroidered quilt, handicraft and other income sources.

4.1.5 Training experience

Training received scores of the respondents computed as days of participating training, which ranged from 0 to 5 days. The mean and standard deviation were 1.36 and 1.35 respectively. Data was categorized into three groups namely no experience (0), low experience (1-2), and medium experience (3-5) considering Mean \pm 1sd.

Table 4.6 Distribution of the respondents according to their training experience

Categories (score)	Respondents number	Percent	Mean	Standard deviation
No experience (0)	49	42.6	1.36	1.35
Low experience (1-2)	40	34.2		
Medium experience (3-5)	27	23.2		
Total	116	100		

Data showed that majority of the respondents (42.2) had no training experiences while 38.8 percent low experiences, and 19 percent medium experience. It seemed that women were not involved in training experience due to family non-cooperation, social non-acceptance and lack of consciousness or proper motivation towards training.

4.1.6 Knowledge on empowerment

Knowledge on empowerment scores of the farmers ranged from 14-24 against the possible range of 0-30. The average score and standard deviation were 18.79 and 2.44 respectively. Considering Mean \pm 1sd women were categorized into three groups' namely poor knowledge, moderate knowledge and good knowledge.

Table 4.7 Distribution of the respondents according to knowledge on empowerment

Categories (score)	Respondents number	percent	Mean	Standard deviation
Poor knowledge (up to 16)	72	48.4	18.79	2.44
Moderate knowledge (17-20)	10	22.4		
Good knowledge (above 20)	34	29.4		
Total	116	100		

Results presented in the Table 4.7 indicate that 48.2 percent respondents having poor knowledge where 22.4 percent and 29.4 percent respondents had moderate and good knowledge respectively. It reveals that most of the women of the study area were illiterate and can sign only so that they had low knowledge about empowerment.

4.1.7 Body mass index

Body mass index (BMI) is obtained by measuring a subject's weight in kilograms (kg) or pounds (lb) and subject's height in meter (m) or inches (in). According to BMI chart It was categorized by three groups namely underweight, normal weight, and overweight BMI of the women ranged from (15.10-25.80) with a mean and standard deviation of 19.79 and 2.38, respectively.

Table 4.8 Distribution of the respondents according to Body Mass Index (BMI)

Categories (score)	Respondents number	percent	Mean	Standard deviation
Under weight (up to 15.10)	21	17.3	19.79	2.38
Normal weight (15.20-22.9)	59	53.4		
Over weight (>23.10)	36	29.3		
Total	116	100		

Data showed that majority (53.4) percent of respondents were normal weight, (29.3) percent over weight and (17.3) percent underweight. It seems that women were conscious about their health and food habit.

4.1.8 Communication skill

On the basis of communication skill and considering Mean \pm 1sd women were categorized into three group's namely low communication, medium communication and high communication with a mean and standard deviation 26.41 and 3.33.

Table 4.9 Distribution of the respondents according to communication skill

Categories (score)	Respondents number	percent	Mean	Standard deviation
Low communication skill (up to 23)	14	12	26.41	3.33
Medium communication (24-29)	83	71.6		
High communication (>29)	19	16.4		
Total	116	100		

Data indicated that majority (83 percent) of the women had medium communication, (16 percent high communication and 12 percent low communication. It reveals those women are young they have higher access in communication media.

4.2 Determinants of women empowerment

The determinants of women empowerment were measured by three selected dimension as social, political and economic. Social dimension had four selected sub dimension viz. a) Level of changes in decision making ability to family and social activities, b) Level of changes in decision making ability to finance related family activities, c) Level of changes in decision making ability to reproductive activities, d) Level of changes in decision making ability to protesting against societal violence related

activities. Political dimension had three sub dimensions viz. a) Level of changes in level of social responsibility, b) Level of changes in leadership qualities. c) Level of changes in level of participation of society well-being activities and Economic dimension had one sub dimension viz a) Level of changes in economic status.

a) Level of changes in decision making ability to family and social activities

Considering Mean \pm 1sd respondents was categorized low, medium and high decision making ability. Result presented in the table 4.10 revealed that changes in decision making ability to family and social activities of the respondents were highest in low level of decision making ability. It was 68.3 percent and medium ability was closer 18.9 and high decision making ability was 12.8 percent. The mean and standard deviation of the respondents was 12.06 and 4.34.

Table 4.10 Distribution of the respondents according to their perceived level of Changes in decision making ability to family and social activities

Categories (score)	Respondents number	Percent	Mean	Standard deviation
Low decision making ability (>7)	80	68.3	12.06	4.34
Medium decision making ability (8-16)	22	18.9		
High decision making ability (<17)	14	12.8		
Total	116	100		

It concluded that most of the respondents had poor knowledge about empowerment that's why they had low decision making ability to family and social activities.

b) Level of changes in decision making ability to finance related family activities

Considering Mean \pm 1sd respondents were categorized into low, medium and high decision making ability. Data showed that most of the respondents (62.9) percent were low decision making ability to finance related family activities, 16.4 percent high and 15.6 percent low. Mean and standard deviation was 14.59 and 4.91.

Table 4.11 Distribution of the respondents according to their perceived level of changes in decision making ability to finance related family activities

Categories (score)	Respondents number	percent	Mean	Standard deviation
Low decision making ability (>9)	73	62.9	14.59	4.91
Medium decision making ability (10-19)	18	15.6		
High decision making ability (<20)	25	16.4		
Total	116	100		

The scenario reveals that their low income effects on low decision making ability to finance related family activities.

c) Level of changes in decision making ability to reproductive activities

Considering Mean \pm 1sd respondents were categorized into low, medium and high decision making ability. Data presented in the table 4.12 showed that most of the respondents (60.1) percent had medium changes in decision making ability to reproductive activities while (20.4) percent had high and (19.5) percent had low. Mean and standard deviation was 7.47 and 3.17.

Table 4.12 Distribution of the respondents according to their perceived level of changes in decision ability to reproductive activities

Categories (score)	Respondents number	percent	Mean	Standard deviation
Low decision making ability (>4)	24	19.5	7.47	3.17
Medium decision making ability (5-10)	66	60.1		
High decision making ability (<11)	26	20.4		
Total	116	100		

It concluded that study area of the respondents were conscious about family planning related issues so they had medium changes in decision making ability to reproductive activities.

d) Level of changes in decision making ability to protesting against societal violence related activities

Considering Mean \pm 1sd respondents were categorized into low, medium and high decision making ability. Data presented in the table 4.13 showed that most of the respondents (54) percent had low changes in decision making ability to protesting against societal violence related activities, 29.5 percent had medium and 23.1 percent had high change. Mean and standard deviation was 9.41 and 5.38.

Table 4.13 Distribution of the respondents according to their perceived level of changes in decision making ability to protesting against societal violence related activities

Categories (score)	Respondents number	percent	Mean	Standard deviation
Low decision making ability (up to 4)	54	47.4	9.41	5.38
Medium decision making ability (5-14)	33	29.5		
High decision making ability (<15)	29	23.1		
Total	116	100		

It seemed that low changes in decision making ability to protesting against societal violence related activities due to the dependence to their male family members.

e) Level of changes in social responsibility

Considering Mean \pm 1sd women were categorized into low, medium and high social responsibility. Data presented in the table 4.14 showed that most of the respondents (53.4) percent had low changes in social responsibility, 24.1 percent medium and 22.5 percent high. Mean and standard deviation was and 8.12 and 3.68.

Table 4.14 Distribution of the respondents according to their perceived level of changes in social responsibility

Categories (score)	Respondents number	percent	Mean	Standard deviation
Low social responsibility (>4)	62	53.4	8.12	3.68
Medium social responsibility (5-11)	28	24.1		
High social responsibility (<12)	26	22.5		
Total	116	100		

It concluded that low changes in social responsibility because there education level was not enough to identify social responsibilities.

f) Level of changes in leadership qualities

Considering Mean \pm 1sd respondents were categorized into low, medium and high leadership. Data presented in the table 4.15 showed that most of the respondents (65) percent had low changes in leadership qualities, 19.3 percent had medium and 15.7 percent had high changes. Mean and standard deviation was and 14.24 and 5.11.

Table 4.15 Distribution of the respondents according to their perceived level of changes in leadership qualities

Categories (score)	Respondents number	percent	Mean	Standard deviation
Low leadership (up to 9)	73	65	14.24	5.11
Medium leadership (10-19)	22	19.3		
High leadership (<20)	21	15.7		
Total	116	100		

It concluded that their leadership quality were low because women were confined to only household activities they had no interest on leading the society.

g) Level of changes in level of participation of society well-being activities

Considering Mean \pm 1sd respondents were categorized into low, medium and high participation. Data presented in the table 4.16 showed that most of the respondents (64.7) percent low medium changes in participation of society well-being activities, 19 percent medium and 16.3 percent high. Mean and standard deviation was and 9.25 and 3.91

Table 4.16 Distribution of the respondents according to their perceived level of changes in participation of society well-being activities

Categories (score)	Respondents number	percent	Mean	Standard deviation
Low participation (up to 5)	75	64.7	9.25	3.91
Medium participation (6-13)	22	19		
High participation (<14)	19	16.3		
Total	116	100		

It revealed that respondents participated different social welfare activities because respondents were aware of maintained those activities.

h) Level of changes in economic status

Considering Mean \pm 1sd respondents were categorized into low, medium and high losses. Data presented in the table 4.17 showed that most of the respondents (73) percent had medium losses and (13.5) percent had low and (13.5) percent had high losses. Mean and standard deviation was and 33.12 and 19.25.

Table 4.17 Distribution of the respondents according to their perceived level of changes in economic status

Categories (score)	Respondents number	percent	Mean	Standard deviation
Low losses (>13)	18	13.5	33.12	19.25
Medium losses (14-52)	80	73.0		
High losses (<53)	18	13.5		
Total	116	100		

It seems that losses of income of their area were medium. Women of the village were fully occupied by engaging different income generating activities they made noksi katha, handicraft and dry food items.

Table 4.18 Multiple regression coefficients of contributing variables related to women empowerment by level of changes their social dimension

Dimension	Independent variable	B	P	R ²	Adj. R ²	F	P
Level of changes in social empowerment	Age	-.034	.728	.475	.431	10.079	.000***
	Education	-.432	.044**				
	Family size	-.113	.190				
	Family annual income	.121	.100				
	Training experiences	.060	.603				
	Knowledge on empowerment	.607	.001***				
	BMI	.004	.956				
	Communication skill	.114	.169				

*** Significant at $p < 0.01$. ** Significant at $p < 0.05$. * Significant at $p < 0.1$.

Table 4.18 show that there is a significant contribution of respondents education, and knowledge on empowerment, to change in social empowerment of the respondents. Of these, knowledge on empowerment is the most important contributing factor (significant at the 1% level of significance) and education is the second most contributing factor (significant at the 5% level of significance). Data revealed from 4.18 showed that women knowledge on empowerment positively influenced on changes in social empowerment. It might be due to knowledge on empowerment enhances their capability to diagnosis social rights, personal rights, and society problems so it could be said that more knowledge on empowerment of women effects on their social empowerment.

Education showed negative influence on social empowerment. It also found that education of women had significant contribution on their social empowerment. It could be said that sometimes educated women were not conscious or raise their voice against male dominated family although they knew their social rights.

Forty eight percent ($R^2=0.485$) of the variation in the level of changes in social empowerment of the respondents can be imposed to their age, education, family size, family annual income, training experience, knowledge on empowerment, BMI, communication skill positively effects on social empowerment

The F value indicates that the model is significant ($p=0.000$). Adjusted R-square value (.441) indicates the addition of future predictors in the model and shows the variance in social empowerment of the respondents and the models were suitable.

Table 4.19 Multiple regression coefficients of contributing variables related to women empowerment by level of changes their political dimension

Dimension	Independent Variable	β	P	R^2	Adj. R^2	F	P
Level of changes in political empowerment	Age	-.090	.418	.313	.256	5.012	.000***
	Education	-.444	.070*				
	Family size	-.047	.634				
	Family annual income	.250	.004***				
	Training experiences	.034	.797				
	Knowledge on empowerment	.495	.020**				
	BMI	.011	.891				
	Communication skill	.065	.494				

*** Significant at $p<0.01$. ** Significant at $p<0.05$. * Significant at $p<0.1$.

Table 4.19 also reveal that education, annual family income, and knowledge on empowerment of the respondents had significantly contributed to the changes in political empowerment of the respondents to improve empowerment status. Family annual income was the most important contributing factor (significant at the 1% level of significance) in changing political empowerment. Knowledge on empowerment was the second important contributing factor (significant at the 5% level of significance) in changing political empowerment of the respondents. Education (significant at the 10% level of significance) are related to level of change in empowerment status through changing in political empowerment of the respondents).

Data showed that family annual income had positively influence in political empowerment of women. It had most significant contribution on their political empowerment. It might be most the family had medium family income .It seemed that

more financial stability enhanced their political participation due to their financial power most of the women contributed political empowerment.

Data revealed from table 4.19 knowledge on empowerment had positive contribution on political empowerment its due to their sound knowledge about empowerment. It enhances their participation in political field. So it could be concluded that more knowledge on empowerment of women were enhanced their political empowerment.

Education showed negative influence on political empowerment. It could be said that sometimes educated women were not willing to participated political activities because they thought political activities were only suitable for man.

Thirty three percent ($R^2=0.323$) of the variation in the changes in political empowerment of the respondents can be imposed to their age, education, family size, family annual income, training experience, knowledge on empowerment, BMI, communication skill. The F value indicates that the model is significant ($p=0.000$).

Adjusted R-square value (.266) indicates the addition of future predictors in the model and shows the variance in quality of life of the respondents and the models were suitable. It seems that family annual income, education, and knowledge on empowerment had a significant influence on women empowerment` by changing their political empowerment.

Table 4.20 Multiple regression coefficients of contributing variables related to women empowerment by level of changes their economic dimension

Dimension	Independent variable	β	<i>P</i>	R^2	Adj. R^2	F	<i>P</i>
Level of changes in economic empowerment	Age	-.201	.084*	.268	.207	4.018	.000***
	Education	.166	.508				
	Family size	.019	.851				
	Family annual income	.471	.000***				
	Training experiences	.020	.881				
	Knowledge on empowerment	.000	.999				
	BMI	.153	.071*				
	Communication skill	-.029	.765				

*** Significant at $p < 0.01$. ** Significant at $p < 0.05$. * Significant at $p < 0.1$.

Table 4.20 reveals that there was a significant contribution of respondent's age, family annual income, and BMI changing their empowerment status of the respondents. Among these, family annual income was the most important contributing factor (significant at the 1% level of significance) and age and BMI were the second most contributing factor (significant at the 10% level of significance).

Data showed from table 4.20 that family annual income was positively contributed in economic empowerment. Financial stability gave them more economic independence in their society. It could be concluded that more annual income of the family more they might be economic empowered. Data also showed that most of the women had normal body weight. It indicated that healthy women had more contribution in economic empowerment.

Age showed negative influence on economic empowerment. It also found that age showed significant contribution on economic empowerment. It might be sometimes young aged women were not free access of financial sector of the family because they suppressed by their mother in law.

Twenty seven percent ($R^2=0.278$) of the variation in the changes in women of the respondents can be imposed to their age, education, family size, annual family income,

training experience, knowledge on empowerment, BMI, and communication. The F value indicates that the model is significant ($p=0.000$). Adjusted R-square value (0.217) indicates the addition of future predictors in the model and shows the variance in women empowerment of the respondents and the models were suitable. It may be indicated that, family annual income, age and BMI had significant influence on economic empowerment.

Correlation among Social, Political and Economic Empowerment:

To know relationship among social, political and economic the researcher had conducted correlation test. The test findings are as follows:

Table 4.21 Pearson’s product moment co-efficient of correlation showing relationship among social, political and economic empowerment (N=116)

Empowerment	Correlation	Social	Political	Economic
Social	Correlation co- efficient Significance level (p)	1	.771** .000	-.066 .479
Political	Correlation co- efficient Significance level (p)	.771** .000	1	.051 .585
Economic	Correlation co- efficient Significance level (p)	-.066 .479	.051 .585	1

**Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)

Table 4.20 showed a null hypothesis that there is no associate relationship among social, political, and economic empowerment of the respondents. A correlation matrix was estimated to prove this null hypothesis. In the table of correlations it concluded that social and political empowerment had positive and significant relationship and economic empowerment had negative relation. Correlation was real and the association was strong, it implies that the degree of association varied based on the level of empowerment conditions, the condition is better, the correlated association becomes higher.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Chapter five summarizes the significant empirical results of the selected characteristics of the socio-economic profile of the women, determinants of women empowerment and selected characteristics of the women to the determinants of empowerment. It also develops some conclusion and recommendations for policy actions as further steps on women empowerment. This chapter finally recommends probable research efforts that can be carried out in future.

5.1 Summary of findings

The summarized findings of the study are described below:

5.1.1 Selected characteristics of the women

Findings in respect of the nine selected characteristics of the women are summarized below:

Age: The young aged (48.4%) respondents group was higher than the middle (38%) and old aged (13.6%) group.

Education:

The highest portion of the respondents was in secondary education (31.9%) followed by illiterate (26.7%), can sign only (18.1%) and primary education (17.2%). The lowest number of the respondents was higher secondary education (6.1%).

Family size:

The majority of the respondents were medium sized family (66.5%) compared to the respondents having large (19.7%) and small sized family (13.8%) respectively.

Annual family income:

The respondents having medium annual family income (68.2%) were higher than respondents having high income (17.5%) and low annual family income (14.3%)

Training experience:

The respondents having low training experience (42.2%) and no training experience (38.8%) were higher than the respondents having medium training experience (19%).

Body mass index:

The respondents having normal weight (53.4%) were higher than over weight (29.3%) and underweight (17.3%) respectively.

Communication skill:

The respondents having medium communication skill (71.6%) were higher than high communication (16.4%) and low communication skill (12%) respectively.

5.1.2 Determinants of women empowerment:**a) Level of changes in decision making ability to family social activities:**

The respondents having low changes in decision making ability to family social activities (68.3%) was higher than medium (18.9%) and high decision making ability (12.8%) respectively.

b) Level of changes in decision making ability to finance related family activities:

The respondents having low changes in decision making ability to finance related family activities (62.9%) was higher than high (16.4%) and medium decision making ability (15.6%) respectively.

c) Level of changes in decision making ability to reproductive activities:

The respondents having medium changes in decision making ability to reproductive activities (60.1%) was higher than high (20.4%) and low decision making ability (19.5%) respectively.

d) Level of changes in decision making ability to protesting against societal violence related activities:

The respondents having low changes in decision making ability to protesting against societal violence related activities (47.4%) was higher than medium (29.5%) and high decision making ability (23.1%) respectively.

e) Level of changes in level of social responsibility:

The respondents having low changes in social responsibility (53.4%) was higher than medium (24.1%) and high social responsibility (22.5%) respectively.

f) Level of changes in leadership qualities:

The respondents having low changes in leadership qualities (65%) was higher than medium (19.3%) and high changes in leadership qualities (15.7%) respectively.

g) Level of changes in level of participation of society well-being activities:

The respondents having low changes in participation of society well-being activities (64.7%) was higher than medium (19%) and high changes in participation of society well-being activities (16.3%) respectively.

h) Level of changes in economic status:

The respondents having medium economic losses (73%) was higher than high (13.6) and low economic losses (13.4%) respectively.

5.1.3 Contribution of the selected characteristics of the respondent's empowerment status

1. There was a significant contribution of the respondent education, and knowledge on empowerment to change in social empowerment.
2. There was a significant contribution of the respondent family annual income, education, and knowledge on empowerment to change in political empowerment.
3. There was a significant contribution of the respondent family annual income, age, and body mass index.
4. There was a significant positive relationship between social and political empowerment and economic empowerment had negative relationship.

Forty eight percent ($R^2=.475$), thirty three percent ($R^2= .313$), and twenty seven ($R^2=.268$) of the variation to change in social, political and economic empowerment of the respondents respectively were attributed to the age, education, family size, family annual income, training experience, knowledge on empowerment, BMI, and

communication skill of the respondents .And there is positive relationship between social and political empowerment of the respondents.

5.2 Conclusions

Findings of the study enabled the researcher to formulate the following conclusions:

- ❖ The level of changes in decision making ability to family social activities were highest in low decision making ability.
- ❖ The level of changes in decision making ability to finance related family activities were highest in low decision making ability.
- ❖ The level of changes in decision making ability to reproductive activities were highest in medium decision making ability.
- ❖ The level of changes in decision making ability to activities were highest in medium decision making ability.
- ❖ The level of changes in decision making ability to protesting against societal violence related activities were highest in low decision making ability.
- ❖ The level of changes in level of social responsibility were highest in low social responsibility.
- ❖ The level of changes in leadership qualities were highest in low leadership qualities.
- ❖ The level of changes in level of participation of society well-being activities were highest in participation low.
- ❖ The level of changes in economic losses were highest in medium .
- ❖ The respondent's education, and knowledge on empowerment had significant contribution to the changes in social empowerment of the respondents. It may

be concluded that the changes in social empowerment is likely to be influenced by the respondent's education, and knowledge on empowerment.

- ❖ The respondent's age, family annual income, and knowledge on empowerment had significant contribution to the changes in political empowerment of the respondents. It may be concluded that the changes in political empowerment is likely to be influenced by the respondent's age, family annual income, and knowledge on empowerment.
- ❖ The respondent's age, family annual income, and BMI had significant contribution to the changes in economic empowerment of the respondents. It may be concluded that the changes in political empowerment is likely to be influenced by the respondents age, family annual income, BMI
- ❖ The respondent's social and political empowerment had positive relationship towards women empowerment.

5.3 Recommendations

5.3.1 Recommendations for policy implication

On the basis of the observation, findings, and conclusion of the research some recommendation have been formulated. These are following

- ❖ The study indicated that the determinants of the respondents enabled them to develop their empowerment status. To develop their empowerment status government should provide different training activities and arrange non formal education for the women.
- ❖ The findings of the research indicate that the changes in different indicators of empowerment were attributed the farmers age, education, family size, family annual income, training experience, knowledge on empowerment, BMI, communication skill. It may be recommended that the government should consider the selected characteristics of the respondents during providing any program or training for the women.
- ❖ The findings of the research revealed that the level of changes in decision making ability to family social activities, changes in decision making ability to finance related family activities, level of changes in decision making ability to

protesting against societal violence related activities, level of changes in social responsibility, level of changes in leadership qualities, level of changes in participation of society well-being activities of the respondents were lower. It may be concluded that government should consider to change the empowerment status of the women affected by society violence. UN women are doing work with affected women for the developing countries to improve their status.

- ❖ Family annual income increases women empowerment status .It can be recommended that women can also contribute and support their family by extra income generating activities like making handicraft accessories.
- ❖ Knowledge on empowerment had the significant contribution on empowerment. It could be recommended that educational opportunity for all aged women should be increased so that they can ensure their right related issues.

5.3.2 Recommendations for further research

- ❖ The present research was done I the Ullapara upazila of Sirajganj district. The findings of the study should be tested in the other areas of the country.
- ❖ In the present study only eight independent variables were studied. There were some other important characteristics of the women that could not be included in this study. So it needs to be studied with different variables.
- ❖ The present study was conducted determinants of women empowerment considered in this study. Further study should be conducted to assess the specific indicators.
- ❖ Present research was carried out eight indicators to measure empowerment. Further research should be carried out to measure women empowerment with different indicators.
- ❖ The present study was conducted on the basis of the recall data furnished by the respondents. Further study should be carried out without using recall data

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English Version of Interview Schedule

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An interview schedule for a research study entitle

**DETERMINANTS OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT UNDER ULLAPARA
UPAZILA OF SIRAJGANJ DITRICT**

Serial No.....

Respondent Name:

Village:

Union:

Upazilla:

District:

Mobile No:

A.1.Age

How old are you.....Years

2. Education

What is your level of education?

a) Illiterate.....

b) Can sign only

c) Have passed class.....

d) I took non-formal education.....weeks/months/years (that equivalent to
.....class)

3. Family size

Please mention the number of your family member(s)

a) Male.....b) Female.....Total.....

4. Family annual income:

Please mention your last year income:

Sectors of income	Amount of taka
1.Agricultural income	
I. Crops	
II. Livestock	
III. Poultry	
IV. Fisheries	
2.Nonagricultural sectors	
I. Services	
II. Labor	
III. Other(specify please)	

5. Training experience

Have you participated in any agro-based training program?

Yes...../ No..... (If yes, furnish the following information)

Sl. No.	Name of the training	Sponsoring organization	Day(s)
1.			
2.			
3.			

6. Knowledge on empowerment

Please answer the following questions:

Sl. No.	Questions	Full marks	Marks obtained
1.	What do you mean by empowerment?	2	
2.	What kind of role do you have in freedom of your movement?		
3.	What kind of role do you have in household decision making activities?	2	
4.	How ownership of land can make you empowered?	2	
5.	What do you think about your leadership quality?	2	
6.	What is your suggestion(s) for your society women to make them more empowered?	2	
7.	What kind of role do you have to protest against a social injustice?	2	
8.	What kind of role do you have when spending and saving money in your family?	2	
9.	What do you know about self-esteem?	2	
10.	How does education effects on empowerment status?	2	
11.	What types of action you should perform if you are affected by physical assault?	2	
12.	What kind of role do you have in selecting family planning method?	2	
13.	What kind of role do you have in selecting number of baby(s)?	2	
14.	What type of role you should have in society well-being activities?	2	
15.	What do you know about property rights?	2	

7. Body mass index

Please mention your present height and weight:

a) Height.....m b) Weight.....kg

8. Communication skill

Please state the extent of your communication skill with the following ones:

Sl. No.	Name of information sources	Extent of communication				
		Regularly (4)	Frequently (3)	Sometimes (2)	Rarely (1)	Not at all(0)
1.	With spouse	Daily	Weekly	Fortnightly	Once/month	
2.	With neighbors'	Daily	Weekly	Fortnightly	Once/month	
3.	With NGO workers	>6 times/year	4-5 times/year	3-4 times/year	1-2 times/year	
4.	Local male leader	>6 times/year	4-5 times/year	3-4 times/year	1-2 times/year	
5.	Local female leader	>7 times/year	4-5 times/year	3-4 times/year	1-2 times/year	
6.	School teacher	>9 times/year	7-8 times/year	3-4 times/year	1-3 times/year	
7.	Imam	Once in a week	Once/ 2 month	Once/3 month	Once/month	
8.	Union poised member	>9 times/year	7-8 times/year	3-4 times/year	1-3 times/year	
9.	Youth club member	>6 times/year	5-6 times/year	3-4 times/year	1-2 times/year	
10.	Government officers	>7 times/year	5-6 times/year	2-3 times/year	1-3 times/year	
Total						

B.10. Determinants of women empowerment:

a) Family and social empowerment

Please mention your decision making ability to family and social activities:

Sl. No.	Items of opinion	Level of ability			
		No (0)	Low (1)	Medium (2)	High (3)
1.	Opinion on Household work				
2.	Family expenditure				
3.	Purchasing essential goods				
4.	Decision making in family planning				
5.	Rearing & selling of poultry birds				
6.	Donation / gift				

Please indicate your level of decision making ability to finance related following family activities:

Sl. No.	Finance related family issues	Level of ability			
		No (0)	Low (1)	Medium (2)	High (3)
1.	Child education				
2.	Child care				
3.	Family healthcare				
4.	Purchasing food items				
5.	Purchasing clothes				
6.	Purchasing utensils				
7.	Entertainment				
8.	Purchasing land				

Please indicate your level of decision making ability to following reproductive issues:

Sl. No	Reproductive issues	Level of ability			
		No (0)	Low (1)	Medium (2)	High (3)
1.	Selecting family planning methods				
2.	Selecting intimate time for bio Genetic activities				
3.	Selecting time for taking baby				
4.	Selecting family size				

Please mention your level of protesting ability against societal violence related issues:

Sl. No.	Society violence related issues	Level of ability			
		No (0)	Low (1)	Medium (2)	High (3)
1.	Dowry				
2.	Fatwa				
3.	Illogical divorce in the society				
4.	Illogical torture				
5.	Early marriage				
6.	Wage difference between man and woman				
7.	Child labor				

b) Political empowerment:

Please mention your level of capacity to analyze, organize and mobilize the surrounding situation in case of following issues:

Sl. No.	Social responsibility related issues	Level of ability			
		No (0)	Low (1)	Medium (2)	High (3)
1.	To identify the family and society right				
2.	To protest against any unfair family decision				
3.	To protest against any unfair society decision				
4.	To play role in local salashi				
5.	To working with voluntary service provider development organizations				

Please mention your level of leadership qualities in case of following issues:

Sl. No.	Leadership qualities	Level of ability			
		No (0)	Low (1)	Medium (2)	High (3)
1.	To be assertive and persuasive				
2.	To take risks as an advancer				
3.	To be empathetic and flexible				
4.	To be stronger in interpersonal skills				
5.	To group formation ability				
6.	To have managing capacity				
7.	To take quick decision ability				
8.	To be industrious				

Please mention your participation level in the social well-being activities in case of following issues:

Sl. No.	Society welfare related activities	Level of participation			
		No (0)	Low (1)	Medium (2)	High (3)
1.	In building educational institution				
2.	In building religious institution				
3.	In local cultural program				
4.	In local political meeting				
5.	In local Salish				
6.	In rural development activities				

C) Economic empowerment:

Please mention level of your following sources of losses due to climate changes:

Sl. No.	Sources	Loss amount(TK)
1.	crops	
2.	Livestock	
3.	Poultry	
4.	Fisheries	
5.	Services	
6.	Wage value	
7.	Others (if any)	

Thank you very much for your
Cooperation

Signature of the interviewer